

## Praise His Holy Name

*My soul, praise Yahweh, and all that is within me, praise His holy name.*

*~ Psalm 103:1*

### Discover the Context Psalm 103

“Just as an indescribable sunset or a breath-taking mountaintop vista evokes a spontaneous response, so we cannot encounter the worthiness of God without the response of worship. If you could see God at this moment, you would so utterly understand how worthy He is of worship that you would instinctively fall on your face and worship Him.”

~ Donald Whitney  
*Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life*

What stirs your heart to worship? Is there a particular song or Bible verse? Is there a special place? Do you get *into* worship with your hands up or are you more reserved? God has wired each of us with a worship instinct. Knowing how God has wired you to worship can set you free to worship more passionately. The important thing is that you worship God because of Christ.

My dad has requested Psalm 103 to be read at his funeral.

That gets my attention. I feel like it's my duty to know what's in this psalm and why he wants it to be the final word for his life. I'm pretty sure he'll want it in the King James Version so that it starts off, "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name." That's okay. I can do that for him.

As we wrap up the summer of 2018 we hope that Psalm 103 gets your attention too. We'll spend this last week soaking in its riches.

The psalm begins with an expression of praise and worship. And no, I'm not referring to those cheesy choruses from the 80's. David begins this psalm by stirring his heart to remember the true and living God, to praise Yahweh, the creator of heaven and earth.

This is worship. Acknowledging that God is the creator, and we are not. Praising Him for His sovereign goodness, trusting Him in spite of our circumstances, and loving Him because He first loved us.

A love that big and a perfection that holy demands way more than just three songs, a prayer, and an offering. It demands all that is within us.

This is worship—taking whatever is within you and giving it to Him for His glory. Do you have anxiety about college debt or fears about the future? Trust Him. Are you tired of your routine or lacking purpose? Do the mundane with holy vigor for Christ. Are you angry about a circumstance or in conflict with someone? Resolve it for His glory. Do you have an untapped passion for something? Unleash it for His kingdom. Are you grateful that He's forgiven you? Tell someone. What gifts and abundance has He filled you with? Steward them for His name.

This is worship. Praising His holy name. Reorienting your life around His goodness. Living and dying for His pleasure.

I'm starting to think I might want Psalm 103 read at my funeral too. [JCR]