

New Way of Living

STUDIES IN GOD'S WORD
TO STIMULATE GROWTH

9 Praise and Worship



Bible Studies

Introduction

Act 24:14 But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:

:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

:16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and *toward men*.

Many people coming into Christ's church find the expression of worship so enthusiastically demonstrated difficult to appreciate and reluctant to embrace. It is new and to find ease and contentment is part of the process of their conversion.

It must be remembered:

- We do not judge what worship is by the world or by our personal feelings, but by the Word of God.
- We are to study the subject of worship as it is in the Bible that we may know how God desires to be worshipped.
- When we see the pattern of worship acceptable to God in the Scriptures, we then in obedience to the Word, worship God. Thus worship becomes a revelation to our hearts and a joy to exercise.



The Tabernacle of David is the Old Testament revelation foreshadowing praise and worship exercised in the New Covenant church. David, King over Israel; God said was a man after His own heart (Acts 13:22) and was responsible for establishing praise and worship with all its valid expressions unto God, including singers and musicians. For a comprehensive insight to worship study 1Chronicals chapters 15 and 16.

God Promised to build again the Tabernacle of David:

Amos 9:11 In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:

:12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this.

Praise and Worship

Today, what is seen in the realm of praise and worship, with all the expression, liberty and exuberance is the restoration of the Tabernacle of David promised by God through the prophet Amos. Note Acts 15:13-17.

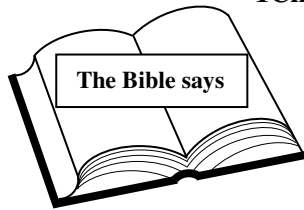
The Altar of Incense:

The spiritual sacrifices of praise and worship are typified in the Tabernacle of Moses in the altar of incense. The incense offered represented the prayers of the people that were offered in conjunction with their praise and worship:

Exodus 30:1 And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it.

See also: Rev 5:8; 8:3-4.

The Bible and history shows there will be those who will despise you for the expression of worship you give unto the Lord, even calling it heresy (Acts 24:14)



1Chron 15:27 And David *was* clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bore the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also *had* upon him an ephod of linen.

:28 Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting, and with sound of the cornet, and with trumpets, and with cymbals, making a noise with psalteries and harps.

:29 And it came to pass, *as* the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looking out at a window saw king David dancing and playing: and she despised him in her heart.

1Cor 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

:15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

The Bible is equally concerned about false forms and structures of worship that compromises truth and allows for expressions of the flesh and the world. The Lord alludes to such conditions when Israel being at ease looked unto the Samaritan influence (Amos 6:1). This condition was to repeat itself throughout the history of Israel, with Egypt, Baal worship and Babylon influences to name only a few effecting worship.

Such structures have found their expression throughout the fifth and sixth days of the church, with dead ritualism and tradition binding the church to the formalism and repetitiveness of denominationalism. While other expressions have abused their liberty in Christ to prove to the world that they ate like them. Jesus lays the foundation for New Covenant worship:

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

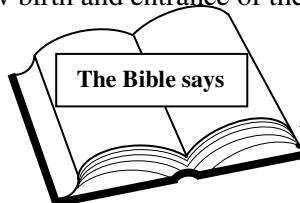
:24 God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

In the above verse Jesus lays down the fundamental principle of worship and it is twofold:

1. God must be worshipped in spirit.

Note: worship is spelt with a small *s* indicating Jesus is speaking of the human spirit that is fused (one) with the Holy Spirit through the new birth and entrance of the Holy Spirit.

2. God must be worshipped in truth.



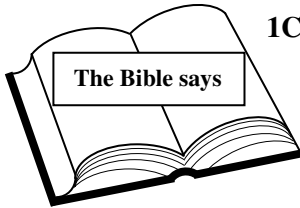
John 17:17 . . . thy word is truth.

Together, these two principles mean we are to worship God out of our regenerated spirit, inspired of the Holy Spirit in harmony with the revealed truth of God's Word.

Jesus also said:

John 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Jesus was pointing out that true worship cannot be confined to a mountain, or a city nor for that matter any one place, but is of the heart and is to be expressed by believers the world over in any place convenient. Paul and Peter build on the foundation laid by Jesus:



1Cor 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1Pet 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

The true temple of God is not built of stone, but of people who are living stones. As God's people, all are priests and offer the spiritual sacrifice of praise and worship to the Father.

1. Personally:

Personally means, you as a child of God has the liberty to praise and worship God in your personal walk, whether it is in your home or elsewhere (Psalm 132:16; 149:5). This may involve the playing of a musical instrument if you are gifted to play one.

2. Collectively:

Collectively means, as the temples' of God assembled in one place as God's family of priests, corporate praise and worship is offered together as an expression of the local church (Heb 10:25; Eph 5:18-19; Psalm 22:22, 25).

What is Worship?

Dictionaries describe worship as:

1. Extreme submissive respect, unbounded loving admiration and devotion.
2. To reverence with supreme respect, adoration and veneration.
3. To honour with extravagant love, admiration and devotion.

What is Praise?

1. Praise is to express your approval of God and His ways to God or to others.
2. It is to extol, honour, applaud or commend God. Psalm 150 demonstrates the importance of praise and ways in which it may be expressed:

Psalm 150:1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

:2 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

:3 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

:4 Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

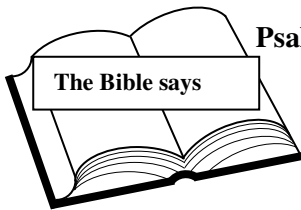
:5 Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

:6 Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

Your Praise and Worship:

Your praise and worship is your response to knowing God and experiencing His love and goodness. The man healed of lameness expresses his praise with exuberance: Acts 3:8 **And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.**

Will God receive your worship?



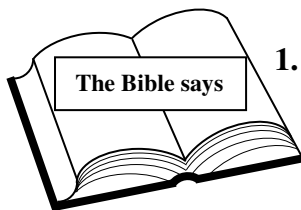
Psalm 24:3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

:4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

:5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Our praise and worship of God is acceptable by God when it is offered from a pure and obedient life. The blind man healed by Jesus was enlightened to worship, and the Lord accepted it: **John 9:31** **Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.** (Psalm 69:30-33).

What the Bible Teaches about Praise and Worship:



1. It is good to praise God:

Psalm 147:1 Praise ye the LORD: for *it is* good to sing praises unto our God; for *it is* pleasant; *and* praise is comely.

See also Psalm 52:9; 54:6.

2. Let your voice be heard:

Psalm 66:8 O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard:

See also: Psalm 118:15.

3. There are times to bow or kneel:

Psalm 95:6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

See also: Rom 14:11; Eph 3:14; Phil 2:10.

4. Lift up your hands:

Psalm 63:4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

See also: Psalm 134:2; 1Tim 2:8.

5. Clap your hands:

Psalm 47:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah. O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

See also: Isaiah 55:12.



6. Praise God in the dance:

Psalm 149:3 Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.

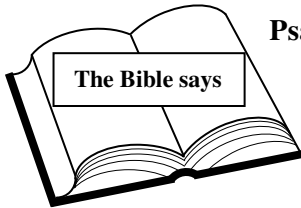
See also: Psalm 150:4; Ecc 3:4; Jer 31:13; Ex 15:20.

7. Sing to the Lord:

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

See also: Prov 29:6; Isa 12:5; 42:10.

8. Praise God using musical instruments:



Psalm 150:3 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

:4 Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

:5 Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

9. Praise and worship is to be entered into by all:

Psalm 150:6 Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

Psalm 47:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah. O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

Does that mean we lose control of ourselves? No.

Praise and worship comes forth of our spirit. It involves our whole physical and mental being, and is controlled by our will.

10. Praise and worship is a sacrifice:

Will you always feel like praising and worshipping God? No, you will not. In such times praise and worship is a sacrifice and a sacrifice is not without cost.

Heb 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

Psalm 42:5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and *why* art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him *for* the help of his countenance.

:6 O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar.

See also: Psalm 25:1; 35:9; 103:1; 146:1.

The cost is our feelings i.e. tiredness, self-consciousness, lack of concentration (mind on other things) or sorrow. In such instances we must command our soul to praise God.

11. Praise and worship is foreshadowed in the Old Testament, and is experienced and demonstrated in the New Testament church:

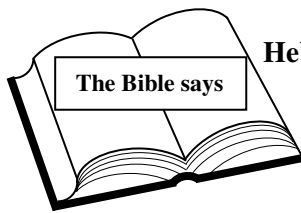
Paul the apostle understood by Old Testament revelation New Covenant praise and worship as God desires it in His church as we saw in our introductory scripture. For convenience sake the verse is repeated:

Acts 24:14 But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:

The difference is the realm of the Spirit. The New Testament believer enjoys the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to worship in accordance with the Biblical principles of worship. Note again the words of Paul - :16 **And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men.** See also: Rom 15:9-11; Psalm 103:1-2.

The responsibility is with us to exercise our will to praise and worship God.

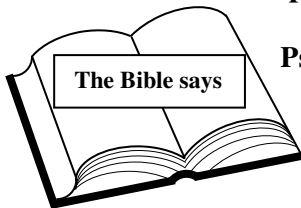
12. Praise and worship is a sign of Christ indwelling His people:



Heb 2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

Jesus, indwelling the hearts of His people, fulfills this scripture, in us, when we in response to His presence sing praises to the Father in spirit and in truth.

13. God inhabits the praises of His church (the Spiritual Israel):

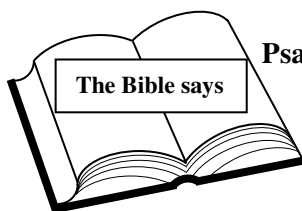


Psalm 22:3 But thou *art* holy, *O thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

To inhabit – means Jesus comes to sit down with you as a judge or to settle with you as a partner will in marriage.

- Both relationships are beautiful in nature, of great benefit to the believer and enjoyed by the church.
- The relationship of this verse with **Heb 2:12 . . . I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee,** is obvious.

14. Angels praise God:



Psalm 148:2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.

15. Creation gives praise unto God:

Psalm 148:3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.

It has been discovered in recent times that the heavenly bodies give off sound, which has been described as musical, with each star being identified by its own peculiar sound. What for centuries the people of God have accepted by faith, has been confirmed by modern science.

16. Praise and worship characterizes the tribe of Judah in the church:

Leah, the wife of Jacob had a son:

Gen 29:35 And she (Leah) conceived again, and bore a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.

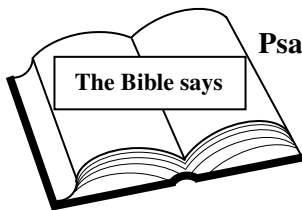
- Judah means praise.
- Judah, as a tribe always led Israel into battle:
Judges 1:1 Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?
:2 And the LORD said, Judah shall go up: behold, I have delivered the land into his hand.

See also: 2Chron 20. Note - :20-22.

Living a life praising and worshipping God indicates you are living in victory over your circumstances.

17. Praise and worship is exercised with vision:

You're entering into praise and worship involves your vision of the coming glory of the Lord Jesus:



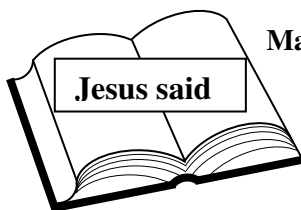
Psalm 102:16 When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory.

:18 This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD.

A major truth of Zion is to be seen in the church in the restored truth of the kingdom.

18. The Tabernacle of David and church leadership

- The order of service expressing the truth of the Tabernacle of David is the responsibility of leadership and in particular the senior minister (pastor).
- Praise and worship as God has ordained has been compromised. This happens when Christian's lose their joy, become insensitive to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and allow vision to fade (become obscure). The New Covenant Zion is at ease (Amos 6:1). It is the responsibility of leadership to encourage the congregation, provide time in the order of services and to be examples to others in liberated joyful praise and worship. The common term for such congregational worship is called "free time."



Matt 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

One of those things is praise and worship.



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

Paul applies a principle that is applicable to all aspects of church life and function. The following points are observed:

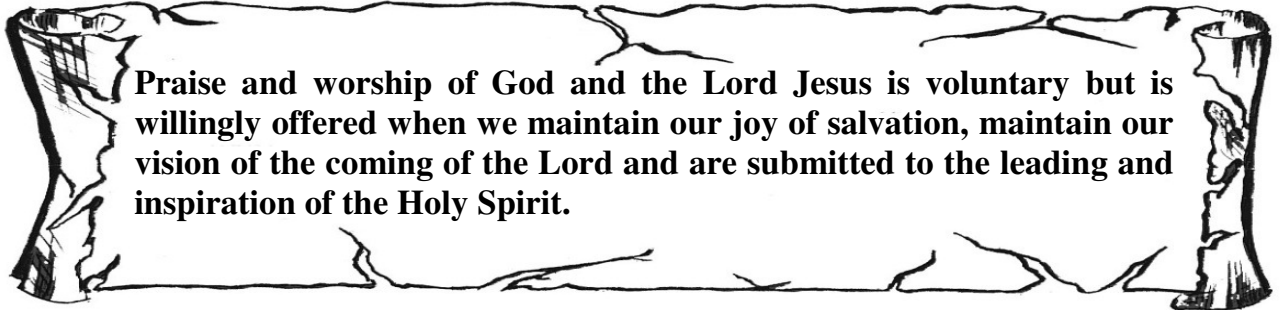
- **Let all things be done:**
 That is, do everything there is to do, asked or commanded of us in Scripture. Concerning praise and worship: Do everything the Bible reveals as praise and worship.

- **Decently:**

In all things, it is what God calls “decent” and never what men of the flesh think.

- **In order:**

That is, after the order ordained of God and expressed throughout His Word seen in the truth of the Tabernacle of David.



Summary

1. It is God who decides how He is to be worshipped. Our response is obedience to the pattern shown in His Word.
 2. The pattern of praise and worship is understood through a study of the Tabernacle of David.
 3. The spiritual sacrifices of praise and worship are typified in the Tabernacle of Moses in the altar of incense.
 4. Jesus lays down a twofold principle of worship. They are: God must be worshipped – 1) In spirit, and 2) In truth.
5. Praise and worship of God is from the heart of His redeemed community and cannot be confined only to any one place,
 6. We are to worship God personally in the privacy of our relationship with Him, and collectively as we assemble at church.
 7. Our praise and worship of God is acceptable by God, when it is offered from a pure heart and obedient life.
 8. It is good to praise God in every way of expression found in God's Word.
 9. Musical instruments played by dedicated musicians are a vital part of the New Covenant church worship and should be encouraged.
 10. Praise and worship as described in the Scriptures is to be entered into by all.
 11. Paul the apostle understood by Old Testament revelation, worship, as God desires it in the New Testament church.
 12. Worship that is in spirit and in truth confirms that Christ is in the midst of His assembled people.
 13. God inhabits the praises of His people. That is, He indwells the praise and worship of His people.
 14. The angels praise God.
 15. The sun, moon and stars praise God.
 16. Praise and worship is characteristic of the tribe of Judah. The name Judah means praise.
 17. People who praise and worship God, according to God's pattern, indicate they are preparing for the coming of Jesus in His glory.
 18. Every church pastor and leadership with him, are responsible before God, to provide time and opportunity in the order of services, for God's family to freely praise and worship Him.

Psalm 30:1 A Psalm and Song at the dedication of the house of David. I will extol thee, O LORD; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me.