

Psalms 61:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows.

Analysis

So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows. This concluding verse ties together the entire psalm with a vow of perpetual worship. "So" (ken, כֵּן) indicates consequence or result: "thus, therefore, in this manner." Based on everything previously stated—God's hearing, leading, sheltering, protecting—David commits to lifelong worship response. Worship isn't merely gratitude for deliverance but appropriate response to God's character and faithfulness.

"Will I sing praise" (azammerah, אֶזְמְרָה) uses the word for singing with musical accompaniment. This is the same word from Psalm 57:7, 9 and 59:17. Zamar indicates not merely vocal singing but instrumental music accompanying sung praise. David, as "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1), both composed psalms and organized temple worship with musicians (1 Chronicles 23-25). Worship for David wasn't passive listening but active, joyful, musical participation.

"Unto thy name" (shimkha, שִׁמְךָ) is significant. God's "name" represents His revealed character, His reputation, His self-disclosure. To praise God's name means celebrating who He has revealed Himself to be—covenant-keeping, faithful, merciful, powerful, present. God's name isn't arbitrary label but revelation of His nature. Throughout Scripture, God's name represents His character and presence (Exodus 3:13-15, 33:19, 34:5-7).

"For ever" (le'ad, לְעֹלָם) means perpetually, continually, indefinitely. This echoes "for

ever" in verse 4. David's commitment isn't temporary enthusiasm during crisis but lifelong devotion regardless of circumstances. Psalm 146:2 similarly vows: "While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being." Worship is to be perpetual posture, not occasional activity.

"That I may daily perform my vows" (leshalle^m nedaray yom-yom, לְשַׁלֵּם נִדְרֵי יוֹם-יוֹם) explains the purpose of perpetual praise. Shalem means to complete, fulfill, make whole, pay what is owed. Neder means vow, promise made to God. "Daily" (yom-yom, יוֹם-יוֹם) is literally "day-day," indicating each and every day, daily without exception. David commits to daily fulfillment of vows he's made to God.

What vows? Likely vows made during crisis, promising to worship God if delivered (common in ancient prayers). But more broadly, Israel's covenant relationship with God constituted a vow—promises of faithfulness, obedience, exclusive worship (Exodus 19:8: "All that the LORD hath spoken we will do"). Daily performing vows means daily covenant faithfulness, daily worship, daily living in alignment with covenant commitments.

The verse's structure is important: David will sing praise (ongoing worship) SO THAT he may perform vows daily (ongoing faithfulness). Worship enables obedience. Singing God's praise continually sustains covenant faithfulness. Worship isn't merely expression of achieved righteousness but means of maintaining commitment. We worship our way into faithfulness, not worship as reward for faithfulness.

Historical Context

Vows played significant role in ancient Israelite religion. Jacob vowed to serve Yahweh if God protected him (Genesis 28:20-22). Hannah vowed to dedicate her son to God if He gave her a child (1 Samuel 1:11). Jephthah made a rash vow with tragic consequences (Judges 11:30-40). The Law regulated vows, requiring fulfillment once made (Numbers 30, Deuteronomy 23:21-23). Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 warns: 'When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it... Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.'

David made various vows throughout his life. Psalm 132:2-5 records his vow not to rest until finding a place for God's ark. Second Samuel 7 describes his desire to build God a house (temple). Throughout the Psalms, David repeatedly vows to praise God (Psalm 7:17, 9:1-2, 13:6, 18:49, 22:22, 27:6, 35:18, etc.). These weren't casual promises but solemn commitments made before God and often publicly declared.

The connection between worship and obedience is fundamental to biblical religion. Israel's worship wasn't merely ritual performance but expression of covenant relationship requiring ongoing faithfulness. The prophets repeatedly condemned worship divorced from obedience—Isaiah 1:11-17 declares God despises festivals and sacrifices when accompanied by injustice and disobedience. Micah 6:6-8 asks what God requires: not merely sacrifices but 'to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.'

David's commitment to 'daily' worship and vow-fulfillment reflects biblical emphasis on consistent, regular devotion. Deuteronomy 6:5-7 commanded: 'Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart... And these words... shall be in thine heart... and thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.' Faith was to permeate every aspect of daily life, not merely Sabbath observance.

The Levitical musicians David organized exemplified this daily worship. First Chronicles 16:37-42 describes David appointing Levites 'to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel: Asaph the chief... to sound with cymbals; and with psalteries and harps... continually before the ark.' Temple worship operated daily, mornings and evenings, modeling perpetual praise.

For New Testament believers, daily worship takes different form but remains essential. Acts 2:46-47 describes early Christians meeting 'daily' in temple courts and homes, breaking bread and praising God. Hebrews 13:15 exhorts: 'By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.' Romans 12:1 calls believers to 'present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service'—daily, living worship through consecrated living. Ephesians 5:18-20

commands: 'Be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things.' Christian life is life of perpetual worship—daily performing covenant vows through Spirit-empowered faithfulness.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What is the relationship between singing praise to God's name 'forever' and daily performing vows, and how does continual worship sustain ongoing faithfulness?
2. How does praising God's 'name' (revealed character) differ from generic gratitude, and why is it important to praise who God is rather than merely thanking Him for what He does?
3. What 'vows' have you made to God (explicitly or implicitly through covenant relationship), and how does daily worship help fulfill those commitments?
4. Why does David connect singing praise with performing vows rather than treating worship and obedience as separate activities?
5. In what ways can believers today make worship a 'daily' reality rather than weekly event, and how does this transform overall spiritual life?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	אֶזְמְרָה	שִׁמְחָה	לְעֹלָם	לְשִׁלְמִי	נִדְבָרִי
H3651	So will I sing	praise unto thy name	for ever	perform	my vows
	H2167	H8034	H5703	H7999	H5088
יְהוָה		יְהוָה			
that I may daily		that I may daily			
H3117		H3117			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 65:1 (Resurrection): Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

Psalms 71:22 (Resurrection): I will also praise thee with the psaltery, even thy truth, O my God: unto thee will I sing with the harp, O thou Holy One of Israel.

Psalms 79:13 (Resurrection): So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org