

WORSHIP

Lord of All Creation, Great Things, Cornerstone, Christ Be Magnified, Made For Worship

WELCOME

Share something wonderful that happened lately that showed you how great God truly is.

WORD

PSALM 96:1-8 Sing to the LORD a new song; Sing to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. 3 Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. 6 Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. 7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; Bring an offering and come into His courts.

Many of us experience life like a roller coaster ride or a yoyo – we find ourselves either up or down. It shows the tendency of man to think that the world revolves around him – to put the self at the center of everything. As the series title goes, **IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU**. If we make things about us (our feelings, our longing for affirmation, our expectations, our circumstances), we'll easily feel down. The difficulty shows even in our worship. Many Christians don't understand **AUTHENTIC WORSHIP**. They go to church, going after what they can take from the worship service. Putting the self at the center makes our worship of God shallow. Worship is more than singing or listening to the message. It begins from the heart and it should be all about GOD. WORSHIP can be defined as the "proper response to WHO God is, WHAT He has done, and WHAT He continues to do". This implies that the more you know God, the better you can worship Him. Our passage in

Psalms 96, describes worship in an expanding flow – as a personal, communal, and universal worship of God. We'll look into three main points in the psalm:

1. PRAISE

Worship is PRAISE – it points us to God. **Psalms 96:1-2** already emphasizes that it's not about us – it's about GOD. Notice the verb "SING" is in the present tense. It shows us that worship is something we are expected to do regularly. We are commanded to sing to the Lord. In fact, God wants us not just to worship Him alone, but for others to join us in worshipping Him. It is an attitude of joy! Authentic worship should be fresh. We should learn to ask ourselves – what has God been teaching me / doing in my life LATELY? We bless the Name of God by acknowledging these things in our praise. Worship is not just singing; it's also proclaiming, talking about GOD. The word "**proclaim good tidings**" can be translated as EVANGELIZE! Notice, it also says "**day to day**".

Many times, people think of worship as a one-day event. We confine worship to a day, or a place... But worship is more than that! Verse 3 commands us to tell of "His glory" and "His wonderful deeds" to others. You want people to know how great God is! 1 Corinthians 10:31 reminds us to "do all for the glory of God" – pointing people to God in everything we do. In v. 4, the psalm highlights the Greatest Being worthy of these praises. The One worthy of this utmost praise is GOD.

2. PROTECTION Psalm 96:5-6 then contrasts God to idols. We need protection from counterfeit gods. We are given descriptions of God's greatness – splendor, majesty, strength, and beauty. What are the idols of life? It can be something that is good – children, career, ministry, and the most dangerous idol, the self. You will know your idols by looking at what's most important to you.

Anything you want to control begins to control you. The worship of God and God alone is crucial. **PSALM 96:7-8** commands us to ascribe – meaning to give what is due Him.... He alone deserves our worship. A.W. TOZER said, "if you find worship boring, it means you are not ready to go to heaven." True worship begins when we surrender our idols to Him and begin a real relationship with God through Jesus Christ. **John 4:24** says we should worship Him in spirit and truth! In **Matthew 15:7-9**, Jesus warns us not to worship God like hypocrites, neglecting the Word of God. That's why the psalmist is says

(Psalm 96:7) – Give what is due Him! Worship must be intentional. Tim Keller said worship is "ascribing ultimate value to an object and engaging your mind, heart, and will – your whole being, as you do it". Worship is like a thermometer. It measures your spiritual health/life. The more you know God, the more you are intimate with Him, the better the quality of your relationship with Him. Authentic worship happens when you understand the true value of who God is. Once you know God, you will never treat Him the same way. There will be worship and adoration towards God. Worship also involves GIVING. Because of who God is and what He has done, you acknowledge His ownership and sovereignty in everything and offer your best to Him (**Deuteronomy 16:16-17**). The best form of worship is found in **Romans 12:1** – to offer our body, our life, our all to God – a living and holy sacrifice. God deserves our best, our life, our entire being! Have you dedicated your entire life to the LORD?

3. PERSPECTIVE True worship will align our perspective. **Psalm 96:9-12** tells us that when we worship God, it's really a way of life. Your perspective should be to always acknowledge Him as King and Judge. Worship here is being expanded to the entire universe. The attitude is joy, rejoicing, being glad. The perspective as emphasized in v.13 is putting faith in God's promises and return! **Psalm 73** illustrates this point in the psalmist's situation. He was so discouraged because the wicked prosper

(Psalm 73:3-5). He felt so sorry for himself because even as a follower of God, he seems to lack in blessings. He shifted perspective when he came to God's presence – and there realized the end for these wicked people

(vv. 16-19). In **v.23-24**, we see how his eyes were opened – highlighting the blessing of God's presence, God's promise, and that having God is enough – the most precious possession is God Himself **(vv. 25-26)**. Learn to appreciate God's presence as you worship. Like a thermostat, recalibrate and realize what you and I need – a perspective transformed, faith exercised, and a joyful expectation of His coming again

(Psalm 96:13). May we all practice real, authentic worship as God deserves!

Discussion Questions:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- **Self-Check.** Would you say that your worship is authentic? What makes it so?
- **Setting It Right** What has God been doing in your life lately that you have missed thanking Him for?
- **Living It Out** How can you personally bring honor and glory to God by declaring His goodness and faithfulness to others around

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION (PCS)

Pray that people everywhere will see the greatness of God in the midst of these difficult times. Let others experience His goodness through your acts of kindness. Proclaim to the nations, starting in our own, the awesome work of Jesus on the cross for our salvation.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. THANKSGIVING

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. COUNTRY AND THE WORLD

- Upright and moral governance of the Public Servants
- A God-centered Philippines and Canada
- Repentance and Salvation

III. CHURCH

- That CCF Members would honour and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries Worldwide

IV. CCFE'S OWN BUILDING

- Worship and Training Centre

V. PERSONAL CONCERNS

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of Families and Friends