

WORSHIP part 2

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.”

Psalms 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 worshipping 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 (from the heart)

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

Hallel - To celebrate and rejoice

Barak - to kneel

Yada - To raise hands

Zamar - To worship with instruments

Halleluya - Praise the Lord

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

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

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 - Jack Hayford

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 worship
- 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 doors 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."

BOOK SUMMARY "Extravagant Worship" By Darlene Zschech

1. Extravagant Worshiper

- a. Her selfless display of extravagant worship changed everyone who remembers her now
- b. imagine the depth of this woman's (Mary) tears being enough to clean the dusty feet of Jesus
- c. the cause of Christ pumping away in our veins should cause extraordinary praise to the father
- d. although music is a wonderful expression of worship, it is not in itself the essence of it
- e. your most glorious moments of worship should be off the platform when you are alone with God
- f. worship is a lifestyle, a way of life, with many facets of expression
- g. worship is a verb – to regard with great respect, honor or devotion
- h. extravagant worship is not achieved by taking shortcuts
- i. when you understand who you are in Christ, a rest enters your soul that cannot coexist with striving and struggling

2. Extravagant Worship

- a. when we, Gods people come into His presence with thanksgiving and praise, warfare is waged against our enemies.
- b. praising God with other believers releases explosive faith that frightens away the enemy
- c. Praise invades hell and excites heaven. Our praise is irresistible to God.
- d. Praise and worship breaks through all boundaries of talent and ability
- e. Praise and worship is a powerful expression of love that transcends the possibilities of music.
- f. I was twelve weeks pregnant when I found out the baby had died in my womb. The Holy Spirit said to me "sing"... and this was the last thing I wanted to do. The song that came to mind was the one we sang at my fathers funeral.
- g. no matter what you might be facing, your answer is in the arms of God.

3. Explosive Praise

- a. To mindlessly go through the motions of praise is like holding a grenade and never taking out the pin, or putting a painting by Leonardo da Vinci in a closet for storage.

- b. I have even heard praise songs referred to as the appetizers or the cocktails of the worship service. To reduce these “earth shattering victory cries” with statements like this, must sadden God’s heart.
- c. Praise and worship is prayer, it is intimate; it is intercessory; and it is powerful.
- d. The Bible doesn’t say to shout at your spouse, or your kids... it says to shout for joy! There is power in the shout!
- e. we don’t shout to get people hyped up, we do it to put action to our faith.
- f. emotional walls prevent people from entering into the richness of worship. Walls can be so confining that they do not allow the inner man to be challenged, stretched or confronted.
- g. everyone is set free when God inhabits the praises of His people.

4. Energetic commitment

- a. Obedience is one word in the Bible many Christians would like to ignore. Perhaps Abraham was eager to obey because He knew He could trust God.
- b. submission only happens when we obey even though we don’t agree with what we have been asked to do
- c. submission is habitual yielding to authority. To yield requires commitment.
- d. Obedience requires an actual follow-through and people are not great at finishing what they begin. Everyone likes quick instantaneous provision and change. Everyone wants immediate results; few people are prepared to wait, but God is a builder, not a magician!
- e. we were never called to live this supernatural life by natural means
- f. we must stand strong and say yes to God and no to ourselves, That is obedience; it requires strength and stamina.
- g. Obedience to God is not a mental discipline; it is a yielded heart to God. It is beautiful part of worship.
- h. He establishes boundaries in our lives to keep us safe because of his great love. These guidelines are actually His commitment to helping us become all that He created us to be.
- i. The goals in our lives will cost us something. The majority of people don’t pay the price that obedience requires

5. Emotional Fever

- a. creative people are driven by a passion to express their inner dreams.
- b. our greatest emotional strengths also have the potential to be our undoing!
- c. have you ever agreed with enthusiasm to sing a song or play an instrument for a special event only to spin into depression afterward because you felt you were not so great?
- d. Ps. 88 expresses a creative person’s downside where dreariness and despair go on and on.
- e. passion often releases itself in anger and negativity rather than in great things.
- f. if your negative emotions get on top of you, pessimism and passivity sets in.
- g. one of the worst effects of letting our negative emotions get on top of us is that they make us feel alienated from God.
- h. determine to be joyful and glad regardless of the circumstances around you. (Dwell on truth)
- i. surround yourself with the right people, put yourself in an environment where you are able to laugh and be lifted by others
- j. learn how to deal with disappointment. Your satisfaction for life must come from your own heart and not from applause, approval, or permission from others.
- k. commitment to building up others leads to true contentment.

6. Elegant Dreams

- a. worshipping God causes our deepest desires to come to pass.
- b. desire directs our lives and propels us toward our God given destiny.
- c. God is the ultimate dream giver, and dream fulfiller.
- d. Tommy Barnett said, “if your dream is to big, it must be from God”. If its not to big for you to fulfill, then you don’t need God.
- e. The church family that God places you in is a divine appointment.
- f. I have a definite part to play. I have to make good choices along the way, each time I do, God allows me to see a little bit of my dream.
- g. We do have to make adjustments to a degree, but in the end, we have to give it our all. All or nothing, we cant fake it. I’ve tried and I’m not good at it.
- h. It doesn’t matter where you start, trust God’s timing.
- i. Most people put their dream on the shelf because they’re too scared and too focused on their own abilities.

7. Excellence matters

- a. Jesus chose an imperfect bunch of disciples
- b. loving Christ more than life is a basic premise of our faith

- c. your worship is fueled by your testimony, your testimony matters
- d. an excellent God deserves excellent service, anything less would be demeaning
- e. incorrect perceptions of what church is or memories of what it was in the past have kept an entire generation out of the house of God.
- f. unity is a demonstration of God's love, be committed to it in the local body
- g. friendship matters – excellent relationships / serving God with my friends is a secret bonus
- h. extreme generosity matters – look for ways to go outside your comfort zone
- i. discipline and determination matter
- j. for a time, the favor of God seems to cover all sorts of lousy things in our lives, but eventually we must take responsibility for the choices in our lives if we want God to trust us with more opportunities.
- k. it just takes one excellent worshiper to break rank to give everyone else permission to do the same.

8. Educate the mind

- a. the Lord said, "you never need to perform for me"
- b. don't starve your mind for the knowledge of His truth, it may seek to be filled somewhere else
- c. the only being ever thrown out of heaven was a worshiper (Pride)
- d. the more we experience God's love, the more we think we deserve it
- e. we must do more than "hope" someone will worship, we have to lead them
- f. church is not a vehicle to present our talents and catapult us into Christian stardom!
- g. whether you are in a position of leadership or not, someone is looking to you as an example.
- h. we can't lift up His name by trying to be cool
- i. when we are in the presence of the Lord, our hearts become transparent and honest
- j. when you worship Him, the mask is removed and the truth is revealed
- k. you may not want the layers of your heart to be exposed, that's a scary thought. He wants to peel off any calloused layers so you can be restored. He will not humiliate or hurt you, He longs to restore you to wholeness.

9. Expect the unexpected

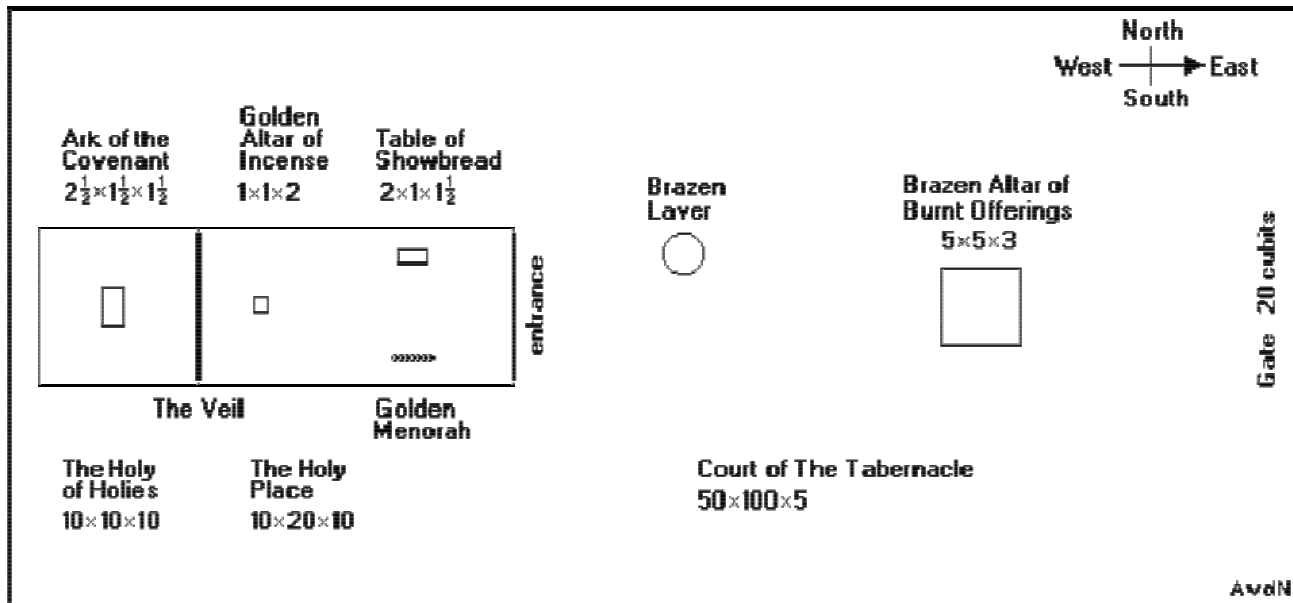
- a. if you expect nothing you will most likely have your expectation fulfilled
- b. true worship is not about stirring ourselves into an emotional frenzy
- c. it doesn't work to have a team of people leading worship if they look "zoned out", it only takes one person who looks like a zombie to be a distraction to everyone.
- d. when we audition people for the choir, first they have to be able to sing, second, they have to be able to show the joy of the Lord through their countenance
- e. extremes actually draw more attention to the worshipers than the one we worship
- f. we must ebb and flow with high praise and deep worship
- g. sovereign visitations from the Lord do happen, but don't try to manufacture them.
- h. know what your Pastor expects, keep one eye open, don't relax or sit down and dream during altar calls.
- i. distraction is a "passion killer". When the sound is too loud, it's a distraction, too soft, distracting, too warm, we get sleepy, feedback on the mics, too dark, anything can take our eyes off Jesus.
- j. don't talk too much, be genuine, no prima donnas; one girl came from a show business family and after 2 weeks she asked to be a front singer, but had to wait 3 ½ years. Then the choir director said she was too tall and sent her to the back row, and no cameras ever saw her!
- k. love the Lord more than your gift! This keeps worship in perspective.

10. Everlasting Music

Music is a powerful force, created by God to stir the core of a person like nothing else can. Songs that truly connect the spirit of man with his creator will always be birthed on the path to the throne of God. Every now and again God breathes His anointing on a song and it finds its way into the hearts of congregations all over the world.

A Christian musician must intuitively know the difference between simply playing music and touching God's heart. If we as songwriters are trying to write the latest greatest biggest selling album, then we've totally missed our purpose. We are not an industry or marketplace, we are His church.

THE TABERNACLE -



Experience Gods' presence by learning Gods' pattern for worship.
Given to Moses and fulfilled by Jesus !

1. Scriptural foundation
2. Deliverance
3. Entering His gates
4. Bringing the sacrifice
5. Sanctification at the laver
6. Revelation from the menorah
7. The bread of life
8. Aroma of prayer
9. Seeking beyond the veil
10. Habitation with God
11. Priesthood of the believer

Scriptural foundation

EX 25:8 "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. ⁹ Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.

EX 40:33 Then Moses set up the courtyard around the tabernacle and altar and put up the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard. And so Moses finished the work.

EX 40:34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

HEB 9:1 Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. ² A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. ³ Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, ⁴ which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. ⁵ Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

HEB 9:6 When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. ⁷ But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. ⁸ The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. ⁹ This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. ¹⁰ They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings--external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

1CO 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? ...1 Cor. 6¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you

Lets take a look at the average church service on Sunday morning. We wear our best suit and sit on our favorite pew We give money in the offering, say a prayer, sing a song, read from the Bible and occasionally make a trip to the altar to have a little personal time with God.

Where did we get these traditions and what do they mean? Is there a greater purpose to the routines we repeat week after week? The 1st chapter in the book of Isaiah, confronts worshipers who are going through the motions for the sake of tradition. He says, Who asked this of you? What is the purpose of all this?

It may surprise you that most of our actions are rooted in the pattern of worship that God gave Moses for the Tabernacle. It's not enough to know what we do but why we do it.

The basic elements of worship include sacrifice, sanctification, revelation, and more. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice, He sanctifies us, He reveals His word to us and He intercedes for us. He has fulfilled this plan for worship and gives meaning and purpose to the practice of our faith.

Deliverance -

EX 3:7 The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey

EX 14:13 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Lev.26:¹³ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high.

Jn. 8: ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

^{JN 8:33} They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

^{JN 8:34} Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

MK 5:1 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and **cut himself** with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"

2 Cor 1:¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will **deliver** us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to **deliver** us,

Entrance

The next step in the total experience of the tabernacle is to simply show up and enter in. The word Tabernacle means "dwelling". If we are going to dwell together with God, we must meet Him where He is. There was only one way into the tent, just as it is in Heaven. Jesus is the only way, the Truth, and the Life.

Jesus said, "I will build my church," therefore, He expects believers to fellowship with one another. He also said to, "go out and compel others to come in." Let's make a new commitment to show up in God's house and enter in to the worship experience.

SONG - I WILL ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING IN MY HEART

I WILL ENTER HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE

I WILL SAY THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE I WILL REJOICE

FOR HE HAS MADE ME GLAD, HE HAS MADE ME GLAD,

HE HAS MADE ME GLAD, I WILL REJOICE FOR

HE HAS MADE ME GLAD

Entering His Gates

PS 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

PS 122:1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem.

MT 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.
14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

LK 13:22 Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. 23 Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, 24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. 25 Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.'

"But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'

JN 10:1 "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. 7 Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.

JN 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Heb.10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another

Rev. 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

A Sacrifice is the forfeiture of something highly valued for the sake of something with higher value. There is a difference between offerings and sacrifices. Consider the chicken and the pig who gave breakfast to the farmer. If they served bacon and eggs, one would give an offering while the other has to make a sacrifice!

Animal sacrifices seem so primitive, so brutal, bloody and cruel. But let's take a look at what really happened and why. We cannot give an offering to appease the consequence of sin. This requires a sacrifice. The Bible says without the shedding of blood, there is no remission for sin. Sin cannot be taken lightly, it cannot be negotiated, there must be consequences. The second thing to understand about the animal sacrifice is that it was not violent and cruel. It was done in a humane and respectful manner. It was a kosher killing. The meat was not wasted and the animals death was not in vain.

SONG: WE BRING THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

WE BRING THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

AND WE OFFER UP TO YOU THE SACRIFICES OF THANKSGIVING

AND WE OFFER UP TO YOU THE SACRIFICES OF PRAISE

Bringing a sacrifice -

GE 22:2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. **Sacrifice** him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

GE 22:8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

GE 22:12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

LEV 9:7 Moses said to Aaron, "Come to the altar and **sacrifice** your sin offering and your burnt offering and make atonement for yourself and the people; **sacrifice** the offering that is for the people and make atonement for them, as the LORD has commanded." So Aaron came to the altar and slaughtered the calf as a sin offering for himself. ⁹ His sons brought the blood to him, and he dipped his finger into the blood and put it on the horns of the altar; the rest of the blood he poured out at the base of the altar.

HEB 10:8 First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). ⁹ Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. ¹³ Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, ¹⁴ because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

HEB 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

RO 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

Then there was the ceremonial washing. The priest stood before the bronze laver, otherwise known as the wash basin, and cleaned himself from the sacrifice. This washing was the beginning of what we know today as water baptism. The Bible speaks of the washing of the water of the word, which means that He cleanses us and sanctifies us from those things in the world that make us unclean. This world brings on feelings of a dirty heart. Sometimes through secular music, movies, inappropriate jokes, or a hundred other sources. We become impure and need a spiritual bath.

A ceremony or ritual will never change us, but if we let God's word purify our minds and hearts then these outward examples can represent the inward work. The Bible says, without Holiness, no man can see God.

SONG:

O THE BLOOD OF JESUS

O THE BLOOD OF JESUS

O THE BLOOD OF JESUS

IT WASHES WHITE AS SNOW

Sanctification

¹⁸ "Make a bronze basin, with its bronze stand, for **washing**. Place it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and put water in it. ¹⁹ Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it. ²⁰ Whenever they enter the Tent of Meeting, they shall wash with water so that they will not die.

PS ^{51:7} Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

JN ^{3:22} After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. ²³ Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized. An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial **washing**.

Jn. ^{13:5} After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' **feet**, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my **feet**?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my **feet**." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my **feet** but my hands and my head as well!"

Jn. 15: ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

1CO ^{6:9} Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? . ¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Eph. 5:²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Illumination / Revelation

By reading and praying we are truly asking for a revelation from God. Our human understanding of God has basically left us in the dark. Inside the inner courtroom there was no fluorescent light or halogen bulbs to reveal the table of bread only a few feet away. The priest would light a seven branch lampstand called the Menorah. It represented light, and the light revealed the rest of God's plan. Didn't he tell us that we are the light of the world? Let's let our light shine before men.

SONG:

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET

AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH WHEN I FEEL AFRAID

THINK I'VE LOST MY WAY STILL YOU'RE THERE RIGHT BESIDE ME

AND NOTHING WILL I FEAR AS LONG AS YOU ARE NEAR

PLEASE BE NEAR ME TO THE END

Revelation—

EX 25:31 "Make a **lampstand** of pure gold and hammer it out,

EX 25:37 "Then make its seven lamps and set them up on it so that they light the space in front of it. ³⁸ Its wick trimmers and trays are to be of pure gold. ³⁹ A talent of pure gold is to be used for the **lampstand** and all these accessories.

PS 119:105 Your word is a **lamp** to my feet and a light for my path.

2SA 22:29 You are my **lamp**, O LORD; the LORD turns my darkness into light.

PR 6:23 For these commands are a **lamp**, this teaching is a light,

MT 16:15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

MT 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

MT 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men,

JN 16:12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you

AC 9:17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again.

Next was a table of 12 loaves of unleavened bread. They called this the Showbread. It was an offering that the priests ate once a week. When we pray the Lord's prayer, we recite the words "give us this day our daily bread," but what does that really mean? Each of us have needs and desires. We also have a "God shaped vacuum" in our soul that can only be filled by Him. Unfortunately, we try to get our needs met through other people and material things, but to no avail.

The more we meditate on heavenly things, the more he fills us. And The more he fills us with Himself, the less we hunger for the things of the world.

SONG: HUNGRY I COME TO YOU FOR I KNOW YOU SATISFY

I AM EMPTY BUT I KNOW YOUR LOVE DOES NOT RUN DRY

AND SO I WAIT, FOR YOU, SO I WAIT, FOR YOU

I'M FALLING ON MY KNEES OFFERING ALL OF ME

JESUS YOU'RE ALL THIS HEART IS LIVING FOR

Bread of life -

^{LEV 24:5} "Take fine flour and bake twelve loaves of **bread**, using two-tenths of an ephah for each loaf. ⁶ Set them in two rows, six in each row, on the table of pure gold before the LORD. ⁷ Along each row put some pure incense as a memorial portion to represent the **bread** and to be an offering made to the LORD by fire. ⁸ This **bread** is to be set out before the LORD regularly,

Exod. 25: ³⁰ Put the **bread** of the Presence on this table to be before me at all times.

Matt. 4: ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become **bread**." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on **bread** alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

MT ^{6:11} Give us today our daily **bread**.

JN ^{6:35} Then Jesus declared, "I am the **bread of life**. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

MT ^{26:26} While they were eating, Jesus took **bread**, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

John ^{6:51} I am the living **bread** that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this **bread**, he will live forever. This **bread** is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

⁵⁸ This is the **bread** that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this **bread** will live forever."

According to the dictionary, atmosphere is created by a dominant tone. It is an attitude related to the surroundings, or a mood enhanced by distinctive feelings in a specific setting. It was important to present a sacred environment, but there must have been a terrible odor from the sacrifices going on in the outer court. The burning incense was a sweet smelling aroma lifted up to bless the Lord. The scripture teaches us that our prayers are offered up to God in very much the same way. As God listens, he receives our requests and our thanksgiving as an aroma sent up for his approval.

A praying church is a church with a pleasant, and inviting atmosphere.

SONG: PRAYER GENTLY LIFTS ME

TO HIGHEST HEAVEN

FROM EARTH'S CONFUSION

TO JESUS' BREAST; MY SIN AND WEAKNESS,

MY DOUBT AND SORROW, ARE LOST FOR EVER IN SWEETEST REST.

Aroma of Prayer

EX 30:1 "Make an altar of acacia wood for burning **incense**.

EX 30:7 "Aaron must burn fragrant **incense** on the altar every morning when he tends the lamps. ⁸ He must burn **incense** again when he lights the lamps at twilight so **incense** will burn regularly before the LORD

²⁵ Then take them from their hands and burn them on the altar along with the burnt offering for a pleasing **aroma** to the LORD, an offering made to the LORD by fire.

Lev. 6: ¹⁵ The priest is to take a handful of fine flour and oil, together with all the incense on the grain offering, and burn the memorial portion on the altar as an **aroma** pleasing to the LORD.

LK 1:8 Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn **incense**. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of **incense** came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

AC 10:4 Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked.

The angel answered, "Your **prayers** and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.

1TI 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, **prayers**, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--

1TI 2:8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer,

HEB 5:7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up **prayers** and petitions with loud cries and tears

Rev.5: ⁸ And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints

REV 8:3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the **prayers** of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. ⁴ The smoke of the incense, together with the **prayers** of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand.

Moving any further through the tabernacle was a very sacred honor. There was a separation, or curtain, also called the veil. This veil was three feet thick and was intended to preserve the boundaries of the ordinary from the supernatural. Today there are many types of veils in this world. It is something created by the world to mask or cover a genuine experience with God. We must pursue God beyond a surface relationship. Only through prayer, Bible study, and perseverance can we experience the intimate relationship God desires to have with each of us.

SONG:

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART LORD

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART

I WANT TO SEE YOU I WANT TO SEE YOU

TO SEE YOU HIGH AND LIFTED UP

SHINING IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR GLORY

POUR OUT YOUR POWER AND LOVE

AS WE SING HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, I WANT TO SEE YOU

Seeking beyond the veil

Exod. 30:⁶ Put the altar in front of the **curtain** that is before the ark of the Testimony--before the atonement cover that is over the Testimony--where I will meet with you.

EX 40:¹ Then the LORD said to Moses: ² "Set up the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, on the first day of the first month. ³ Place the ark of the Testimony in it and shield the ark with the **curtain**.

EX 34:³³ When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a **veil** over his face. ³⁴ But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the **veil** until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the **veil** back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.

2CO 3:¹² Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³ We are not like Moses, who would put a **veil** over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. ¹⁴ But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same **veil** remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Even to this day when Moses is read, a **veil** covers their hearts. ¹⁶ But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the **veil** is taken away.

PS 63:¹ O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.

PR 8:¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me **find me**.

Jer.29:¹³ You will seek me and **find me** when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "

Heb.11:⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

1 Cor. 13:¹² Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

The climax of the Tabernacle experience is to reach the Holy of Holies. Once a year on Yom Kippur, (the day of Atonement) the high priest and only the high priest could enter. Only he could enter for the purpose of asking forgiveness of sins for the Nation of Israel. Once he went beyond the veil, he came face to face with the Ark of the Covenant. This was a chest covered in pure gold. On top were two angels overshadowing the entire box. This was known as the mercy seat, the very place God rested. This was the most incredible, spectacular and supernatural sight to ever see.

Today, our heart is God's very own ark of the covenant. Inside dwells His presence, His protection, His laws, and the testimony of His provision.

SONG:

AWESOME IS THE SIGHT OF YOUR HOLINESS MAJESTIC IS YOUR PURITY

YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS SHINES BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN ON ME ON ME

FOR HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD OF HOSTS GLORY, GLORY, GLORY TO HIS

MATCHLESS NAME WORTHY, WORTHY, WORTHY IS THE LAMB

THAT WAS SLAIN FOR ME

Habitation with God

EX 40:34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; ³⁷ but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out--until the day it lifted.

Lev.26:¹¹ I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. ¹² I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.

Ezek. 37:²⁶ I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. ²⁷ My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

EX 33:14 The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. ¹⁶ How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us?"

ISA 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.

1CO 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

Eph.2:²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Matt.18:²⁰ For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

The actual duties were performed by ministry of the priest. This was a highly honored position because they were to represent God to the people and present the people to God. Today it must still be a highly honored position, however, it is not limited to a select few. All believers serve a specific function in ministry. Each one is unique but equally important. One may sing, one may cook, another may type, and still another may teach, but none is more important than any other.

The Apostle Paul compares the spiritual body to the physical body in 1 Cor. ch.12. Here we see the need to recognize each complimentary part, so let's look for opportunities to serve the body of Christ.

SONG: LORD PREPARE ME, TO BE A SANCTUARY PURE AND HOLY, TRIED AND TRUE

WITH THANKSGIVING, I'LL BE A LIVING SANCTUARY FOR YOU

AS WE WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY LET YOUR PRESENCE FLOW THROUGH ME

IN ONE BODY, IN THE HOLY SPIRIT A LIVING WORSHIP TO YOU

Priesthood of the believer

Exod. 40:13 Then dress Aaron in the sacred garments, anoint him and consecrate him so he may serve me as priest. ¹⁴ Bring his sons and dress them in tunics. ¹⁵ Anoint them just as you anointed their father, so they may serve me as priests. Their anointing will be to a priesthood that will continue for all generations to come

HEB 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

HEB 7:11 If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come--one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? ¹² For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.

HEB 8:1 The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.

1PE 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God;

1 Peter 4:¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Before the children of Israel could worship in the desert there had to be a deliverance from Egypt. Egypt symbolized bondage. Today many people can't worship because of the bondage in their own life. The Lord waits with power to set us free from the bondage of sin. True worship only happens when we have the freedom to do so. A Spanish proverb says bad habits are first cobwebs and then cables. Many are controlled by

Addictive behaviors such as gambling, smoking, drinking, eating disorders, or illicit sex and feel out of control. Others struggle with emotional oppression such as depression, anxiety, fear, loneliness or anger.

These things become our own personal Egypt. When God gets us out of Egypt, it's only half the battle. Then He has to get Egypt out of us. Consider these steps to experience freedom:

1. Pray for God to reveal the source or the root of the problem.
2. Take responsibility for changing. Stop blaming others.
3. Forgive any offenses. Release any bitterness.
4. Memorize key verses for specific issues.
5. Be accountable through counsel and leadership.

The journey through the desert (to the Promised Land) could have been accomplished in forty days. Because they clung to old habits of the past, the journey took 40 years.

The same is true with us. Unless we lay down our baggage, we will never be free to worship the way God intended.

Exodus 25:8-9

"Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you".

GLOSSARY OF TERMS :

1. **Bondage**— the state of subjection to a force, power, or influence. To be restrained or bound so much as to be enslaved.
Deliverance— to set free, or loose from restraint. To hand over or surrender from one thing to another. To secure something promised or desired.
2. **Boundary**— border, limit, or perimeter,
Enter - to come or go into, to gain admission, to become a participant, or join in.
Gate— means of access or passageway,
3. **Sacrifice**— forfeiture of something highly valued for that of something of greater value. A voluntary loss for a greater purpose
offering— a gift or presentation , something freely bestowed with no expectation of return.
altar— an elevated place to make a sacrifice or bring an offering. (to *alter* is to change from one state to another)
blood— the only means to carry life from one place to another. The only possible transmission of a living spirit.
4. **Sanctification**— to separate or set apart for a sacred use, to consecrate make holy, or purify.
washing— to cleanse by removing dirt or stains. To rid of corruption or guilt. To separate by immersion in water.
cleanse— To free from dirt, defilement, or guilt; purge or clean.
laver— bronze wash basin made from womens' looking glass (mirror)
5. **Revelation**— to make known, disclose, or reveal something not previously understood. Manifestation of divine truth.
Menorah— a seven branch lampstand used in Jewish ceremony. Each branch represents a day of creation.
6. **Sustenance**— something, especially food, that maintains, supports or carries on life.
showbread— the bread put out for show to represent sustenance.
7. **Aroma**— a pleasant odor, fragrance, aura, sensed by smell
Prayer— a reverent petition made to God through communication. An act of communion and confession.
atmosphere— a distinctive intangible quality, creating an inviting surrounding. Ambiance or climate.
incense— an aromatic substance burned to create a perfume in the air.
8. **Seek**— to try to discover, locate, or search for.
veil— a covering to protect, separate or conceal
preserve— to maintain in safety, or protect from injury, peril or harm. To maintain in perfect or unaltered condition. To prevent decaying or spoiling.
9. **Habitation**— a place of abode or residence. The place where something is most likely to be found.
glory— majestic beauty and splendor. Magnificent eminence, the radiance (reflection) of his presence.
presence— The state or fact of being present, current existence. The immediate surroundings of a sovereign.
10. **Priesthood**— one having authority to administer the spiritual or perform religious rights. A representative of God to the people and representing the people to God.
duty— a course of action required by a position. The compulsion felt to meet an obligation.
serve— to work for, wait on, and prepare . Assist aid and promote the interest of another. To meet the needs and satisfy something not your own. **minister**— a representative serving as an agent to carry out specified orders or functions.

OTHER TERMINOLOGY -

Atonement— Amends or reparation made for an injury or wrong. reconciliation between God and man
One day a year (Yom Kippur)

Temple— A building dedicated to religious ceremonies or worship . A shrine or sanctuary (a permanent expansion of the tabernacle)

Court— open ground partially or completely enclosed by walls or buildings; a courtyard. The place of residence of a sovereign or dignitary

Sacred— worthy of absolute respect, dedicated to a deity. Blessed and consecrated.

Holy— pure and undefiled, unmixed, free from impurities.

Ark— a shelter or container, used to carry valuables

Covenant— contract, agreement which obligates both parties. A promise and arrangement of terms for a relationship.

Commandment— a law or code of conduct, a system of rules to regulate behavior.

Testimony— a witness or declaration of events, spoken or written to corroborate proof and facts.

Pattern— a model, plan, diagram, or original design, often replicated or copied

Manna— food miraculously provided by God (spiritual nourishment) something of value a person receives unexpectedly.

Provision— something prepared or supplied that is necessary for existence. To make resources available.

Protection—taking measures for safeguard. To defend or shield from harm and free from threat.

Shadow— an imperfect imitation or copy. A mirrored image or reflection. a forerunner of something that is to come.

Priesthood references :

Luke 1: - In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. ¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard

Scriptural Summary & Application:

1. DELIVERENCE—^{JN 8:34} Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. .³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed

2. ENTER IN—^{PS 100:4} Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise

3. SACRIFICE—^{RO 12:1} Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship

4. SANCTIFICATION—^{1CO 6:9} Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? .¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

5. REVELATION—^{PS 119:105} Your word is a **lamp** to my feet and a light for my path.

6. DAILY BREAD—^{JN 6:35} Then Jesus declared, "I am the **bread of life**. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

7. PRAYER—^{Rev.5: 8} And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints

8. SEEKING HIM—^{Jer.29:13} You will seek me and **find me** when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "

9. HABITATION—^{EX 40:34} Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle

10. PRIESTHOOD—^{1PE 2:9} But you are a chosen people, a royal **priesthood**, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

DAVIDS TABERNACLE—

Acts 7:44-50 -

Acts 15:15-17 -

TEMPLE RITUALS / meaningless traditions - knowing what but not why!

Isa. 1:11— "The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?" says the LORD. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.

NEGLECT & ABUSE OF THE SACRED

^{2CH 26:19} Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn incense, became angry. While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the LORD's temple, leprosy broke out on his forehead. ²⁰ When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the LORD had afflicted him.

^{2CH 26:16} But after Uzziah became powerful, his **pride** led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. ¹⁷ Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the LORD followed him in. ¹⁸ They confronted him and said, "It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the LORD God."

^{2CH 26:21} King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house --leprosy, and excluded from the temple of the LORD