The Praise and Worship of God

RESTORING DAVIDIC PRAISE AND WORSHIP TO THE BODY OF CHRIST

For Champions of True Worship
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What Every Disciple Ought to Know!

The Praise and Worship of God

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This work is dedicated to the memory of Rev Bob Swanger who graduated to glory in 1995. As my spiritual father and a true apostle to the nations, he wrote a discipleship series under the same title several decades ago. It is my prayer that the present work will meet with the same anointing around the world.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are taken from the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible.

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The 21st Century presents us with the greatest opportunities to advance Christianity around the world. The calling and responsibility Jesus has placed upon the church is enormous. Much is riding upon the maturity of every believer. Spiritual leaders agree that we must do a far better job of properly laying the foundation of the Christian faith within believers than was done in the previous century - particularly in the past four decades. This foundation must be laid in an environment of grace, love, and spiritual freedom.

What Every Disciple Ought to Know has been developed to help “thoroughly furnish” a new generation of leaders with a resource for making disciples. The units of study that follow are word-centered and will provide the ongoing training necessary for each disciple to mature and move forward in faith and effective participation within the body of Christ. They also comprise a comprehensive teaching strategy that will heighten the unity and spiritual health of the local church. The modern world has yet to see the true church in operation; full of spiritual life and vibrancy. They have seen the old legalistic righteousness of long-established religious traditions and for the most part, they have rejected it. But it’s a new hour for the church.

It’s time for a new wineskin. Jesus is coming soon! We must make disciples while it is still day. We must teach others all that Jesus has commanded. This is the task of every Ephesian 4:11 leader around the world. The 5-Fold Global mandate is to equip and empower a new generation of leaders and believers to fulfill the book of Acts in the power of the Holy Spirit and multiply the end time harvest through strategic prayer, power evangelism, Spirit filled discipleship, and church planting in alignment with God’s word. Our prayer is that this resource will cause you to run with the vision to make disciples of all nations.

Michael D. Gross, General Editor

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. Matthew 28:19, 20

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 KJV

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 KJV
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The Praise and Worship of God

**Objective:** *Raise the standard of the praise and worship of God in the hearts and minds of believers by restoring Davidic praise and worship.*

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“And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: ‘After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things.’ (Act 15:15-17; Amos 9:11)

The Tabernacle of David

The Scriptures are full of references and examples of the praise and worship of God. Like prayer and fasting, praise and worship are indispensable for those who follow Christ. It’s absolutely essential, therefore, that all disciples understand praise and worship from God’s perspective and learn how to praise and worship Him in the ways that please Him. This unit of study has been developed to raise the standard of praise and worship in the hearts and minds of every disciple. We begin with what is considered the highest and most perfected level of praise and worship reached by man in the Bible: Davidic praise and worship.

The perfecting of praise and the restoration of Davidic worship are prophesied in the Old Testament and confirmed in the New Testament. Peter spoke of the restoration of all things through Jesus Christ:

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, "and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, "whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. (Acts 3:19-21)

This “restoration of all things” (apokatastasis) refers to the “action of restoring a thing to its former good state.” This certainly applies to the restoration of Davidic praise and worship in every generation. It’s important to point out that the prophets agree together on this point. A prophetic foundation is necessary to establish biblical truth. The prophet, Amos, directly declared this, “Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.” (Amos 3:7 NIV). In addition, we must have a spiritual understanding of the original plan in order to take action. David received the “plans for all that he had by the Spirit.” (1Chron. 28:12). All of these plans are chronicled in God’s word. David made intense preparations for Solomon concerning the house of the Lord before his death:

Now David said, “Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries. I will now make preparation for it.” So David made abundant preparations before his death. (1Chr. 22:5)

These preparations included 24,000 leaders (priests/ministers), 6,000 officials (overseers), 4,000 gatekeepers (intercessors under the New Covenant), and 4,000 (singers and musicians) who “praised the Lord with musical instruments.”
Of these, twenty-four thousand were to look after the work of the house of the LORD, six thousand were officers and judges, four thousand were gatekeepers, and four thousand praised the LORD with musical instruments, "which I made," said David, "for giving praise." (1Chr. 23:4-5)

Notice that spiritual unity and understanding are absolutely essential among church leaders, intercessors, and praise and worship teams. This unity is lacking in many churches and it’s often reflected in the quality of praise and worship. An overview of the original plan shows a unity and orderliness that makes the worship experience pleasing to God.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Plan Details</th>
<th>Spiritual Understanding</th>
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| This was the schedule of their service for coming into the house of the LORD according to their ordinance by the hand of Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him. (1Chr 24:19) The chief fathers did just as their younger brethren. (1Chr. 24:31b) | • There was orderliness, oversight, and care for God’s plan and all of His instructions.  
• The older and the younger generations were aligned with God’s plan and each other.                                   |
| Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals. And the number of the skilled men performing their service was: Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nathaniah, and Asharelah; the sons of Asaph were under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied according to the order of the king. Of Jeduthun, the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshiaiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the direction of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp to give thanks and to praise the LORD. (1Chr. 25:1-3) | • Praise and worship of God included prophetic instrumentation.  
• Skill in these areas entail a separation unto God for service and a mature development in the things of the Spirit.  
• The musicians were under directional and prophetic leadership.  
• They were under the King’s order (under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the new covenant) |
| All these were the sons of Heman the king’s seer in the words of God, to exalt his horn. For God gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters. All these were under the direction of their father for the music in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the authority of the king. So the number of them, with their brethren who were instructed in the songs of the LORD, all who were skillful, was two hundred and eighty-eight. And they cast lots for their duty, the small as well as the great, the teacher with the student. (1Chr 25:5-8) | • They were aligned with the words of God.  
• They exalted (lifted, raised up) the sovereignty of the King.  
• They were under the authority (literally, hand) of the King.  
• They were instructed in the songs of the Lord and skillful in discernment and understanding. (Note: Hebrew byin – to discern, understand, consider)  
• Young and old worked together in the praise and worship of God. |

The restoration of Davidic praise and worship briefly outlined above is confirmed during many of the revivals in the time of the kings of Israel and Judah. One such revival was when King Hezekiah reigned over Judah. He was only 25 when he began his reign and “the did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done.” (2 Chron. 29:1-2). Doing what was right involved restoring Davidic praise and worship. What did Hezekiah do? The first thing this young man did was to “open the doors to the house of the Lord.” (29:3). He then without delay gathered the leaders (priests and Levites) and issued a clear command: “Hear me, Levites! Now sanctify yourselves, sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers, and carry out the rubbish.” (29:5). This was much more than a spring cleaning. It was a spiritual cleansing and a spiritual restoration! It was also a message to the next generation. The reason was...
quite clear: "For our fathers have trespassed and done evil in the eyes of the LORD our God; they have forsaken Him, have turned their faces away from the dwelling place of the LORD, and turned their backs on Him." (29:6). The young king told them what was on his heart and gave them a word of exhortation and encouragement: "My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before Him, to serve Him, and that you should minister to Him and burn incense." (29:11). There was no argument from the Levites. In fact they "gathered their brethren, sanctified themselves, and went according to the commandment of the king, at the words of the Lord, to cleanse the house of the Lord." (29:15). It’s fascinating to note that "they sanctified the house of the Lord in eight days." (29:17). The team then took only another eight days to re-establish and consecrate all the things the previous reign of King Ahaz had "cast aside in his transgression" declaring, "There they are, before the altar of the Lord." (29:19).

After this, Hezekiah awakened early, gathered the rulers of the city, and went to the Lord’s house (29:20) where he sacrificed to make atonement and to restore Davidic praise and worship to the house of the Lord.

And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king’s seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the LORD by His prophets. The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. (2Ch 29:25-26)

The Cleansing of the Temple

Jesus cleansed the temple on two occasions (John 2:13-17; Matt. 21:12-16). We learn from these examples that praise and worship was one of five things Jesus cleansed the temple for; the others being the re-establishment of the word, prayer, power ministry, and zeal for God’s house:

But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?" Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there. (Mat 21:15-17)

This all began with the triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem. Multitudes praised and worshiped Jesus as He came and “all the city was moved.” (Matt. 21:10). The praise and worship of the Lord Jesus Christ can move a city. However, God’s house was in dire need of a spiritual cleansing and a restoration. Only then could the blind and lame come to Jesus and be healed. Only then could children lead the way in spontaneous and unstoppable praise and worship to the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Jesus quotes Psalm 8:2 in response to the displeasure by those of the religious establishment. The word perfected (katartizo) means to "put in order, restore, prepare, design, create, make complete." In addition, it’s noteworthy that Jesus is also emphasizing the young people of the next generation praising Him. Jesus’ cleansing of the temple is very consistent in agreement with the prophets, the revivals of Israel and Judah, and the overall restoration of Davidic praise and worship. It was His triumphal entry and the church desperately needs another one today!
Bringing Up the Ark of God

The ark of God in the Old Testament visibly represented the glory and presence of God to His people. The God who dwells between the cherubim is to be worshiped. His presence is holy and He desires us to worship the beauty of His holiness. In fact, when the Philistines captured and kept the ark for seven months, the priest, Eli, who had judged Israel for forty years fell backward off his seat and broke his neck when he heard the news.

So the messenger answered and said, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has been a great slaughter among the people. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead; and the ark of God has been captured." Then it happened, when he made mention of the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years. (1Sa 4:17-18)

Notice it was when the ark of God was mentioned when Eli fell. Furthermore, Eli’s daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, named her child Ichabod (inglorious) saying, “The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.” (4:21-22). Israel without the glory and presence of God was lost and in despair. The church today is just as lost without the glory and presence of God. Although the Philistines returned the ark of God in fear with gold offerings after seven months, it would be years later until David fully defeated them and brought the ark to Jerusalem and placed it in a tent he had erected for it.

We learn much about Davidic praise and worship from how David brought up the ark of God. The Bible records an unsuccessful attempt before the ark arrived three months later in the city of David. Upon closer examination we learn several things in response to David’s question, “How can the ark of the Lord come to me? (2 Sam. 6:9).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Attempt (2 Sam. 6:1-11; 1 Chron. 13)</th>
<th>2nd Attempt (2 Sam. 6:12-23; 1 Chron. 15-16)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Cart</td>
<td>Sacrifices presented every six paces</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uzzah &amp; Ahio drove the cart</td>
<td>Children of the Levites sanctified themselves &amp; bore the ark on their shoulders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music with singing on harps, stringed instruments, tambourines, cymbals, &amp; trumpets</td>
<td>Appointed singers, instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, cymbals, shouting with trumpets, voices raised with resounding joy, skilled musicians</td>
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<td>Uzzah’s irreverence &amp; outburst against Uzzah; David angry &amp; afraid; Obed-Edom &amp; whole household blessed</td>
<td>David’s wife, Michal, barren for her indignation; David danced &amp; humbled himself before God</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although David consulted or exchanged counsel with “the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader” (1 Chron. 13:1) on his first attempt, it’s almost unthinkable that they failed to consult God. Even though they sang with all their strength, they could not bring up the ark of God’s glory and presence to be set in its rightful place. Many churches today attempt to bring in the glory of God’s presence with new buildings, elaborate sound systems, professional singers and praise bands accompanied with the instruments of music. One of our young 5-Fold Global partners, Arman Davtyan of Armenia, who is a very effective worship leader and prophetic minister, made a profound declaration in a message on October 4, 2015. He said, “I hate to see churches that have everything, but God is not present!” In far too many cases it’s with little to no thought of consulting God for what He desires. Where is the reverence before God? Where is the
consecration and humility before the living God? All this begs the question of who’s driving the cart today? The church must stop taking God’s presence for granted and establish a clear path for His glory through worship that pleases Him.

**The Sweet Psalmist of Israel**

David is called the “**anointed**” of God and the “**sweet psalmist of Israel.**”

Now these are the last words of David. *Thus says David the son of Jesse; Thus says the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel:* (2Sa 23:1 NKJ)

His praise and worship of God was pleasant, delightful, lovely, and agreeable to God. God used David to write most of the book of Psalms, the hymnbook of the Bible. God is pleased when we praise and worship Him like David. This is why the rebuilding of the tabernacle of David includes the restoration of Davidic praise and worship. It’s all about what God wants. God is the audience!
CHAPTER 2
TRUE WORSHIP

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (John 4:23)

God’s Plan Includes Worship

How does God want us to worship Him? The above passage indicates that God’s plan for us includes worship. It reveals that the revival of worship is an important part of God’s strategy for all creation including mankind. Even “the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing” and “all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.” (Isaiah 55:12). David, the sweet psalmist of Israel, implores us to say:

All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name." Selah (Psalm 66:4)

Jesus came not only to revive the worshiper but to revive worship itself. The revival of worship is also confirmed in prophecy. Psalm 22 is a Messianic prophecy that speaks of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, the future church praising Jesus, and multitudes turning to the Lord. Included in this worldwide altar call is this very important prophetic statement:

For the kingdom is the LORD’S, And He rules over the nations. All the prosperous of the earth Shall eat and worship; All those who go down to the dust Shall bow before Him, Even he who cannot keep himself alive. A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation, They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, That He has done this. (Psalm 22:28-31)

If we do not learn to worship the Lord, the next generation will be at risk because the devil will do anything to keep a person from truly worshiping Jesus Christ. We live in the hour where God is seeking true worshipers. God Himself has sounded forth this global call to worship. It will continue in the millennial reign of Christ (Zech. 14:16-21) and in the heavenly city for all eternity (Rev. 5:14; 7:11; 11:16; 19:4; 22:9). It’s the call to worship God and God alone!

God is Seeking True Worshipers

The season of true worship is upon us. It’s been upon us since the three wise men came to worship Him (Matt. 2:2). As the day of His appearing draws near, God is ever searching for true worshipers. Our hearts need to be crying out, Oh God! I want to learn how to truly worship you! My soul desires to worship you in spirit and in truth! At times we may wonder if any human can really know or understand what true worship is all about. We so rarely observe it or experience it. However, the fact that God is seeking true worshipers and requires it of all His followers is evidence that we can learn and understand and experience it.

What is a true worshiper? Jesus uses the Greek word aletheia in John 4:23 which is the opposite of fictitious, feigned, or false. The true worshiper is real, sincere, and dependable. When asked why you came to church, most would likely respond, I came to worship God. For many,
though, the concept of what it means to worship God is shallower than they would think or care to admit. Let’s agree on this point before we go any further: Our idea of worship is significantly limited in comparison to God’s revelation of true worship. With this admission we can now position ourselves to learn what true worship is all about. If we really want to learn to worship, then we must do what Jesus said, Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me. (Matt. 11:29). This means that those who willingly take the yoke of Christ upon them will learn and become true worshipers of Jesus Christ in knowledge, understanding, and experience.

A closer look at some of the biblical words used in reference to worship is very helpful in understanding the true nature of worship from God’s point of view. Some have mistakenly said that worship is nowhere defined in the Bible. The meaning of the Hebrew and Greek words listed below in order of frequency give some definite clues to what God expects:

- **shachah** – to depress, i.e. prostrate (espec. reflex. in homage to royalty or God) – bow (self) down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship (Psalm 5:7; 22:29; 66:4)
- **proskuneo** – (to kiss, like a dog licking his master’s hand) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore) worship. **proskunetes** – an adorer; worshiper (John 4:24; Matt. 9:18)
- **sebomai** – to revere, i.e. adore: devout, religious, worship (Mark 7:7; Acts 16:14; 18:13, 17; 19:27)
- **latreuo** – (a hired menial) to minister (to God) i.e. render religious homage: serve, do the service, worship (Acts 13:2; 24:14; Rom. 12:1; Phil. 3:3; Heb. 10:2)
- **therapeuo** – to wait upon menially, i.e. to adore (God) or specifically to relieve (of disease): cure, heal, worship (John 9:31; Acts 17:25)
- **ethelothreskeia** – voluntary (arbitrary & unwarranted) piety, i.e. sanctimony: will worship (Col. 2:23)

There’s the sense in the meaning of these words that true worship is the most desired yieldedness God asks of His people. The simplicity of it all is in the fact that God requires the heart of man to willingly bow down before Him. These words also reveal a distinction between worship and praise. Praise can lead to worship and worship can lead to praise, but they are not one and the same. Although closely connected, worship is not confined to praise. The true worshiper must understand this if he is to learn to worship in spirit and in truth.

**Requirements of True Worship**

The next generation dislikes the term requirements. Nevertheless, there is biblical justification for using it because of what the Lord commands of His followers in John 4:24:

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24)

This means it’s absolutely necessary to worship God in the way He describes. In other words, there are requirements to true worship. There are at least seven of them in God’s word:

1. The Fear of the Lord
2. Worshiping Who He Is
3. Worshiping God Alone
4. Growing out of Self
5. Sacrificial Giving
6. Obedient Initiative
7. Public Affirmation
True worshipers fear God. The fear of the Lord is talking about respect. True worshipers genuinely respect God and His right to rule! David knew this when He said,

“But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.” (Psalm 5:7)

Do believers today fear God like they should? Hindus give more respect to their cattle than we do God! True worship demands we have the absolute highest respect for the object of our worship. The church desperately needs a much higher respect for God and His ways.

True worshipers also worship God for who He is. Many have been taught that worship is simply a response to what God has done. Although admirable in many ways, this view represents a rather limited understanding of who He is. For a growing number, God is just a big Santa Claus. This must change! David, the sweet psalmist of Israel and a man after God’s own heart said, “Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” (1 Chron. 16:9; Psalm 29:2; 96:9). Holiness is not some legalistic measuring stick of spirituality. It’s who God is! When human concepts dominate what takes place in the sanctuary, the church cannot truly worship God. True worshipers worship who He is; not what they think, feel, or dream Him to be! When Joshua encountered the Commander of God’s army, the Bible says, “...he fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, What does my Lord sat to His servant?” (Josh. 5:14). Before Joshua even took his first city for God in the Promised Land, the Lord told him to “Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.” (5:15). Joshua stood on holy ground because he worshiped who He is. Holy ground is where the church is found worshiping who Jesus is; not what we have created Him to be in our religious traditions or individualistic mindsets. The church needs to stand on holy ground again. Let the church say, I worship Him because He is my Lord! (Psalm 45:11).

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: (Psalm 95:6-7)

True worshipers worship God and God alone. Every disciple needs to know that God is a jealous God (Ex. 20:5; 34:14; Deut. 4:24). God abhors the worship of other gods: “There shall be no foreign god among you; Nor shall you worship any foreign god.” (Psalm 81:9). More and more Christians are dabbling into eastern religions and the occult and they even bring this into the sanctuary profaning the worship of God with some strange incense like Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron:

Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD spoke, saying: By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.” So Aaron held his peace. (Lev. 10:1-3)

Followers of Christ must renounce the devil and all his works. This means removing from our lives anything even resembling a false god or remotely associated with the occult and all magical arts. God also detests the worship of creation. There are churches celebrating Earth Day with special liturgies of worship in honor of Mother Nature. What could they be thinking? The Bible warns against this:
"And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage. (Deut. 4:19)

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen. (Rom. 1:24 NIV)

One final thing God hates is the worship of the work of our hands. God says:

“Their land is full of idols; They worship the work of their own hands, That which their own fingers have made.” (Isaiah 2:8)

More often than not, people get so attached to the church building that it becomes like a golden calf to them. They worship a building more than the living God! Abraham built an altar to God and worshiped Him (Gen. 22:5, 9). Gideon had to tear down his father's altar and build one for God alone (Judg. 6:25-32). Jesus prophesied the destruction of the buildings of the temple when the disciples showed them to Him:

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." (Mat 24:1-2)

Stephen proclaimed to the religious leaders of his day that even though Solomon built God a house, “the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands.”

"But Solomon built Him a house. "However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: 'Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the LORD, Or what is the place of My rest? Has My hand not made all these things?' (Act 7:47-50)

The only altar for true worship is the one built to God alone. It's foolish to say this is the temple of God if full allegiance is not given to Him (Jer. 7:1-11). It's time to build an altar of worship to God and God alone.

One of the most important requirements of true worship is growing out of self. There is far too much self-worship going on. Some of the things the Bible says about the last days directly relate to this point. For instance, Paul's admonition to Timothy accurately describes the self-centered and humanistic infatuation going on around the world today.

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, un forgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! (2Tim. 3:1-5)

How often we enter the sanctuary with attitudes preoccupied with Self? What will I get out of the service? Church services today are inundated with far too much self-imposed worship.

Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence. (Col 2:23 NIV)

The Self invades the sanctuary and makes worship all about individuals instead of the living God.
This ultimately leads to will-worship, which is a spirit promulgated by Satan himself “who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” (2 Thess. 2:4). No wonder we struggle so to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. A steroid doze of self-esteem and self-confidence may lead to more productivity in the work place, but its shipwreck when it comes to truly worshiping God together in the sanctuary. It’s alarming when Spirit-filled believers yearn for attention and self-recognition with only a secondary concern for the edification of the body of Christ. Disciples who are true worshipers are those who die to self. They are set free to give glory to God and edify the church. This is why they come to church. Let’s learn from the 24 elders in the book of Revelation.

The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.” (Rev 4:10-11)

Notice self-worship wears the crown; true worship casts it before the throne. True worshipers don’t merely grow out of self, but they long to cast their crowns before the throne in worship.

Sacrificial giving is also a requirement for true worship. This is much more than honoring God with the first fruits of everything. Too often the giving of tithes and offerings is presented as a legalistic requirement of the law rather than an act of obedient faith and worship. The giving of offerings was a sweet aroma to God (Num. 28:27) and was understood as an act of worship (2 Chron. 29:27-36). Furthermore, we are called to a higher level of sacrificial giving under the New Covenant. In fact, even our bodies are living sacrifices in worship to God. In addition, we come to Christ as living stones to offer up spiritual sacrifices pleasing to Him.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (Rom 12:1)

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1Pet. 2:4-5)

Living stones and living sacrifices. Two very clear symbols for worshiping the Lord in spirit and in truth. These are not lifeless and breathless stones and sacrifices. They’re teeming with the life of the Spirit and truth of God. It’s fascinating to note that the reasonable service refers to the service or the worship of God according to His plan. There’s no life in the sanctuary when we don’t honor God with our spiritual service of worship. Only worship that is acceptable to God will fill the sanctuary with a sweet aroma of the Spirit of life.

Another requirement of true worship is obedient initiative. The Bible makes it clear when it comes to obeying God’s word in relation to worship and praise.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. (Psalm 95:6)

Let us go into His tabernacle; Let us worship at His footstool. (Psalm 132:7)

Throughout the New Testament we see people coming to Jesus and worshiping Him. Although the Spirit was drawing them, they had to willingly obey. The leper came and worshiped Him (Matt. 8:2). The ruler came and worshiped Him (Matt. 9:18). The Canaanite woman also came and worshiped Him (Matt. 15:25). Even the desperate Gadarene demoniac “when he saw Jesus from afar, he
ran and worshiped Him.” (Mark 5:6). This all indicates that true worship requires initiative on the part of the worshiper. Nothing grieves the Holy Spirit more than the hesitation of God’s own people in worshiping the King of glory. It’s about time the church shows some initiative. God is waiting to be worshiped by His people in spirit and in truth!

The last requirement of true worship we want to briefly discuss is public affirmation. The world has used an emphasis upon silent prayer and private worship to create a reluctance or aversion in people for corporate worship. The church succumbed to centuries of reading, chanting, and singing to God from liturgical hymnals. Today contemporary worship services are dominating the scene with praise and worship teams bending to the preferred styles the people enjoy. The rock concert style seems to be dominating the scene in many sanctuaries today. But what does God say about this?

He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ (Marc 7:6-7)

People think they are secure when they worship and praise God according to their own traditions and desires, but there’s nothing secure about it. Such useless worship hides the heart from God. First Corinthians 14:25 talks about those who are touched by God in the midst of a public worship service.

And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you. (1Cor. 14:25)

True worship requires this kind of public affirmation that God is your God. The Bible says, “So all the assembly worshiped.” (2 Chron. 29:28). God really desires corporate worship from His people. These seven requirements of true worship transform our understanding of worship. We now see that the focus is upon God and the Lamb. God is the audience! Once we understand this, we can see clearly what a true worshiper of God looks like and the results he or she brings to the restoration of Davidic praise and worship.
CHAPTER 3
TRUE WORSHIPPERS

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24)

Principles of True Worshipers

The previous chapter revealed the true nature of worship and its requirements from God’s perspective. This chapter will focus upon the principles and characteristics that true worshipers follow in worship and praise. Most find themselves in one of two situations in relation to the restoration of Davidic praise and worship in the 21st century.

- Religious bondage to manmade forms of worship
- Contemporary bondage to emotional and mechanical productions by skilled musicians and singers

Religious bondage produces a fear of change of any kind while contemporary bondage produces the misconception that God’s presence can somehow be manufactured. These obstacles can be overcome once we understand and conduct worship according to the principles established by God and begin to see its benefits.

There are at least five key principles that true worshipers must follow in order to worship God in spirit and in truth:

1. God is always the audience – Worship God!

   And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Rev 19:10)

   But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!” (Rev 22:9 NIV)

2. Worship must be real to be effective – In Spirit and Truth!

   He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:`This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ (Mar 7:6-7)

   But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24)

3. Quality of worship is determined by the relationship with and understanding of the Lamb of God. Worthy is the Lamb! (Rev. 4:10-11; 5:8-14; 7:9-17; 11:15-19; 19:1-9)

   Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”
Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever. (Rev 5:8-14)

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev 7:9-10)


But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel. (Psalm 22:3)

indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, (2Chron. 5:13)

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. (Acts 16:25-26)

5. Worship and Praise reflects the spiritual restoration of the tabernacle of David. Hosanna to the Son of David! I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David! (1 Chron. 15-16; 23:5, 30; 25:1-8; 2 Chron. 5:11-14; 7:1-6; Psalm 149-150; Matt. 21:12-16; Acts 15:15-16; 1 Pet. 2:4-10).

And the priests attended to their services; the Levites also with instruments of the music of the LORD, which King David had made to praise the LORD, saying, "For His mercy endures forever," whenever David offered praise by their ministry. The priests sounded trumpets opposite them, while all Israel stood. (2Chron. 7:6)

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. 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; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. (1Pet. 2:4-10)

True Worshipers understand these principles. And they are the keys that anchor our praise and worship in Christ. True worshippers welcome apostolic and prophetic declarations like this one received on March 1, 2016: "I am ready to transform your worship. Less people watching this team and more people worshipping the King. You haven't found the secret place yet. I'm perfecting your
praise.”

Altar Building Steps

The patriarchs of the Old Testament built altars in order to worship the Lord. First, an appropriate spot was chosen and the brush and debris cleared away. Likewise, a true worshiper must clear away any hindrances to prepare for effective worship. The second thing that was done is that the prophets would lay the stones in a logical sequence or order. This signifies our bringing definition to worship. Worship is both an event and a process. The focus of a true worshiper is Jesus Christ: His life, death, and resurrection. The goal of worship is to become totally centered upon the Lord. The worship process requires daily discipleship. True worshipers develop a worship lifestyle throughout the week. They’re more than Sunday worshipers.

The next thing Old Testament worshipers would do in building an altar to worship God is find an animal perfect in every way and prepare it exactly according to Old Testament instructions for purification. This means true worshipers today need to obey the scriptural commands regarding worship. Worship of a Holy God must be accomplished according to biblical mandates. This is not referring to legalism, but the restoration of Davidic praise and worship because this is how God desires us to worship Him. The final step was to offer up the sacrifice unto God. True worshipers present their bodies as living sacrifices and offer the sacrifice of praise.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (Rom 12:1)

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. (Heb 13:15)

These altar building steps are consistent with the heart preparation required of 21st century worshipers of Christ. The heart must be prepared if our praise and worship of God is to be authentic and pleasing to Him.

Characteristics of Authentic Worship

True worshipers who follow the biblical commands to worship will soon display in their worship of God biblical characteristics that are discernable and authentic. What are some of those characteristics?

- They know who they worship – Everything will be about Him! Jesus said you cannot serve God and mammon and a house divided against itself cannot stand. There is no competition when the 24 elders around the throne worship Christ! They know who they are worshiping.

“...You shall have no other gods before Me. “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. (Exodus 20:3-6)

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” (Luke 16:13 NIV)
• They love God with all their heart – Worship is a lifestyle to them. They owe everything to the Savior!

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' (Matt. 22:37)

• They depend on the Holy Spirit – They have an increasing sensitivity to the Spirit of God in life and worship. They resist the flesh to worship God in the Spirit.

For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, (Phil. 3:3)

• They focus on glorious praise – Like David, they abandon all to present themselves before God in praise and worship. Others cannot dissuade them! They are visibly transparent before the Lord.

Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD. "And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor." Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death. (2Sam. 6:20)

<To the Chief Musician. A Song. A Psalm.> Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious. Say to God, "How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You. All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name." Selah (Psalm 66:1-4)

• They balance seriousness with passion – They understand that too much seriousness as well as too much informality can be harmful to a climate of authentic worship. They avoid driving (cheerleading) in worship knowing this does little in the long run to develop true worshipers.

It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the LORD our God broke out in anger against us. We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way." (1Chron. 15:13 NIV)

Then David and all Israel played music before God with all their might, with singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets. (1Chron. 13:8)

Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets and with cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps. (1Chron. 15:28)

• They avoid sin – They recognize sinful practices seriously affect their worship. They have a clear understanding that they cannot sincerely worship God and commit to practicing or even tolerating sin in their lives. They allow God to deal with their sin. They welcome repentance and personal transformation!

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Stand at the gate of the LORD's house and there proclaim this message: "'Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. Do not trust in deceptive words and say, "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!" (Jer. 7:1 NIV)

• They concentrate on unity and order – They are obedient to what is acceptable and pleasing to God in their worship and praise. Just as obeying traffic laws increases the chances of avoiding accidents and arriving
safely to your destination, they allow the Spirit to guide them with self-control, mutual respect, and attention to organizational detail (God’s order) in church services. Their worship and praise flows with God’s agenda to liberate a worship service to realize ministry and fulfill spiritual objectives under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God. (2Chron. 5:13-14 KJV)

How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. (1Cor. 14:26)

Let all things be done decently and in order. (1Cor. 14:40)

The above characteristics of authentic worship are fully displayed by true worshipers of the Lord Jesus Christ. They have learned them as His faithful disciples. There’s a personal question to be asked of those who desire to become true worshipers of Christ in every generation: Are you more inclined to be one who worships with all your might or one who watches and seeks to steady the ark?
"Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise'" (Matt. 21:16)

Every Disciple’s Responsibility

What did Jesus mean by using “perfected” in reference to praise in God’s house? The Greek word katartizo in the middle voice literally means “to fit, frame, or prepare for oneself with the implication of strengthening or completing in order to make one what he ought to be.” This is one of those every disciple responsibilities. Graham Kendrick, a renowned worship leader and song writer, says it well in the context of public worship:

“Hearty worship flows from an understanding of the royal priesthood and a willingness to be focused, involved, and disciplined during the worship event. In an arena of focused, purposed agreement, the Lord is free to move, both among us and on our behalf. Worshipers, once renewed, soon are empowered to do exploits in the Savior’s name. We need to deny anything of a casual outlook and earnestly embrace our personal responsibility as priests in every service of worship we enter.”

The Bible says to praise God in His sanctuary. In fact, if we are breathing, we are to be praising Him at all times. The perfecting of praise is a sacred trust. The command is from God to us.

Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD. (Psalm 150:1-6 NIV)

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. (Psalm 34:1)

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. (Heb. 13:15)

It’s important for disciples to understand we are commanded to praise God regardless of our emotional state. This quote from Graham Kendrick also addresses this issue as well as relying on some outside stimulus in order to praise God:

“God is calling us to worship Him regardless of our emotional sensibility at any particular snapshot of time, and to become consistent in our worship life. Victorious worshipers are habitual worshipers. Victorious worshipers will to worship, not relying on emotional stimulus, per se.”

Don’t wait for someone to stimulate your worship response. Proactively assume responsibility for the perfecting of praise in yourself and in the sanctuary.
What is Praise?

Praise is an indispensable facet of worship. Often praise and worship in the church is reduced to three fast ones and three slow ones without any sensitivity to what the Holy Spirit is doing at any particular moment. This simply has to change! Jesus challenged those from the religious establishment who were indignant with the spontaneous outbreak of praise from the children in the temple of God with “Have you never read?” Jesus wasn’t telling them to just randomly read something. Rather, He was amazed with their lack of ability to recognize and affirm the perfecting of praise in God’s children. In fact, the Greek word, anaginosko has the deeper meaning of “to distinguish between, to recognize, to know accurately, to acknowledge.” If worship is the umbrella then praise is the center pole. It’s also noteworthy that Jesus used a word for praise (ainos) in Matthew 21:16 that refers to laudatory discourse. Praise is a verbal act out loud.

There are at least 84 places in the Bible where we are exhorted to sing praises unto the Lord. Psalm 149 gives us a great representation of this imperative and the manner God desires in praise and worship.

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise in the assembly of saints. Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. Let them praise His name with the dance; Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp. For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation. (Psalm 149:1-4)

The singing of praises (zamar) literally means to sing praises, to make music, to sing songs accompanied by musical instruments. It’s a testimony to what God wants to take place in the assembly of His saints. We will discuss singing praises a bit later in the chapter, but now let’s look at how praise magnifies our worship of God.

Praise Magnifies our Worship

Our praises magnify and glorify God. But as many believers sit or stand in worship services around the world they may be wondering how and when this takes place. Some may be simply asking why it isn’t taking place in their church services. God’s word reveals at least three conditions where praise so magnifies the worship that His presence is most notable.

1. When everyone participates with understanding.

<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.> Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph! For the LORD Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth. He will subdue the peoples under us, And the nations under our feet. He will choose our inheritance for us, The excellence of Jacob whom He loves. Selah God has gone up with a shout, The LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding. (Psalm 47:1-7)

A man who wanders from the way of understanding Will rest in the assembly of the dead. (Prov. 21:16)

2. When singers and musical instruments are in unity

Indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and
cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God. (2Chron. 5:13-14)

Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy. (Psalm 33:3)

3. When the praise is Spirit-Filled and there is an encouraging of one another in praise.

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph. 5:15-20 NIV)

The above conditions all flow together and are greatly lacking in many church services. This is why every disciple who is serious about following Christ must learn and understand the praise and worship of God from His perspective and actively engage in unified and Spirit-filled praise with others. Keep in mind that your praise is both vertical to God and horizontal in that it has a positive effect on others. Your psalm, hymn, and spiritual song unto the Lord speaks to others. This has nothing to do with personal preferences of traditional or contemporary styles, but with what is produced by the Holy Spirit within our hearts. Note these distinctions:

- Psalms – scriptural lyrics in song
- Hymns – humanly inspired lyrics in song
- Spiritual songs – impromptu rhythmic lyrics given by the Holy Spirit in one's language or in tongues

So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. (1Cor. 14:15 NIV)

Such singing ministers to people. Graham Kendrick concludes:

Entering a gathering of believers, even with a small offering of praise, our worship begins to be magnified as we join with others. Their voices encourage us, and we inspire them. Separation from the local assembly deprives a person of this relationship and strength. Let us assemble often and praise much. In all of our worship, however, of ultimate importance is the attitude that motivates our every expression of praise—our unity of heart and spirit with other believers and with our God. It is by this that our Lord is truly glorified and honored.

The Seven Gifts of Praise

The perfecting of praise is vital to the restoration of Davidic praise and worship in every generation. An examination and understanding of the seven gifts of praise should ignite a volley of praise from any disciple.

1. **TODAH** – thanksgiving; to extend the hands in thanksgiving; to give the sacrifice of praise (Psalm 42:4; 50:23)

When I remember these things, I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, With the voice of joy and praise, With a multitude that kept a
pilgrim feast. (Psalm 42:4)

Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God.” (Psalm 50:23)

2. YADAH – to thank, give public acknowledgment to; to throw out the hands enjoying God; to worship with raised hands (2 Chron. 20:19-21; Psalm 139:14)

Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise (halal) the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high. So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, ”Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.” And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise (halal) the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: “Praise (yadah) the LORD, For His mercy endures forever.” (2Chron. 20:19-21)

I will praise (yadah) You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. (Psalm 139:14)

3. HALAL – Hallelujah! To be vigorously excited, laud, boast, rave, celebrate, be clamorously foolish; to sing praise in such a way as to bring the house down; involves a tremendous explosion of enthusiasm in the act of praising; also connected with the overthrow of the wicked (2 Chron. 20:19, 21; Psalm 22:22; 35:18; 84:4; 117:1; 150:6)

I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise (halal) You. (Psalm 22:22)

I will give You thanks (todah) in the great assembly; I will praise (halal) You among many people. (Psalm 35:18)

Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; They will still be praising (halal) You. Selah (Psalm 84:4)

Praise (halal) the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him (shabach), all you peoples! (Psalm 117:1)

Let everything that has breath praise (halal) the LORD. Praise (halal) the LORD! (Psalm 150:6)

4. ZAMAR – to pluck or touch the strings of an instrument; to make music to God. This is a musical verb for praise (Psalm 144:9; 147:1, 7)

I will sing a new song to You, O God; On a harp of ten strings I will sing praises (zamar) to You, (Psalm 144:9)

Praise (halal) the LORD! For it is good to praises (zamar) to our God; For it is pleasant, and praise (tephillah) is beautiful. (Psalm 147:1)

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving (todah); Sing praises (zamar) on the harp to our God, (Psalm 147:7)

5. BARAK – to bless, to bow, to kneel in adoration, to declare God the origin of power, to be still before God (Psalm 72:15; 103:1-2)

And He shall live; And the gold of Sheba will be given to Him; Prayer also will be made for Him continually, And daily He shall be praised (barak). (Psalm 72:15)

<A Psalm of David.> Bless (barak) the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy
name! Bless (barak) the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: (Psalm 103:1-2)

6. **TEPHILLAH** – to sing in the Spirit; to sing Hallel's (Psalm 115-118); intercession for someone or supplication (Psalm 22:3; 34:1; 71:6, 8; Isaiah 56:7)

But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises (tephillah) of Israel. (Psalm 22:3)

<A Psalm of David when he pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed.> I will bless (barak) the LORD at all times; His praise (tephillah) shall continually be in my mouth. (Psalm 34:1)

By You I have been upheld from birth; You are He who took me out of my mother's womb. My praise (tephillah) shall be continually of You. I have become as a wonder to many, But You are my strong refuge. Let my mouth be filled with Your praise (tephillah) And with Your glory all the day. (Psalm 71:6-8)

Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer (tephillah). Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer (tephillah) for all nations." (Isaiah 56:7)

7. **SHABACH** – to speak well of in a high and befitting way; to commend or address in a loud tone; to shout; to command triumph (Psalm 63:3; 117:1)

Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise (shabach) You. (Psalm 63:3)

Praise (halal) the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him (shabach), all you peoples! (Psalm 117:1)

The interaction between these gifts of praise is fascinating. Rarely do we witness this in church worship services today. Something always seems to be missing. The restoration of Davidic praise and worship as we discussed in earlier chapters brings it all back and the glory of God will again fill His house as the assembly of saints praise Him with all their might, strength, and soul.
CHAPTER 5
PRAISE WARFARE

Praise and the Mighty Warrior

The restoration of Davidic praise and worship includes an accurate understanding of who God is as well His perspective on praise and worship. For this reason, we need to recognize the Lord as an all-powerful warrior. Our God is a mighty God! This may appear like a new song to many worshipers today, but the prophet Isaiah knew this very well.

Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise from the ends of the earth, You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, You coastlands and you inhabitants of them! Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, The villages that Kedar inhabits, Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, Let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory to the LORD, And declare His praise in the coastlands. The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies. (Isaiah 42:10-13)

The Hebrew word, gibbor, refers to a powerful or valiant warrior or champion who strips all rights and privileges from the enemy. This is speaking of our God as a Mighty Warrior. It’s interesting that He goes forth on our behalf in response to our praise (tephillah). Can our praise release God like a man of war against the enemy? This is what praise warfare is all about.

Moses, Miriam, and the Israelites also declared this in song on the other side of the Red Sea as they praised the Lord for His victory.

Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: “I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father’s God, and I will exalt Him. The LORD is a man of war; The LORD is His name. (Exodus 15:1-3)

The church can ill afford to be unaware that the above means of driving the devil back has been ordained by God.

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. (Psalm 8:2 NIV)

Our praises to the Lord can actually silence the enemy. This is why the restoration of Davidic praise and worship is so important in the restoring of the tabernacle of David (Acts 15:16-17). Robert Gay, a songwriter for Hosanna Integrity Music and teacher on effective spiritual warfare through praise, has a powerful paraphrase of God’s further punishment upon Satan based upon Ezekiel 28:13-18 that reveals Satan was once an anointed cherub and very skilled in worship and praise before he fell from heaven with a third of the angels.

I will take the ministry of praise and worship that you forsook and give it to a group of people on the earth that shall be known as the church. Every time they enter into his ministry of worship, the ministry that you
forsook, they will silence and paralyze you. They will take up this ministry of praise and worship and with it bind you, break you, bruise you and ultimately destroy your kingdom!

He goes on to encourage the church to arise and praise God with all of its might. The weapons of praise then are unleashed upon the forces of darkness. The warfare songs we sing in praise to God are stirred up against our enemies when we shout His praise. This puts the devil on the run!

**Examples of Praise Warfare**

There are some excellent Biblical examples of praise warfare. One was when a great multitude came against Jehoshaphat. The king first resolved to seek the Lord and proclaim a fast for all Judah (2 Chron. 20:3). Jahaziel, a praise team member, prophesied that the battle belongs to the Lord:

And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s. Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’

Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you.” (2Chron. 20:15-17)

The next morning Jehoshaphat and the people decided to send the singers and the praisers before the army. They marched out against the enemy and the power of God confused and defeated the enemy.

So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.” And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise (hallal) the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: “Praise (yadah) the LORD, For His mercy endures forever.” Now when they began to sing and to praise (tephillah), the LORD set ambuses against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. (2Chron. 20:20-22)

Another example was when Paul and Silas were imprisoned at Philippi. They prayed and sang at midnight with the guards and prisoners listening. The foundations of the prison were shaken and the doors were opened as everyone’s chains were loosed.

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. (Acts 16:25-26)

The most amazing thing about this account was that the singing of praise resulted in an entire household being saved. This points to the fact that the purpose; the goal of praise warfare is clearly focused on the transformation of hearts and the harvest of souls.

And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. (Act 16:30-32)

The Lord also speaks directly regarding praise warfare when He reveals the punishment of
Assyria. The enemy likes to mess with God’s people and hold them in bondage. This was the case with Assyria and God promised deliverance. God says He’s going to make war and praise will accompany every stroke He lays upon the enemy of His people.

Every stroke the LORD lays on them with his punishing club will be to the music of timbrels and harps, as he fights them in battle with the blows of his arm. (Isaiah 30:32 NIV)

God fights for us when we praise Him! It’s as simple as that. The church must prepare for what the military calls a “forced march” today in order to fulfill the Great Commission. The next generation of disciples needs praise to go before them into battle to prepare a habitation for the Mighty Warrior, the Lord of hosts.

The Weapons of Praise

There are at least seven weapons of praise in the Bible. Every disciple needs to understand these weapons and deploy them in praise warfare.

1. Walking & Marching – This type of marching produced deliverance today just as it did for the Israelites. Often, it is directly connected to praising the Lord. (Genesis 13:17; Joshua 6:3,7; Psalm 48:12)

"Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you." (Gen 13:17)

"You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. "And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. "It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him." Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD." And he said to the people, "Proceed, and march around the city, and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the LORD." (Josh. 6:3-7)

Walk about Zion, And go all around her. Count her towers; (Psalm 48:12)

2. Dancing & Treading – Dancing and treading is much like marching only more aggressive. Marching sets boundaries in prayer and praise; dancing and treading tramples Satan under the feet actually stopping the power of the enemy. (Psalm 149:3,5-9; Psalm 91:13; Luke 10:19; Romans 16:20)

Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand, To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples; To bind their kings with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute on them the written judgment-- This honor have all His saints. Praise (halal) the LORD! (Psalm 149:6-9)

"Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (Luke 10:19)

And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen. (Rom. 16:20)
3. **Singing** – Brings joy, unity and deliverance (Isaiah 30:29-32; Psalm 32:7; Acts 16:25-26)

   And you will sing as on the night you celebrate a holy festival; your hearts will rejoice as when people playing pipes go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel. The LORD will cause people to hear his majestic voice and will make them see his arm coming down with raging anger and consuming fire, with cloudburst, thunderstorm and hail. The voice of the LORD will shatter Assyria; with his rod he will strike them down. Every stroke the LORD lays on them with his punishing club will be to the music of timbrels and harps, as he fights them in battle with the blows of his arm. (Isaiah 30:29-32 NIV)

   You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah (Psalm 32:7)

   But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. (Acts 16:25-26)

4. **Clapping** – Clapping is a means of breaking yokes and means to clang, smite, strike with the intention of stopping Satan’s devices in the situation about which you are warring. (Psalm 47:1-3)

   <To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the sons of Korah> Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph! For the LORD Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth. He will subdue the peoples under us, And the nations under our feet. (Psalm 47:1-3)

5. **Shouting** – Closely associated with the blowing (roo-ah) of the trumpet or shofar (Joshua 6:16; Isaiah 42:12-13; Jeremiah 50:15: 2 Chronicles 13:15)

   And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: “Shout, for the LORD has given you the city! (Josh. 6:16)

   Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, The villages that Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, Let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory to the LORD, And declare His praise in the coastlands. The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies. (Isaiah 42:11-13)

   Shout against her all around; She has given her hand, Her foundations have fallen, Her walls are thrown down; For it is the vengeance of the LORD. Take vengeance on her. As she has done, so do to her. (Jer. 50:15)

   Then the men of Judah gave a shout; and as the men of Judah shouted, it happened that God struck Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. (2Chron. 13:15)

6. **Laughter** – Holy laughter brings personal protection and emotional health as a safe guard against heaviness in intercession and praise. It unleashes direct warfare against Satan and his forces because holy laughter mocks the enemy. (Proverbs 15:13; Psalm 37:12-13)

   A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. (Prov. 15:13)
The wicked plots against the just, And gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming. (Psalm 37:12-13)

7. Joy – Joy breaks heaviness and releases oppression bringing strength to the soul. Guwl means to spin around under the influence of a very violent emotion, to jump for joy or exult. (Psalm 149:2; Zephaniah 3:17; Luke 10:21)

Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; Let the children of Zion be joyful (guwl) in their King. (Psalm 149:2)

The LOR D your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice (guwl) over you with singing." (Zeph. 3:17)

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. (Luke 10:21)

Believers still resist the practice of praise warfare, but there’s an army of radically saved in the next generation who are ready for the forced march. It’s normal for them to dance and shout praises to God. They go to the enemy camp and take back what the devil stole because he’s under their feet. Without praise warfare the forced march is reduced to a walk in the park. With it, the Champion, the Lord of the Army, the Mighty Warrior leads us into the battle and fights on our behalf to release lost souls from captivity. Those who engage in praise warfare know they are sent into battle for this very purpose.

I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." (Acts 26:17-18 NIV)

Concluding Truths about Praise Warfare

- We are called to the Kingdom for such an hour as this to silence the enemy.
- The church is like a great army that is on the offensive; the devil is on the run.
- Our praise has power to destroy and demolish the kingdom of darkness.
- Praise is a weapon of war that prepares a habitation for the Mighty Warrior, the Lord of Hosts.
- For every acceptable sacrifice of praise there is always a divine response.
- God is stirred up against our enemies when we shout His praise.
- Demonstrative praise and worship always upsets religious spirits.
<To the Chief Musician. On an instrument of Gath. A Psalm of Asaph.> Sing aloud to God our strength; Make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob. (Psalm 81:1)

How Do You Worship Him?

Worship brings in the presence of God. More than just a feeling, His presence is the enthroning of God (Psalm 22:3) upon our praise and worship. The Hebrew yashab literally means “sitting in the seat as judge.” His kingdom power, therefore, is directly related to the way we worship and praise Him. When God’s people exalt His name with praises, there’s a manifestation of His rule. God shows up when we worship Him! But how do you worship Him? Perhaps the better question is how does God want you to praise and worship Him? This chapter encourages disciples to worship and praise God according to His instructions.

Many Christians sing or more often mumble through church services like they don’t know who they’re singing to. Others have a strong aversion to various outward displays of praise like lifting hands, shouting, and dancing. But when we strive to learn how to praise and worship God in the ways that are pleasing to Him, a transformation takes place. Everything changes when we view God as the audience. Ask yourself these questions in relation to praising and worshiping God:

- How thirsty am I for God?
- How much do I need God?
- Do I want God’s results?
- How do I get ready for church?
- Why do I find it so difficult?
- Do I have anything better to do?

God’s people need to know what the Bible says about praise and worship and to present our bodies as living sacrifices in doing it.

More Fundamentals of Praise

Our study will keep reminding us of biblical requirements, principles, characteristics, and fundamentals of the praise and worship of God. Although some are repeated or stated differently, the reason remains that disciples are in continual training just as any student or athlete. Here are a few fundamentals to keep in mind before we examine the body language of praise:

1. **Praise to the Lord is mandated by God Himself.** You are commanded to praise the Lord! You have been created to praise and worship God! Your primary purpose for being alive is to praise Him!

"Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert. The beast of the field will honor Me, The jackals and the ostriches, Because I give waters in the wilderness And rivers in the desert, To give drink to My people, My chosen. This people
I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise (tehillah). (Isaiah 43:18-21)

2. **Praise to the Lord is a continual sacrifice.** Sacrifice means to kill or slaughter for a purpose. Praise requires us to kill our pride, our fears, and anything that interferes with our praise and worship of God. Either put on the garment of praise or the spirit of praise!

   Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. (Heb. 13:15)

   But I will hope continually, And will praise (tehillah) You yet more and more. (Psalm 71:14)

3. **Praise is the entrance into God’s presence.** Praise will usher in the cloud of His glory into His house.

   Enter into His gates with thanksgiving (todah), And into His courts with praise (tehillah). Be thankful (yadah) to Him, and bless (barak) His name. (Psalm 100:4)

4. **Praise to the Lord is lively.** God calls you to praise him loudly and with great excitement. Careless, dull, boring praise ends in mouthing phrases and destroying the Godly atmosphere of God’s house. You may not like loud voices or instruments, but God does!

   And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud (megas) voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. (Luke 17:15-16)

   Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise (halal) the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high. (2Chron. 20:19)

   So the children of Israel who were present at Jerusalem kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with great gladness; and the Levites and the priests praised (halal) the LORD day by day, singing to the LORD, accompanied by loud instruments. (2Chron. 30:21)

5. **Praise is to be taught to children.** You need to be pro-life and raise up a generation of those who praise the Lord.

   One generation shall praise (shabach) Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. (Psalm 145:4)

**The Biblical Means Praise**

The kind of praise and worship associated with the restoration of the tabernacle of David has been routinely rejected or at least resisted in many churches. There’s a total contrast between Davidic praise and worship and our traditional ways. Even contemporary church services that include much of the body language of praise and worship are missing many of the fundamentals of true worship. Offering our bodies to Christ in praise is a liberating experience when we submit to the way He wants us to praise Him. This places Jesus at center stage.

Vocal praise is using our lips, mouths, and tongues in the praise and worship of the Lord. It involves speaking, singing, and shouting unto the Lord with the emphasis on giving and submitting rather than receiving. Often we enter praise and worship with the attitude of what we are going to get out of it. We expect the praise service to pick us up because we are not prayed or praised up in
the first place.

There is also demonstrative praise expressed in body language like clapping, lifting hands, and dancing in praise and worship. Even bowing or kneeling before the Lord is a demonstration of putting Him first. Standing in awe is also a signal that someone of importance, of great worth has arrived. Let’s take a closer look at the vocal and demonstrative ways the Bible instructs us to use in our praise and worship of Him.

- **Lifting Holy Hands** – This act of praise and worship in combination with verbal praise blesses God and satisfies the soul. It blesses the Lord. Lifting of hands to the Lord affirms an absolute surrender, receptivity, and dependency on Him.

  Whoever offers praise (todah) glorifies Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God.” (Psalm 50:23)

  Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise (shabach) You. Thus I will bless (barak) You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise (halal) You with joyful lips. (Psalm 63:3-5)

  Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, And bless (barak) the LORD. (Psalm 134:2)

  Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands (2Chron. 6:12)

  Let my prayer (tephillah) be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. (Psa 141:2 NKJ)

  Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; (Heb. 12:12 KJV)

- **Clapping of hands to the Lord** - This affirms that our God is the God of victory. He commands victories for His people (Psalm 44:4). There’s great joy in victory! Even the trees of the field clap their hands.

  <To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.> Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout (roo-ah) to God with the voice of triumph! (Psalm 47:1)

- **Shouting to the Lord** – A shout in jubilation affirms God’s authority and power over the enemy. It also can bring walls down like at Jericho and unleash a triumphant flood of God’s presence. The shout (roo-ah) is typically with the use of the Bible trumpet, the shofar.

  <To the Chief Musician. On an instrument of Gath. A Psalm of Asaph.> Sing aloud to God our strength; Make a joyful shout (roo-ah) to the God of Jacob. (Psalm 81:1)

  For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (1Thess. 4:16)

- **Dancing before the Lord** – Dancing unto the Lord praises His name. It also declares the Lordship of Jesus Christ and His reign over us. It is a signal to the enemy that Jesus Christ has all authority in this place. Dancing involves leaping and whirling about.

  Let them praise (halal) His name with the dance; Let them sing praises (zamar) to Him with the
timbrel and harp. For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation. (Psalm 149:3)

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, (Psalm 30:11)

Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. (2Sam. 6:14-16)

- **Singing in the Spirit** – This responds to God's presence with perfect submission, sensitivity, and love. It often signals that God is about to move or to do something. Paul practiced singing in the Spirit in his prayer and in his praise and worship of God.

So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. (1Cor. 14:15 NIV)

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (Eph. 5:19 KJV)

- **Standing and kneeling before God** – These acts of worship are not for the purpose of being seen by men. Both are humble postures in praise and worship that give honor and respect to the living God. These humble postures should reflect humble attitudes of the heart.

A Song of Ascents.> Behold, bless (barak) the LORD, All you servants of the LORD, Who by night stand in the house of the LORD! (Psalm 134:1)

Praise (halal) the LORD! Praise (halal) the name of the LORD; Praise (halal) Him, O you servants of the LORD! You who stand in the house of the LORD, In the courts of the house of our God, Praise (halal) the LORD, for the LORD is good; Sing praises (zamar) to His name, for it is pleasant. For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure. (Psalm 135:1-4)

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. 7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: (Psalm 95:6-7)

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, (Eph. 3:14)

- **Playing instruments of music unto the Lord** – Seven times in Psalms 149 and 150 the Bible uses “with” in association to the command to praise the Lord. God desires to be praised with instruments of music. This is why they are listed and an indispensable part of Davidic praise and worship. The instruments were made to praise the Lord. Hezekiah included them when he restored worship in the house of the Lord. Ezra and Nehemiah also included them with the thanksgiving choirs when they dedicated the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem with rejoicing that was heard throughout the region (Neh. 12:35-43).

Four thousand were gatekeepers, and four thousand praised (halal) the LORD with musical instruments, “which I made,” said David, “for giving praise (halal).” (1Chron. 23:5)
And the priests attended to their services; the Levites also with instruments of the music of the LORD, which King David had made to praise (yadah) the LORD, saying, “For His mercy endures forever,” whenever David offered praise (halal) by their ministry. The priests sounded trumpets opposite them, while all Israel stood. (2Chron. 7:6)

So the children of Israel who were present at Jerusalem kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with great gladness; and the Levites and the priests praised (halal) the LORD day by day, singing to the LORD, accompanied by loud instruments. (2Chron. 30:21)

God has given us the gift of praise and worship for His exaltation and our edification. The more we exercise the biblical means of praise and worship just highlighted, the more spiritually fit we become as our hearts grow stronger for God. For some it may be an exercise of the flesh; however, the body language associated with praise and worship is an exercise of the Spirit for those who humbly understand why and who they worship in spirit and in truth. Dr. Jack Hayford, who wrote the worship song Majesty sums it up best:

We were created to worship God – to worship Him for who He is and for what He has done for us. We were first redeemed, then trained to worship Him in our personal lives and in the church body, as we congregate together to come into His presence. We were given “equipment” for our worship of God: a mighty organ (our voice), and our whole body. Singing, lifting our hands, bowing our head – all of these physical acts have a logic and coherence and dynamic to them. We were physically constructed to worship our Creator. With worship comes the authority and responsibility to keep our hearts pure before Him. It is humility that allows us to continue in that authority, and we need to be aware of will infect and pollute our lives and our worship.
I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.  
(Psalm 63:1 NIV)

The Impact of Praising and Worshiping the Lord

The 9th chapter of John tells of a man who was born blind. The man received his sight upon meeting Jesus much to the dismay of the religious leaders. The Pharisees interrogated both the man and his parents. During the heated exchange, the man responded:

The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! "Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. (John 9:30-31)

Although the religious leaders literally threw him out, the man ended up at the feet of Jesus declaring, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him (9:38). Our praise and worship of Jesus Christ has no less impact on us than it did upon the man born blind. When the church truly worships Him, we can also say, “One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see (9:25).

The New Testament is filled with accounts that reveal the powerful impact upon our lives when we willingly surrender ourselves to praise and worship the Lord Jesus Christ according to His instructions. The following chart shows the magnitude of the impact.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Worshiper</th>
<th>Impact</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Exodus 33:10-11</td>
<td>All the people</td>
<td>Lord spoke to Moses &amp; birth of Joshua generation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exodus 34:8-10</td>
<td>Moses</td>
<td>Pardon &amp; covenant to do awesome wonders</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Sam. 1:19-20</td>
<td>Elkanah and Hannah</td>
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<td>2 Chron. 5:11-14</td>
<td>Levites, those of Asaph, of Heman &amp; Jeduthun, Trumpeters &amp; Singers</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Chron. 20:18-22</td>
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<td>Hezekiah, Levites, Priests, Assembly</td>
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<td>Psalm 138:1-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt. 8:2</td>
<td>Leper</td>
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<td>Matt. 9:18</td>
<td>Ruler</td>
<td>Daughter raised from the dead</td>
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<td>Mark 5:6</td>
<td>Gaderene demoniac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt. 15:25</td>
<td>Samaritan woman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt. 28:17-20</td>
<td>Disciples</td>
<td>The Great Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke 24:52</td>
<td>Disciples</td>
<td>Great joy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts 16:14</td>
<td>Lydia</td>
<td>Open heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts 16:25-34</td>
<td>Paul &amp; Silas</td>
<td>Release from prison &amp; salvation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rom. 12:1-2  Believers  Transformation & knowing God’s will

Eph. 5:17-21  Believers  Speak to one another & mutual submission

Phil 3:3  Believers  No confidence in the flesh

Although the above chart is not a complete listing, it’s conclusive that we are talking about high impact. The reason for such high impact in the context of the praise and worship of God is simply the release of the presence and power of God. A young anointed evangelist, Kevin Kazemi, declared this connection in a message on February 14, 2016, “He wants us to be stewards of His presence. It’s not about His gifts, but about His personhood. In the New Testament every person has access to the power. We need to host His presence. There’s got to be poverty in our hearts on a daily basis crying out for more. When you have His presence He will manifest His power.” God’s presence and power go together, but for our own understanding we will consider them one by one and their specific benefits.

The Shekinah Glory of God

One of the greatest results of Davidic praise and worship is when the sanctuary is filled with the presence of God or what is called the “Shekinah Glory of God.” Shekinah comes from the Hebrew root, shakan, which carries the idea of lodging. It means “to reside or stay, abide, continue, dwell, inhabit, remain.” What actually happens when we praise and worship in spirit and truth is that He sets up His residence in the place where we are gathered worshiping the Lord. This is an awesome experience for the people of God and only great and wonderful things can happen!

Many refer to the shekinah glory of God as the “glory cloud.” This is because of the biblical witness to the glory of God descending in a cloud upon the tabernacle in the wilderness as well as Solomon’s temple.

And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses. (Exodus 33:9)

And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. (1 Kings 8:10-11)

Indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: “For He is good, For His mercy endures forever,” that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God. (2 Chronicles 5:13-14)

Does God desire to fill His sanctuary today with His cloud of glory? The church has yet to match this level of praise and worship. As we have discussed before, you must sanctify yourself for this kind of praise and worship. You must become one and lift your voice with the instruments in full surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ. And the singers and instruments must also be surrendered and in tune with the Holy Spirit. It’s one thing to be skilled in singing or playing a musical instrument and another thing to be skilled in the Spirit. Bishop James Murunga of Kenya, a tremendously anointed apostolic and prophetic leader presents the right question to God: “How do we attract Your glory?” On March 10, 2016 he called forth in a local church a combined gathering of the leadership, the praise and worship team, and the intercessors to deal with this most
transformative question. What he taught that night is worth repeating in every place. Here’s just a few notes from this importance message:

“There is power in unity. Without it we are unable to unlock the things of the Spirit. We are so unaware of the realm of darkness over the city and also ill-equipped to deal with it; the demonic structure. I heard the voice of God say (regarding how to deal with the dark cloud I saw in the vision) By My glory! How do we attract Your glory? Gather the council for war. The first principle of the Kingdom is unity. Psalm 133 gives us a prophetic picture. At that place of unity there is an open heaven. The oil represents the realm of God's glory, of God's Spirit. We must transition our minds from things temporary (seen) to things eternal (unseen). 2Cor. 14:4.

Set in place the music ministry (1Chr. 25:1). Music ministry carries a royal purpose and a military purpose. Musicians, intercessors, and leaders have to come into a proper formation. Three things:

1. Lord help us to see clearly what is Your vision for music ministry. We must see from a divine perspective or we will run our own way. What is the vision for an effective music ministry in the local church? There has to be an alignment of believers, a spiritual alignment. We must ignore continually what would hinder Him from coming into our services.

2. What is our corporate purpose and mission? Put our stakes in those eternal things. Look upon worship ministry beyond the music. Capture a culture of worship. Bring us out of the worldly culture into a set of values of sacrifice to God.

3. What are our objectives as a corporate army? Paul and Silas (Acts 16) understood the realm of connecting with the glory of God. There must be a unity of essence so God’s glory can be manifested. There must be a corporate clarity where the vision is clear and we can come into unity. Align objectives to the eternal purposes of God. God wants worshippers (John 4:23-24). Moses said to Pharaoh, Let My people go that they may worship Me. Do not hinder with programs depriving God of His need for humanity to worship Him and keep Him from coming down. Establish God’s throne in every sphere of men through worship (John 12:32). Bridge cultures out of every tribe (Rev. 5:9). Develop a value system; standards of behavior. Righteousness, justice, mercy, and truth (Ps. 89:11-14). Good music without the essence of God is nothing! We must prepare a seat for the King. When God comes are we ready for His presence?”

We must become more sensitive to His presence in praise and worship. The release of God’s presence as seen in His glory filling the sanctuary comes with a number of benefits. Here are five that stand out:

1. Water in dry times – Those who sing, Spring up, Oh well look down on the wasteland in the end. They’re looking for His power and glory in the sanctuary!

   From there they went to Beer, which is the well where the LORD said to Moses, “Gather the people together, and I will give them water.” Then Israel sang this song: “Spring up, O well! All of you sing to it– The well the leaders sank, Dug by the nation's nobles, By the lawgiver, with their staves.” And from the wilderness they went to Mattanah, from Mattanah to Nahaliel, from Nahaliel to Bamoth, and from Bamoth, in the valley that is in the country of Moab, to the top of Pisgah which looks down on the wasteland. (Num. 21:16-20)

   <A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah.> O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. (Psalm 63:1-2)

2. Satisfaction for the soul - God is ready to quench the thirst of multitudes of dry souls who have been thirsting far too long.

   <To the Chief Musician. A Contemplation of the sons of Korah.> As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say
to me, "Where is your God?" When I remember these things, I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, With the voice of joy and praise (todah), With a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast. Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise (yadah) Him For the help of His countenance. (Psalm 42:1-5)

3. **Advancement of wickedness is stopped** – Praising God is the right thing to do in the midst of an evil world.

Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood. He made a pit and dug it out, And has fallen into the ditch which he made. His trouble shall return upon his own head, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown. I will praise (yadah) the LORD according to His righteousness, And will sing praise (zamar) to the name of the LORD Most High. (Psalm 7:14-17)

4. **The afflicted are made glad** – The afflicted hear the praises and are led into glorifying the Lord with those who are praising and worshiping God. God always shows mercy to the afflicted who cry out to Him.

Of David. When he pretended to be insane before Abimelek, who drove him away, and he left. I will extol (barak) the LORD at all times; his praise (tehillah) will always be on my lips. I will glory (halal) in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together. (Psalm 34:1-3 NIV)

5. **Release of prophetic revelation** – God’s presence says He’s got something to say. Jesus joins in the singing Himself and God is magnified through Him. This brings edification, exhortation, and comfort to God’s people.

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me." (Heb. 2:10-13)

Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals. (1Chron. 25:1)

**God’s Power in Praise and Worship**

Each week people come to church to sense the presence of God, but are they ready for the release of His power to transform lives. God’s presence in praise and worship also brings His power. Praise and worship focused upon Jesus Christ facilitates an atmosphere of faith that moves the hand of God. Praise and worship touched by the Holy Spirit is a roadway into the very presence of God to experience His power and healing. Joy replaces mourning. Praise replaces heaviness. The Holy Spirit comes upon the assembly and the ministry of Jesus is unleashed with great power in the sanctuary in order to bring glory to the Lord.

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the
prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise (tehillah) for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.” (Isaiah 61:1-3, Luke 4:16-21)

The above Scripture clearly reveals that there’s a lot of healing in worship when the Holy Spirit comes with power. Praise and worship helps hurting people in several ways.

1. **It promotes forgiveness** – God’s power therapeutically touches those who are fully focused on the praise and worship of Him. There is a purifying and cleansing of the soul. The only sacrifice of praise that is acceptable and pleasing to God is from a humble and forgiving heart.

   The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-- These, O God, You will not despise. (Psalm 51:17)

   "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (Matt. 5:23-24)

   "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matt. 6:14-15)

   "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.” (Matt. 18:35)

2. **It promotes physical healing** – God arrives on the scene and His power is released to heal the sick and set captives free. An environment of faith is established for the release of Christ’s ministry to perform miracles of healing in full power.

   When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. (Matt. 8:1-3)

   While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live." (Matt. 9:18)

   The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant. "Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, ‘‘From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise’?” (Matt. 21:14-16 NIV)

3. **It promotes the healing of the mind** – Praise and worship anointed by the Holy Spirit refreshes and renews the mind. Those who are depressed and afflicted by circumstances are very needy, but the release God’s power is there in the sanctuary to set them free and heal broken hearts. This is more than just a pick me up, but a rising from the ashes to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

   But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him. 15 And Saul’s servants said to him, “Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. 16 “Let our
master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well." 17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me."

Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight." 23 And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him. (1Sam. 16:14-17, 22-23)

This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the LORD's house. In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. (1Sam. 1:7-10 NIV)

Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her... And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. "No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. (1Sam. 1:19; 2:1-2)

4. It promotes deliverance – Satan loves to come to church, but he hates it when songs of deliverance facilitate a moving of God's power to set free those suffering from demonic oppression. Listening to the Holy Spirit is liberating.

You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah (Psalm 32:7)

Whether you encounter unforgiveness, have need for physical healing, or simply feel inadequate, depressed, oppressed, embittered, and distressed, the release of God's presence and power through Davidic praise and worship is God's therapy because it facilitates the transformation and renewal of the spirit, body, and mind by the Holy Spirit. The effect for regular church attenders is that they have their eyes lifted from themselves and onto the Lord. Newcomers are inspired in such a way that they feel they have been in the presence of God. The greatest effect is when unbelievers and backsliders are so touched by the presence and power of God that they repent, fall on their faces and worship God. They become the best evangelists because they report that God is truly among you. They openly make it known. They proclaim it throughout the region. Can the same be spoken of our church services today? We need a good report!

And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you. (1Cor. 14:25)
CHAPTER 8
HOW TO OPEN UP AND WORSHIP GOD

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; (1Peter 2:9)

When to Praise and Worship God

The Lord has chosen His people to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. This is the Great Commission. One of the primary ways of doing this is to “proclaim the praises of Him.” It’s fascinating to note that the Greek word, exaggello, in the above passage means “to tell out or forth, declare abroad, to make known by praising or proclaiming, to celebrate.” The praise and worship of God has an intentional and powerful transformative and evangelistic component. This why every disciple needs to open up and worship God. When and how are we do this?

- Continually

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. (Heb. 13:15)

- When our souls are at rest

You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah (Psa 32:7)

- In the midst of trials

"When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; And my prayer (tephillah) went up to You, Into Your holy temple. "Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy. But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving (todah); I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD." (Jonah 2:7-9)

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1Thess. 5:18)

- For His kingdom

And giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Col. 1:12-14 NIV)

"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)

- For His power

Be exalted, O LORD, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise (zamar) Your power. (Psalm 21:13)
All Your works shall praise (yadah) You, O LORD, And Your saints shall bless (barak) You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, And talk of Your power, To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, And the glorious majesty of His kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations. (Psalm 145:10-13)

- For His glory

I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise (tehillah) to carved images. (Isaiah 42:8)

Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle. (Psalm 24:8)

Therefore David blessed (barak) the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: "Blessed (barak) are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all. "Now therefore, our God, We thank (yadah) You And praise (halal) Your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You. (1Chron. 29:10-14)

How Will You Respond?

This question is the one the Holy Spirit places within every disciple. Many answer it before they really understand God's perspective of praise and worship. Let's take a quick inventory of a few points.

1. The focus is on the Lord Jesus Christ; the Lamb of God who alone is worthy of our praise and worship.
2. The goal is to become true worshipers (those totally centered on the Lord) all week; not just in the Sunday sanctuary.
3. Praise and worship are verbs that presuppose action.
4. The activity of praise and worship must be a priority because God's word commands us to do so.
5. Discipleship calls us to worship and worship calls us to discipleship.
6. Worship in spirit and truth entails obeying the scriptural commands regarding praise and worship.
7. God rewards; He blesses those who praise and worship Him His way.

With this in mind, it's necessary for you to take your identity as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ much more seriously. A disciple is one who is an avid student of the Lord Jesus Christ. A student follows and learns from the teacher. Jesus defined a disciple in this way:

Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. (Luke 9:23)

Earlier Jesus posed this question to His followers: A very sobering question to a disciple.

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say? (Luke 6:46)

Disciples strive with all their strength to do what Jesus says. This is what Jesus said a disciple was. Can a true worshiper be anything less? It's important we openly approach praise and worship with discipleship in mind because the restoration of Davidic praise and worship depends upon it. How
will you respond? Like a true disciple!

You Be Faithful

How must, how can you respond to Jesus and open the way to Davidic praise and worship as a rich, daily part of your experience. The biblical answer is by being faithful. Remember, faith is not based upon feelings but on the Word of God. In the Parable of Talents (Matt. 25:14-30), it’s the faithful who enter into the joy of the Lord.

"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' (Matt. 25:23)

Faithful persons are committed persons. Faithful persons are loyal persons. Faithful persons are responsible persons. Their word is a bond. A faithful person will choose to forgo distractions for the prescribed goal. They’re not dissuaded by “wind or weather,” by personalities, by fatigue, or other distractions. The saints of God need to be faithful disciples when it comes to the restoration of Davidic praise and worship in their personal lives and in the assembly of the saints. If not, church services are going to appear more like the assembly of the dead. You be faithful!

Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful, And fully repays the proud person. Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the LORD. (Psalm 31:23-24)

Be faithful to do the following:

- Be faithful to praise and worship God with diligence (resolve).
- Be faithful to praise and worship God in adversity.
- Be faithful to praise and worship God with clear priorities.
- Be faithful to praise and worship God with intimacy.
- Be faithful to praise and worship God according to biblical commands of expressed worship.

Who’s Looking?

This study of the praise and worship of God is all about what is pleasing to God. Many Christians are very self-conscious regarding their worship and praise of God. Others are flamboyant and focused upon the outward appearance of things. This is not where God is at. He’s looking at the heart first and then the fragrance of things. God is the audience and He is very serious about the restoration of Davidic praise and worship. He knows what’s going on in the church at any point of time. He gets an accurate report. He measures the quality of those who worship in the sanctuary.

Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. (Rev. 11:1)

Every disciple should aspire to praise and worship God in spirit and in truth. There’s truth in the unpopular saying, “It’s His way or the highway!” Every disciple should long for and seek to praise and worship God, but he or she must resolve to do so. You need to be alive to the flow of the Spirit, the anointing, and the presence and power of God in praise and worship. You need to just do it the way God prescribes! God alone should be inspiration enough to put your heart into
biblical responses like lifting your hands unto the Lord, singing and shouting for joy, clapping your hands to God, singing in the Spirit, playing instruments of music before the Lord, kneeling and bowing down in honor of God, weeping over your sinfulness and inadequacy, dancing in exaltation before Him. Yes, flow with what the Holy Spirit is doing, but be willing as a disciple to do it all before the King of Glory. The praise and worship of God is all about Him.

Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah (Psalm 24:7-10)
Appendix 1
How We Worship Handout

How We Worship

* Why Do We Worship God?

"Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." Matthew 4:10

* How Should We Worship God?

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH." John 4:23-24 (also see Phil. 3:3)

* Why Do We Stand When We Sing?

"And the Levites... stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice." 2 Chronicles 20:19 (also see Revelation 7:9-10)

* Why Do We Clap Our Hands?

"O clap your hands all ye people; shout unto God with a voice of triumph." Psalm 47:1

* Why Do We Lift Our Hands?

"Thus will I bless Thee while I live: I will LIFT UP MY HANDS in Thy name." Psalm 63:4

"LIFT UP YOUR HANDS in the sanctuary and bless the Lord." Psalm 144:2 (also see I Timothy 2:8)

* Why Do We Have Audible Praise unto God?

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and ALL that is within me bless His holy name." Psalm 103:1

"By His therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the FRUIT OF OUR LIPS, giving thanks to His name." Hebrews 13:15 (also see Revelation 19:1, 6)

* Why Do We Sing Choruses as Well as Hymns?

"And 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." Eph. 5:18-19

* Why Do We Sing in Tongues and in English?

"I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will SING WITH THE SPIRIT, AND I WILL SING WITH THE UNDERSTANDING also." 1 Corinthians 14:15
WHY DO WE HAVE SPEAKING IN UNKNOWN TONGUES AND THE INTERPRETATION IN THE CHURCH?

"Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and FORBID NOT TO SPEAK WITH TONGUES." I Corinthians 14:39

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit all... to one different kinds of tongues; to another the INTERPRETATION of tongues." I Cor. 12:7,10 (also see I Corinthians 14:5, 27)

WHAT IS PROPHECY AND WHY DO WE PROPHESY?

"But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort." I Corinthians 14:3

"Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that you may prophecy." I Corinthians 14:1

WHY ARE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS A PART OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE? WHY DO WE DANCE?

"Praise Him with the sound of the TRUMPET; praise Him with the PSALMIST and HARP. Praise Him with the TIMBALE and DANCE. Praise Him with the STRINGED INSTRUMENTS and ORGANS. Praise Him upon the LOUD CYMBALS: praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals." Psalm 150:3-5

WHY DOES THE WHOLE CHURCH PRAY AT ONCE FOR SPECIFIC NEEDS?

"And when they heard that, THEY LIFTED UP THEIR VOICE WITH ONE ACCORD, and said, "Lord, Thou art God, which hast made heaven and earth..." Acts 4:24

WHY DO WE RECEIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS?

"GIVE and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith saith the Lord of Hosts if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10
Appendix 2
Sample Worship Team Training Session

What Does Luke 2:13 and Revelation Say About Worship?

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:13-14)

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" (Rev 5:11-12)

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen." (Rev. 7:9-12)

After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!" (Rev. 19:1)

- The heavenly hosts is a praising and worshiping army
- No one can do warfare without first being a worshiper of God
- God and the devil are both seeking worshipers
- True worship protects the soul from the devil

Five Directions in Worship That Make the Devil Happy!

1. Worship of angels (Col. 2:18)
2. Reverential/pious worship of religious objects (Acts 17:23)
3. Creation worship (Rom. 1:25)
4. Tradition worship (Mark 7:7)
5. Idol and demon worship (Rev. 9:20)

Five Commanders of Darkness Behind it All?

1. Spirit of Babylon (Gen. 11:4; Rev. 17-19)
2. Spirit of Jezebel (1 Kings 19:14-18; Rev. 2:20)
4. Spirit of the World (1 Cor. 2:12)
5. Prince of the Power of the Air (Eph. 2:2)

How are True Worshipers Victorious?

- Praise warfare breaks things open
- Prayer warfare aligns us with God’s will
- Spontaneous praise and worship brings us into His chamber and releases the anointing
What Does This Mean for the Corporate Body?

- No more estrangement from God
- Engagement with the Lord
- Intimacy with God or going into His presence
- Chains fall and walls are broken down

Worship Team 05-05-94

Note: Singers and musicians were under directional leadership and were instructed in the “songs of the Lord” when God used David to establish Davidic praise and worship in the house of God. They became a generation of praise to God.

All these were under the direction of their father for the music in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the authority of the king. So the number of them, with their brethren who were instructed in the songs of the LORD, all who were skillful, was two hundred and eighty-eight. (1Chronicles 25:6-7)
Appendix 3
Governmental Restoration in the House of God

Governmental Ordering & Establishment
Compiled by James Murungu

Isaiah 9:7
Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end. Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this

Increase – raise, enlargement, amplify, and swell
Government- rule, control, command, administration
Order- arrange, organize, array
Establish- set up, found, institute
Zeal-Passion, keenness, eagerness

I. Structure of His Government (make up, organization, formation)
Four Key Aspects of the Kingdom

A. The Throne of God – Mighty, God, Everlasting Father
Psalm 45:6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.
Dan 7:9-10. …. His throne was a fiery flame….
It is the place where God rules and makes judgments from.

B. The Word of God
Prov. 30:5 Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

Rev. 19: 11-16 11Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Heb. 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.
C. Warfare

Rev. 12: 7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon: and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Jesus said, the kingdom suffers violence & the violent shall take it by FORCE

D. Worship

Ezek 28:11-15 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 12“Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

14“You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

To pharaoh “ Let My People go that they may worship me.”
Jesus – The father is seeking those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Governmental Restoration in the Church Today

Acts 3:19-21 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began

1. The Headship of Christ in the Church
Five Fold Governmental Leaders

Eph. 4:1-5; 9-13 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling: 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. 9But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. 9Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”

9(Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

• Breaking of the Pitchers -Midian- Amalekites Judges 7:19-22 (Manifestation of order & understanding of God’s word)
19So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands. 20Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers—they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing—and they cried, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!” 21And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled. 22When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man’s sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath.

2. The Body of Christ

**Eph 4:14-16** 14that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

**Heb 5:12-14** 12For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 6:1-2 1Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

3. Service in the House of God – Restoration of Governmental Order

….. 1 Samuel 8: 6-7….

**1 Chron. 23:2** 2And he gathered together all the leaders of Israel, with the priests and the Levites. 3Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and above; and the number of individual males was thirty-eight thousand. 4Of these, twenty-four thousand were to look after the work of the house of the LORD, six thousand were officers and judges, 5four thousand were gatekeepers, and four thousand praised the LORD with musical instruments, “which I made,” said David, “for giving praise.”

1. Look after the house of God
2. Officers & judges
3. Gate keepers
4. Worship ministers
Exodus 27:20-21  
And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually.  
In the tabernacle of meeting, outside the veil which is before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening until morning before the LORD. It shall be a statute forever to their generations on behalf of the children of Israel

- All of Israel were responsible for maintaining the light in the house of God.  
- Congregation was to bring the offering & Priests were to tend the light.

1 Peter 2:5  
you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ

- All believers are responsible for the care of the house of God- Spiritual, Physical

1. Fellowship in the House-

House churches – Family Altar, etc.

Acts 2:46  
So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Heb. 10:25 – Neglect not the assembling. Psalm 133

2. Prayer in the House

- Restoration of Proper manner of prayer – Matt 6:5-7…
- Servant – Priestly –Prophetic- Kingly Intercession Esther 4-5
- Intercessors as watchmen & proper relation with shepherds. Isaiah 62:6

3. Music in the House

1Chron 25:1-6 Kingly governance & order in music ministry

1Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals. And the number of the skilled men performing their service was: 2Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nathaniah, and Asharelah; the sons of Asaph were under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied according to the order of the king.  
3Of Jeduthun, the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshiaha, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the direction of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp to give thanks and to praise the LORD. 4Of Heman, the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romamti-Ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth.  
5All these were the sons of Heman the king’s seer in the words of God, to exalt his horn. For God gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

5All these were under the direction of their father for the music in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the authority of the king.  
6So the number of them, with their brethren who were instructed in the songs of the LORD, all who were skillful, was two hundred and eighty-eight.
And they cast lots for their duty, the small as well as the great, the teacher with the student.

Acts 16:25- Paul & Silas – Apostle & Prophet – singing and praising God (Governmental ministry)

4. Money in the House

Luke 21: 1-4 1And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, 2and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. 3So He said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; 4for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings 6for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.”

Acts 5: 1-2 1But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. 2And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles’ feet. 3But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

5Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. 6And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

5. Holiness & Order in the House

6. Love & Caring in the House

John 13 1Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. 2And 9supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him, 3Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, “Lord, are You washing my feet?” 7Jesus answered and said to him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.” 8Peter said to Him, “You shall never wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” 9Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!” 10Jesus said to him, “He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.” 11For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, “You are not all clean.” 12So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? 13You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

7. Ministry to the Widows & Fatherless

Isaiah 58: 6-14
7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him. And not hide yourself from your own flesh? 8 Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. 9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’ 10’If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, 11’If you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall be as the noonday. 12’T’he Lord will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. 13’T’hose from among you Shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In. 14’If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the LORD honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words, 15’T’hen you shall delight yourself in the LORD: And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Conclusion

2 Chronicles 5:1-6 1So all the work that Solomon (King 5 Fold) had done for the house of the LORD was finished; and Solomon (5 Fold Ministers) brought in the things which his father David had dedicated: the silver and the gold and all the furnishings, (Restoration of the house) And he put them in the treasuries (Money in the House) of the house of God. 2Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, in Jerusalem (Five Fold Overseers actively present), that they might bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD up from the City of David (Operation Emmanuel Restore), which is Zion. 3Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with the king at the feast (Fellowship), which was in the seventh month. 4So all the elders of Israel came, and the Levites took up the ark. (Decency & Order managing their offices) 5Then they brought up the ark, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that were in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites brought them up. 6Also King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel who were assembled with him before the ark, were sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be counted or numbered for multitude. (Economy of the church) ORDER IN THE HOUSE!

MANIFESTATION & REVELATION FROM HEAVEN

7Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim. 8 For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. 9 The poles extended so that the ends of the poles of the ark could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. 10 Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they had come out of Egypt. 11 And it came to pass when the priests came out of the Most Holy Place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without keeping to their divisions), 12 and the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets—indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: “For He is good, For His mercy endures forever;” (Music in the House) that the house, the house of the
LORD, was filled with a cloud, 14 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God. (Emmanuel in the House)

Three Core Purposes for Government Restoration in the House of God

1. His Abode with His children Rev 21:3

2. The Joy of His children 1Chron 15: 25- 29 Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets and with cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps.

3. A Light to the Nations Matt 5:14 YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, A CITY THAT IS SET ON A HILL CANNOT BE HIDDEN
Appendix 4
Shofar Scriptures

Zech. 9:14
14Then the LORD will be seen over them,
And His arrow will go forth like lightning.
The Lord GOD will blow the trumpet,

Isaiah 27:13
13So it shall be in that day:
The great trumpet will be blown;
They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria,
And they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt,
And shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

1 Thess. 4:16
16For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18Therefore comfort one another with these words.

I Cor. 15:51-52
51Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—52in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Ex. 19:13, 16ff
16Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. 17And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. 19And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. 20Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

Ps. 47:5
5God has gone up with a shout, (teruah) battle cry, clamor or trumpets
The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
Appendix 5
Discussion Questions

Chapter 1: The Restoration of Davidic Praise and Worship

1. Consider what praise and worship are from God’s perspective. At this point, what do you think are some key aspects of the praise and worship that please Him?

2. Throughout the Old and New Testament, what elements of praise and worship are consistently brought forth as examples of that which is pleasing to God?

3. How does the concept of “cleansing the temple” apply to disciples of Jesus Christ today, particularly as it applies to praise and worship?

4. The Bible records two attempts to bring the Ark of the Covenant into the city of David. Only one attempt was successful, pleasing in the eyes of the Lord. Discuss the key differences between the two attempts.

5. Consider your response to Question 4 as it relates to God’s presence in praise and worship. What things that we do in praise and worship are pleasing to Him? How might the presence of God be welcomed (and not dishonored) in your praise and worship?

6. What do we mean when we say “God is the audience” for our praise and worship? What does this mean in the context of leading others into praise and worship before the Lord?

Chapter 2: True Worship

1. Based upon Scripture, describe what it means to “worship in spirit and truth.”

2. We’ve considered some of the Hebrew and Greek words used to describe “worship”. Have you seen any of these attributes come through in your own expressions of praise and worship to God? What about in the expressions of others? Describe a particular situation that you can recall.

3. “The fear of the Lord” is a term that is often misunderstood. Based on your recent reflections on praise and worship, has your understanding of this term changed? If so, how has it changed and why?

4. Describe the Biblical ideas of “living stones” and “living sacrifices.” In what ways do you see these ideas connecting with praise and worship of God?

Chapter 3: True Worshipers

1. What is required of us in order to build an altar of worship to God and God alone?

2. In a corporate setting, do you tend to be one who engages in worship or one who watches from the sidelines? Why do you think this is so?
3. Maybe you have felt bound to manmade forms of worship that are familiar to you. Maybe you have felt required to have a particular emotional response during praise and worship. How might you be helped to overcome these barriers to Davidic praise and worship?

Chapter 4: The Perfecting of Praise in the House of God

1. Discuss practical ways in which you can “bless the Lord at all times (Psalm 34:1) and “continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God” (Heb. 13:15).

2. We have looked at the benefits of actively engaging in unified and Spirit-filled praise with others. What will that require of you?

3. Which gifts of praise do you feel most comfortable with individually in a corporate setting? For what reasons do you believe the gifts of praise are limited in the lives of believers today? What benefits might be gained by expansion of these gifts in the individual and corporate life of the Church?

Chapter 5: Praise Warfare

1. Consider the Biblical examples of praise warfare. What is the purpose of this type of praise?

2. You probably noticed that all of the weapons of praise warfare discussed in this chapter are quite active. If you can, recall a particular time when you used one of these weapons effectively and what resulted from that effective use.

Chapter 6: The Body Language of Praise and Worship

1. Discuss this statement: “We were physically constructed to worship our Creator.”

2. How can children be trained up to praise and worship in spirit and in truth? Think of specific ways in which you can be a part of nurturing this lifestyle in the lives of our children.

3. If someone says, “I didn't get very much out of praise and worship in our time together today,” why might they feel this way? What might be an appropriate response to this type of statement?

Chapter 7: How Authentic Praise and Worship Helps People

1. The impact of true and authentic worship is powerful. Has true worship made an impact on your life? If so, how has it impacted you? Think about specific examples.

2. What encourages the glory of God to “set up residence” in the midst of worshippers? What may result from such a release of the Lord’s presence in our midst?

3. Power-filled praise and worship can release healing and transformation into the lives of those assembled. Has your life been transformed through praise and worship of the living and all-powerful God? If you can, name a specific change which has occurred in your life as a result of praising and worshipping God.
Chapter 8: How to Open Up and Worship God

1. Before this teaching, had you ever considered praise and worship to be evangelistic in nature? Does this thought change your perspective on what it means to “praise and worship God”?

2. What does it mean for you to “be faithful” in your praise and worship to God?