

April 3-7, 2017

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5 MINUTES / 5 DAYS

5 Words Used in Worship

By understanding these words we can develop a greater love and appreciation for God.

MONDAY

Word of the Day: Praise

Psalm 150

It's possible that many of us have become too familiar with this word. If we're not careful, praise can lose vigor and become devoid of beauty. Praise is important to worship and is mentioned 238 times in the ESV Bible. As it relates to worship, praise is something that should never be far from the believer's lips or heart. Ps. 96:4 tells us: *For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.* Praise can take place in different ways and different places. For example, Ps. 150 describes a beautiful picture and implores all living things to echo the praises of our amazing God. Praise is encouraged with musical instruments and human voices. Praise is encouraged in the very sanctuary of God and in the highest of heavens. We are to celebrate and boast in God with praise for all that He has done and all He is. In doing so, we echo the examples of countless others found in the pages of God's Word.

Take a few minutes and praise God for who He is and what He's done in your life.

TUESDAY

Word of the Day: Sing

Exodus 15:1-21

There are many kinds of birds in the world. Some sing a sweet, perky melody, while others have a shrill tone like fingernails dragging across a chalkboard. The beauty of it all is that each bird is part of God's creation and He still loves that which He created! As for people, God looks past all the fluff of the physical and looks straight into our hearts. God tells Samuel: *Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature...the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart* (1 Sam. 16:7). The world idolizes the beauty and performance of singing. Turn on the tv and you will stumble upon shows which judge vocalists for these things. But what does the Bible say about singing? The Bible encourages those that love the Lord to sing—declare the wondrous works of the Lord. God is not interested in the quality of the voice, but rather the quality and sincerity of the heart.

Sing to God! Seriously, take some time and sing a song of worship to God.

Glorifying God by producing more maturing followers of Jesus.

WEDNESDAY

Word of the Day: Brokenhearted

Psalm 34

This word resonates with everyone. The believer, worshiping with a broken heart, can take comfort in knowing that trials are just temporary. One day, our sorrow will be replaced with the joy of being in the presence of the Jesus. Job offers a beautiful prayer to God in some of the darkest hours of his life, praising God out of a broken heart. It was worship born out of shattered dreams and horrific circumstances. It is the type of worship that Hannah demonstrated as she poured out her desperate cries to God for a child (1 Sam. 1:13). God gives a promise to those grieving and stricken by the burdens of the world: He is not absent or far away. God is close to us in times of our brokenness! Although we may feel that God is absent, we can find comfort in Ps. 34:18: *The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.* That God would care for us in the most burdensome circumstances reminds us that we worship a God who truly loves us.

Hand any hurt or brokenness over to God. Allow God to comfort you knowing that He has not left you alone during this time of need.

THURSDAY

Word of the Day: Confess

1 John 1:9

Confession is a part of worship. It is introduced in Leviticus 5 where those under the Law would bring a sacrifice and confess their sin. The unique aspect for believers today is that confession does not need to take place through a priest or pastor. There is no instruction for believers to take their confession of sin to anyone other the Lord (1 John 1:9), and we are encouraged to confess our sins to and pray for one another (James 5:15-16). Confession should become a regular part of our spiritual diet because we're prone to wander and pursue our own desires. The purpose of confession is for accountability, showing our weakness, and for restoring our relationship with God. And when sin is present in our worship, our worship cannot please a holy God. He desires for us to have a thriving relationship with Him because He loves us.

Take any unconfessed sin to God and ask Him to forgive you.

FRIDAY

Word of the Day: Sacrifice

Romans 12:1-2

The Dictionary of Bible Themes describes sacrifice as "an important aspect of the relationship between God and humanity but whereas the OT describes many sacrifices, the NT announces the fulfillment of sacrifice in Jesus Christ." It's important to note that the sacrifice described in Rom. 12:1 is actually a *living sacrifice*. We are to offer ourselves to God completely and wholly. One way we can do this is to surrender our weaknesses to God and pursue a life marked by holiness. By putting off the things of the world like anger, lying, gossip, and others sins, we can present ourselves to God in an honoring way. Rick Warren summarizes the challenge of applying sacrifice in our worship with this: "The problem with a living sacrifice is that it can choose to crawl off the altar. We do this all the time. We offer ourselves to God, and then we take ourselves back. This is not a once-for-all offer. You've got to do it four, five, or maybe 10 times a day!"

Don't hold back from God! Give every part over to Him as an act of worship.