

## PRAYING PSALM 66

“Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth. I will declare what He has done for my soul” (Psalm 66:1, 16).

This psalm begins with group praise and then focuses on individual worship. 1. COMMUNAL HYMN OF PRAISE TO GOD (1-12). For future glory (1-4). For previous faithfulness (5-7). For continuous protection 8-12). 2. INDIVIDUAL HYMN OF PRAISE TO GOD (13-20). Through fulfilled vows (13-15). For answered prayer (16-20).

The need for praise is both corporate and private. Church is an assembly of God’s people for the purpose of praise and prayer (along with the study of God’s Word). Prayer and praise are necessary. They are to be intentional. Private prayer can happen anywhere, on any occasion, for any reason. You may do one or the other. If you do neither, you are disobedient to the Word of God. What kind of Christian we become depends on our choices. To pray is one of them. Where to pray is one of them. We are instructed to pray, and we are instructed to pray in church. It is a serious problem when you decide what to obey and what to disobey. If you are choosing one option over the other, you should probably have a discussion with yourself and with God about it. You will rise no higher than your obedience will take you. First, decide to praise God. Do it as the psalm says. Go to church and praise God in public. Then, go home and declare what He has done for your soul.