

The Wow in Worship

Read: Psalm 100:1–5

SOMETIMES WE LACK THE WOW in our worship. Psalm 100 offers us a spiritual pick-me-up. It reveals that the more you know about God's nature, the more you'll express your love for him. Information leads to adoration. When the psalmist reflected on the Lord as God, Creator and Shepherd, it resulted in worship, gladness and joyful songs. It's true; to know him is to love him.

Knowing that "the LORD is God" (verse 3) identifies him as the only true God. He exists before all, after all and above all. He possesses power unlimited, knowledge unfathomable and a presence unavoidable. He is indescribable, indispensable and indisputable. God is big!

A little girl listened as her father read family devotions. She seemed awed by her parents' talk of God's limitless power. "Daddy," she asked, "how big is God?" Her father answered, "Honey, he is always a lot bigger than what you need." Believing that God is bigger than your situation produces passion in your praise.

Knowing that "it is he who made us" (verse 3) reveals him as Creator, the One who fashioned us into his very image (see Genesis 1:27). He displays his creativity through forming humans who are diverse yet distinct. But why did God create us? The psalmist says we were created to become his people—those of his highest priority. Your value lies not in *who* you are but in *whose* you are. Belonging to God adds awe to your adoration.

Knowing that "we are . . . the sheep of his pasture" (verse 3) can help us understand the tender care God shows his people. Shepherds are responsible for every aspect of their flock's well-being and take these responsibilities very seriously. They make sure their sheep have protection, guidance, pasture, sustenance and rest. Your Good Shepherd is like that. He leads his sheep to "green pastures" (Psalm 23:2), "calls his own sheep by name" (John 10:3) and "lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). Showing gratitude to your Shepherd can engender gladness in your heart.

Understanding that the Lord is bigger than any of your needs, that he is *your* Creator—you belong to him—can't help but put the wow back into your worship!

Psalm 100:2–3

Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

reflection



1 On a scale of one to ten, how would you rank the intensity of your worship?

2 List some of the attributes of God. In what ways has he revealed himself to you?

3 How does knowing the nature of God affect how you praise him? Now take some time to enter his gates with a joyful song that celebrates his character.

RELATED READINGS

Psalm 23:1–6;
Isaiah 42:5–6;
Romans 9:25–26;
Colossians 1:16–17

Tuesday

Go to page 726 for your next devotional reading.