

Worship That Moves Father's Heart!

Key Verse #1: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" Matthew 4:4

Key Verse #2: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost!" 2Peter 1:21

Key Verse #3: "But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeks such to worship Him!" John 4:23

Key Verse #4: "Now we know that God hears not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and does His will, him He hears!" John 9:31

Key Verse #5: "For the eyes of the LORD search throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." 2Chronicles 16:9

Introduction

Father is "pushing forth," traveling, looking eagerly throughout the whole earth to show Himself courageous, a conqueror, an aid and valiant, on the behalf of people whose hearts are at peace with, established in, made ready for, and receptive of Him!

That doesn't mean God only loves perfect people. It's not saying that He will show Himself strong on behalf of "accomplished" saints, but that He comes to provide power to those He finds to be the "willing" ones! That passage reveals that there is a yearning in His heart to find people who are yearning to fulfill their parts of His revealed will.

Father is searching for men and women who will embrace His word as final authority, regardless of what others say, of what self says, of what circumstances may try and dictate, of what it may personally cost. He is searching for people who believe that His Word and His ways are always the best... no matter how it seems at the start!

Nowhere is there more of a need for the Body of Christ to embrace His ways than in the arena of Worship! And that in fact is what true worship is... bowing down before Him; embracing His rule and with abandon, offering up our ways, our thoughts, our tastes, our opinions, our rule, anything, that stands against His divine, perfect and revealed word. Once our spirit man knows what Father wants, it's ready to bow... but the battle for true worship is a fight against the flesh and soul, which are literally fighting for life! In that battle we find the scriptures coming true that our hearts are wicked and will deceive us

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. Jeremiah 17:9

The "heart" there is not the born-again spirit of a man but the core of his self-nature! In this battle for who or what we will worship, our carnal nature will never be at a loss for justification. But the saints who are defeating the self nature, who are walking with diligence in the Spirit, who are willing to do Father's revealed word will find Him


eagerly waiting to provide the power to overcome and to crucify the natural man with his lusts.

Ten Cents Worth of Instruction on Worship!

Worship is an all encompassing subject. It is so big, so broad, so deep that it's virtually impossible to deal with it as a whole! However, we can take a look at the whole of it by looking at a small part.

It has been rightly said that worship is not singing, but that singing is part of worship. As a dime is part of a dollar, but is not the whole sum of money, so musical praise and worship with its attendant expressions are part, but not the whole of worship! True worship is bowing down our lives before Him. Musical worship is bowing down one area of life before Him. However, with such an abundance of self-worship/self-rule in the arena of musical expression of worship, we can use it as an example to learn a great lesson.


Before we ask if we are ready to bow down this area of our lives before the Lord lets ask:

 **Is the Word of God our authority? Yes___ No ___**

 **Is the Word of God the supernatural bread of our spiritual lives? Yes___ No___**

 **Are we willing to embrace the Word of God as Holy Spirit authored directives from Father's own heart? Yes___ No___**

 **Do we recognize that the only way to worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth is to obey His revealed will? Yes___ No___**

 **Do we want to be heard when we pray and have the power of God without wanting Him and His rule? Yes___ No___**

If you answered Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, No then lets go on...

A Word about Musical Worship From our Sponsor!

Psalm 149:1 "Praise ye (Halal: be clear of sound, shine, make a show, boast, be clamorously foolish, cry loudly, sustain a din, rave and celebrate) **the LORD** (Yahh). **Sing** (shiy: as a strolling minstrel) **unto the LORD a new** (chadash: fresh, new) **song, and his praise** (tehillah: laud) **in the congregation of saints. Let Israel rejoice** (samach: brighten up, be gleeful, cheer up and make selves glad) **in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful** (giyl: spin under passionate influence) **in their King. Let them praise** (Halal: be clear of sound; shine, make a show, boast, be clamorously foolish, cry loudly, sustain a din, rave

and celebrate) **his name in the dance** (machowl: twist or whirl [in a circular or spiral manner]): **let them sing** (zamar: accompanying with the voice the slapping of the strings, the playing of the musical instruments) **unto him with the tambourine and harp. For the LORD takes pleasure** (ratsah: Is pleased, satisfied, enjoys, takes pleasure) **in his people: he will beautify** (pa'ar: gleam, embellish, boast over, glorify) **the meek** ('anaw: humble, lowly, saintly, needy) **with salvation** (Yeshuwah: victory, deliverance, prosperity, health, welfare). **Let the saints be joyful** ('alaz: jump for joy, exult, rejoice, triumph) **in glory** (kabowd: splendor and honor): **let them sing aloud** (ranan: emit loud sounds, shouts of joy, cry out, sing aloud) **upon their beds. Let the high praises** (rowmemah: exaltation) **of God be in their mouth, and a two edged sword in their hand; To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute upon them the judgment written: this honor** (hadar: magnificence, ornament, splendor, beauty, honor, majesty) **have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD** (Halal-Yahh).

This is just one Psalm of many such psalms and non-psalm passages (All Holy Spirit authored truth) regarding our Father's heart for times of musical worship. It's not hard to see that we have a definitive prescription for musical worship in the Word! All we have to do is read: "be loud and clear, rave, move, compose, sing hymns and songs of praise, smile, spin around, be passionate, twist and whirl, accompany the instruments with singing, jump and emote, etc." Notice that when we do those things that the Lord does some things; He takes pleasure in us, boasts over us, glorifies us, He brings victory, deliverance, prosperity and divine enablement! The Lord moves when we worship Him according to His Word! The rewards are there for people who will worship the Lord His ways. *He* is there for people who will worship Him, His ways! Listen to this...

Zephaniah 3:17 "The LORD thy God in the midst of thee [sounds like He's speaking to a gathered crowd] **is mighty** (gibbowr: a valiant champion); **he will save** (yasha: free, defend, deliver), **he will rejoice** (suws: be bright, be cheerful, have gladness with laughter) **over thee with joy** (simchah: glee, exceeding gladness, pleasure, joyfulness); **he will rest in his love, he will joy** (giyl: spin around) **over thee with singing** (rinnah: shouting, crying out, proclaiming)."

He is ready to intervene (remember Paul & Silas? Acts 16:25)! He is ready to come down in majestic power (2Chronicles 5:13-14)! He is ready to move against our enemies (2Chronicles 20:20ff)! But oftentimes we aren't ready to move in worship! And there's the rub... us. Again worshipping what (*who*) is not God, in a way that is *our way*!

"The Lord has given us a choice to worship Him... but once we make that choice it's the last one we get to make!"
-Bill Hargett

Many people, especially American-Democratic Society people, today think that worshipping God is a matter of choice, of style, of personality! Like every other fundamental Bible concept, and as we've already seen in this study, the Bible offers us instruction and a clear picture of how we adopt and adapt the principle to our lives if we want to be in Father's divine will. The reality is that the Word of God dictates how we worship, musically and otherwise, once we have made the decision to worship Him.

What is the real issue behind the person who says, "I will lift up my hands unto the Lord (as numerous passages say to do) but I will not dance. I will dance, but shouting is a little too primal. I will sing aloud with passion, but no whirling. I will stand but I will

not bow down to the ground (plenty of scriptures for both!)” The real issue is control... and control has everything to do with worship... Who is going to sit on the Throne? Who is going to call the shots? Who will I obey?

If the people are gracious they justify their position by saying, “It’s okay for others to do that but that’s not me, it’s not my personality!” [If they’re not gracious they just reject expressive worship and praise out of hand.] The “me” they’re talking about is the soul/flesh “me,” and they’re right! The soul/flesh person-ality doesn’t want to do what God wants them to do, *no matter how often He repeats Himself*. The soul-flesh person-ality wants to stay in control so badly that it will compromise if that’s what it takes to stay on top (determining the limits of obedience upraised hands, loud singing)! But the spirit “me” always wants to do what God wants to do... and God is looking for those who want to do His will and fulfill His Word! It’s the un-renewed “me” that resists spiritually defined worship. It’s a self-rule issue to define “thus far and no farther” when it comes to the limits of yieldedness! Again, true worship is not about “me,” and it’s our person-ality that is in the way no matter how much we do or don’t obey! It is a self-rule, self-worship issue that keeps us from doing what the Bible says to do!

Why is something like this a big deal to God!

Actually it isn’t a big deal to God... it’s only a big deal for man! The way we were designed originally left us free for an open response to our Father! Sin changed it all... and like so many other things in our lives, the Word of God states and delivers, *even stands to legislate when necessary*, a return to healthy life-giving way of life! We have forgiveness for disobeying the Word... and our salvation is not at stake... But true freedom, getting centered as a “child” for whom the kingdom unfolds, and the fullness of life are the things at stake – and Father wants us to have those things: freedom, the kingdom unfolding and fullness right here and now as well as in the future! There are many times I come into a service, feeling tired or low, jammed, confused or grumpy, muddle through a couple songs, when all of a sudden the lyric begins to hit home... It’s there, pushing through to the freedom that is mine in Jesus, that I find the resources of His kingdom flowing in to energize me with His fullness! Father’s ways bear much fruit for the spirit of man!

[Necessary note: We’re not talking about choreographed praise and worship services here in church. No one is thinking that the next time our worship leader says “lets dance” that everyone is going to start jumping. No, this is not a run toward more expressive corporate gathering times. That will happen on it’s own as Father cuts through to each of our hearts... We’re talking about issues of the heart, of self-rule, of the integrity of our words (both in performing the things we sing about, and in truly worshipping the Lord we proclaim we love), of the integrity of His Word! We’re talking about the true issues of worship and that’s letting Father call the shots and define our responses.]

Thinking Back

We can see the wrangling of the soul/flesh to maintain control and sit on the throne of decision in this one simple area. If the Lord will do all that He has promised in these past few passages of scripture for those who will do what he says in these few passages concerning musical worship, which is just a part of true worship... Just think what He will do for those whose lives are “perfect” toward Him in all worship!

What will Father do for those who will worship Him in the arena of Love? Will he not provide the power of His compassion to flow through them? What would that do for our marriages, families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and the world?

What will He do for those who will worship Him as he says with their financial resources – giving according to His prescription with a cheerful heart and bowels of compassion? Will he not open up the windows of Heaven and pour out a blessing upon them that cannot be contained? Wouldn't the overflow of His life and resource be a blessing to the people around us? Isn't He looking for men and women that He can once again use as Joseph that saved a nation, or Solomon who built one?

What will He do for those who will worship Him as He says with their time, talents, energies? Will He not use them like Paul and Peter, James and John? Can He still support those who going out in His name, open blind eyes, heal the sick, preach the gospel to the poor and set the captives free?

And what about the man or woman who will yield up all things to Him as the worship that is due Him? Won't it be evident that the things we hear them say and the things we see them do will be coming straight from the heart of God? Won't He pour out His Spirit upon them and cause them to be a delight to the lost and the needy, the poor and the infirm, like He did with Jesus?

Obedience in musical worship is just one stop on the pathway of true worship (and we must be more than overcomers here!)... But Father is looking for people in this day... who appropriate His power venturing out one step, shout, song, hop at a time!

We were created to worship Him! Don't deprive Him any longer! Especially not when He has provided us with the power to obey!


“And thou shall return and obey the voice of the LORD, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day. And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers: If thou shall hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. Deuteronomy 30:8-10


“But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward. Jeremiah 7:23-24


Response To Truth

I remember the first time I was confronted by these truths [personal testimony from '76].

Worship is a huge issue! Resistance to a “forced” response (at any level) seems almost “natural!” Allowing a “hole in the dyke” at the base level of musical worship is almost universally rejected! But with every small response to the Lord, first at the easy levels, it becomes easier to respond rightly and immediately in the toughest of “worship” challenges! Let the Lord have His way in this small slice of worship! Even if you let him have it slowly!

 I am ready to wiggle my foot side to side instead of the traditional up and down the next time I sing the word "dance" in conjunction with the word "I" (that's a 1 on a scale of 0-10, you're on the way!) Yes___ No ___

 I am willing to take a hard look at the way I musically worship, to ask "why," and to judge whether or not it is an example of the way I truly worship the Lord with the rest of my life! (that's a 5, and 90% of the way to freedom!) Yes___ No ___

 I am willing to do what I say and sing because I have a revelation from the Word concerning the ways to praise and worship and I see Him, high and lifted up, worthy of it all! (that's a 10 and heading off the scale!) Yes___ No ___