



Psalm 134

Behold, bless ye the *LORD*, all ye servants of the *LORD*, which by night stand in the house of the *LORD*. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the *LORD*. The *LORD* that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion.

This is the final Song of Degrees. The Pilgrims are singing the last song in their psalter- a call to covenantal engagement in worship. They draw our attention to the night watch and shout—Behold! They stir up those who are appointed to keep the watch of the house of the Lord. Look around and everywhere you can “behold” reasons for sacred praise. Look above at night and magnify him that made heaven and earth, and lighted the one with stars and the other with his love. Let our hallelujahs never come to an end. They cry of “Behold!” Behold! -- see, take care, be on the watch, diligently mind your work, and incessantly adore and bless Jehovah's name. Bless ye the LORD. Think well of Jehovah, and speak well of him. Adore him with reverence, draw near to him with love, delight in him with exultation. Be not content with praise, such as all his works render to him; but, as his saints, see that ye “bless” him. He blesses you; therefore, be zealous to bless him. The first two verses stir us up to bless Jehovah, and in the last verse Jehovah's blessing is invoked upon the people. Oh to abound in blessing! May blessed and blessing be the two words which describe our lives. - adapted from C. Spurgeon

The word “bless” is related to to “consecrate”. Both imply an act of recognizing and/or declaring and devoting something to have a particular purpose or sacred use. When a person or group blesses God, they declare their approval and recognition of God's value, holiness, and worthiness in their own private world. It is similar to but distinct from praise. And a blessing always demands a particular type of treatment of the blessed object or person. In the case of God, it demands worship. Worship itself is relational and it is a lifestyle which involves the expression of our love for God with our whole being - mind, body and spirit.

Suggested Prayer Focuses:

- Let us Behold: Take time to behold your King in the beauty of holiness. Gaze upon His beauty and declare Him to be the One thing you desire above all else. Behold His works! Psalm 27:4; 46:8-10
- Let us Bless God: This Psalm is a call to the covenantal relational/dialogical structure of worship. The people bless God in worship (v 1-2) and God is asked to bless the people (v 3). The reference to “lifting up of hands” points to the embodied nature of worship. Psalm 141:2 Ask the Holy Spirit to free you from all constraint and self consciousness in worship. Let your hands, heart, and every other part be upraised, elevated, and consecrated to the adoring service of the Lord. Psalm 103
- Let us Receive His Blessing: God is constantly searching for people to bless. He's not looking for men and women with special talents or unusual intelligence or great strength but for those who possess a certain kind of heart - a broken, humble and contrite heart, a trusting heart and an honest heart. Let us cultivate this kind of heart as good soil, producing an abundant harvest. Let us receive the Father's blessing and ask for an outpouring of the Spirit upon ourselves, our families, the community of Herrnhut, upon Israel and into the nations. Deut 28:1-14; Isaiah 55:12; 61:9; 65:23; Acts 2:33; Joel 2:28

- Let us Bless One Another: God's people are to bless one another and be a blessing to the nations. Zech 8:11-13 Let us repent for where we have missed the mark personally and corporately and where we have brought reproach on the Body of Christ through our words and conduct. Ask the Lord to remove the reproach of the past, and that blessing and true worship would become the hallmark of His people in the earth as they go forth in power as a witness to the Gospel of the Kingdom. Isaiah 54; Acts 1:7-8
- Let us be a Witness: Revelation 11:3- the prophetic witnesses are clothed in sackcloth. "We carry out prophetic witness clothed in repentance because the truth always calls for repentance. We can only live in the in-breaking kingdom if we ourselves are repenting, constantly turning from idolatry. We witness to God's kingdom from a place of brokenness over our own sin and then we witness clothed in the power of the Holy Spirit." (taken from "Discipleship on the Edge" by Darrell Johnson, p 210) Our witness to the world is born of deep repentance. Let us continually depend on His grace, inviting the examination of our hearts by the Holy Spirit so that we will live in the value system of the kingdom of God. Psalm 51:17

We end with a quote from John Piper-

'Missions is not the ultimate goal of the Church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever.

Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal of missions. It's the goal of missions because in missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white hot enjoyment of God's glory. The goal of missions is the gladness of the peoples in the greatness of God. "The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!" (Ps 97:1). "Let the peoples praise thee, O God; let all the peoples praise thee! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!" (Ps 67:3-4).

But worship is also the fuel of missions. Passion for God in worship precedes the offer of God in preaching. You can't commend what you don't cherish. Missionaries will never call out, "Let the nations be glad!" who cannot say from the heart, "I rejoice in the Lord..I will be glad and exult in thee, I will sing praise to thy name, O Most High" (Ps 104:34, 9:2). Missions begins and ends in worship."

-John Piper, [Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions](#) (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993/2003), p17.

