

# Class 1 – Praise and Worship 101

*Beyond  
the Song*

Praise and worship has very little to do with song singing and has everything to do with the direction of our hearts, our lifestyle, and the motives driving our passions.

## Worshipper First

### **John 4:20-24**

20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

21 "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

There were two types of "worshippers;" Jews and Gentiles. Gentiles possessed no way of approaching God. Jews approached God through the covenant made by God with Abraham. Jesus declares a new covenant, creating a new worshipper, able to approach God directly. This covenant would have the power to transform anyone willing to embrace it. This new breed of worshipper, born again by the greatest of sacrifices, would be recipients of a superior covenant. They would worship God in spirit and in truth. **Hebrews 8:6** (*the better covenant*) **Hebrews 4:16** (*able to approach God boldly*) **Ephesians 2** (*brought close*)

## A Living Sacrifice

### **Roman 12:1**

Therefore, I **urge** you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to **offer** your **bodies** as a **living** sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your **true and proper** worship.

- URGE - BESEECH - APPEAL - BEG - PLEAD
- OFFER - PRESENT - A DECISIVE DEDICATION - TAKE YOUR EVERY DAY, ORDINARY LIFE; YOUR SLEEPING, EATING, GOING TO WORK, AND WALKING AROUND LIFE AND PLACE IT
- BODIES - ALL OF YOUR FACULTIES; PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL
- LIVING - NOT ONLY AS BEING "ALIVE" BUT AS A PRIMARY VERB (AS YOU LIVE IN ACTION)
- TRUE AND PROPER - REASONABLE - RATIONAL INTELLIGENT SPIRITUAL WORSHIP

We have been transformed to worship God in spirit and truth, offering our whole selves to God first. Everything else, our songs, our talents, our knowledge, our abilities and even our service, must flow from this place.

**Colossians 1:13** (*translated into His kingdom*) **1st Samuel 16:7** (*The Lord looks at our hearts*)

Praise and worship ministry is a high calling. It's not a "gig." Leading worship escorts people to a person, and that person is God himself. The ministry of worship is multidimensional, a lifestyle, a passionate pursuit of His presence. The worship leader cannot take people where he or she does not go personally.

## Appointed

### **I Chronicle 16:4-7 (The Message)**

4 Then David assigned some of the Levites to the Chest of God to lead worship—to intercede, give thanks, and praise the God of Israel. 5 Asaph was in charge; under him were Zechariah, Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel, who played the musical instruments. Asaph was on percussion. 6 The priests Benaiah and Jahaziel blew the trumpets before the Chest of the Covenant of God at set times through the day. 7 That was the day that David inaugurated regular worship of praise to God, led by Asaph and his company.

Here we find a worship team appointed by David, the standard bearer of praise and worship for all time to come. He knew God, experienced God's presence, His forgiveness and His help in times of trouble.

- Each person had a specific roll.
- The worship was centered around the Arc of the Covenant (Chest), the place where God's presence dwelt.
- They led in worship, implying the interaction of the people.
- They led regularly and everyday.
- They would worship, intercede, give thanks and praise.

## Ego -Toxic and Healthy

### **Romans 12:3**

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

- "**More** highly than you ought" = a tendency to feel and act superior to companions, with discontentment, at odds with leadership, and impatient with others.
- It's vital to examine yourself honestly and judge yourself with the Word of God.
- Notice the verse does not say to not think high of yourself in the context of the faith given to you by God. Understand your strengths and weaknesses. Confidence in is good. Thinking you are the only one who can do what you do is foolish!

### **I Corinthians 11:1**

1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Paul's statement sounds outrageously arrogant. But was it? Paul earned the respect and authority to make the statement. What about ME?

What respect have I earned?

What authority have I earned from God and man?

How do I earn respect and authority?

It's not about what I know, my talent, or even what I've done, but it's all about what I've earned through the character I live out.

### **Galatians 5:22-23**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

## Protect the call

### **Ephesian 4:1-3**

1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

The calling to any ministry is unique, therefore the answer to the following question will be unique.

What does it mean to **live a life worthy** of the **call you have a received**?

Now add these qualities to the equation:

humility      gentleness      patience      showing tolerance for one another  
every effort to keep unity                      in love                                      (NASB)

### **Proverbs 4:23**

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

### **Hebrews 12:1**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that **hinders** and the **sin** that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the **race marked out for us**, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

There are unique pitfalls in every aspect of life. Be aware, not paranoid! Think of the common hinderances and temptations that would accompany someone in worship/creative arts ministry. Notice that some are hinderance to the race marked out for you and some are actual sins.

- Accept compliments with grace. be approachable.

2 Let someone else praise (commend) you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips. **Proverbs 27:2**

- Be careful of attention from opposite sex.

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. **1 Peter 5:8**

- Always be reproducing in others your gifts, bearing fruit, never trying to hoard your abilities.

**Matthew 25:14-30** (the parable of the talents)

**Philippians 2:1-7** (example of Jesus taking on the form of a servant)

**I Peter 5:2-6 1** (be caretakers, not self-serving)

- Always be willing to adjust and learn.

**Psalm 119:125**

125 I am your servant. Give me insight, so that I can understand your rules.

- Avoid "power struggles"

**James 3:13-18**

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. 17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

- unity for the goal

**I Corinthians 12:18-20**

18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

One objective many parts to accomplish it:

- If you are on the soundboard, **you** are taking people into worship.
- If you are on pro-presenter, **you** are taking people into worship.
- If you sing, play an instrument, **you** are taking people into worship.
- If you lead, **you** are taking people into worship.
- If you participate in a drama, dance, other fine-arts **you** are leading people to Him.

It's very important to understand that your role can only be as successful as how you view and treat the various role of your teammates.

## Know the call - Grow in the Call

Our Mantra should be: "I cannot take God's people into His presence if I don't know how to get there myself."

We are three-fold beings and worship involves all three.

- spirits
- living in bodies
- possessing souls

Within these three part are housed everything about us; our intellect, emotions, the physical, the spiritual, our personalities - everything! As a result, praise and worship of God will take on a unique life each time we come before Him.

- At times our expression is with great emotion. (Isaiah 61:3 the garment of praise)
- Sometimes we focus on His promises and attributes. (Psalm 103)
- Singing in the spirit is a powerful. (I Corinthians 14:15)
- Thanksgiving! (Psalm 105:1)
- Clapping (Psalm 47:1), dancing (2 Samuel 6:16), lifting up of hands in surrender (Psalm 134:2), bowing (Psalm 95:1), shouting (Ezra 3:11), etc. are all expression of praise and worship.

It's vital that we are willing to grow in the areas of worship that don't necessarily come natural to us.

In closing, what fresh, "now" praise is in our hearts. At any moment what can we say of Him? Who is He to you today? What do you know of Him?

This is what those in worship / creative arts need to know, even before their talents!

Let's try it . . .