

RESOURCE MINISTRIES
PRAISE AND WORSHIP SEMINAR
Session 2 – Scriptural Concepts
By Jim Stephens

I. THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise-- the fruit of lips that confess his name. (Hebrews 13:15 NIV)

"..and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord." Jer 33:11-13

We do not Praise and Worship God just because we feel like it and are bursting with joy and enthusiasm. We worship Him because He is worthy of our Praise. He is always worthy, even when we don't feel "Praisey"! Therefore it is legitimate to worship Him as a sacrifice of our flesh. Spirit overcoming flesh. This sacrifice is acceptable to the Lord.

II. MAGNIFY THE LORD Ps 34:3, Ps 35:27, Ps 40:16, Ps 70:4

"Let God be magnified.."

"My soul doth magnify the Lord.." Luke 1:46

"..speak with tongues and magnify God." Acts 10:46

"..Christ be magnified in my body." Phil 1:20

Magnify means to "make to appear larger". Many times the things that appear large and overwhelming to us are our problems and difficulties which seem like mountains obstructing our pathway. Praise and Worship "Magnifies the Lord", making Him appear larger than our problems. This releases faith and allows us to rejoice in Him.

III. GOD INHABITS THE PRAISES OF HIS PEOPLE

But thou [art] holy, [O thou] that inhabitest the praises of Israel. (Psalms 22:3 AV)

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. (Psalms 22:3 NIV)

Our praise and worship creates a throne or resting place where our Holy God can come and reign in our midst. An Old Testament type of this is the "Mercy Seat" where God's Presence appeared.

IV. ASCENDING MOUNT ZION Ps 120-134 Psalms of Ascent

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? (Psalms 24:3 NIV)

The Psalms of Ascent were sung by the Israelites as they came into the city of Jerusalem on the feast days and walked in procession up the "Hill of Zion" to the Tabernacle or to the Temple to offer sacrifices and worship God.

V. ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING..ENTER HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. (Psalms 100:4 NIV)

We come into the presence of God in Praise and Worship in a process that normally takes us from Thanksgiving into Praise and then into Worship; much like the process of entering a king's palace through the gates into the courtyard and then being invited to enter the throne room for an audience with the king.

VI. PRAISE MOVES US FROM THE EARTHLY TO THE HEAVENLY REALM

When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me, till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny. (Psalms 73:16-17 NIV)

There is a change in perspective or point of view that takes place when we come into the presence of the Lord in Praise and Worship. "...Then I understood!" There are many things that we simply can't understand until we come into God's presence in Praise and Worship.

VI. SOME OF THE POSSIBLE THEMES FOR PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Thanksgiving	Rejoicing
Victory	Spiritual Warfare
Repentance	Adoration
Magnify the Lord	Exalting His Majesty
Yieldedness	Revival
Unity	Praise for his Acts
Comfort	Exhortation
Holiness	Commitment
Outreach	The Blood of Jesus

VII. NEW COVENANT SCRIPTURAL TYPES OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP IN BELIEVERS' MEETINGS:

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

"Speaking to yourselves in Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Eph 5:19

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, (Ephesians 5:19 NIV)

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord." Col 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16 NIV)

"How is it then brethren? When ye come together, every one of you hath a Psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying." (I Cor 14:26 AV)

What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. (1 Corinthians 14:26 NIV)

VIII. DEFINITION OF SOME KEY TERMS FOR PRAISE AND WORSHIP:

A. Thanksgiving

Gratitude for benefits received or experienced. Related to our own experience of blessing and provision. Focusses on: THE PROVISION OF GOD.

"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God..."

B. Praise

An expression of approval or admiration. Acknowledging God's perfection, works, and benefits. Focusses on: THE POWER OF GOD (Miracles, deeds)

Man can be praised, God must be praised.

C. Worship (Worthship)

To bow down, to fall down, to serve, to kiss the hand, fall to the knees, touch the forehead to the ground. To pay honour, devotion, and reverence to God. Positioning ourselves in humility in relation to God. Focusses on: THE PERSON OF GOD

IX. DISTINCTION BETWEEN THANKSGIVING, PRAISE, AND WORSHIP

Thanksgiving and Praise can be done as acts of the will or acts of obedient faith. True Worship is a response of the heart to who God is. This is one of the reasons we must see Praise and Worship as a "flow"; a process that takes time, effort, and commitment.