

Kingdom Feature, April 2024

Expecting More By Understanding How To Move Into A Higher Dimension Of Praise And Worship - Worship, Part 2



By Apostle Jerry Upton

Four of the Greatest Adversaries of Worship in Spirit and in Truth

Pride: Worship is the humbling of self, and the exalting of God. This is one of the reasons that we are warned in 1 Peter 5:6-9: *“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. Casting all your care upon him; for He careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion, walketh about, seekers whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”*

Pride is manifested in many ways during worship with its main desire of keeping us from worshipping our Father in spirit and in truth. Attitudes such as 'I'm worshipping God better than anyone is', 'I can do much better than these Praise and Worship leaders.' 'I will be glad when all of this is over so we can get to the Word.', etc. Don't let pride keep you out of God's presence.

Lip service: If my complete heart is not really in what I am singing or saying, in the sight of God it is lip service, and it is in vain. **Amos 5:21-23**. Just singing for the sake of appearing to be involved in what is taking place is not worship in spirit and in truth. Just singing because someone tells you to sing, and you really don't want to may give the person satisfaction, but in the sight of your Heavenly Father, it is false worship.

When the heart is fully engaged, your focus will be completely on your Father God, and not on how good you may or may not sound. When the heart is fully engaged, your desire is to bring pleasure, honor, and adoration to your Father God, and not everyone else who may be telling you how special and gifted you are. Don't let lip service keep you out of God's presence.

Tradition: One of the areas that many won't admit that keeps them out of worship in spirit and in truth is the area of tradition. So much emphasis is placed on personal preference than worshipping the Most High God. Pre-conceived opinions of what is anointed, and what isn't has kept many from entering in and enjoying the presence of God. Remember the focus of worship in spirit and in truth is our Father God; not that the music is spectacular, the harmony is beautiful, the beat is exceptional, and the voices sound like angels from heaven. Don't let tradition keep you out of God's presence. **Mark 7:1-13**

Being A Spectator and not a Participant: Worship in spirit and in truth is an individual choice and commitment; remember no one can worship God for you. In true worship 'we are not the audience, God is.' When we understand this concept, then our attitude will be to please Him and bring Him pleasure, rather than worrying, murmuring, and complaining about what we didn't get out of the service.

Just showing up for a worship service does not mean that you are a participant. **Matthew 15:8**. Worship is drawing nigh unto God with all of your heart, not drawing nigh to a church building. The Spectator is quick to point out what is wrong, what wasn't sung right, how dead the service was, how they would have done things quite differently; however, true worship in spirit and in truth is more interested in talking about the awesomeness of their Father God and how great He is. Don't let being a spectator keep you out of God's presence. Worship should be something we enjoy with every fiber of our being, rather than enduring it until we can get on to something else. The affection, love and adoration, and desire that you have for your Father God should be the controlling factor as you worship God in spirit and in truth.

A Prophetic Look at Worship In Spirit and In Truth

In order to understand where the Holy Spirit is taking the Church as it relates to WORSHIP in the last days, we need to understand the revelation decreed in the Word of God concerning: "The Tabernacle of David."

King David was a worshiper after God's heart and when the Ark of the Covenant was captured and taken (the Ark of the Covenant represented the presence of God), he would not rest until it was returned back to its rightful place. David's residence was in Jerusalem and he wanted to make Jerusalem the 'worship center of the entire world'. So he set up a tent in Jerusalem to bring the ark there, in preparation for the House he wanted to build for God (but God would not let him do it, so his son Solomon did) to dwell in forever.

When David brought back the Ark of the Covenant, he surrounded it with worship, praise, adoration, putting the Levites in charge who would offer continual worship to God day and night. {Read and Study **I Chronicles 13th chapter through the 16th chapters**}.

As you read David's Psalm of Thanksgiving in the **16th chapter of I Chronicles**, you will see the heart of a worshiper especially in **verse 29**: "*Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name; bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*"

There are several revelations concerning the Tabernacle of David that hold great significance for today's church: **(A)** It did not have different courts, like The Tabernacle of Moses, **(B)** There was no veil that hid the Ark of the Covenant from being seen, **(C)** The only emphasis in the Tabernacle of David was the Ark of the Covenant (presence of God), **(D)** There was an atmosphere of continual worship and praise unto God, **(E)** Great joy would always be heard around The Tabernacle of David, for the eternal mercy of God.

What does all of this have to do with the Church in the last days?

*"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. 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. **Amos 9:11-12 (concealed)***

*"After this I will return, and will build again the Tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof; and I will set it up. That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called saith the Lord, who doth all these things." **Acts 15:16-17 (revealed)***

In **Acts 15**, James quoted Amos' prophecy, which was given in 787 B.C., about 60 years before Hezekiah's time during a time of great spiritual decline and rebellion. God desired to reestablish David's order of worship which had ceased. However, His purposes were far greater than the prophet Amos could have imagined. David's Tabernacle was a type of the church of Jesus, who literally fulfilled the Tabernacle. In **John 1:14**, it declares: "*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt (tabernacled) among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*"

What all of this literally meant is that the Jews and Gentiles both had free and total access to God through Jesus — the point that James wanted to make to the Council in Jerusalem. What all of this means for us is that the veil has been removed (Matthew 27:51); the presence of God is available to all who would enter in through Jesus (Hebrews 4:14-16); we can now rejoice before the presence of the Lord continually, and pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:16-17); we are now His chosen generation, royal priesthood, holy nation, peculiar people, showing forth His praises (I Peter 2:9); and we are His kings and priests forever. (Revelations 1:6)

I will EXPECT MORE from my worship because I was created to worship my Father God. I offer myself willingly — spirit, soul, and body; and I will give Him my best worship continuously. I am delivered from any and everything that would hinder my worship, and I praise Jesus for making the way and giving me the right to worship my Heavenly Father without condemnation, fear, guilt, or unbelief. I will experience God's presence more and more each day, because I am a worshipper.