

The Basics of Worship And Praise

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What Is Praise?

In the OT the word for praise mainly used *halal*, the root meaning of which is connected with making a noise; *yada* which was originally associated with the bodily actions and gestures which accompany praising; and *zamar*, which is associated with the playing or singing of music. (New Bible Dictionary)

Psalm 7:17, 18: I will *praise* (*yadah* 3034) the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing *praise* (*zamar* 2167) to the name of the LORD most high.

Psalm 148: 1-6: Praise (*halal* 1984) ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights. ²Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. ³Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. ⁴Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that *be* above the heavens. ⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created. ⁶He hath also established them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass.

From *Exploring Worship by Bob Sorge*

Definitions for praise from the Dictionary: to commend; applaud; to express approval or admiration of; to extol in words or in song; to magnify or to glorify.

Praise is bi-directional – We praise God by directly by expressing our admiration or giving Him thanks. We praise God by declaring, commending or magnifying Him to others.

Praise is pre-occupied with who God is and what He has done.

A distinctive characteristic of praise is that it is extroverted in nature. It is characterized by outward expressions of celebration and exhilaration. It is expressed through singing, shouting, speaking forth, playing of musical instruments, dancing, and other external forms. We have a glorious dynamic God, and He deserves our energetic acclamations.

Vocal

Ps. 149:3
Ps 147:1
Ps 34:1
Ps 95:1,2

Audible

Clapping/Instruments
Ps 47:1 Ps 149 & 150

Visible

Dancing Ps 149:3
Lifting Hands
Ps 143:2
Ps 63:4
1 Tim 2:8

What Is Worship?

What is Worship (Definition – Pastor John) I believe that it has a two-fold definition. It is a lifestyle and an act.

- A. *Lifestyle* – A nurtured intimate relationship, living a life that is pleasing unto Him, and remaining uncompromised with the convictions God has placed within your heart (In spirit & truth).
- B. *Act* – Boldly drawing near and ministering to God with total acknowledgement that he alone is worthy.

SPIRIT FILLED LIFE BIBLE Definition– Worship means to ascribe worth to something or someone through speech and conduct. Worship addresses God directly, expressing reverence for His nature, character attributes, and power, and grateful praise for all He is and does.

Tozer:

Worship means “to feel in the heart,” that’s first—feel it in the heart. A person that merely goes through the form of worship without any feeling, is not worshipping.

Worship is also “expressing” what you feel. What is expressed? “A humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder.” It is delightful to worship God, but it is also humbling. The person who has never been humbled in the presence of God will never be worshipper. He may go through the motions, but will never truly worship God.

Three Definitions of Worship.

1. English – worth ship. Ascribe worth to something.
2. Hebrew (shacha) – bow down, make one self low
3. Greek (proskuneo)– same as above, but also denotes intimacy and closeness.

Psalm 95:

³For the LORD *is* a great God, and a great King above all gods. ⁴In his hand *are* the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills *is* his also. ⁵The sea *is* his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry *land*. ⁶O come, let us *worship* (*shachah* 7812) and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

John 4

²³But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship (*proskuneo* 4352) the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth. ²⁵The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. ²⁶Jesus saith unto her, *I that speak unto thee am he*.

Why Worship Him?

We worship Him because he is God; not because of the roles he plays within our lives. With out describing the roles He plays in our lives, who is God?

How is Worship Manifested?

True love (worship) and devotion always manifest itself outwardly. As with a relationship with your spouse, your love for them can be questioned if you never show any types of outward expressions of love and devotion.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

When we discuss “worship & praise” we must first discuss two dimensions; the **external** and the **internal**. What is meant by this? We worship & praise in many ways, and all of them fall under these two categories. We pray; that is both external and internal. We clap, that is external. We dance, that is external. We live a life that glorifies God; this is external. We meditate, that is internal. And so on. However, all is **generated** from the internal, or better said, the **spirit** of man fueled by the **Spirit** of God.

The only direction Jesus gave us in scripture concerning worship is in John 4:24. “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

I. How do we worship in “spirit and in truth.”

- A. There must be **true worship**. There must be the **decisive** act of engaging into His presence. True worship can only take place if:
 1. There is **relationship**. A person must be born again to worship God.
 2. There must be **intimacy**. We must spend time with Him to know Him, to know His Word, and to know His promises.
- B. There must be **honesty**. We must come to Him as ourselves. We can not put on a false spiritual front, or try to copy and be something or someone we are not. God wants us to **present** ourselves, and **live** as ourselves. Read Isaiah 29:13. They were following commandments of other men. They were going through the motions.
- C. There must be a godly **attitude**. Basically, this is how we live our lives to glorify God. “...do all to the glory of God.” 1 Cor. 10:31. This is living the life of a worshipper. Communing daily with Him as we go on our way that we may walk in His Spirit to be a vessel of His love to those that He puts in our path.
- D. Must flee **idolatry**. “You must have no other gods before Me.” Exodus 20:3
- E. Must honor the Lord’s **Day**. “Remember the sabbath and keep it holy.” Exodus 20:8 “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves.” Hebrews 10:25.

II. How do we enter in into the “act” of worship.

To engage into His presence in the act of worship it involves **trusting**, **knowing**, & **listening**.

- A. **Trust** – Before we can enter His presence we must hand **everything** over to Him and trust Him with what we are facing. To do this we must combat the **enemy** and his attacks on our minds. (The following are acts of warfare)
 1. **Clear our minds** – 2 Cor. 10:5; “bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”
 2. **Submit** – James 4:7; “submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
 3. **Repent of Unforgiven Sin** - Confessing sin & bringing the dark into the light, **weakens** the enemy’s hand. James 4:8; “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double minded.”

Psalm 66:18 Do not harbor anything.

1 John 1:9 All we have to do is ask; He will forgive.

- B. **Knowing** – We must know Him, and know what He **does** in our lives. We can live everyday and not **recognize** nor **acknowledge** the working of His hands. Only by meditating upon these is **thanksgiving** and **praise** generated within your **spirit**.
- C. **Listening** – We worship Him in His presence, but as with our **earthly** relationships, listening should be of top priority.
Proverbs 1:33 – Those who listen will dwell safely.
Psalm 46:10 – We must be quiet before Him.
1 Kings 19:11,12 – Don't expect to hear Him in miraculous revelation.

Questions.

1. Have you tried to copy or reproduce in yourself or copy the worship practices of someone else? (*Note: we can mentor others, but are we trying to put on a false front*) Have you been honest before God, and others?
2. When it comes to attitude, in what situations do you find it hardest to live the life of a worshipper; i.e. what sets you off! (in work, family, etc.)
3. In our society, in our own lives, and those believers that surround us, what forms of idolatry do you see? (*What "gods" are we putting before God?*)
4. What situations or circumstances do you find it hardest to hand over to God right now?
5. What is one thing in your life that God was doing a work, or protecting, that you overlooked, did not recognize, nor acknowledged? Now that you look back, do you feel a spirit of joy, thanksgiving, and praise being generated within you?
6. In listening to God, name an instance that you were seeking that "miraculous revelation" and all the time He was speaking in a small voice.
7. Are there any outward expressions of worship & praise that you have a problem with or do not understand? i.e. clapping, dancing, bowing, kneeling, etc. What are you most comfortable with?