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**All of creation is compelled to burst out in
spontaneous praise and worship!!!!!!**

Luke 19:3,7, “When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”. Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Isaiah 55:12, “You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the

mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.”

Nehemiah 9:5, “Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting.”

Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. (6) You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.”

Psalm 19:1, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.”

THE ORIGIN OF WORSHIP

In the beginning of all creation, God established his throne and set it in the heavens. Around this throne, angels were set in their place with rank and purpose. The highest of positions belonged to “Archangels”. They took leadership over the greatest of responsibilities. One of which led the host of heavens in all music, choirs of angels, and the worship of God. Most Pastors and teachers believe this was the beautiful and talented archangel we know as Lucifer. He knew his influence over others was great and soon he took the credit for himself, he took the praise, and his pride became his downfall.

Since God is the creator and sustainer of all things, He can not share His glory with any person, angel or idol. He alone is worthy of praise. It is in our very nature to worship. As we realize our own limitations and morality, we are drawn to honor and respect our creator. It is a natural response to give thanks and show appreciation for a gift. What is His gift? Life, breath, salvation, food clothes, health, time, talents, special abilities, friends, families, and on and on. Every good and perfect gift comes from God, we have a million reasons to praise Him. Unfortunately many people do not give Him the worship He is due and this leaves a void in our own soul. Kids who don’t appreciate their parents soon grow self centered and think that the world owes them something. We are no different in our relationship with God.

People shift their praise to every kind of idol. Thousands of years ago men made wooden idols, golden calves, and worshiped the creation instead of the creator. Today we worship athletes, musicians, and actors. Consider the Grammys, Oscars, Emmies, Golden Globes, Olympians, World champions,

Superbowls, and World Series. It's one thing to give credit to a great accomplishment, and it's another thing to neglect the worship of God and spend a lifetime putting men on a pedestal. We create billions of trophies, crowns and medals to honor men while most people have never given God the respect, honor and praise that is due Him. Ask most people about something in the Bible and they couldn't tell you. Ask these same people about the world series in 1990, who won the most academy awards, or who sold the most albums, and they might even win a million dollars for this "trivial" information.

HISTORICAL WORSHIP AND HYMNS

Let's take a look at worship in the past. Since worship is most often associated with music, we will focus on that for now. Early music in the church was shaped by Greek, Syrian, and Hebrew influences. Ancient instruments were simple and sometimes crude. The Lute was similar to a guitar made from a gourd with many strings. The Lyre was also stringed and had arms on both sides for support (looking similar to a small harp). King David played a type of Lyre called the Kinnor that was plucked, strummed, and sometimes played with a bow. The bass psaltery was 5 feet in length made of wood and had up to 35 strings. The ancient horns were made from hollow rams horns, then later fashioned from metals like the modern trumpet. Cymbals and drums have basically remained the same for the centuries.

In the early church, believers sang from the Psalms and were accompanied by music. The New Testament even says that the disciples sang hymns (Matt 26:30). As religious church services became more organized and formal, the music took on more of a ritual characteristic. Responsive singing, like echoes, preceded the style known as chants. Pope Gregory created the first written chants and were thus called "Gregorian chants". In the middle ages, special Catholic Masses were held seasonally to celebrate certain feasts called "Holy" days. This was the birth of the cantata. The singing became more rehearsed and performance oriented as the congregation became spectators. Soon afterwards the pipe organ became popular in religious worship. Many are still used in today's churches including the world's largest. It is 64 feet long with over 30,000 pipes and cost \$105 million dollars. You might ask, "why put so much emphasis on a church organ?". That was my first thought too. I believe that sincere people will always try to express their respect and honor for God by using every resource available. Some of the most noted composers like Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven

composed music considered to be sacred to Christians.

By the 18th century, musicians began to blend melodies and harmonies from the popular secular songs of the day. Hymns became more popular and congregations were encouraged to join the singing. Here are a few of the stories behind the hymns and the writers:

Martin Luther wrote “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” during the protestant reformation. He based this from Psalm 46 and once said, “After theology, there is nothing that can be placed on the same level with music. It drives out the devil and makes people cheerful. It is a gift that God gave to birds and to men. We need to remove the singing from the domain of monks and priests and set the laity to singing. It is a way to publicly express our love for God.”.

Imagine a slave ship in 1746 who’s captain is known for his debauchery, vulgarity and blasphemy. Someone gave him a book to read on the life of Christ and he soon gave his heart to the Lord. This captain, John Newton, became a Pastor and hymn writer. His most famous was “Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.”.

John and Charles Wesley, founders of the Methodist church were well known for their theology and preaching . Among hundreds of hymns, in 1749 Charles wrote a great hymn entitled, “O for a thousand tongues to sing my great redeemers praise.”.

During the preaching campaign in 1886 by D.L. Moody, a young man stood to testify. He said, “I’m not quite sure about everything, but I am going to trust and I’m going to obey”. From this testimony came the hymn by John Sammis titled, “Trust and Obey”.

A man named Joseph Scriven learned that his bride to be had drowned the day before their wedding. He spent his life in Canada helping the needy and was known as “The Good Samaritan of Port Hope”. On a visit to see his sick mother he penned some words of comfort in a poem that soon became a hymn titled, “What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear”.

Fanny Crosby was a blind worshiper in the late 1880’s. In spite of her handicap she wrote 9,000 hymns and often spoke of the desire to be with the Lord and see Him face to face. She wrote “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine”.

C. Austin Myles sat in his darkroom developing film with little to no light. While patiently waiting for the process, he remembered the story from John chapter 10 where Mary had met Jesus in the garden. She mistook Him for a gardener but soon cried out “Rabboni” (meaning master). This encounter became real for him as he wrote, “I come to the garden alone...” “and He walks with me and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own”.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Many congregations and denominations today argue about the “authorized” expressions of our worship to God. What is commanded in scripture and what is permissible? Many adherents hold to the traditions of past generations with quiet, still, and considered by some, boring music while new converts and youth push the boundaries further. Some services even include choreographed dancing. Who is right?

In an article titled “Reformed Worship” (from the Westminster Presbyterian) the writer says many Christians violate God’s scriptural law of worship by singing man made songs and using instrumental music! He goes on to say that the Old Testament pattern was for their time in history, it is not meant as a pattern for us today. He says that the choir and the instruments were just part of the ceremony of animal sacrifice. Since we don’t offer sacrifices, we shouldn’t use these means of worship. That kind of worship, he says, is like a girl who plays with her dolls. When she grows up, she should play with her real children and throw away the dolls. According to him, that is what the church should do with Old Testament stereotypes of worship.

I could not disagree more. Not only is God the same yesterday, today, and forever, but the Bible gives meaning and purpose behind the specific acts of expressing our worship. In spite of changing instruments, the same expressions are still a vital part of our worship experience today. I believe God can and must be glorified by a diversity of praise including orchestra, brass bands, jazz ensembles, youth choirs and the list goes on and on. Different churches have different personalities. They use different methods, styles, and rhythms. The body of Christ must embrace unique cultures of music. The church should not be outdone by the celebrating heathen who party over the pleasures of sin.

I do not believe, however, that just any kind of expression is valid or honorable. Some worship services are full of chaos and spastic personal experiences where anyone could and should join in, however they feel led, and

draw public attention to themselves. When the music of churches turns into a show for spectators, we have replaced true worship for half rate entertainment. Many contemporary groups today have no concept of reverence or anything sacred. Some of today's charismatics do a good job of pouring out their heart in worship while others cross over any limits or boundaries of emotional expressions. It goes so far as shaking, falling, running or anything imaginable which usually draws all attention to the exhibitionist. Many even with sincere motives forget that God must be the center of our attention in praise and in worship. Paul addressed the Corinthian church about this kind of behavior when he said, "everything must be done decently and in order".

SINCERE PURPOSE OR TRAGIC TRADITIONS

The following scriptures give us an inside look to traditional strongholds in peoples routine worship.

Exodus 7:14, Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. (15) Go to Pharaoh in the morning...(16) then say to him, "The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, ***so that they may worship me*** in the desert.

SO MOSES TAUGHT PEOPLE TO WORSHIP (by a prescribed pattern) IN THE TABERNACLE... AND SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE TO WORSHIP IN (using the same pattern) BUT PURPOSE GAVE WAY TO RITUALS AND TRADITIONS -

Isaiah 1:21 "The multitude of your sacrifices- what are they to me?" says the LORD. "I have more than enough of brunt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? Stop bringing meaningless offerings! I cannot bear your evil assemblies. Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them."

"Traditions" - **Mark 7:1** The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean", that is, unwashed. The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the

marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as washing of cups, pitchers, and kettles. So the Pharisees and the teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with ‘unclean’ hands?” He replied “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: **‘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.’ you have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.”.

If we surveyed most denominational churches with the question, “Why do you worship this way?” (Songbooks, choirs, organs, etc.). The response would overwhelmingly be, “because that’s the way we’ve always done it.” I believe the scripture is clear, we must have a better answer.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN “IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH”?

John 4:21 Jesus declared, “Believe me, woman, 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 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 spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. (24) God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth”.

THE HISTORY OF SAMARIA

2 Kings 17:24 The kind of Assyria brought people...and settled them in the towns of Samaria to replace the Israelites. They took over Samaria and lived in its towns (25) When they first lived there, they did not worship the LORD; (28) **So one of the priest who had been exiled from Samaria came to live in Bethel and taught them how to worship the LORD.**

2 Kings 17:29 Nevertheless, each national group made its own gods in the several towns where they settled, and set them up in the shrines the people of Samaria had made at the high places. (32) They worship the LORD, but they also appointed all sorts of their own people to officiate for them as priests in the shrines

at the high places. (33) They worshiped with the customs of the nations from which they had been brought.

2 Kings 17:34 To this day they persist in their former practices. They neither worship the LORD nor adhere to the decrees and ordinances, the laws and commands that the LORD gave the descendants of Jacob, whom he named Israel. (35) When the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites, he commanded them: “Do not worship any other gods or bow down to them, serve them or sacrifice to them. But the LORD, who brought you up out of Egypt with mighty power and outstretched arm, is the one you must worship. To him you shall bow down and to him offer sacrifices. (37) You must always be careful to keep the decrees and ordinances, the laws and commands he wrote for you. Do not worship other gods. (38) Do not forget the covenant I have made with you, do not worship other gods. (39) rather, worship the LORD your God; it is He who will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies.”

2 Kings 17:40 **They would not listen, however, but persisted in their former practices.** (41) Even while these people were worshiping the LORD, they were serving their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their fathers did.

In Spirit means = sincerity
In Truth means = scripturally (God’s Way)

ENGLISH DEFINITIONS OF WORSHIP

Celebrate - To commemorate with festivity, to have a good time!

Rejoice - To be happy or make oneself glad.

Express - To squeeze out, to put into words, to reveal, or show one's feelings to someone else.

Honor - To give high regard or respect, distinguish with high rank.

Reverence - Deep respect, to fear, or stand in awe.

Sacred - Consecrated, hallowed, holy, purity.

Exalt - To raise in status, to give dignity, to praise and glorify.

HEBREW DEFINITIONS OF WORSHIP

Tahilla - To boast in the Lord

Shabach - A shout to the Lord

Hallal - To celebrate and rejoice

Barak - to kneel

Yada - To raise hands

Zamar - To worship with instruments

Halleluya - Praise the Lord

* **Prosqueneo** - (Greek) To prostrate like a dog to its master

Required elements of praise: with all our “mind
and soul”

strength,

Mind - Conscious decision to act on what we’ve learned

Strength - With our body, kneel, jump, shout, clap, etc.

Soul - (Inward emotions of your heart) Cry, laugh, feel, hunger, seek, wait, etc.

REQUIREMENTS FOR WORSHIP

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE** - To admit the existence, reality, or truth of; to recognize as being valid, having force or power; to give thanks or gratitude. Prov. 3:6

2. **SUBMIT** - To yield or surrender to the will and authority of another.
James 4:7

3. **SACRIFICE** - Forfeiture of something highly valued for the sake of something with higher value. Relinquishment of a possession, considered a loss. Psalm 116:17, Hebrews 13:15

4. **MAGNIFY** - To make bigger, to enlarge. A 'TELESCOPE' reaches out to gain perspective, a 'MICROSCOPE' draws in close to see the details. Psalm 35:27

5. **GLORIFY** - To ascribe majestic beauty and splendor. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

These are the preparations and conditions of ones heart. You will notice that none of these requirements have to do with talent. If you have talent, then use it for His glory. God is not looking for your ability, only availability. He will give you the skills you have need of. Many do not enter in because of the age old excuse, "I wish I could sing like that", or "that girl was just born with rhythm". Do you really think that God is impressed? These things are most important to those who want to put on a show. This is not a spectator event and there are not prizes for first place. Many churches sing about God as though He were somewhere else. We must learn to sing TO Him, not just ABOUT Him.

APPLYING PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Praise is fast... Worship is slow! (Over simplification)

PRAISE IS AN OUTWARD ACTION - Exalt, admire, celebrate greatness.
Praise says "Thank You".

WORSHIP IS AN INWARD ATTITUDE - A condition of the heart, to bow, humble, and pay ultimate respect. Worship says "I Love You".

Remember... Everybody worships something. It is our created nature. Some worship their car, home, job, kids, movie star, rock star, sports hero, a desire, or pleasures and even 'IDOLIZE' people, places, and things.

Whatever it is that you value most highly or place the greatest worth upon is what you worship. The object of my worship becomes the guide for my life. My plans, my money, my time, etc.

IDOL - The object of worship, adoration, often blindly or excessively, something visible without substance. Lev. 26:1,30; 2 Kings 17:12; 1 Chronicles 16:26

BIBLICAL WORSHIP INCLUDES:

SINGING -	EX. 15:1, EPH. 5:19
CLAPPING -	PSALM 47:1
LIFING/RAISING HANDS -	PS. 134:2; 1 TIM. 2:8
SHOUTING -	PS. 47:1; 95:1; 100:1
DANCING -	2 SAM 6:14; PS. 149:3
INSTRUMENTS -	PS. 150; PS. 33:10

MISC. REFERENCES

- 1 Chron. 25:6,7 - Trained, skilled and under direction
- 2 Chron. 20:21,22 - Judah defeats the enemy with praise
- 2 Chron. 29:29 - Kneel and bow your head in worship
- Josh. 6:1-20 - Joshua takes Jericho by praise
- Matt. 26:30 - The disciples sang hymns
- Luke 24:52,53 - Continually in praise and worship
- Rom. 15:9 - Sing as a witness to others
- 1 Cor. 14:15 - Sing in the spirit
- Eph. 5:19 - Share worship with each other
- Heb. 2:12 - Worship as a congregation
- James 5:13 - Sing in your joy
- Rev. 15:3 - Singing in heaven
- 2 Sam. 22:4 - The Lord is worthy of praise
- Ps. 7:17 - Give thanks for He is a righteous God
- Ps. 9:11 - Proclaim what He has done
- Ps. 22:3 - God inhabits the praise of His people
- Ps. 33:1-3 - Sing a new song and play skillfully

Ps. 34:1 - Continually and at all times PTL!

Ps. 48:1 - The Lord is great and worthy of our praise

Ps. 57:7-9 - Have a steadfast heart to make music

Ps. 63:1-5 - We will seek You, lift our hands and
praise

Ps. 69:30 - Glorify Him with thanksgiving

Ps. 95:6 - Let us humble ourselves and bow down

Ps. 96:8,9 - Worship His holiness and tremble before
Him

Ps. 100:4 - Enter His gates with thanksgiving and
His courts with praise

Ps. 107:21,22 - Tell of His works with songs of joy

Ps. 99:9 - Exalt our holy God

Ps. 146:1,2 - Sing praise as long as we have breath to
live

Ps. 149:1-6 - Sing a new song, rejoice and dance

Ps. 150 - Praise Him with every instrument

Isa. 25:1 - Proclaim His faithfulness

Isa. 42:10-12 - Let the earth and the islands sing a
new song

Isa. 6:1-4 - A vision of heavenly, angelic wor
ship

Isa. 49:13 - Shout for joy and burst into song

Isa. 61:3 - He will provide a garment of praise

Rev. 5 - All of heaven worships the sacrificial lamb

THE ULTIMATE ACT OF WORSHIP

Matthew 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem (2) and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

Matthew 2:9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was (10) When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. (11) On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Presenting a gift or making a sacrifice is truly an act of worship. These men teach us several things about worship. First, we must seek him. We must have a desire and a hunger to really know him. Second, they bowed down. This signifies humility. Only with a humble heart can we ever experience worship. Third, they brought gifts. Something of value. God is looking for those who will commit their time, talent, and treasure to his service. There is however, an even greater act of worship

Luke 7:36 Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so He went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. (37) When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, (38) and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. Luke 7:44 Then He turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. (45) You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. (46) You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. (47) Therefore, I tell you,

her many sins have been forgiven.

Mary poured out more than perfume that day. She poured out her heart. She was not concerned with the religious people around her or what they would think. In fact they **did** criticize her, but her attention was on Jesus. We see every aspect of worship as she wept, she gave and she honored the Lord. How many of us are willing to worship like that? Would we cry publicly over our own sins? Would we bring an offering and sacrifice our most valuable possessions? Would we humble ourselves in the midst of ridicule? The only way to get God's attention is to give Him your wounded heart. He doesn't show much favoritism to the pious saints but He always responds to the broken sinner.

THE POWER OF PRAISE

Sometimes our witness of the Gospel will upset and even enrage the world. Other times, the devil will seek to destroy us and our sins will hold us in bondage. We can feel trapped and imprisoned. If we will seek the Lord in the midst of these circumstances, in spite of our situation, God will set us free! Consider this story: Acts 16:22-26 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison door flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.

Try to picture this atmosphere of praise that catches God's attention. Something great enough to reach God through the heavens and beyond the host of angelic worship. The Bible says that the earth is God's footstool. Just maybe the singing of Paul and Silas blessed the Lord and moved Him. Maybe their praise was a catchy tune! And suddenly God Himself began to tap His foot. This of course would only cause the earth to quake! The result was liberty, freedom and deliverance.

Don't you think that your praise can move God? Even in the midst of terrible circumstances. Let's learn from Paul and Silas, let's PRAISE our way to freedom!

Questions and Answers

Does worship have to be calm and quiet or is fast, loud music ok?

God did not invent opera, bluegrass, southern rock or hip hop! Nor do I think He is opposed to any particular style. Those things are our hang ups, not His. Rev. ch. 5 speaks of loud worship and shouts in heaven. The Israelites were known for their festivals and celebrations. On the other hand, there is a time for weeping, mourning and quietness. Consider the time God came to Elijah in the cave. It was a gentle and calm whisper. Let's be careful not to put God in a box made to suit our preferences.

Since God is not impressed with talent, why should musicians practice or prepare?

in 1 Chron., the musicians were under proper leadership. They were trained and skilled. Don't you think God deserves the best? The book of Psalms says to "play with excellence", Paul said, "whatever you find to do, do it with all your might". I don't believe it is honoring to God for musicians in church to throw something together in the last minute.

Can worship get too organized or mechanical? I think this booklet addresses this issue plainly. The worst spiritual experience is for a congregation to be entertained and become spectators of a show, a ritual, or a routine.

Can worship get too emotional? Absolutely. I've seen some meetings where people were of control while claiming to be under the influence of God's Spirit. Some even get worked up into an altered state of consciousness. These extremes and abuses must not, however, keep us from expressing our emotions in worship. God created us with emotions and our whole being must be involved in the

worship experience.

How can I learn to worship better? First, study the scriptures and learn to do it God's way. Second, sing at home, in the shower, at the park or anywhere privately. Third, find a group of worshipers and join in. Don't spend your time looking around or criticizing the musicians, just enter in!

C.S. Lewis—"It is in the process of being worshipped that God communicates His presence to men."

C.S. Lewis - "The most valuable thing the Psalms do for me is to express the same delight in God which made David dance."

C.S. Lewis - "We only learn to behave ourselves in the presence of God."

Keith Green - "The only music minister to whom the Lord will say, "Well done, thy good and faithful servant," is the one whose life proves what their lyrics are saying, and to whom music is the least important part of their life. Glorifying the only worthy One has to be a minister's most important goal!"

Charles Swindoll - "We are often so caught up in our activities that we tend to worship our work, work at our play and play at our worship."

A.W. Tozer - "We can express our worship to God in many ways. But if we love the Lord and are led by His Holy Spirit, our worship will always bring a delighted sense of admiring awe and a sincere humility on our part. "

Oswald Chambers - "Worship is giving God the best that He has given you. Be careful what you do with the best you have. Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love gift. Take time to meditate before God and offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship

John MacArthur - "Worship doesn't occur in a vacuum, nor is it stimulated by artificial gimmickry. If you have to be in a church building or hear a certain kind of mood music to worship, what you're doing isn't worship. You should be able to worship God on the freeway during rush hour. But to do so, your heart must be right. You see, when we come together in the assembly of the saints to worship God, if it isn't an extension of a worshiping life, true worship won't occur.

John Piper - "Truth without emotion produces dead orthodoxy and a church full (or half-full) of artificial admirers (like people who write generic anniversary cards for a living). On the other hand, emotion without truth produces empty frenzy and cultivates shallow people who refuse the discipline of rigorous thought. But true worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine. Strong affections for God rooted in truth are the bone and marrow of biblical worship."

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Marshall Billingslea