



# The Word at Work

## A Passion For Worship

### Reading the Word

*Key Text:* Many – see below

### Understanding the Word

#### God's Passion For His People:

Song of Songs (or Song of Solomon) is a beautiful celebration of romantic love as God intended it. It shows a bride and groom's mutual desire for each other expressed in words – poetic and descriptive words. (Sample verses: 1:1-3, 15-17; 2:1-4; 4:9-11; 6:4-7; 7:10-12.)

It is also illustrative of the relationship between Jesus and his church. See Ephesians 5:21-33 noting how the relationship between husband and wife is explicitly compared to the relationship between Christ and the church (particularly vv.31-32).

See also Isaiah 62:5b, Jeremiah 2:2, Hosea 2:16, 2 Corinthians 11:2, Revelation 19:7.

The relationship between God and his people is a love story. Scripture repeatedly makes it clear how much God loves his people: e.g. John 3:16; Romans 5:5, 8; Ephesians 2:4-5, 1 John 3:1a, 4:9-10.

#### Our Response

How much in love with God am I?  
How much does God mean to me?

*'No one who doesn't feel the Lord's worth can engage in worship. The mind and affections will always occupy themselves with what they value most.'* Bryn Jones in Restoration Magazine, Nov/Dec 1987, p.6

What do we value most? How passionate are we in our love for Jesus?  
Compare Luke 14:26 with Luke 16:3a.

*Hate* and *love* are strong, passionate terms.

Note the passion of the Psalmist in Psalm 108:1 (*all my heart/being*) and Psalm 42:1-2a (*panting/longing* and *thirsting*). See also Mark 12:30.

Our desire is to express our love to God *in response to* his demonstrated love towards us.

#### A Passion For Worship

One of the ways we express this love is when we choose to praise and worship him. If we have a passion for God we will worship him passionately.

Our engagement in praise and worship is not based on feelings or emotions but on a decision of the will in response to God's love and done with feeling and emotion.

#### Doing the Word

##### *To Discuss:*

1. Look up the following and make a note of the different expressions of praise and worship: Psalm 47:1; 95:1-2, 6; 134:1-2; 149:1-5; Acts 16:25; 1 Corinthians 14:15, 26; Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16.
2. Discuss the significance of each of these. E.g. what does lifting your hands to God signify?

##### *To Do:*

1. Psalm 34 refers to a time when David was at a low point in his life (see the Psalm title and 1 Samuel 21:10-15). Even so, look at David's determination to praise and worship God in vv.1-3. David *chooses* to do this. (See Hebrews 13:15.) Make a note of all the words relating to using the voice in these three verses.
2. Read Luke 7:36-50. The woman has a greater revelation of Jesus than the religious leaders (Pharisees) and expresses her worship accordingly. Your worship of Jesus will grow as your revelation of him increases. Spend time getting to know him better.
3. Think about your own approach/attitude to praise and worship. What changes are you going to decide to make?

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