

THEN SINGS MY SOUL

Icebreaker Question

What songs are currently on your worship playlist?

Introduction

Man is a worshipper. Everyone worships something or someone. There are people who worship God while others may worship their jobs, money, possessions, passions, and pleasure. Some might hesitate to consider that worship, but many people do not recognize what it is they worship because they don't have a clear understanding of what worship means.

The word *'worship'* is a compressed form of the Old English term *'worth-ship'* which means to give something worth; to demonstratively attribute value. The essential idea is that whatever it is that you value most highly, or give the greatest worth, is what you worship. It involves prioritizing what you value most highly. What or whom gets the first, best, and most of your time, energy, effort, affection, love, resources? Though we can justly say that our worship rightfully belongs to God.

Made to Express Worship

Relationships forged in love involve intimacy and affection. When love is present it will be expressed. A lack of demonstrated affection typically indicates a lack of meaningful relationship. The Bible says to love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and strength (Mark 12:30). This means that the totality of your being will express your love and worship to God which includes our spirit, soul, and body.

The Bible tells us how to express our worship to God. Clapping our hands expresses our joy to the Lord and our victory over the enemy. Shouting is declaring victory, sometimes even before it happens. Bowing represents submission to God, and kneeling represents honor and adoration. Lifting our hands represents blessing. Dancing is an expression of delight and freedom in the presence of God. Then there is singing.

Power of Song

There's something about singing that, humanly speaking, is profound and powerful. Worship may be possible without singing, but nothing contributes more to its beauty, majesty, dignity, or nobility, its tenderness and intimacy like singing. Music and singing does something to human beings physically, emotionally, and spiritually. It engages the totality of a person.

God is serious about singing. Zephaniah 3:17 says that God himself rejoices over us with singing.

Discussion

1. Read some of the following passages. What does each say about how and why we are to express worship to God?
 - *Psalm 69:30; Psalm 104:33-34; Psalm 106:1-2; Psalm 117; Psalm 150; Isaiah 55:12; Psalm 47:1; Psalm 95:1-6; Mark 12:30; Psalm 33:1; Psalm 47:5-7*
2. Are there some environments in which it's easier for you to express worship to God than others? If yes, why do you think that is?
3. Of the different ways we are to express worship according to Scripture, which are you most comfortable with? Which are you least comfortable with? Why?
 - **Note:** Not everyone is comfortable with singing. There is a sense of inadequacy about the quality of one's voice that can hinder a believer in singing or entering boldly into worship. The world causes us to draw comparisons, but to the Lord, there is a distinct beauty to everything He's created. His Word says there is no sound that is without significance (1 Cor 14:10). We don't sing because we think we're good singers. We sing because He's a good God.
4. If you were to write down a list of reasons as to why God is worthy to be praised based on what He has done in your own life, what reasons would you include?
5. **Read Colossians 3:16.** Here Paul links the fruitful implanting of the Word of God to our singing and worship. Human intellect and emotion are integrated through song and effective teaching is said to require worship for its fullest accomplishment. What songs have helped to ensure the Word of God dwells within you richly?
6. **Song of Battle | 2 Chronicles 20:1-24.** King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah and Israel were overwhelmed in number by the Moabites, Ammonites & some of the Meunites who came to wage war. Vastly outnumbered, they turned to God and lifted their song of praise and expressed their belief in His promise. The Lord set an ambush against the enemy, confused them, and they destroyed one another. Praise is a weapon given for our triumph in spiritual conflict

In what ways have you seen the Lord fight your battles while you worshiped?

7. **Song of Breakthrough | Acts 16:1-40.** From within their prison, Paul and Silas began to sing praises to God. Even as they sang, an earthquake shook the area, resulting in the miracle of the jailer's repentance and his whole household's conversion. Praise is an instrument of our partnering with God unto deliverance.

What is one of your most memorable experiencing in a time of worship?

8. **Song of Birthing | Isaiah 54:1-5.** In ancient Israel, nothing silenced the voice quite like barrenness. A woman in a barren condition was disenfranchised, discredited, and suspect of spiritual unworthiness. In this depressing situation, the Lord commands the woman to sing and directs her to start preparing a nursery (v. 2-5). Singing the songs God has put on your heart brings forth life. It declares His promises and sets the atmosphere for its fulfillment.

Share a time when it was difficult for you to worship the Lord, but you did anyways.

9. Jesus makes several promises to the one who overcomes by faith (v. 12). What does each promise

Salvation Prayer

Heavenly Father, Thank You that Your Son Jesus came to this earth, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross for my sins. I believe He rose from the dead so I could receive forgiveness, become Your child, and receive the gift of eternal life.

I come to You now and repent from all sin. I not only receive Your gift of forgiveness, but I give You all of my life and all of my heart. I believe You have accepted me because Jesus said, “the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”

You also said, “whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Thank You for saving me, making me Your child, and helping me live for you. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Closing Prayer

Lord, even if I feel don't always feel like expressing praise to you, I choose to because you are always faithful. I don't sing because I'm a good singer but because you are a good God. I will praise you, LORD at all times. I will constantly speak Your praises. In Jesus name, Amen.