

STUDY 8

Glorifying God

PSALM 103

As a new Christian I would often drive to work singing praise songs as loud as I could. Overwhelmed with gratitude and love, I wept, tears streaking my cheeks with mascara; but I didn't care. Knowing that the Creator, the Eternal One who holds all things together, had given his Son for me amazed and thrilled me to the core of my being. Everything in me longed to give him praise. Years later I still find that praising God changes my perspective and fills me with hope and joy.

"Praise the Lord, O my soul." "Sing to him, sing praise to him. Glory in his holy name." "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." With these and many other phrases, David's love for God flows through the psalms. In this last study on the power of words, David directs our hearts to the greatness of God and draws us to the highest possible use of language: praise and worship.

1. What thrills you most about your relationship with God?

✦ READ PSALM 103.

2. What did David tell himself to do (verses 1-2)?

Why do you think he would talk to himself like this?

3. List the benefits of life with God that David recounted (verses 3-5).

4. How did David describe God's character in verses 7 and 8?

5. What further understanding of God do you gain from verses 10 through 12?

In what ways is your understanding of God similar to or different from the descriptions of him in this passage?

- ✦* 6. What effect does remembering God's character and blessings have on your worship?

7. What reason did David give for the Lord's compassion (verses 13-14)?

How does God's understanding affect his dealings with us?

8. What phrase is repeated in verses 11, 13, and 17?

Why do you think it is necessary first to "fear" (reverence) God before you can know him as a loving, compassionate Father?

9. Observe the contrasts between God and human beings given in verses 15 through 19. In what ways do these show the greatness of God?

10. List your own words of praise from reading this psalm on the character of God.

Life Changes

11. David's adoration and praise for God flowed out of his whole being. He wrote psalms, sang, prayed, and danced in worship. What steps can you take to make adoration and praise a regular part of your walk with God?

12. Take a few minutes to look back through this entire studyguide, reflecting on all you have learned. Which lesson on the power of words has made the greatest impact on you? What differences are you seeing in your life and in how you speak, as a result?