

5 June 2022

Worship: The Desire of the Heart – Psalm 63:1-8

¹ *O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

² *So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.*

³ *Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.*

⁴ *So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.*

⁵ *My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,*

⁶ *when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;*

⁷ *for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.*

⁸ *My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.*

This is the first of a four-part series on Worship. This first session focuses on our motivation to worship God.

Feel free to select questions according to your group's preferred study and discussion style and time available. Do not feel you must look at all of them. The first group of questions are more general in nature while the second group encourages a more verse by verse study of the Psalm.

General questions on worship

(1) What does "worshipping the Lord" mean to you? To what extent is it a Sunday / sporadic activity for you vs. something that you do all the time? To what extent is it something that springs from your heart vs. something you feel called to do as a Christian?

(2) What motivates you to worship the Lord? What hinders your worship?

(3) How might you develop the same longing for God and intense desire to worship as David shows in this Psalm?

(4) How might you ensure your worship does not become too ritualistic / going through the motions, rather than an encounter with the living God?

And going deeper into the text of the Psalm

(5) ***David's desire to worship the Lord is seemingly undiminished by his dire circumstances.*** What are David's circumstances - look at 2 Samuel 15? To what extent is your desire to worship affected by your circumstances, good and bad?

(6) ***For David, being in the presence of God is everything and he yearns for an intense personal relationship with God.*** Looking at each verse in turn, what are the various ways in which David seeks to achieve and deepen his relationship? Again, looking at each verse, how does this compare with how you seek to develop a deepening, personal living relationship with God?

(7) ***David sees worship as continual 24 / 7 experience.*** How would you characterise a day in the life of David – look especially at verses 1, 2, 4, and 7. How does this compare with your typical day? Where might you make changes to your pattern given your particular circumstances and commitments?

(8) ***David derives great spiritual benefit from his worship.*** What do you think it means to have a "satisfied soul" (v5) and "a soul that clings to the Lord"