

Finding Yourself in the Psalms
Psalm 66
National Psalm

We studied this at Thanksgiving 2 years ago. Focus on vs 16-20

The importance of YOUR testimony.

We talk about a PERSONAL relationship with the Lord.

Christianity is not about CREED and RITUAL. It's about RELATIONSHIP.

66:5 "Come and see"

66:16 "Come and listen"

Q.1 *How did the writer express his thankfulness to God?*

V1 SHOUT

V2 SING

V3 SAY

Q.2 *What inhibits our thankfulness? SIN.* Ps 66:18

KJV = past tense "if I regard. . ."

NIV better "If I had cherished sin. . ." Word is used in Psalm 138:6 (NIV) "Though the LORD is on high, he **looks upon** the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar." (KJV He "regards" the lowly.)

Isaiah 1:15 (NIV)¹⁵ When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood;

Testimony of the BLIND MAN. John 9:31 (NIV)³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will.

¹

Proverbs 15:8 The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.

Proverbs 15:29 (NIV) The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

Q. 3 *How does God respond to our thankfulness? HASSED - "love"*

Ps 66:20. God has not withheld his love from me.

SAME WORD as Exodus 20:6 (NIV)⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Although we fail, God will keep his loyal love to us.

HIS LOVE IS BASED ON

- *his disposition toward us - compassion.* Exodus 34:6-7 (NIV)⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty

¹ *The Holy Bible : New International Version.* 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.

- *His covenant with us - Grace*