

Psalm 115:1–18 — Give Glory to God Alone

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Your name give glory, because of Your mercy, because of Your truth. — Psalm 115:1 (NKJV)

The psalm begins with a cry that pushes back against self-glorification. The people of God recognize that all honor belongs to the Lord—not to them, not to their leaders, not to any religious system. Glory is given to God because of His mercy (steadfast love) and His truth (faithfulness).

Personal Application:

In a world that constantly pushes us to seek attention and recognition, this verse calls us to humility. When we experience success or blessing, let us say with sincerity, *“Not to us, Lord—but to You.”* When our hearts are tempted to boast, may we remember that everything we have and are is because of His goodness.

Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?”

But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.— Psalm 115:2–3

The surrounding nations mocked Israel, questioning the reality of their unseen God. But the psalmist responds with confidence—God isn’t absent or indifferent; He reigns from heaven and is completely free in His rule.

Personal Application:

People today still ask, “Where is God?”—especially in times of suffering or injustice. This psalm reminds us that God is not defined by our circumstances or by public opinion. His purposes are higher than ours, and His ways often go beyond what we can understand. But He is never absent. He is sovereign and involved—even when we can’t see how.

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands.

They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see...— Psalm 115:4–8 (NKJV, summarized)

The psalm shifts to contrast the living God with the false gods of the nations. These idols are lifeless, man-made, powerless—mere reflections of human imagination. And here’s the profound truth: *“Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them.”*

Personal Application:

You become like what you worship. If you pursue a god of pleasure, wealth, intellect, or control, those things will eventually shape your character—but they’ll never satisfy your soul. Idolatry always leads to spiritual dullness. But if you worship the true and living God, you’re transformed into His image—full of life, love, mercy, and truth.

The choice is unavoidable:

- Either we create gods in our image, and we are degraded by them...
- Or the living God is transforming us into *His* image, lifting us higher than we could ever go on our own.

O Israel, trust in the Lord... O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord... You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield. — Psalm 115:9–11

This repeated refrain calls every segment of the believing community—nation, priesthood, and individual worshipers—to place their trust in God. Why? Because He is their help and their shield. He is both support and defender.

Personal Application:

Trusting God isn't a religious duty—it's how we stand firm in a shifting world. He is your strength when you're weak and your protection when you're vulnerable. Whether you're a leader, a parent, or a new believer, this call to trust is for you. Whatever you're facing today, take heart—He is your help and shield.

The Lord has been mindful of us; He will bless us... He will bless those who fear the Lord, both small and great. — Psalm 115:12–13

God is not forgetful. He is mindful of His people—attentive to both their needs and their hearts. His blessings are not limited by status or title.

Personal Application:

You are not invisible to God. He sees you. He remembers you. Whether the world considers you “great” or “small,” the Lord values you. His heart is for you, and He desires to bless you—not only with material things, but with His presence, peace, and purpose.

May the Lord give you increase more and more, you and your children. May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth. — Psalm 115:14–15

This is a beautiful prayer for generational blessing. The psalmist connects God's ability to bless with His role as Creator—He who made all things is more than able to bless His people abundantly.

Personal Application:

Ask God to increase your faith, your joy, your love—and pass it on to your children. Let your legacy be one of trusting in God and walking with Him. He who made the heavens and the earth can surely take care of your household.

The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth He has given to the children of men. — Psalm 115:16

This verse reminds us of God's delegated authority. While God owns it all, He has entrusted the care of the earth to humanity. We are stewards, not owners.

Personal Application:

Whether in your family, your job, your community, or creation itself—you've been entrusted with something. Steward it well. Remember, what you do here matters because God has handed responsibilities into your care.

The dead do not praise the Lord, nor any who go down into silence.

But we will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord! — Psalm 115:17–18

The psalm ends with a call to living praise. The dead cannot testify of God's goodness—but we who are alive *can* and *must*. This is our moment. This is our time.

Personal Application:

Don't wait to worship. Don't wait for everything to go perfectly. You're alive right now—so lift your voice to praise God. Let your worship be real, not mechanical. Let it come from a heart that knows Him, trusts Him, and longs to reflect Him. We were made to bless the Lord.

Final Encouragement:

Psalm 115 is a powerful call to humility, trust, and true worship.

- Don't seek your own glory—give it to God.
- Don't trust what you've made—trust the One who made you.
- Don't become like lifeless idols—be transformed into the image of the living God.

"But we will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!" (v. 18)

That is your purpose, your privilege, and your eternal calling.