

From Listen to Living Embracing God's Formative Work in Our Lives

Introduction:

Let us **draw inspiration from Psalm 81**, a powerful call to listen and live for our great God, as we explore the impact of embracing God's formative work in our lives.

1) Embrace God's Formative Work Through Joyful Worship

Psalm 81:1-3, Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob! Raise a song; sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp. Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our feast day.

2) Embrace God's Formative Work Through Obedience

Psalm 81:4-10, For it is a statute for **Israel**, a rule of the **God of Jacob**. He made it a decree in **Joseph** when he went out over the land of Egypt. I hear a language I had not known: I relieved your shoulder of the burden; your hands were freed from the basket. **In distress you called**, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Selah **Hear**, O my people, while I admonish you! O Israel, if you would but **listen** to me! There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not bow down to a foreign god. **I am the Lord your God**, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

Paul Tripp has said, “Trying to live without God’s help is to assign myself a sub- human existence. It is to live like an animal, as if I were something other than what I am. Vast numbers of people attempt to live this way, but it is an act of irrationality...Human being were created to live on the platform of God’s revelation, which is why we were given the unique communicative abilities we possess.”

3) Embrace God's Formative Work Through Trust In His Faithful Provision

Psalm 81:11-16, But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels. Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways! I would soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes. Those who hate the Lord would cringe toward him, and their fate would last forever. But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.

Conclusion:

Psalm 81 ESV

Oh, That My People Would Listen to Me

To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. Of Asaph.

- ¹ Sing aloud to God our strength;
shout for joy to the God of Jacob!
- ² Raise a song; sound the tambourine,
the sweet lyre with the harp.
- ³ Blow the trumpet at the new moon,
at the full moon, on our feast day.
- ⁴ For it is a statute for Israel,
a rule^[a] of the God of Jacob.
- ⁵ He made it a decree in Joseph
when he went out over^[a] the land of Egypt.
I hear a language I had not known:
- ⁶ "I relieved your^[a] shoulder of the burden;
your hands were freed from the basket.
- ⁷ In distress you called, and I delivered you;
I answered you in the secret place of thunder;
I tested you at the waters of Meribah. *Selah*
- ⁸ Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!
- ⁹ There shall be no strange god among you;
you shall not bow down to a foreign god.
- ¹⁰ I am the LORD your God,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.
- ¹¹ "But my people did not listen to my voice;
Israel would not submit to me.
- ¹² So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,
to follow their own counsels.
- ¹³ Oh, that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!
- ¹⁴ I would soon subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes.
- ¹⁵ Those who hate the LORD would cringe toward him,
and their fate would last forever.
- ¹⁶ But he would feed you^[a] with the finest of the wheat,
and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."