

The Heart of Worship

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This booklet is the short version of the full-length book “The Key to God’s Heart.” the full length version of this book can be ordered off of our website www.hungryheartministry.com in the ONLINE STORE section.

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What is Worship?

We tend to think of worship as simply being music played by instruments or hymns sung at church. It is much more than that! Worship is a condition of the heart that is expressed by action. It is total surrender to God.

The main word for worship in the Bible simply means “to bow down in reverence or lay prostrate on your face.” In ancient times, it referred to a person bowing down to a king. Worship is how we adore the King of Glory. There are different ways in which we can do this.

The worship setting at a church is a way to bring the Body of Christ together to worship Christ.

In this booklet, you will learn about the heart of worship.

The Worship Environment

One key to worship is the environment. This includes the sound of the song and the lyrics. I grew up in a church setting where they sang out of hymn books. That might be your preference, but there are many new revelations of worship in the last days.

“Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.” (Psalm 33:3)

We are told by David to sing to God a new song. Why is it important to sing to God a new song? Why do we need NEW songs? First of all, God hasn't stopped saving people. When God saves people from a life of sin and from the very brink of death, they have a testimony to share. Many songs are written about God's saving grace. In fact, the song “Amazing Grace” was written by a former slave trader who was saved by God.

“2 He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps. 3 He has put a new song in my mouth—Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the Lord.” (Psalm 40:2-3)

Even for people who are already believers, God does wonderful things for them. Perhaps they go through a trial and come out on the other side thanking God for His provision. We can go through trials over many things – whether it is heartbreak at the loss of a loved one, financial problems, or being hurt by someone else. When God brings us out, we have something NEW to thank Him for!

“Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. 2 Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. 3 Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. 4 For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. (Psalm 96:1-4)

“Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.” (Psalm 98:1)

New songs can come through new victories. Perhaps you have been praying for a family member to be saved or to come to a deeper walk with God and it comes to pass! There is victory! Perhaps you were healed by God or saved from a car accident that should have taken your life! Maybe you received that new job or a promotion you have been earnestly seeking. These are all NEW things to sing about! Even in Heaven they sing new songs!

“And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,” (Revelation 5:9)

“They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.” (Revelation 14:3)

Remember the Lord’s prayer? We all prayed “Your will be done on earth as in Heaven.” If they are singing new songs in Heaven, then we need to sing new songs on earth. We sing new songs because God has not stopped doing GREAT things for people! He has not stopped acting on our behalf. He does things for us every day. A new song expresses a new revelation of Him. We can even write a song just based upon how GREAT He is! He is a King and deserves all our adoration!

There is a lot of fighting in churches today about what types of instruments to use. Some use none while others use only a piano. Some use a piano and an organ. A final group allows all types of instruments. The final Psalm in the Bible addresses this:

“1 Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! 2 Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him

according to His excellent greatness! 3 Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! 4 Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! 5 Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals! 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!” (Psalm 150:1-6)

In this final Psalm, we see nearly every instrument mentioned; the psalmist gives us a sample list. There have been instruments invented since then, such as a keyboard. The point of this Psalm is to praise God with everything you can praise Him with! Even harps are found in Heaven.

“And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.” (Revelation 14:2)

There are people who have a tremendous ability to play instruments. They are going to use their gift one way or the other. Let’s allow people to use their gifts for God. As Paul wrote, “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (I Corinthians 9:31). Let’s open up our hearts and minds to receive the fullness of worship.

How We Approach God

As discussed previously, the first goal of worship is to honor our Lord. He laid down His life for us so that we might have everlasting life. We owe Him everything.

Another goal of worship is for us to connect with our Savior. This is where we have an experience with God where we can hear His voice, feel His touch, and even see Him. The purpose of this goal is to change our lives forever. As we connect with our Savior more, we will have a deeper appreciation for His sacrifice. This reinforces why we worship in the first place.

For this connection with God to happen, we must have the right attitude toward God. Our hearts and minds must be in a place to receive from God.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” (Matthew 5:6)

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” (Matthew 5:8)

“Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.” (Luke 6:21)

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” (Psalm 34:18)

What we experience in worship will depend on a few different factors. First of all, we should approach God with a pure heart. This means we are sincere and honest with God. We can't come to God with selfish motives. We can't worship Him just for show. We can't worship him “because everyone else is doing it” and still expect Him to move. Did we come to worship just to criticize? We have to come clean with God. Are we really being honest about ourselves? Do we really want Him? In worship, we must get to the place where we just want **HIM!**

Secondly, how we connect with God will depend on our hunger for God. The level of our hunger will determine the level of our

experience. This is also called being broken in spirit. In your heart and mind, how much do you really desire God? Do you think you have it all figured out? Are you hurting? Are you wounded? Are you confused? Brokenness is a place of being empty before God. It is where we realize we can't live without Him. We can't do anything without Him. When our attitude reaches this point, then the Lord is close to us. The touch from God is upon us! When we are empty, we can be filled!

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

“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.” (Hebrews 11:6)

Every time you go to a worship service, there is a special reward waiting just for you. It is like a present or a gift wrapped up and reserved only for you. God is so gracious; He knows exactly what you need. But, we must earnestly seek Him and believe that He is able to meet our needs. We can do nothing without Him (John 15:5). This requires that we have confidence. If we do not believe God is able to help, guide, or touch us, then we cannot receive anything from Him. We must believe, which means to have confidence or trust.

The goal of being touched by God is a transformed life. When we are hungry for God, we are hungry for a supernatural experience that will quench our spiritual thirst. This will change the way we live forever. In Genesis 32:22-32, Jacob had an encounter with God. He never walked the same. In Exodus 33:12-23, 34:29-32, Moses had an encounter with God. His face literally glowed after this! In I Samuel 9:1-11, Saul was approached by a band of prophets playing instruments. He was touched by God and became a new man.

When God touches you, you will never be the same.

Opening Up Your Heart to God

When the worship music is playing, we want to open up our heart to God. We just want to lay ourselves before Him in complete submission. When the Spirit of God is present in a worship environment, there should be freedom to open up toward Him.

“In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.” (Ephesians 3:12)

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.” (Romans 12:1)

“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.” (Hebrews 13:15)

“My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.” (Psalm 51:17)

In the time when Jesus first came to earth, there was a large, ornate building called the Temple. People brought animals (such as a sheep or goat) to this Temple to be sacrificed. This sacrificial offering was the main way that they worshipped God.

When you believe in Jesus, your body becomes the Temple (I Cor. 3:16-17). God dwells within you through His Spirit. Now that your Body is the Temple, you can make a sacrifice to God by how you live! When our hearts are open to God, there are different ways we can express worship to the Great King.

Jesus said, “...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” When our hearts are flooded by God in worship, it will produce words. There is a time to shout in thanksgiving in worship. “But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy...” (Psalm 5:11). The word “Hallelujah” in Hebrew means “to make a tumult unto the Lord.” The best time

to do this is during the faster songs.

We want to offer thanksgiving to God on the front part of worship. “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name” (Psalm 100:4). We want the Lord to know how grateful we are to Him!

There are other times in worship when we should be silent. “My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him.” (Psalm 62:5) This kind of silent worship usually occurs when the music is slower. The presence of God will feel heavier during this time.

Another way we can express our worship of God is by action! Many people lift their hands during worship. When we worship this way, we are reaching out for Him and opening ourselves up to Him. In Psalm 141:2, David wrote, “May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.” David is longing for his praise and worship to be honored like the worship in the Temple. He desires for His worship to be accepted before God! As we open our mouths and lift our hands, our praise is released.

As we discussed earlier, the word worship means to get on one’s knees or lay on the ground in reverence. When we are worshipping God at church, then we are in the presence of the True King. When the Lord is present among us and the slow, intimate worship is playing, we can lay prostrate before Him. Many of the great God encounters of the Bible occurred when people worshipped on their face. This is found with Solomon, the Apostle John, and even Daniel. Abraham got on His face before the Lord to worship Him. Laying prostrate with your face towards the ground is a humble position because you are putting your vessel at the feet of your Messiah. If you have a *tallit* (also called a prayer shawl), this is the perfect time to wrap yourself up in it.

Dancing is also a great way to reach out to God in worship. During the faster songs, our feet are often tapping, but are bodies are

still. David danced before the Lord with all of his might. He even threw off his outer garment in the process! God had delivered David out of many trials in His life. David danced before God out of joy to praise Him for victory.

Miriam also led the people of Israel in dance when the Egyptian army drowned in the Red Sea. As the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness, the praise of Miriam caused the water to spring up in the desert. When she died, the water stopped coming up (Numbers 20:1-5). When the community sang again, it came back up (Numbers 21:16-18a). We want the spring of living water, the Holy Spirit of God, to well up from within us and quench our spiritual thirst for Him.

When we praise and worship, it stirs the wells of salvation within us; it causes that well to bubble up and overflow. This will also affect others in our environment! This is especially true when we go through trials in life!

Beyond Church

Worship in the church setting is essential. We cannot function as the Body of Christ without it. "... (do) not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25). We need the time together to connect with our Lord and Savior.

The public church setting should cause a change on our private life. We should talk and act differently. There are actually two other ways that we can express worship to God outside of the church setting.

One of these is in our lifestyle. When we live a set apart life to God, it is expressing our surrender to His will. Keeping the Commandments of God is one example. Staying away from environments like clubs and bars that could spiritually defile you is another example. It is honoring His sacrifice by keeping yourself pure. "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) Being separate allows our worship of God to be seen by other people so that they can see the FATHER through us.

A final way we express worship is by our service to God. Each of us has a unique calling to the Body of Christ. There are different ways we can contribute to the work of God. Setting up tables and chairs for the church service is an act of worship. Praying is an act of service. Worship leaders are serving a dual purpose in that they are worshipping by their service to God, but they are also leading other people into worship of God.

All service to God should be geared toward preparing the way for the King of Glory to touch hearts and minds.

Conclusion

Why is Praise and Worship so important? David was a man after God's own heart because he did what the Lord told him to do (Acts 13:22). When David heard God's voice, he obeyed. He put up an open air tent to bring all the people of Israel together to worship the true and living God. God is raising David's fallen tent again (Acts 15:15-18). He is trying to bring together people from all races, languages, and nations united together with a hunger to worship God and experience Him in increasingly greater levels. God is trying to restore that open air Tabernacle in the last days.

Worship moves God's heart and will lead us into a greater, more personal walk with Him. Worship moves His heart, and worship should move us for Him. When you lift your hands, lay prostrate, or dance in worship, it is a greater thing to God than sacrifices because it is the sacrifice of yourself in submission to Him. These forms of worship are all part of us losing our dignity to grab His deity. He has done everything for us; all he asks is that we give Him the adoration He so richly deserves.

To Learn More about This Subject, order our book "The Key to God's Heart." More information is located in the back of this booklet.

More Materials

If you are interested in more materials on this subject, email us at hungryheartsmi@aol.com or writing us at PO Box 10334 Jackson, TN 38308.

The Key to God's Heart

Come and learn the deepest secrets to reach the heart of God. Learn the keys to intimate worship that will open the heart of God to you. Worship is an intense and very complex process that takes place in the Spirit realm between you and your Creator. Worship entails many processes including emotions, lifestyle, holidays, eating and the human spirit within. Learn about the very powerful three phase process to amp up your worship experience. Learn how to experience your God in ways you never dreamed possible. Learn how to become One with the Living Jesus Christ.

Yours for only \$12

Meet the Author

Kelly McDonald Jr. is an ordained Evangelist at Hungry Hearts Ministries in Jackson, TN. For 21 years, Kelly attended Trinity Baptist Church in Bemis, TN, where he was saved in 1992. While at Trinity, a small independent Baptist church, Kelly learned boldness for the Kingdom of God and that being a Christian is an all or nothing experience. In June 2006, Kelly was called to his first ministry, going door to door in the Bemis community and inviting people to church. In September 2006, Kelly was called to begin a Christian men's group at his then college, Lambuth University. In February 2007, Kelly was called to preach. Less than a month later, he became introduced to Hungry Hearts Ministries.

Since becoming a member of Hungry Hearts, Kelly has taken on many roles to further the ministry's work, from going door-to-door to pass out booklets, preaching, administering the prison ministry, teaching Bible Studies, and starting churches. Due to his service in the ministry, he was ordained a Deacon during the Feast of Pentecost on May 31st, 2009. His spiritual growth and desire to serve God led to his ordination as an Evangelist during the Feast of Pentecost on May 25th, 2012.

Kelly has written for a local Christian magazine, *The Christian to Christian Connection*, and for the international Sabbatarian magazine, *The Sabbath Sentinel*. He currently writes for and serves as the Editor for the Ministry's magazine, *Pursuit*. Kelly has written several books and booklets on how to live a holy life. Kelly graduated *summa cum laude* from Lambuth University in Jackson, TN in 2009. He earned a Bachelor of Science with a double major in Political Science and Sociology with a minor in Legal Studies. Kelly has been preaching since 2007 and is available to speak at your church upon request.

Worship is a condition of the heart that results in action, specifically a changed life. There is a certain approach to worship that we must take if we want to receive the full benefits of honoring God in this special way. In this booklet, you will learn the basics of worship.

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