

## Psalm 98

[Worship]

1 O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. 2 The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. 3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. 4 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. 5 Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. 6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD. 7 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. 8 Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy 9 at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

**Consider:**

[Words]

"The Gospels depict Jesus on the eve of his death making clear to his disciples that their ministry is possible only because they no longer belong to the world and its ways. In his priestly prayer to his Father, he says, 'They do not

belong to the world any more than I belong to the world.' It is this not-belonging that is the basis for their mission: 'I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the Evil One .... As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world' (John 17:15-19). In these words, Jesus tells us that the Spirit by whom we participate in the divine life is the same Spirit who allows us to be in the world without being of it.

The world, however, is the place where the Evil One roams. It is the home of the tempter who wants to snatch us away from God and return us to the road of upward mobility. We must face this tempter and deal with him eye to eye. As Jesus was sent by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted, so are we. It may be that the true quality of the spiritual life can only be recognized in the face of our temptations."



- Henri Nouwen, "Temptation: The Pull Toward Upward Mobility,"

[Scripture]

## Acts 10.44-48

44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47 "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.