



WEEK 6

## The Heart of Worship

APRIL 2 & 3, 2011 • MARK SPURLOCK • PSALM 95

### Heart Responses to Worship...

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Come, let us **sing for joy** to the LORD; let us **shout aloud** to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. *Psalm 95:1–2 NIV*
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. *vv. 3–5*
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. *vv. 6–7a*
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did. For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, “They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.” So I declared on oath in my anger, “They shall never enter my rest.” *vv. 7b–11*
  - A key symptom of a hard heart:

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And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”  
*Exodus 17:7*

The LORD said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?” *Numbers 14:11*



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•The most important question in life:

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Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. *Hebrews 4:1–2*

Jesus answered, “Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” *John 10:25–27*

## Daily Meditations

### Monday

Please read Psalm 95. What key phrases do you see in this passage?

What is something you learned about worship in last weekend’s sermon?

What things tend to harden your heart in worship?

How did last weekend’s sermon challenge you?

*Thank God today for both the comfort and challenge the Bible brings you. Pray as you study this psalm this week that you will be honest in your relationship with God and that you will hear His voice.*

### Tuesday

Please read Psalm 95:1–5. What things in life have recently caused your heart to respond with joy and awe towards God?

How do joy and awe of God impact your attitude? How can they encourage your faith?

*Thank God today for the many ways He has blessed you. Thank Him for the opportunity to experience joy and awe in Him. Pray that you’ll grow in your willingness to take opportunities to worship God with joy and awe.*

### Wednesday

Please read Psalm 95:6–11. What obstacles do you face when it comes to spending time with God?

What connection do you think there is between communion (time) with God and trust? How have you seen that in your life?

*Spend some additional time in prayer today, communing with God. Pray that your desire to spend time with God will grow and you will be diligent in protecting that time. Ask God to give you a desire to sit with Him and learn from Him.*

### Thursday

Please read Exodus 17:1–7 and Numbers chapter 14. As much as we want to distance ourselves from acting like the Israelites did toward God, we’re all more like Israel than we want to think! When’s the last time you asked God for one more sign before you really could trust Him? What issues were you struggling with then?

Read through (sing it if you know it!) the lyrics of this old hymn, “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”:

’Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
And to take Him at His Word;  
Just to rest upon His promise,  
And to know, “Thus saith the Lord!”  
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er;  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

How do these words encourage you? Take a moment to think about God’s past faithfulness. How can that encourage you in your current struggles to trust God?

*Thank God today that you can be honest with Him. Talk to Him about the areas of your life where you’re struggling to trust God. Pray for the grace to trust Him more.*

### Friday

Please read Hebrews 4:1–2. Slowly read this passage through at least three times. What promises and phrases stand out to you?

How do these reminders encourage you?

Think honestly about the last sentence in verse 2: “. . . the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.” In what area of your life are you struggling to combine what you know about God with faith?

*As you pray today, talk to God about your struggles when it comes to trusting Him. Pray that you’ll be willing to grow in trusting God.*

### Saturday

Please read Psalm 8, the psalm we’ll be studying this weekend. What initially strikes you as you read this psalm? In what way can you relate to the psalmist?

*Thank God today for His the majesty of His creation. Please pray for the coming Easter services. Pray about who you can invite and pray that our church will be a beacon of joy as we celebrate the resurrection!*



Memory Verse

Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And earth has nothing I desire  
besides you. My flesh and my heart  
may fail but God is the strength of my life and  
my portion forever. *Psalm 73:25–26 NIV*