

Summer Series: Worship (Outline)

1. What's the point of worship?

- a. He Demands It! Psalm 150 – Let everything that has breath praise the Lord
- b. He's enthroned upon it – Psalm 22:3
- c. There's power in it
- d. In spiritual warfare – Psalm 149:6-9 (worship and warfare together)
- e. For victory – 2 Chronicles 20:21-22 – Jehoshaphat set apart singers to go before them into battle and they were victorious
- f. For healing, deliverance, salvation – Ezekiel 47, Luke 17 where Jesus cleanses lepers and one returns to give thanks and worship Him. As a result he was made whole.
- g. We become more like Jesus – 2 Corinthians 3 – transformed into His likeness
- h. It's good for us – Psalm 92
- i. He deserves it;
- j. It's a reason why we are saved in the first place
- k. Takes my mind off myself
- l. Develops unity – 2 Chronicles 5: ONE voice went up → Glory came down
- m. Develops thanksgiving – Psalm 100. God gave me undeserving life!!!
- n. It delights His Heart
- o. We are created to worship, Colossians 1; Revelation 4.

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2. Explain the difference between praise and worship?

- a. **Halal:** "To praise the Lord by celebrating, by dancing and shining forth, by acting clamorously foolish
 - i. **Psalm 150:** "*Hallel ye the Lord, Hallel God in His sanctuary; Hallel Him in the firmament of His power.*"
 - ii. David dancing before the ark (1 Chronicles 15, II Samuel 6)
 - iii. Ps 35:18: "I will give You thanks in the great congregation; I will halal Thee among a mighty throng."
 - iv. Often times in the O.T. this word was associated with the ministry of the Levites who praised God morning and evening. **I Chronicles 23:30**
 - v. **Hebrew:** lamed lamed hey, picture – arms of man raised (hey) to the Shepherd (lamed).
- b. **Yadah:** "To praise the Lord with extended hand, to throw out the hand
 - i. **Psalm 138:2:** "I will worship toward they holy temple, and *Yadah* Thy Name."
 - ii. **Psalm 67:5:** "May the peoples yadah You, O God..."
 - iii. The name, **Judah**, is derived from this word. Judah was Leah's fourth son she bore Jacob. Jacob did not love Leah like he loved Rachel, but after this fourth son was born, she praised. Jesus was from the tribe of Judah.

1. Ps 114:2 – “Judah became God’s sanctuary, Israel His dominion.” God makes His sanctuary among the praisers!
 2. Ps 76:1 – “In Judah God is known...” God is known by those who praise.
 3. Ps 108:8 – “Judah is my scepter.” Think of this in context of Esther. King Xerxes was enthralled by her beauty and extended his gold scepter to her to show her he loved and accepted her, and he bid her come into his chamber. Now to apply to praise, when God sees us praising, He bids us come into His chambers.
 - iv. In Hebrew, it is spelled: *hey dalet yud*, which when read from right to left means “hand, door, grace/divine breath/revelation”
- c. **Shabach:** “To praise the Lord with a shout and a loud voice”
- i. **Psalm 63:3:** “Because Thy loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall *Shabach* Thee.”
- d. **Towdah:** “To thank God for things at hand, as well as things not yet received or things God is going to do. Songs of thanksgiving and praise that extolled the mighty wonders of the Lord.”
- i. **Psalm 50:23:** “Whosoever offers *Towdah* glorifies me”
 - ii. **Psalm 26:7**
 - iii. **Isaiah 51:3**
 - iv. **Nehemiah 12:27** – When they dedicated the wall after it was rebuilt, they sang songs of towdah.
- e. **Tehillah:** “A praise from your spirit; the residual (new) song of the Lord from the heart of the believer.
- i. The book of Psalms in Hebrew is entitled, “Tehillum”
 - ii. **Psalm 22:3:** “Thou are holy, O Thou who inhabits (or sits enthroned upon) the *Tehillah* of Israel.”
 - iii. **Ps 34:1:** I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise (tehillah; song from your heart/spirit) shall continually be in my mouth.
 - iv. **Psalm 145** is summarized as “A Psalm of Tehillah.”
- f. **Zamar:** “To praise the Lord with the playing of an instrument.”
- i. **Psalm 108:1:** “O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give *Zamar*”
 - ii. Music is a language of praise and worship to God. What does it sound like to praise Him with your instrument?
 - iii. Hebrew letters are: resh mem zayin. The picture associated with zayin is a mattock, which is a instrument for loosening the soil. That is what praise does! How cool?! Zayin means weapon or sword; mem means water spilling over; and resh means bowed head.
- g. **Gil:** To circle in joy, to dance in circles and rejoice; to shout exultingly; to be excited to levity; roar (ie. Shout of victory)
- i. **Zephaniah 3:17:** “Yahweh your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will quiet you with His love, He will *yaGIL* over you with singing (shouts of victory)
 - ii. **Psalm 32:11:** “Be glad in Yahweh, and *Gil* (rejoice) you righteous ones”

Worship: A downward, reverent submission

- h. **Barak:** “To worship the Lord by kneeling or bowing, to humbly recognize God as the origin of all power, success or victory.”
 - i. **Psalms 95:6:** “O come, let us worship and bow down (*shachah*); let us *barak* (kneel) before the Lord our Maker.”
 - ii. **Psalms 100:4:** “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him and *barak* (bless) His name.”
 - iii. **Psalms 103:1-2:** “*Barak* (bless) the Lord, o my soul...”
 - iv. Used 330 times in the Old Testament (68 in Psalms, 62 times in Genesis)
 - 1. Kneeling to receive a blessing
- i. **Shachah:** “To worship by falling down, bowing or prostrating yourself”
 - i. **Psalms 5:7:** “I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; and in Thy fear will *shachah* (bow in reverence) toward thy holy temple.”
 - ii. **Psalms 29:2:** “*Shachah* the Lord in the beauty of His holiness”
 - iii. **Psalms 99:** “*Shachah* at His footstool...”
 - iv. Used 172 times in the Old Testament
- j. **Proskuneo** is a Greek work for worship: “To kiss intimately, adore; like a dog licking his master’s hand.”
 - i. Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss → rebelled against Jesus under the guise of worship
 - ii. Occurs 59 times in New Testament
- k. **Sebomai:** “To reverence, hold in awe.”
 - i. Used 10 times in N.T.
 - ii. Matt 15:9;
 - iii. Mark 7:7 – Jesus uses this word when quoting Isaiah 29 to the Pharisees – “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.” Vain means having or showing an excessively high opinion of one’s appearance, abilities or worth.
 - iv. Acts 16:14 – Lydia was a worshiper of God
- l. **Iatreuo:** “To render religious service of homage; to minister to God.”
 - i. Used 21 times in N.T.
 - ii. Matthew 4:10 – Temptation of Jesus in the desert: “Worship (*Iatreuo*) the Lord your God and serve Him only.”
 - iii. Luke 1:74 (Zechariah’s song); Luke 2:37 (Anna serving and worshiping in the temple day and night); Romans 9:4 and Hebrews 9:1 when it speaks of the services of priests for sacrifices

Corporate vs. personal

- m. Personal worship – spiritual discipline to deepen our intimacy with Jesus, creating space for the Presence of God to increase in our life.
 - i. An outlet for us to express our thankfulness to Him
 - ii. An avenue for Him to speak and move in us, bringing fullness of Life
 - iii. A motivator for us to invite others into His presence

- iv. As unique to as our fingerprint. We each worship/praise in the way He created us, which can be different moment by moment.
 - n. Corporate worship – Joining together with other believers to express our devotion, appreciation and joy to God. God sits enthroned on the praises of His people.
 - i. In this space, when people authentically give themselves to Him in worship, the manifest presence of God draws near. That is why you feel the way you do.
 - ii. We worship Him, and in the process encourage those around us to engage Him also.
 - iii. As He becomes more present it is hard for us to contain ourselves any longer. We overflow with expression to Him.
 - iv. There are people in each service who come each week and give all they have in worship. I watch their areas come alive, because of the freedom they model.
3. How do we grow in worship?
- a. Find anything that helps you meet God. Nature, music, movies, play, writing, painting, etc...
 - b. Worship is not only singing, but it can be
 - c. Music is one of the best ways to take a message that stimulates the mind and use melody to stir and open the heart.
 - d. Not because I am perfect, but because He is perfect.
 - e. Pursuit, not performance
 - f. How do we grow in worship?
 - i. First, create space in your daily life to meet with Jesus. Don't just read, pray, sing; invite the Holy Spirit to meet you in these times. As He speaks, obey/act on it. Obedience is the key. It creates a heart of surrender. A surrendered life is the most powerful force of change for the kingdom on the earth.
 - g. Corporately, prepare yourself.
 - i. Enter His gates with Thanksgiving. Thank Him verbally. One way
 - ii. Enter His courts with Praise. As your heart stirs begin to vibrantly express your thankfulness to Him. (fear of man) One way
 - iii. Holy of Holies
 - 1. The innermost part of the Jewish Temple, where God was said to dwell
 - 2. It is said that when an offering was pleasing to God He would manifest Himself and consume it
 - 3. True worship is when we give God what He desires the most from us, our hearts (our very essence). This is the offering that is pleasing to Him. He consumes this offering, which sets us on fire

for Him and those He loves. He burns away the things that hold us back. He sets us free to live the full life He has for us.

4. Worship is a two-way street.

- h. How do we incorporate worship at home with our family?
 - i. Don't force, just create space
 - ii. Pray – with your spouse and kids, this will begin to remove any awkwardness around spiritual conversations in the home
 - iii. Create an atmosphere of thankfulness, encouragement, praise. It will move your home into a place of joy.
 - iv. Get some music that points you to God and play it in your home
 - v. Begin to invite the Holy Spirit into your family times, not just dinner time
 - vi. Practice spiritual disciplines, like meditation, Bible study, singing songs of praise together, prayer
 - vii. Share what's on your heart with your family and invite them to do the same
 - viii. Your home must be a safe space for your family to thrive spiritually together
 - ix. Create a sacred place in your routine. This could be a weekly family dinner or morning time with the Lord with your spouse. Routine is important to work this into you and your family.

Questions

Table Discussion

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- How do you or how are you experiencing God in worship? What ways?
- Do you prefer corporate or personal worship?
- What are some roadblocks/stumbling blocks for you in corporate worship?
- What outside of the church stirs your heart to worship?
- Have you ever used your gifts to worship God, if so how?