

The blessing of **WORSHIP**

*It's been said that "worship is a subject that should dominate our lives seven days a week" (Engaging with God – A Biblical Theology of Worship, p.21.) I would totally agree! If everything that I do and say is not motivated by my desire to bless God, then I am on unsteady ground. My only safe spot is in view of God and in His presence, and the only way that I know to keep me in that spot is through worship and His Word. For when my heart and mind is focused on God's majesty, on His salvation & grace, on His gifts of love - especially through Jesus, everything else falls into right perspective. God is so good! This very act of worship that He created and desires from us to bring Him honour, is the very avenue we **need** to express our most intimate love to Him. His laws are always to our benefit!*

"Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts. Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice ... seek His face always ... Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Bring an offering & come before Him; worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness ..."
(1 Chronicles 16:8-11,29)

WHAT IS WORSHIP, ANYWAY?

- a feeling of profound love and admiration [syn: adoration]
v 1: love unquestioningly and uncritically [syn: idolize, revere]
To honor with extravagant love and extreme submission, as a lover; to adore; to idolize.
Relational
GREEK: There are 3 words translated in scripture...
- Proskyneō – means to kiss forward, it is a posture of submission. It is where we derive the English word prostrate
 - Latreuō – means to give yourself to serve or minister to.
 - Leitourgia – means formal service or ministry. It is where we derive the English word liturgy.

- **IT'S AN _____ POSTURE** Proskyneō
 - Comes from believing God is who He says. Revelation! (*John 20:27*) Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe. **"Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"**
 - With revelation comes an inexpressible love and desire to surrender, submit, adore, and revere God.
 - "to kiss forward" implies to bow with a spirit of submission. When worship is mentioned in the Bible it is most often done so with a posture of bowing. We must always do this out of sheer obedience, but obviously the best is when we are bowing from our heart.
- **IT'S AN _____ POSTURE.** Latreuō
 - Worship is a verb. Our love must give way to expression, or we will burst!
- **IT'S _____ IDEA!**
 - **It _____ Him.** - (*Ps. 50:23*) -*It's the praising life that honours me. As soon as you set your foot on the Way, I'll show you my salvation. (Heb. 13:15) a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess His name.*
 - **It's what we are _____ for.** (*1 Peter 2:9*) *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

"The gods we worship write their names on our faces, be sure of that. And a man will worship something – have no doubt about that either. He may think that his tribute is paid in secret in the dark recess of his heart, but it will come out... ..that which dominates will determine his life & character. Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshipping, we are becoming." -Ralph Emerson
 - **God _____ it of us.** (*Psalms 135:20; Romans 12:1*) *...present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. (Leitourgia)*
- **IT'S OFTEN _____ BY _____ ! Yeah!!**
 - When worship is mentioned in the Bible it is often accompanied by music.

"We seem to have determined that church is all about us when God – the Divine Customer – has this incredible idea that church is all about Him."
(Tommy Tenney, "God's Eye View")

"True worship:
Exalts
Encounters
and
Responds to
GOD"
(Bob Kauflin, Sovereign Grace Ministries")

WHO CAN WORSHIP?

- all His _____ (*Revelation 19:5*)
- _____ (*Matthew 21:16*)
- _____ (*Psalms 103:2*)
- _____ hosts (*Psalms 148:2*)
- all _____ (*Psalms 148*)
- appointed worship _____ (*2 Chronicles 8:14, Nehemiah 12:46*)

WHERE CAN WE WORSHIP?

- in the _____ (*Psalms 22:22, Psalms 149:1*)
I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you. Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the saints.
- _____ meetings (*Psalms 107:32*)
Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.
- before _____ (*Psalms 57:9*)
I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.
- before all _____ (*Matthew 5:16*)
In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.
- at home - in _____ (*Psalms 149:5*)
Let the saints rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds.
- in the _____ & on _____ (*Habakkuk 3:3*)
His glory covered the heavens and his praise filled the earth.

SO, EXACTLY WHAT PLEASURES GOD?

- Coming with the 'right' _____. A pure _____. (*Psalms 24:3-6*)
 - With _____. (*Jer. 29:13*) *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*
 - heart, soul, mind & strength (*Matthew 22:37*)
 - _____ & _____ (*Psalms 51:16,17; Jer. 19:13*)
"Going through the motions doesn't please You, a flawless performance is nothing to You. I learned God-worship when my pride was shattered. Heart-shattered lives ready for love don't for a moment escape God's notice. (Psalms 51:16-17~ The Message Bible)
The sacrifice you want is a broken spirit. A broken and repentant heart, O God, you will not despise. Jer. 29:13 – You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
 - _____ (*2 Chron. 7:14*)
Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land.
 - With _____ and lives of _____, pursuing _____.
"It's who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly themselves before Him in their worship. God is sheer being itself - Spirit. Those who worship Him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration." (John 4:22,23 ~ Message Bible)
 - With _____. ...in God's sovereignty ...worshipping even in suffering. (*Job 1:21, 1 Peter 4:16*) *"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."*
 - With _____! - - shout for joy (*Psalms 47:1, Luke 19:37*)
 - **joy is the one emotion that is mentioned for praise & worship** *Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen.*
- Bringing the 'right' _____.
 - Bring something that _____ you something. Be _____. (*extravagance is really the opposite of fear*) (*Luke 7:36,38*) *A certain immoral woman heard he was there and brought a beautiful jar filled with expensive perfume. Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.)*

\Ex*trav"agance\, n. [Cf. F. extravagance. See Extravagant, and cf. Extravaganza.]

1. A wandering beyond proper limits; an excursion or sally from the usual way, course, or limit.

2. The state of being extravagant, wild, or prodigal beyond bounds of propriety or duty; want of moderation; excess; especially, undue expenditure of money; vain and superfluous expense; prodigality; as, extravagance of anger, love, expression, imagination, demands.

- **Bring our _____ with _____ & _____.** (*Psalms 33:3; 1 Chronicles 15:22; Proverbs 22:29*)

Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. Kenaniah the head Levite was in charge of the singing; that was his responsibility because he was **skillful** at it. Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men.

- **With physical expression:**

- _____ ... **bowing, standing, dancing** (*Neh. 8:6, Neh. 9:5, Ps. 149:3*)

- _____ ... **lifted up, clapping, playing musical instruments** (*Psalms 33:1,3*)

- _____ ... **speaking, singing, shouting** (*Isaiah 38:19, Judges 5:3, Luke 19:37*)

- **With _____ -- songs, new songs, psalms, instruments, percussion.** (*Judges 5:3, 2 Chronicles 29:30, Psalms 150*) "*Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers! I will sing to [a] the LORD, I will sing; I will make music to [b] the LORD, the God of Israel. King Hezekiah and his officials ordered the Levites to praise the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness and bowed their heads and worshiped.*"

- **In _____ with our fellow believers.** (*Romans 15:7*) *Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

READ Psalms 149 / 150

- **Worship without _____.**

- **from everlasting to everlasting forever! (Nehemiah 9:5)**

- *And the Levites—Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah and Pethahiah—said: "Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. "*

- *"Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise.*

- **all days - always! (Psalms 71:8, 96:2)** *My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long.*

- *Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.*

- **at night (Psalms 149:5)**

- *Let the saints rejoice in this honour and sing for joy on their beds.*

- **in suffering, in grieving, when distraught (Psalms 42:5, Isaiah 61:3, Jeremiah 20:13)**

- **in His faithfulness & abundance (Psalms 148)**

GOD WANTS US TO SEE WITH SPIRITUAL EYES.

- **because God comes**

- Psalms 47 Clap your hands, all you *nations*; shout to God with cries of joy ... (5)God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises!...

- **what we do in the natural (out of obedience to God) effects the spiritual**

- 2 Corinthians 10:4 ...for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

- Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- Exodus 17:11-13 As long as Moses held up the staff with his hands, the Israelites had the advantage. But whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites gained the upper hand....

- **music is a powerful expression of worship. It activates the spirit world.**

- 2 Kings 3:14, 15 Elisha said, "As God-of-the-Angel-Armies lives, and before whom I stand ready to serve, if it weren't for the respect I have for Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I wouldn't give you the time of day. But considering - bring me a minstrel." (When a minstrel played, the power of God came on Elisha.)

- Also see: 1 Chronicles 25:1; 1 Samuel 10:5-6

- **worship silences the enemy**

- Psalms 8:2 You have taught children and babies to sing praises to you because of your enemies. And so you silence your enemies and destroy those who try to get even.

Isa 30:32 He will attack them in battle, and each time he strikes them, it will be to the music of tambourines and harps.

2 Chron. 20:22 Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

- **causes us to rise above our circumstance**

Ps. 138:3 In the day when I cried out, You answered me, And made me bold with strength in my soul

5/ SO, WHAT STOPS US?

- tradition
 - peer pressure
 - ignorance
 - wrong mindsets
 - it's too uncomfortable
-

6/ TRUE WORSHIP CAUSES TRANSFORMATION

- **we are either transformers or conformers**
- **true worship causes us to change** (Romans 12:1,2)
 - we are to bring our bodies as living sacrifices ... sacrifices die. God raises them up, transformed.
 - renews our minds
- **submit to God's will**

Romans 12:1,2 ...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2 Corinthians 3:16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, then the veil is taken away. Now, the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, he gives freedom. And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.

7/ WORSHIP IS A BLESSING!

- **We bless God**
- **He blesses us** with His presence –bringing us to whatever place we need to be before Him – whether that be a mode of repenting, receiving, submitting, adoring, praising, or just sitting.
- **The world around us is fed by the release of God's Spirit**

"The LORD God is waiting to show how kind He is and to have pity on you. The LORD always does right; He blesses those who trust Him." (Is. 30:18)

"Spread for me a banquet of praise, serve High God a feast of kept promises and call for help when you're in trouble – I'll help you, and you'll honour me. It's the praising life that honours me. As soon as you set your foot on the Way, I'll show you my salvation."

Psalms 50:14, 15, 23

What a gift to be able to release our love through music, love that so often cannot be expressed through words alone, yet wants so desperately to be said. God is so good!