

Why Hebrews 10:25?

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Why gather together? Why is it important besides the obvious reason of encouraging (Exhorting) one another?

And as I pondered and prayed on this, many things came to me . But only one thing and one thing alone stands out predominantly and that is because it's an opportunity to come into God's holy presence together and worship and offer praise unto our King Jesus Christ, the Lord of All with other believers in Christ.

But what does it mean to worship, to truly worship God? We are called to worship. We are created to worship God in the beauty of holiness.

Psalms 95:6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.” and

Psalms 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

When we come into His presence we are supposed to leave the cares of our lives at the door of the building whether it be a church, an internet video screen or someone else's or your home and come with open arms, open abandonment into God's presence. He is a holy God. Just in all His ways and deserves all our praises.

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

To worship in spirit means : To love Him with heart, soul, mind and strength (body). True worship must be 'in spirit' meaning one engages their whole heart...their whole being. Unless there's a real passion for God and Jesus Christ, then there is no true worshiping in the spirit.

At the same time worship must be 'in truth.' That is meaning properly informed. Having a balance of knowledge of the word of God (John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. ) as well as a worshiper's heart. This way by knowing his word you will be less likely to be deceived should the enemy try to come in...and he will. But we know the remedy for that too in Jesus Christ's name. It's found in James 4:7, Luke 10:19 and Matthew 18:18.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Matthew 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

But we are also instructed to worship or to sacrifice unto Him in our bodies also!

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

When you come into your Heavenly Father's presence and you worship Him in unconditional surrender or even as some say reckless abandonment then you are empowering Him full access into your life to be able to work the impossible in all your present and future situations. Even taking the things from the past working all things for our good for those who love him. (Romans 8:28) But what is the difference between praising our God and worshipping Him?

I found an article written by 'Got Questions Ministries' who gives an earnest explanation of both: Praise is the joyful recounting of all God has done for us. It is closely intertwined with thanksgiving as we offer back to God appreciation for His mighty works on our behalf. We are commanded to give Praise unto our God!

Romans 15:11 And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people.

Worship however, comes from a different place within our spirits. Worship should be reserved for God alone (Luke 4:8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.). Worship is the art of losing self in the adoration of another. Praise can be a part of worship, but worship goes beyond praise. Praise is easy; worship is not. Worship gets to the heart of who we are. To truly worship God, we must let go of our self-worship. We must be willing to humble ourselves before God, surrender every part of our lives to His control, and adore Him for who He is, not just what He has done. Worship is a lifestyle, not just an occasional activity. Jesus said the Father is seeking those who will

worship Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.).

In the Word of God praise is usually presented as boisterous, joyful, and uninhibited. God invites praise of all kinds from His creation. Jesus said that if people don't praise God even the "stones will cry out" (Luke 19:40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.).

When the Bible mentions worship, however, the tone changes. We read verses like:

Psalms 96:9 O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

Psalms 95:6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

Often, worship is coupled with the act of bowing or kneeling, which shows humility and contrition.

Examples such as:

2 Chronicles 29:28 And all the congregation worshiped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.;

Hebrews 11:21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshiped, leaning upon the top of his staff.;

Revelation 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

It is through true worship that we invite the Holy Spirit to speak to us, convict us, and comfort us. Through worship we realign our priorities with God's and acknowledge Him once more as the rightful Lord of our lives. We submit from our hearts and not vain fickle lips our thankfulness to our God and Jesus Christ our Savior who died for us.

God intended Man to worship and serve Him in the days of the Holy Bible and even unto this current time we live in. We are called to worship him. He has not changed nor will he ever.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

Malachi 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Isaiah 43:7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

Isaiah 43:12 This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.

When we come together in unity, worshiping our God, hearing his word taught and/or preached we can grow strength from one another. Our testimonies can inspire and encourage one another. Remember the Word of God says, "they are made overcomers by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony." (Revelation 12:11) But please make sure you are only going where the Holy Spirit leads you and if he's leading and not you, then it will be a meeting whether in a church, internet meeting or other buildings where the full gospel of Jesus Christ is believed and shared and not just pieces of it that are picked and chosen to believe in.

It's time for the true believers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to arise from their slumber! Rub the sleep from your eyes and shake the dust off

your clothes. It's time to start coming before our God in Jesus Christ's name in humble worship and praise. It's time for us to leave all our 'junk' and all our 'stuff' at the feet of Jesus Christ and pick up our garments of praise and no longer offer unto Him a half-hearted, lukewarm praise. It's time to worship in spirit and in truth, wholeheartedly no matter where you are...alone or with others.

He is a just God. A kind God who is full of love, mercy and compassion and He is long suffering unto man. But He will not always be long suffering for one day we will stand before Him as our Righteous Judge. Then it will be too late to offer our praise and worship unto Him. So let's let the cares of our lives and the tiredness of our bodies go and come together in mind and/or in our bodies and worship together in love and unity. Let us become the church that Jesus Christ has called us to be. That city on the hill, that beacon of hope for all to see. (Matthew 5:14)

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11-29-23