

Comfort and Joy

Part Five - Shout For Joy

Psalm 95:1

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Psalm 98:4

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music...

Psalm 71:23

I will shout for joy and sing your praises, for you have ransomed me.

• **We think that joy generates praise, when in fact - praise generates joy!**

Psalm 16:11

You lead me in the path of life; I experience absolute joy in your presence; you always give me sheer delight.

Psalm 100:4

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.

• **The comfort and joy the first Christmas promised was accompanied by a worship service.**

Luke 2:13-18

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

What the First Worship Service Revealed:

1. We praise God for who He is.

Psalm 150:1-6

Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. 2 Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. 3 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, 4 praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, 5 praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

2. We praise God the way He has prescribed.

Isaiah 55:8

The LORD says: "My thoughts and my ways are not like yours.

Luke 2:20

The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen...

3. Our praise points people to Jesus.

1 Peter 1:12

God revealed to these prophets that their work was not for their own benefit, but for yours, as they spoke about those things which you have now heard from the messengers who announced the Good News by the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. These are things which even the angels would like to understand.

4. Those who have been led to Jesus by our worship, will lead others to Jesus.

John 4:42

They told the woman, "We no longer have faith in Jesus just because of what you told us. We have heard him ourselves, and we are certain that he is the Savior of the world!"