

July 2023

FULLNESS

Magazine Online

Our Worship Destiny

By Steve Fish

Spiritual Warfare Through Dance

By Beth Miles

The Processes of Praise

By Jack Taylor

Worship

By Troy Thompson

Worship

Joining in the Song of Heaven

By Robert Heidler

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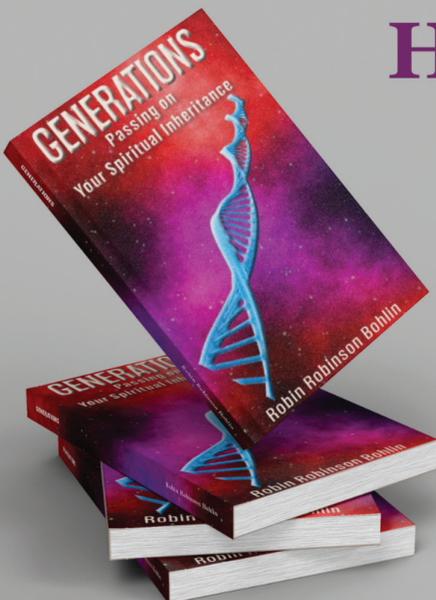


ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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July 2023



Worship Joining in the Song of Heaven

by Robert Heidler

Worship is a word Christians use a lot, but many of us are not sure what it means. Worship is your heart's response to experiencing God.

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Ras and
Beverly Robinson

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Editor's Letter

Worship



The greatest indicator of the spiritual life of an individual is how they engage in worship. Worship is an open-hearted, uncoerced gift of love to God and his Son Jesus. The goal of worship is to abandon oneself to the wooing of the Holy Spirit, who loves Jesus more than we could ever imagine. The Holy Spirit is attracted to our adoration of the Father and the Son and He is the fire on the altar of our hearts.

Because of the season that we are in, many of the articles you will read deal with spiritual warfare enabling believers to overcome the enemy. We are at war and militant worship is most necessary as we prophetically know the darkness that has overtaken our land in many quarters. A few weeks ago, we had to fight for a breakthrough in our worship, because the enemy recognized Robin's prophetic word that was going to be released concerning "One Word from the Father Can Change your Life Forever."

However, God is faithful, and it is up to the church to stoke the fire of revival and to oppose the work of the enemy. That said, worship is much more than the functionality of being a weapon against the devil, because at the basic level to win this war we ourselves must experience an internal revival that comes through extravagant praise and worship.



Our feature writer is **Robert Heidler**, senior teacher at Glory of Zion, ministers internationally as an apostolic teacher designing curriculum for pastors in Eastern Europe. He presently travels and ministers internationally at conferences and training schools as well as at gatherings across this country. The goal of his ministry is to nurture revival in the Church worldwide. Robert and his wife, Linda, have been married for 40 years and have two sons and a daughter. His article "Experiencing Worship" draws primarily on the Hebrew language and history of Israel's culture of Praise, but also includes various personal experiences and examples. He recounts on one occasion how "God's manifest presence fell upon us in a powerful way. Overwhelmed by God's glory, I suddenly stopped singing. A moment later, I realized the praise band had stopped playing. In the middle of a song. In the middle of a line, two thousand people suddenly fell silent. GOD was there! We stood in awed silence for several minutes, experiencing the weight of God's glory."

Highlighting the importance of praise, he recounts the spontaneous healing of a deaf child. Heidler declares, "When we praise God, we enter the heavenly realms. That's where the blessings are. . . . In the heavenlies, you can gain revelation, faith, strength, deliverance, anointing, and healing." He goes on to state, the gateway to worship is praise: "To understand why praise is the gateway to worship, we need to see that Praise is a CHOICE, but worship is a RESPONSE."

Steve Fish, son of former Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary evangelism professor Steve Fish, is pastor of Convergence Church in Southwest Fort Worth. He, after having written previously for Fullness

Online Magazine, returns to write his article entitled "Our Worship Destiny" which draws upon the verses from the book of Revelation. Steve Fish, in tandem with Robert Heidler, provides a perfect bookend as he extols the phrase "'HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.'" "As we repeated this phrase several times," Steve states, "you could feel something happening in the atmosphere in the room. Each time we cried out there was an increasing intensity. . . . Now, only a few minutes later, repeating the phrase, everyone in the room was crying out and shouting at the top of their lungs, . . . As this continued, the atmosphere of heaven began to fill the room. It was amazing, scary, wonderful and wild all at the same time. "Recounting how we are the temple and can experience the worship of heaven, he concludes with." One day in heaven, you will cry out, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."



With **Beth Miles'** article "Spiritual Warfare Through Dance," we return to the



Old Testament and introduce dancing as a weapon of warfare. As a seasoned dancer Miles is recognized as an apostle to the expressive worship team and a prophet to The River of Life church in Phoenix, Arizona where she lives with her husband Keith of 47 years and her son. Drawing upon the Hebrew word "Tsebaath", which literally means Lord of Hosts or, in modern terms, Lord of Warriors, Miles asserts that this name of God is used over four times more than any other redemptive or descriptive name ascribed to the Lord. Miles, regarding her audience, states, "I am specifically speaking to those who are called to the ministry of dance. As worshipping warriors through dance, we use our movement as weapons of war. She asserts,

"I have found in my 40 years of leading dance ministry and operating as an appointed worship dancer for Jesus, that together with the worship team, we have the power, authority, and blessing of the Lord to enter the spirit realm, into heavenly places with Christ Jesus. Dancing with dominion, by the anointing and the leading of the Holy Spirit, we can destroy the works of darkness and pull down strongholds. The atmosphere changes allowing our God to be in our midst as He leads us into the battle and gives us victory!"

The late much beloved and articulate **Jack Taylor** was at the forefront of introducing praise as pastor of Castle Hills Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas “where God moved in revival to usher into the Kingdom over 2,000 people in eighteen months.”



On a personal note, after I was filled with the Spirit, I used his book to teach my traditional Baptist church that even a Baptist affirms the Hebrew words for lifting hands, etc. But when God told me we should practice the types of praise he mentions, I was immediately voted out as pastor. Thank you, Jack Taylor, for my release into a new adventure and for representing “The Fullness Movement” so well. Drawing upon the story found in 2 Chronicles 20 concerning Jehoshaphat, Taylor maintains, “Nowhere are the procedures on praise any clearer than” in this story. His article, “The Processes of Praise or, How to Make it in a Mess” is reprinted material from his book, *The Hallelujah Factor*, and is still available on Amazon.”

Troy Thompson, a successful entrepreneur and owner of Emerald Arrow Aviation LLC, specializing in completion of experimental home-built aircraft., deacon, and head of the men’s ministry at Fullness in Christ Church, draws upon Taylor’s story of Jehoshaphat and Miles’ embracing of worship as spiritual warfare. His article “Worship: Is it a billion-dollar industry, a weapon of warfare, or is it bowing face down in the presence of the Almighty?” Thompson makes the case that music is transitioning from worship as an industry to Praise as a weapon of war and ending up embracing sacrificial loving commitment to the Lord. He maintains, “It is all of the above.” What began with the Jesus Movement culminated in “half a billion dollars in sales and is the fastest growing genre among millennials.” This is encouraging because it unifies millennials with its concerts and festivals and provides an alternative to secular, sketchy music “with more than 1,600 Christian radio stations in the U.S.” He goes on to say that the government shutdown of churches forced worship into the streets. “Today’s worship seems to be unstoppable, making national headlines as worship leader Sean Feucht leads thousands in worship at the national mall. . . . [It was] as if it was bottled up and ready to break [forth], the worship from worshipers, lovers of Jesus, could not be held back.” This explosion of worship resulting in salvations has made the church more militant and willing to engage in spiritual warfare. Thompson maintains, “Praise is a weapon of war,” citing Judges 7 where Gideon was told by God to use trumpets and jars and at the Battle for Jericho, God told Joshua to send the trumpets, first. . .” He concludes stating, “Worship, True Worship, requires sacrifice!”

Jennifer Peikert’s column “Declaring the Truth” encourages us to spend more time placing ourselves quietly before God, as she recounts her personal journey in her article “Encountering God”, giving advice on how to have fresh encounters with Him. She states, reflecting on her personal journey,



“We want to experience Him in fresh new ways. One way that we can do this is to lose ourselves in worship. I have had many encounters with God as I have lost myself in worship. I have learned that if I can quiet myself, shut out all distractions and focus on God, I can lose myself in Him. When I have done this I have had the most incredible encounters with God.”

She goes on to recount, “I have had Heavenly encounters. I have had Jesus come and take my hand and take me to Heaven. I have had encounters with angels and seen and heard incredible things from the Lord.” Peikert focuses on engaging the Lord in listening prayer in what used to be called Quiet Time. “My husband Jay says, ‘God isn’t a cheap date.’ He wants our attention; He wants our ears and He wants our hearts. He deserves it.” She states, “This column and this word is to get you ready for your Kairos moments with God. Set aside time. Worship Him and close everything out; lose yourself in Him; surrender yourself; be quiet and listen and go with God. You will never ever be the same.”



Budd Rodgers’ “The Shepherd’s Voice” column addresses being “in the Spirit” when we worship. Rodgers writes this statement: “I do not believe we have the natural capability to be in the ‘spirit’. We must have help from our Helper, Holy Spirit.” He concludes with the statement that these are the days of doing the will of the Father. “We must maintain our determination to hear from God through His Word both written and the voice of the Holy Spirit as we seek the face of God in worship.”

If you have enjoyed and benefitted from Fullness Magazine Online as a subscriber, we encourage you to donate to this ministry (even the smallest amount helps us keep the magazine in publication) and tell your friends and family. Subscriptions are FREE simply by giving us an email address to subscribe at www.fullnessnetwork.net.

Blessings,

Tom



Experiencing

Worship

Joining in the Song of Heaven

By Robert Heidler

When Israel came out of Egypt, God gave them a wonderful promise: *“WORSHIP the Lord your God... and His blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span... I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run...”* (Exodus 23:25-31, NIV)

That’s an incredible promise, and it’s a promise given to only one group of people: WORSHIPPERS! God is saying that if we worship Him, His blessings will rest upon us. If that’s God’s offer, I believe it’s vital that we understand what it means to worship.

What is Worship?

Worship is a word Christians use a lot, but many of us are not sure what it means. Some think worship means “going to church.” But that’s not what worship is. You can

go to church every Sunday and not worship! Worship is not just singing some hymns. Worship is not repeating a ritual.

I like to define worship this way:

Worship is your heart’s response to experiencing God.

Worship means you have encountered God, and are choosing to open your heart to Him, giving yourself as a *“living sacrifice”* (Romans 12:1-2)

WORSHIP means acknowledging God’s VALUE to you. The English word worship was originally spelled “Weorthscipe” (WORTH-SHIP). Worship is saying, *“Lord you mean so much to me.”*

That’s why the angels of heaven constantly proclaim that God is WORTHY (“Worthy” means “of great worth”).

In Revelation 4:10, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him and worship, *“You are WORTHY, our Lord, to receive glory and honor and power”* (Revelation 4:11).

Then the angels around them join in, *“WORTHY is the Lamb to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise”* (Revelation 5:12).

Finally, In Revelation 5:13, all creation declares that God is WORTHY to receive *“praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever.”*

True worship is expressed in every aspect of your being, your *“heart, soul, mind, and strength”* (Mark 12:30). When you demonstrate that God is worthy of your time, your energy, and your resources, you are worshipping Him.

Showing God His Worth-ship

How does a husband show his wife that she is valuable to him?

He gives her gifts. He celebrates special times. He expresses appreciation. He responds when she comes into the room. He whispers, “I love you”.

When a husband does things like that for his wife, he expresses her WORTH-SHIP. It’s the same with God.

When a wife senses that her husband values her, she opens her HEART to him.

When God senses that you VALUE Him, He opens the HEAVENS to you.

A Heart Response

The most important thing we can know about worship is that worship is a heart response. Until you’ve met God, you can’t really worship Him, but when you’ve encountered God, WORSHIP is the expected response.

If God has SAVED you, you should WORSHIP Him.

When He HEALS YOU, you should WORSHIP Him.

When He answers your prayers, you should WORSHIP Him.

In Luke 17, ten lepers came to Jesus for healing, and all were healed. But one of them turned back, *“glorifying God with a loud voice, and fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving thanks”* (That’s Worship).

Jesus’ response was: “Were there not ten healed? Where are the other nine?”

Jesus was happy to heal, but He was expecting a response. When God does something great for you and there is no response of worship, something is wrong!

Created to Worship

In worship we find ultimate fulfillment. I remember the first time I experienced deep worship; I was amazed. I realized, *“This is what I was made for!”*

God’s original plan for humanity was for us to live in intimate unbroken fellowship with Him. In Eden, God met every need. Adam and Eve lived in a perfect environment, experiencing perfect health and complete

provision. Above all that, God’s Presence met with them and walked with them. Their part was to respond to Him with thankful hearts, and give Him worship.

God wanted to establish that as a perpetual cycle for His people. First, God blesses us... then we respond by worshipping Him. God blesses us... and we worship Him. That is still God’s desire. Deuteronomy 28:47 tells us that God is looking for a people who will WORSHIP HIM with joy and a glad heart, *“for the abundance of all things.”*

When it’s Hard to Worship

Some say, “I’m just not a worshiper.” or “Worship doesn’t come naturally to me.”

I suspect many would say, “I’ve never really thought much about worship, I just sing along in church.”

But God is saying, “It’s worth your effort to become a worshiper. When you worship, God’s blessings will overtake you.”

To enter into worship, you need to go through a gate. That gate is praise. Praise is the gateway to worship.

The biblical pattern is, you begin with praise, then transition into worship. We see that progression in Psalm 95. The psalm begins with a call to praise:

*“Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation.
let us come before Him with thanksgiving
and extol Him with music and song.”*

That’s a beautiful picture of praise. Praise is often free and expressive. If we look at biblical examples of praise we often find people singing for joy, shouting, expressing thankfulness, magnifying His name with loud music.

But in verse 6, the psalmist shifts from praise to worship,

*Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;*

Praise can be loud and expressive, but worship is usually very quiet. It’s sometimes just kneeling in the presence of the King.

The Gateway to Worship

To understand why praise is the gateway to worship, we need to see that Praise is a CHOICE, but worship is a RESPONSE.

Praise is a choice. You don’t have to “feel” anything to praise God. In Psalm 103, David speaks to his own soul and orders his soul to praise God!

You can always choose to praise.

There are times when you are distracted, weary, and concerned about so many things that worship does not come easily. But you can always choose to praise.

Some years ago, Linda and I took a ministry trip to Alaska, but everything went wrong. Our flight from Dallas was delayed for hours by thunderstorms. We arrived in

Anchorage near midnight and caught the shuttle to our hotel, but the hotel had lost our reservation. They had no more rooms. The desk clerk called around and found a hotel with a room. In the middle of the night, we caught a different shuttle to the new hotel. The only room available was a smoking room, and the stench was overpowering. We were exhausted but were determined to get at least a short nap (We needed to be up at 5:00 AM to catch our next flight). I went to use the bathroom, but when I flushed, the toilet overflowed!

When I told Linda the toilet had overflowed, her response was priceless. After all that had gone wrong, she looked at me and said, "I guess we better praise the Lord."

I knew then that we were going to be okay. Everything had gone wrong, and we felt miserable, but we could still make the choice to praise God!

You can always choose to praise--and by the way, that trip to Alaska was one of the most incredible trips we have ever been on. Satan had tried to derail us at the start but because we chose to praise; God broke through in incredible ways.

Expressions of Praise

Praise can be expressed in many ways. The most common Hebrew word for praise is Yadah.

Yadah comes from Hebrew word yad, which means hand. Yadah originally meant "to extend the hand." It then came to mean "to praise God with lifted hands"

Did you know you can praise God without speaking a word? Just raise your hands to Him.

I grew up in a very conservative church where expressive praise was discouraged. I've heard people criticize "Charismatics" for wanting to raise their hands in worship. They'd usually ask, "Where do you see that in the Bible?"

Of course, there are a number of verses that encourage us to lift up holy hands to the Lord. But if you study the Bible in Hebrew, you discover that the exhortation to praise God with lifted hands is probably the most frequently repeated command in the Bible! When the Bible exhorts us to praise the Lord, in most cases, the Hebrew word is yadah, "to praise God with lifted hands."

Yadah is one of the most beautiful expressions of praise. It's the picture of a little child running into arms of her mother, crying, "Mommy! I love you, I need you, pick me up and hold me close!"

It is a natural thing for a little child to lift up his or her hands to a loving parent. It's a beautiful thing when we express our love for God that way.

In Hebrew, the name of the tribe of Judah comes from the word Yadah. Judah was a tribe of praise.

In fact, Judah was the personification of praise. God used Judah to teach us about praise. As you read through the Bible, you notice several unique things about the tribe of Judah.

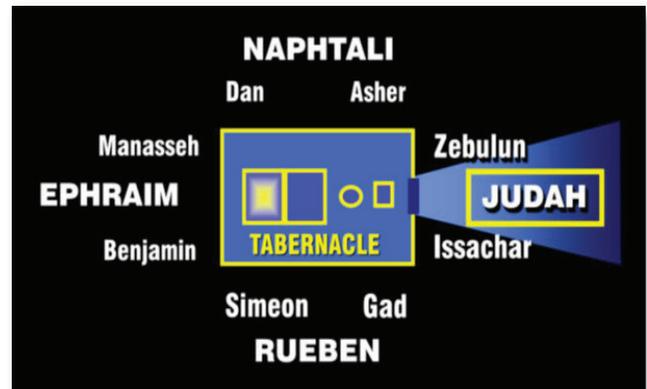
Judah always went first. When Israel marched through the wilderness, Judah was put in the lead.

In Judges 20:18 we read, "...who of us shall go first to fight against Benjamites?" The Lord replied, "Judah shall go first."

Judah always went first. There were 12 tribes. Why was Judah always first?

I believe it was because Judah represented praise. God was teaching us: praise goes first. God is saying, "In any situation, let praise go first."

Judah was also given a special position at the tabernacle.



The tabernacle was the dwelling place of God's presence. The entrance to the tabernacle was on the east side. When the tribes were assigned their positions around the tabernacle, guess who was stationed at the entrance?

Judah!

God was saying that the way to His presence is through praise.

Psalm 100:4 tells us, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise." If you want to experience God's presence, the key is praise.

Judah was also given a special privilege in the land. When the tribes were each assigned their portion in the Promised Land, where did God declare that His Presence would dwell?

It was in the territory of Judah! That's where God chose for the temple to be built.

Why was that?

Judah represented praise! God's presence, His glory, always dwells in the midst of praise. Psalm 22:3 tells us, "God is enthroned on the praises of His people."

If we want God's presence to dwell in our midst, we must be a people of praise.

Judah shows us that praise must go first.

Judah tells us that the gateway to God's presence is praise.

Judah reveals that God dwells in the midst of praise.

From Judah (or Yadah), we also get the word Jew. The Jews were a people of praise. They were created to be a praise and a blessing to the entire earth. In biblical times, the Jews fulfilled that call.

Jews knew praise better than anyone.

It's amazing how many different words the Jews had for praise.

Hebrew words for praise include Yadah (to raise hands in praise), Towdah (to extend the hand), Barach (to kneel), Halal (a free and unrestrained celebration), Tehilah (to sing praises), Mecholah (to dance), Zamar (to strike the strings of a musical instrument), Shabach (to shout, to praise loudly), and many more.

Why did the Jews have so many words for praise? Having so many Hebrew words for praise reminds me of all the words the Yupik Eskimos of Alaska have for snow. There are dozens of Yupik words for snow:

There is qanir (which means snow). But there is also qanuk (snowflake), aniu (snow on the ground), natquik (drifting snow), nevluk (clinging snow), qetrar (crusted snow), qengaruk (a snow bank), and dozens more.

Why do Alaskan natives have so many words for snow?

Because snow is their life. They spend much of their lives surrounded by snow. It's what they live in continually.

That's what praise was like for Jews. Jews knew praise like Alaskan natives know snow.

All of those words for praise reveal different expressions of praise. If you want to praise God, you can do any of those things. You can sing to Him, express thanks to Him, praise Him with a passage of Scripture, lift your hands to him, and kneel before Him.

When we choose to praise God, incredible things happen.

Praise brings us into God's Presence

Some years ago we attended a praise gathering at Christ for the Nations Institute in Dallas. It was a wonderful time of praise, a true Halal—free and unrestrained. Two thousand people packed the auditorium. The praise band was playing. People were singing, clapping, raising their hands and dancing. It was very loud.

But then something amazing happened. God showed up!

God's manifest presence fell upon us in a powerful way. Overwhelmed by God's glory, I suddenly stopped singing. A moment later, I realized the praise band had stopped playing. In the middle of a song. In the middle of a line, two thousand people suddenly fell silent. GOD was there!

We stood in awed silence for several minutes, experiencing the weight of God's glory. Finally, the sense of His presence lifted, and two thousand people broke into spontaneous applause, thanking God for blessing us with His presence.

God was telling us that He was pleased with our sacrifice of praise.

Many of us have experienced God's presence as we've praised God. The scenario often goes something like this:

Everything goes wrong on Sunday morning. The kids are fighting; you can't find your shoes. You get to church late.

The service has already begun. You find your place and go through the motions, but it's just singing songs.

But then something happens.

At some point, everything around you fades into the background.

And suddenly it's just you and Him. You have come into His presence.

You are still standing there in church, but you are hardly even conscious of that. You are now in the heavenly realms. You are joining with the angels before the throne of God. You are tasting the activity of heaven!

Why is Praise Important?

Praise is important, first, because it is what you were created to do. It fulfills the deepest need of your heart. It brings you into the presence of One who loves you and gave Himself for you.

But, there is a second reason. Ephesians 1:3 tells us that every blessing is stored up for us in heaven.

This is not a promise of "pie in the sky after we die." You won't need those blessings after you die. You won't need healing in heaven. You won't need finances in heaven. But God knows you need those blessings now.

How do we get those blessings?

When we praise God, we enter the heavenly realms. That's where the blessings are. Praise brings you into the realm of blessing. In the heavenlies, you can gain revelation, faith, strength, deliverance, anointing, and healing.

I've seen incredible healings take place in the midst of praise.

At a Terry Law praise concert years ago, I noticed a young child standing as close as he could get to the stage, eagerly entering into the praise. At the end of the concert, the boy's mother took him onto the stage and testified that her child had been almost totally deaf. He wore large hearing aids. But as he praised God that night, he was healed. With the hearing aids removed, his mother stood several feet behind him and whispered. He could now hear perfectly! (Some friends of ours knew the boy's family and confirmed the reality of the miracle.)

As He praised God, that little boy was caught up into the heavens and received the blessing of healing. Praise releases blessing from heaven!

One goal of praise is to let us transition, however briefly, from earth to heaven. In the heavens, the deepest desires of our heart are satisfied and every need is met.

Praise does many things. It even opens a portal for angels.

In 2 Chronicles 20:21-22, faced with an overwhelming enemy, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord. As they marched out against the enemy, releasing the sound of praise, the Lord set angelic ambushes against the invaders, and they were defeated. If you need angelic help, choose to praise God.

When we praise, God's presence is manifested and the enemy is driven back. When that happens, it is the most natural thing in the world to RESPOND by opening your heart to God in worship!

If you are having trouble entering into worship, remember to go through the gate of praise. Choose to express your praise to Him.

The Activity of Heaven.

I love Revelation 7:15. *"They are before the throne of God and worship Him day and night in His temple... And He who sits on the throne will spread His tent over them."*

That's a picture of what God wants to do for you.

God wants to spread His tent over you. He wants you to dwell under His canopy of protection and blessing. He also wants to extend His canopy over your nation, your city, and your church.

But the prerequisite is worship.

So, choose to become a worshipper!

Why not come before Him today with a thankful heart, and join in the songs of heaven?

Robert Heidler is an apostolic teacher with Glory of Zion International Ministries in Corinth, Texas. He has served as the dean of the Issachar School and Triumphant Faith Institute at Glory of Zion.



Robert holds a B.A. from the University of South Florida, a Th.M. from Dallas Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Practical Ministry from Wagner University.

He and his wife, Linda, have ministered extensively as visiting teachers in Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Mongolia. They have also taught at the Messianic Jewish Bible Institutes in Ukraine, Hungary, and Russia, Wagner Leadership Institutes in the United States and Korea, and Gateways Beyond training center in Cyprus.

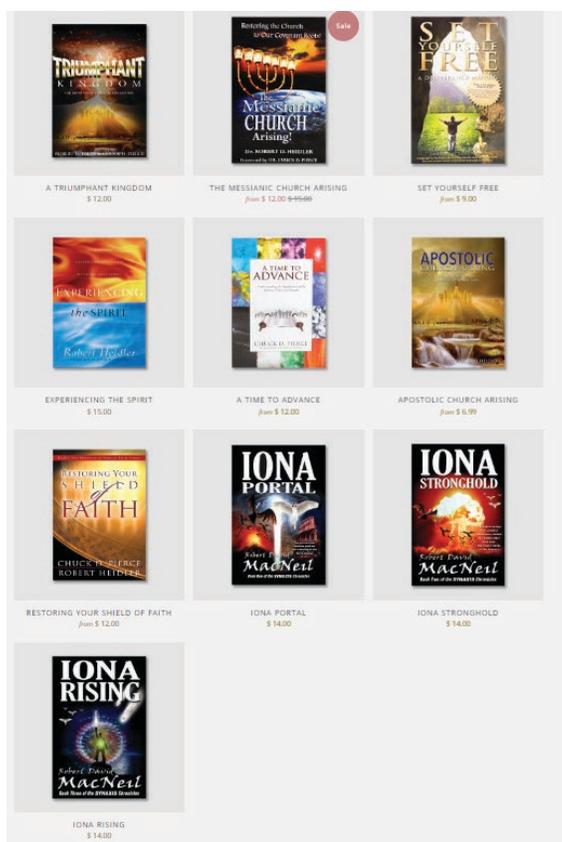
Robert's books include Experiencing the Spirit (Chosen Books), Set Yourself Free: A Deliverance Manual, and The Messianic Church Arising (published by Glory of Zion). He has published a popular trilogy of fiction books on spiritual warfare, Iona

Portal, Iona Stronghold, and Iona Rising (under the pen name, Robert David MacNeil).

Robert has also co-authored several books with Chuck Pierce, including Restoring Your Shield of Faith (Chosen Books), A Time to Advance, A Time to Prosper, The Apostolic Church Arising and A Triumphant Kingdom: The Apostolic Church Advancing (published by Glory of Zion)

Robert and his wife, Linda, have three grown children and five grandchildren, and live in Denton, Texas.

Check out all of Robert's books at the Glory of Zion Webstore at the link below!



<https://store.gloryofzion.org/collections/robert-heidler-test>

Our Worship

Destiny

by Steve Fish

As I put the scripture up on the screens, I had no idea what was about to happen. I was expecting us to say the verse together a few times out loud and then move on.

***“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD,
THE ALMIGHTY,
WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”***

As we repeated it several times, you could feel something happening in the atmosphere in the room. Each time we cried out there was an increasing intensity.

***“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD,
THE ALMIGHTY,
WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”***

Now, only a few minutes later, everyone in the room was crying out and shouting at the top of their lungs,

***“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD,
THE ALMIGHTY,
WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”***

As this continued, the atmosphere of heaven began to fill the room. It was amazing, scary, wonderful and wild all at the same time.

Moments earlier a group of somewhat self-conscious believers had entered the room. Minds anxiously drifting at times to tasks awaiting us in the week ahead, we had begun to worship.

A planned Sunday evening corporate scripture quote had now morphed into something I never expected. Something heavenly, something out of control, something fearfully amazing was taking place.

Minutes before, we had been aware of the temperature of the room and how we should have ironed our shirt. Now, we were consumed with someone so great and so powerfully present. Someone who was not visible with earthly eyes but actually more real than the blue chairs that filled the room.

Moments flew by unnoticed as our sense of earthly time was overtaken by eternity.

***“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD,
THE ALMIGHTY,
WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”***

Around thirty minutes later, this encounter ended; however, something happened in our hearts that would never end. Our lives were permanently marked, and our church was never the same. We had tasted too much of the eternal to settle for anything less. We had experienced the majesty of our God and we knew we had been a part of the worship in heaven's throne room.

What an honor it is to get to release the worship of heaven onto the earth. What an honor it is to gather with other believers. What an honor it is to come together as the family of God, lay aside our petty differences, and be consumed with the One who is the same yesterday, today,

and forever. What an honor it is to fall down together with other believers at the feet of the Lord Jesus.

One day, we will all join together to worship in heaven's throne room. In that moment, you will not hold back. You will not have an ounce of self-consciousness or timidity. You will gladly yield every cell of your being to worship the Lamb for all eternity.

Why wait? Why hold back when He is worthy right now? Why would we want to release cautious and reserved worship now when all of creation is anxiously longing and eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God? Why would we want to hold back when every cell of our bodies was created to be fully presented to Him as an offering of worship?

As this heavenly scene in the book of Revelation continues to unfold, the next verse says "And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever,"

The elders in heaven are falling down before Him who sits on the throne! What are leaders doing in heaven? They are falling down before the throne. This is our greatest calling as spiritual leaders. We are to never lose our passion and captivation with the One on the throne. It is only from this place of humble adoration and fascination with the One on the throne that we will have the heavenly



perspective and power to truly make a difference on the earth. It's only in the presence of the One who is the Light that we will be able to see the way forward.

The elders are falling down to WORSHIP Him who lives forever and ever. This word "worship" is found more often in the book of Revelation than in any other book in New Testament. Your end-time destiny is worship! Your future is an eternal worship gathering before the throne.

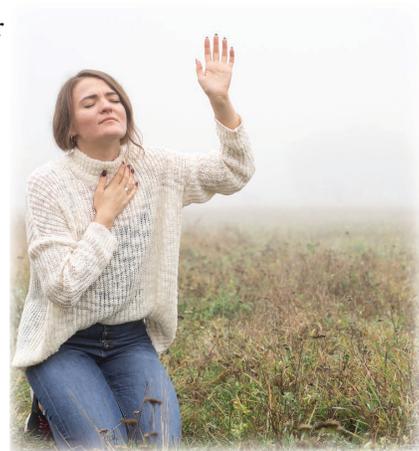
However, worship is not only in your future, it is actually who you are. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit. You are a Holy Place of worship. The Greek word used here is a word that is most often used to describe the holy place and the holy of holies. The holy of holies is inside of you! The Holy One Himself is inside of you!

In another verse, the New Testament describes us not only individually, but corporately as the temple of the Holy Spirit. Something precious and powerful happens as we come together to worship as the corporate temple of the Spirit. There is an increase that occurs when we come together in unity to worship.

As temples of the Holy Spirit, who are seated with

Christ in heavenly places, we no longer worship to try to ENTER His presence, we worship FROM His presence. This mindset shift has made a huge difference in our worship gatherings in recent years. We now begin our worship thanking the Lord that He is already present and moving among us. Rather than struggling to get somewhere we are now thanking Him that He is already present and moving among us. We are not struggling to enter His presence; we have been given confident access through the blood of Jesus.

As believers in Jesus, we are no longer drawing near to God based on anything we have done or have not done. We are drawing near with confidence for one reason. We have a Great High Priest, Jesus, who has given us confidence to enter the holy place by His blood. We are drawing near as those who have been made righteous and are now sons and daughters and friends of God.



In many ways, it's like we now begin our worship where we used to end! Many times in the past we would spend an entire worship service trying to enter the presence of God.

Now, we take our place as those who have been brought near by the blood and seated with Jesus in heavenly places. We draw near, but no longer as those who are in the outer courts. We draw near to a God who IS near. We draw near, not as those who are far from God, but as those who are already in the room with Him.

We draw near, not as those who never pray or read their Bibles enough. We draw near as those who know that Jesus is our enough. We no longer worship, pray, or read the word to try to please God. We do these things because we know our Father IS pleased with us and because we enjoy spending time with Him.

From this place of confident access, we not only enter His presence but also live in His presence and go to deeper places in His presence. We fix our eyes on Jesus and grow in our revelation of Him as we are captivated by His burning eyes of fire.

As we worship from this place, He does what only He can do. In this place, we are overwhelmed by the outpouring of His love and power. One person in the room is crying as their broken heart is being healed; while at the same time, another is drunk with laughter. One person is noticing pain has left their body; while at the same time, another person was just freed from a demon. One person is writing down something they heard the Lord say; while at the same time, someone else is shouting and dancing.

These are precious moments where He does what only He can do. He transforms us in His presence. He gives us what we can never earn and what no amount of money could ever buy.

One day in heaven, you will cry out,

***“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD,
THE ALMIGHTY,***

WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

Don't wait another moment. You have the amazing honor and privilege to worship right now wherever you are. Release the worship Holy Spirit is already manifesting within you. Gather with other believers to celebrate and join in with all of heaven crying, “Holy, Holy, Holy...”

It's who you are. It's your eternal destiny. It's who we are as the church of the Living God. It's what we will never cease doing.

***“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD,
THE ALMIGHTY,***

WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”



Steve Fish is passionate about bringing all generations and every nation into encounters with Jesus. He is an apostolic leader who travels internationally ministering with a heart to see people come into their identity and into deeper intimacy with God. He loves to help leaders create healthy, empowering cultures where city transformation is released. He is often called on to train in the prophetic and apostolic dimensions and is a leader in Catch the Fire Leader's Alliance and Bethel Leader's Network. He and his wife Marci have been pastoring Convergence Church in Fort Worth, TX since 1990 and are the proud father and mother of six amazing kids, one daughter, three sons, 2 daughters-in-law and three beautiful grandchildren who are their joy and delight.



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SPIRITUAL WARFARE

through

DANCE

by Beth Miles

When we study the word of God about praise and worship, we discover many Biblical ways of expressing our praise to God. We can sing, shout, clap and lift our hands, play instruments, bow down, dance, etc. It is our desire to set an atmosphere that God can inhabit and dwell in the midst of us.

Psalm 22:3 You sit as the Holy One. The praises of Israel are your throne.

As believers, we start learning how to worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24), pledging our love and allegiance to the King of kings. As worshippers, and dancers in particular, we are to grow in our knowledge, responsibility and call to holy worship, adoration and praise, as well as intercession and spiritual warfare. As worship leaders, I believe we are called to represent the heart of God to the people and the heart of the people to God. In doing this, we need to know the many attributes of God and His expressions toward us as His children. When we have an anointed worship leader and worship team along with an anointed dance team, we can experience our God in His fullness.

In our times of worship, we may sense the heart of God to bring a spirit of joy or His holiness; other times, we may sense the need for healing or an outpouring of His love.

In this article we will focus on God calling us to rise up with Him in our worship to battle the enemy through intercession and dance! As Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, ***1 "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. . . . 8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace."***

There are times when the Holy Spirit will cause us to be aware of the need for a breakthrough in the spirit! There may be times where there is a heaviness in the atmosphere, or the church is struggling with finances, illnesses or hardships. These times require a breakthrough in the atmosphere.

As the present-day Levites, we need to discern the times of the Spirit, so we can lead God's people into the victory over darkness! The Lord has sounded His trumpet, and we hear the call to battle. Our Commander in Chief, Mighty Warrior, is dressed for battle, and He will lead us prophetically into the enemy's camp to take back territory for the Kingdom of God!

Our God is a God of warfare. We are to be like our God, imitators of Him, created in His image and fashioned in His likeness. As Christians, we see throughout scripture that we are called to be warriors of our God and defenders of His Kingdom.

Exodus 15:3 The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is His name;

Psalm 18: 37-40 I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed. I crushed them so that they could not rise; they fell beneath my feet. You armed me with strength for battle; you humbled my adversaries before me. You made my enemies turn their backs in flight and destroyed my foes.

Psalm 24:8 *Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!*

Tsebaoth is one of the descriptive names given to our God. Lord Tsebaoth means Lord of Hosts. This name of God is used over four times more than any other redemptive or descriptive name ascribed to the Lord. It literally means Lord of Warriors. Tsebaoth's root word, tsaba, means armies, hosts or multitudes, to wage war.

This word expresses myriads, a vast sea of varying ranks and individuals under God's command; both human and angelic. Our God is the Lord of warriors, and His vast army consists of His people and the angels together! Hallelujah! When we are called into warfare by the Spirit, we will not be fighting alone! Our God will lead us forth into battle along with the angelic hosts as the word of God reveals to us.

Why should we fight? The answer is that we have an opponent, Satan!

The Bible tells us clearly that we are in a battle.

Revelation 12:17 *Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring- those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.*

Revelation 17:14 *They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.*

Matthew 11:12 *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.*

God has given us authority to put all things under our feet and to tread down the enemy. With each step, we take possession of all He has provided for His chosen people, to pull down strongholds and push back darkness. He has given us His armor and instructs us to put it on.

Ephesians 6:11 *Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

II Corinthians 10:3-4 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

Entering this area of spiritual warfare should not be done lightly. There is spiritual preparation that first takes place within the life of the worshipper before he or she should enter this fight against the powers of darkness.

II Timothy 2:4 *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who has chosen him to be a soldier. As the spiritual priests of the Lord we are called to be sanctified and to walk worthy of our calling.*

I Chronicles 15:12, 14 *And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. 14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel.*

I am specifically speaking to those who are called to the ministry of dance. As worshipping warriors through dance, we use our movement as weapons of war.

Therefore, we are using our body, soul, and spirit as instruments in worship preparing the atmosphere for God to fill His sanctuary where He can inhabit our praises.

When we study the scriptures on worship and worshippers, we see that we are to be set apart, and we are not to walk according to the ways of this world. When we follow God's design and order of worship, we enter into the Spirit and follow His lead as to what the Lord wants to do in our midst.

The reality of God's manifest presence is brought through anointed praise and worship, devastating the armies of our enemy as we release the Holy Spirit in warfare. The reaction in the spirit realm is experienced as our Lord leads us by His Spirit into powerful moves of pushing back darkness and putting the enemy under our feet. The atmosphere changes as heaven and earth join in battle against darkness. Yokes are broken and lives are changed, touched, healed, and delivered!



Psalm 149: 6-9 *Let the high praises be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the written judgment- this honor have all His saints. Praise the Lord!*

II Corinthians 10:3-4 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds...*

Ephesians 6:10-12 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places.*

I have found in my 40 years of leading dance ministry and operating as an appointed worship dancer for Jesus, that together with the worship team, we have the power, authority, and blessing of the Lord to enter into the spirit realm, into heavenly places with Christ Jesus. Dancing with dominion, by the anointing and the leading of the Holy Spirit, we can destroy the works of darkness and pull down strongholds. The atmosphere changes allowing our God to be in our midst as He leads us into the battle and gives us victory!

There are many examples of God moving in this way on behalf of His people through praise and worship.

II Chronicles 20:14-33 King Jehoshaphat - The Lord set ambushes against the enemy.

I Samuel 16:23 The evil spirit would leave Saul.

Joshua 6 The Jericho march, especially verse 20, the wall comes down.

Acts 16:25-26 Paul and Silas prison doors open.

Dancers appointed to this ministry, can open the way through dance for the church to cross through the barriers in the spirit and give direction to God's people, taking more ground for His Kingdom. Those who are called to dance, that also have a prophetic anointing, are usually the most sensitive to the Lord's direction and effective in leading others into spiritual warfare in worship. This extra measure of anointing gives great advantage and authority in defeating the schemes of the devil. Allow the Spirit of the Lord to open this area of the dance to you and begin to follow the Holy Spirit into battle.

Come to attention, learning, and being placed into your rank. Fight with your hands and feet; engage in warfare to take back what the enemy has taken as we go in and possess the land. Our Captain and Commander will teach, guide and direct us in the battle. You are called to tread upon the enemy!

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen

Luke 9:1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

It's time for us to arise and take our place with the anointing and authority Jesus has given us! He is calling

for His dancing worshipers and warriors to join Him to push back the darkness and bring the victory. Listen to His call to go into battle with Him. He is the Lord of Hosts, the Lord of Warriors!



Beth Miles has been dancing in expressive worship since 1982. She was appointed as the leader of the expressive dance team in 1983. Since that time she has traveled both in the United States and abroad, where she has been instrumental in training up and supporting other dancers and dance ministries, teaching the Biblical foundations of the dance, and the effective place it has in the church. She has traveled and taken dance to 11 states, 36 cities and 7 Countries, which include Japan, Hong Kong, Israel, Canada, Haiti and Cuba. While traveling with her husband for his job, she also ministered for 22 months in a women's prison and established a dance ministry there with the inmates.

She is currently ministering at the River of Life Church in Phoenix, Arizona where she is the founder of the dance ministry and has been a member since 1989. Beth is recognized as an apostle to the expressive worship team and a prophet to the church. She was ordained as a minister by the River of Life on 11/15/1993.

Beth is married to her husband Keith of 47 years and has one son. They live in Phoenix, Arizona.

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The Processes of

Praise

or

How to Make it in a Mess

by Jack Taylor

The following article was taken from a book by Jack Taylor, entitled "The Hallelujah Factor." It is still available on Amazon.

The Processes of Praise

Nowhere are the procedures on praise any clearer than in the story found in 2 Chronicles 20. I suggest that you take time right now to read that story. I first preached this message under the title, "How to Make it in a Mess." Though the title is changed, the message is virtually unchanged.

So vital is our Scripture text in 2 Chronicles 20 that we have already mentioned it more than once and will likely mention it again. It provides a living lesson on the power of perpetual praise. It is a prime text on the sacrifice of praise, that exercise which is forced to go against visibilities and opinions to sacrifice a point of view. But for our purpose here we will observe it in the light of the processes by which praise works. The background is a crisis of such proportion that there is absolutely no human alternative to despair and defeat. In other words, everything was simply in a mess. That should not be too shocking, however, because Jesus warned us in **John 16:33**, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Getting Acquainted with Jehoshaphat

The principal character in this episode deserves our close observation. We will greatly benefit from our closer acquaintance with him. Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, the tribe whose name meant "Praise the Lord." The Lord was with him because in his early years he walked in the ways of David. He refused to consult with

the followers of Baal, and thus the Lord established the kingdom under his control. He sent teachers throughout the kingdom to teach the Book of the Law. Such was the blessing from God upon his reign, that the neighboring kingdoms dared not attack but instead brought tribute to Judah and Jehoshaphat. At the peak of his greatness with wealth and honor among the nations, Jehoshaphat allied himself with wicked King Ahab by marriage. That mistaken alliance subjected him to the conditions which precipitated the crisis of our text. Ahab was king of Israel. He immediately asked Jehoshaphat to join him in attacking Ramoth Gilead. All the prophets of Israel and the priests of Baal agreed that the battle should be fought. They prophesied total victory. Zedekiah, son of Chenaanah, joined in their ill-fated prophecies. Only the faithful prophet, Micaiah, predicted that the battle would go against them. His punishment for telling the truth was a prison cell with bread and water as his fare.

Ahab never returned from the battle, the victim of a "nameless, aimless" Bowman. Jehoshaphat was spared because he entered the battle in disguise, and no one recognized him as the king of Judah. Upon the return to his palace, Jehoshaphat was informed by Jehu that he had made a tragic mistake in helping the wicked and in loving those who hated God. After a stern reprimand, Jehu said, "There is, however, some good in you, for you rid the land of Asherah poles and set your heart on seeking God" (2 Chronicles 19:3). With a severe lesson learned, Jehoshaphat seemed to turn to God more devotedly than ever before. He appointed judges in the land and demanded that they administer justice in the name of the Lord. He reminded them, "Now let the fear of the Lord be upon you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God

there is no injustice or partiality or bribery” (2 Chronicles 19:7). In the capital city, Jerusalem, he appointed priest and ordered them to administer the Law of the Lord in the settling of all disputes. With this memory clear, he reminded them that if they sinned against the Lord, his wrath would come upon them. His recovery from backsliding seemed to be complete. His advice was, *“Act with courage, and may the Lord be with those who do well” (2 Chronicles 19:11).*

At this time the peace of the palace was broken by the startling news that a vast army was headed for the capital and was already in Hazazon Tamar (En Gedi). Immediately Jehoshaphat called all the people of Judah together. As they gathered, the first word from Jehoshaphat was not to the people but to God. That word is recorded in **2 Chronicles 20:6-12.**

A Prayer of Perspective

We are observing here the processes of praise, and this prayer is all-important in that operation. We see first a reminder of God’s exalted position. *“O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you” (vs. 6).* Now, this is a word of praise, pure and simple. God knew that every word Jehoshaphat uttered was true. It was no more true after he uttered it, but such language stills the turbulence of bothered hearts and causes faith to rise.

Then there was a recounting of God’s efficient performance in the past. *“O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?” (vs. 7).* God had a perfect record in the past. In his prayer Jehoshaphat indicated he believed that the record would stand.

Finally, there was a reliance upon God’s enabling power. *“If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague of famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple which bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear and save us” (vs. 9).*

Steps Through the Mess

For the rest of this chapter, we will merely observe the elementary processes by which praise operates. It would be best for you to relate to these processes through the framework of a crisis of your own. If you do not have one handy, however, borrow one from your neighbor!

First, he started at the point of the problem. There was no attempt to gloss over the seriousness of the problem. There was no compensation and no rationalization. He faced the problem squarely. Reality therapy demands that we do the same. So often we play games and cover up the fact of a crisis with an attempt to succeed at some lesser point to distract from the crisis at hand. *“But now here are men from Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from*

Egypt; so, they turned away from them and did not destroy them. See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance” (vs. 10-11). The problem was serious. That fact was plain to see. It would have been a waste of time to downplay the severity of the situation.

So, you’re in a mess. Go ahead and state your problem to God! You need to hear how serious it is. Don’t coat it over with superficial slang. Don’t laugh it off. Don’t throw a pity party. State the problem as accurately as possible, sparing no detail for sake of feelings. You, as Jehoshaphat was, will be ready for the next significant step.

Second, he ceased all trust in the flesh. This is so vital I could not possibly overstate it. The flesh so often prevents us from looking to God as our sole resource. Listen to Jehoshaphat’s words. *“We have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do” (vs. 12).* There was a confession of human impotence and infirmity. We have been taught by our theatrical heroes and heroines that we should never admit weakness. Mature men and women simply don’t do that. Hogwash! The child who assumes this philosophy would never have a meaningful relationship with his parents, and the believer who embraces this approach will never have a meaningful relationship with God! Praise is a death blow to the flesh. It is a denial of self-trust, pride, and independence. Each of us should memorize this prayer of Jehoshaphat in its entirety, placing emphasis on the line, *“We have no power. . . we do not know what to do!”*

Third, he completely concentrated on God. It is not only important to cease all trust in the powers of the flesh; it is vital to make the next right move. The last words of the prayer of Jehoshaphat were, *“but our eyes are upon you.”* This is the mood of all genuine praise—concentration on God. The implications of such a mood are manifold and significant. It discounts all other sources of hope and singles out God alone. It fastens the gaze upon God and determines to wait on him until. . . The next action or word will come from God under such waiting. With the frank admission of human infirmity and ignorance, the orientation moved solely to God. The severity of the problem was clear, the frailty of their humanity was fact. But now all eyes were upon God. If we look at our problems or our own weaknesses, we shall soon despair. Not so with preoccupations with God. This is the heart of praise—Our eyes are on you, our GOD! Praise is not problem-centered. Praise is God-centered!

Fourth, they continued before God. *“All the men of Judah, with their wives, and their children and their little ones, stood before the Lord” (2 Chronicles 20:13).* This is always a necessary part of the process which brings us through to victory. It seems to be the least tolerable on our part. There is something in all of us which seems to be foreign to waiting, but waiting is also a part of the mood of praise. While we wait, we are praising God. This standing before God is always a time of meditation, a time of investigation, a time of cleansing, and a time of consecration. How long are we to continue before God?

Until—that's it—until! We are neither to light our own fire nor to manipulate the effects of our own causes. We are to wait on and concentrate on God. No time is lost in such an endeavor.

Fifth, he confessed the truth of God. Between the fourth and fifth steps, a very unusual occurrence took place. They heard from God. Such a position as taken by Jehoshaphat generally brings a word from God. Listen to the message they received from God. *“Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s”* (2 Chronicles 20:15b). God then proceeded to tell them exactly where the enemy would be as it advanced. The men of Judah were not to fight but only assume their positions, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord God. The response of Jehoshaphat and the people was to *“worship and praise the Lord with a very loud voice”* (2 Chronicles 20:19). Jehoshaphat then made an important confession before the Lord and the people, *“Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful”* (2 Chronicles 20:20b). There was a full agreement on the part of the people and the leadership with what they had heard from God. Their praises were a loud “Amen” to the words of God. To hear the word of the Lord is one matter; to heed it and do it is quite another. There is a remarkable passage of Scripture in Hebrews 13:5-6, *“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Neither will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’* So, we say with confidence, *“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”* Anything God has said we may boldly receive and repeat. God has said—therefore we may say! Say what? Anything—on any subject! In this case God had said, *“This is my battle. Don’t be afraid. Take your position and watch me win the war!”* Their rejoicing was a sign of confession that the word of God was surely true. They did precisely that.

Sixth, there was a commitment to obey. God has said, *“Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you”* (2 Chronicles 20:17b). This is what they did. Early the next morning they left for the desert of Tekoa. At this time Jehoshaphat consulted the people and appointed men to sing to the Lord on the journey. Thus, they went out at the head of the army, singing a one-line chorus: *“Give thanks to (praise) the Lord, for his love endures forever!”* Over and over, they sang that line. The remarkable significant fact about that is: At the same time, they began to sing and praise the Lord, *“The Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated”* (2 Chronicles 20:22). Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah had not reached the battlefield, but their praises had released God to act and with suddenness

“
We are to
wait on and
concentrate
on God. No
time is lost
in such an
endeavor.
”

yet deliberateness God acted! The result was that the men from Ammon and Moab turned on the men from Mount Seir and slaughtered them, totally annihilating the whole army of Seir. Then, without explanation the Ammonites and the Moabites turned upon each other until all the combined armies were dead. No other battle to compare with this one is recorded in the history of military endeavor.

When the men of Judah came to the place which overlooks the desert and gazed toward the vast army, all they saw were dead bodies. No one had escaped.

Seventh, they collected the riches from the crisis. This is the prize of praise. Praise does more than enable us to survive. It enables us to thrive. In fact, so great was the plunder from the battle which the Lord had fought—the clothing, the equipment, the valuables—that it took three days to collect it. God had turned what might have been Judah’s saddest day into a celebration of victory and the taking of spoils from the battle.

On the fourth day, after the three-day period of collecting the spoils of the war, they gathered in the Valley of Beracah (“Blessing Valley”) where they praised the Lord. This is why it was called the Valley of Beracah. After this, Jehoshaphat and the men of Judah returned to Jerusalem and immediately entered the Temple with harps, lutes and trumpets. The Bible thoughtfully reports at this point, *“And the Kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.”*

Thus we have seven steps through the crisis. It worked for Jehoshaphat, and it will work for you. Praise was the key! Now notice that praise was the preface to the process; praises pervaded the process; and praises formed the postscript to the process.



Jack R. Taylor stepped into heaven on April 25, 2021. Jack pastored Castle Hills Baptist Church for almost 17 years and had an itinerant ministry lasting nearly 40 years after that. He was a prolific author and his name has become synonymous with the Spirit-filled life. Jack was a friend of Ras and Bev Robinson’s and Fulness magazine. He wrote several articles for the publication. We are honored to republish this article from Fulness magazine taken from his book entitled *“The Hallelujah Factor”*. It is available on Amazon.

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Matthew 6:10

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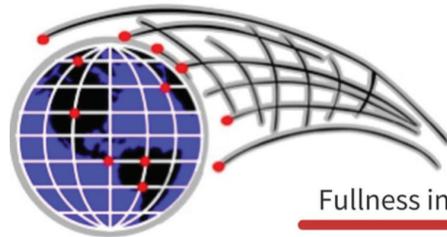
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WORSHIP

Is it a billion-dollar industry, a weapon of warfare, or is it bowing face down in the presence of the Almighty?

photo by Charles Rowles

by Troy Thompson

It is all the above. In this modern world the Christian music industry has seen tremendous growth from its roots in the late 1960s Jesus movement. Today, it counts for half a billion dollars in sales and is the fastest growing genre among millennials (A 2017 survey by Barna Group) with more than 1,600 Christian radio stations in the US and over 68 percent of Americans listening. The largest Christian music festivals are drawing hundreds of thousands of worshipers. During the Corona virus state lockdowns, we saw huge gatherings of believers getting together in outside venues and parks. Today's worship seems to be unstoppable, making national headlines as worship leader Sean Feucht leads thousands in worship at the national mall. John 4:23 states

“But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the father in spirit and in truth, for the father is seeking such people to worship him.”

“Let Us Worship” became a movement with churches taking to the streets and parks to have worship services that were no longer allowed inside the church buildings. State mandates had crossed the line. As if it was bottled up and ready to break, the worship from worshipers, lovers of Jesus, could not be held back. It was almost a way to keep the rocks from crying out His name. Luke 19:40 says

“And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.”

With worshipers in the streets shown on national news and in every newspaper, we saw something happen that most believed would never happen with the overturning of America's abortion law (Roe v. Wade); worship changes things. Not only does it glorify God, but worship will reset you in a right place preparing your heart to receive. Worship takes you out of the equation and puts God in as the focus. Worship will keep you humble. Worship changes our hearts.

I was recently at a men's event that reported over three thousand men in attendance with another thousand or so online participants. These men were on their feet, hands raised, worshipping God. Hundreds went forward and asked Jesus into their hearts. Statistically, men's events are the lowest attended of all church outings. As a Men's Pastor, to be a part of so many going forward for salvation and rededication to lead their families was inspiring; I was in awe of God moving on the hearts of so many.

Paul and Silas were in prison, but it didn't change their outlook. It didn't change their love for God, and it sure didn't keep them from worshipping God where others were listening. Acts 16:25-26 says

“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.”

Worship will set us free from our bonds. Since state governments have pushed us outside of the walls of our churches, let's keep it there, in the streets, in the parks, and in the news. Let our worship be constant.

Praise is a weapon of war. In Judges 7, Gideon worshipped, and God told him to use trumpets and jars. At the Battle for Jericho, God told Joshua to send the trumpets, first ordering his men not to speak as they marched around the city, Joshua 6:10

“But Joshua had commanded the army, ‘Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!’”

The point is Joshua did not need a bunch of complainers second guessing their orders marching around the city. The same thing goes for us. We should not be complaining about the season we are in, just keep marching with a shout of praise at the ready. Psalm: 4:9

“Shout to the Lord all the earth, break out in praise and sing for joy. Sing your praise to the Lord with the heart and melodious song with trumpets and the sound of the ram’s horn. Make a joyful symphony before the Lord.”

In 2 Chronicles 20:18-21 it says

“Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head down, with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshiping GOD. The Levites (both Kohathites and Korahites) stood to their feet to praise GOD, the God of Israel; they praised at the top of their lungs! They were up early in the morning, ready to march into the wilderness of Tekoa. As they were leaving, Jehoshaphat stood up and said, ‘Listen Judah and Jerusalem! Listen to what I have to say! Believe firmly in GOD, your God, and your lives will be firm! Believe in your prophets and you’ll come out on top!’ After talking it over with the people, Jehoshaphat appointed a choir for GOD dressed in holy robes. They were to march ahead of the troops, singing, “Give thanks to GOD.”

Before every battle God has instructed us to worship Him, and He would deliver us from our battles. Can you see it? Jehoshaphat bowing face down to the ground and all Judah and Jerusalem doing the same: face down before Almighty God. Just before going into battle, under God's instruction, Jehoshaphat sent a choir marching in front of the Army. That had never happened before! Praise goes before the battle.

Today, we are faced with all types of battles including our health, workplace, schools, and even for our country. God's battle plan has not changed; worship goes first.

2 Chronicles 7:14 states

“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

Music and songs go all the way back to the Genesis story: we see that Jubal was the father of stringed instruments, and of course, there was the celebration after the crossing of the Red Sea. This may have been the first worship gathering of its kind. In Exodus, we read about the Song of Moses. Exodus 15:20-21

“Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing, and Miriam sang to them.”

This must have been one amazing time. They had been set free from slavery only to be chased by an Egyptian army, then to see that very army swallowed up by the sea. God himself had become their deliverer and protector. The people couldn't help but sing out.

Who could forget David playing his harp for Saul? 1 Samuel 16:23 states

“And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.”

All of these must have been amazing to see and to be a part of, but it is not the only way we worship God.

Worship, True Worship, requires sacrifice! The most well-known story of this pattern is Abraham's sacrifice of his son Isaac. It is the first mention of worship in the Bible. Genesis 22:5 records

“And Abraham said to his young men, stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.” His very faith-filled statement was “and we will come back to you”.

Knowing what had been asked of him and him fully trusting in God shows the relationship that he had with God. What we see as sacrifice; Abraham called worship.

We see this again with the offerings of the widow's mite in Luke 21:1-4

“And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So, He said, truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.”

Again, we see sacrifice. Who knows what she had chosen to give up in order to give her offering. She chose worshipping and honoring God over her own needs.

Another example of worship is found in Luke 7. Here, we see a woman (an outcast) who brought in an alabaster box of ointment, her most valuable item. As she pushed her way into the Pharisee's house, Jesus was about to eat. She pushed through the shame of being an outcast, a sinner and just began to worship. She washed the feet of Jesus with her own tears and dried them with her own hair, kissing and anointing the feet of Jesus. She had not a care of what others were thinking or if they were judging her.

Worship requires sacrifice. Hebrews 13:15 says

“Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.”

God loves and acknowledges our sacrifice to him. It is our very act of praise and worship that stimulates Him to move on our behalf.

Shachah is a Hebrew word used for worship. It means to bow face down to the ground before our God. Merriam-Webster defines worship: *“to honor or show reverence for a divine being or supernatural power; to regard with great or extravagant respect, honor, or devotion.”* So, our worship and praise to God demonstrates our humility and shows our respect to one always greater than us.

However, you started this journey of Christianity through an alter call; a friend telling you about Jesus, or a street evangelist. The point is, you heard the call of Jesus in your heart and reached out for salvation. The next great step in your walk with God starts at home in a still quiet place. Begin to fervently thank God for just who He is, for His sovereignty, and for His unending love for us. This comes from a place of realization that we can't live without Him, and we begin thanking Him for His forgiveness. Then, you find yourself face down in the presence of the Almighty, in awe of Him even giving you His consideration. Psalm 8:3-5 says



“When I consider Your heavens; the work of your fingers, the moon, and the stars, which you have ordained; what is man that you are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.”

This is a love so great that God would sacrifice his own Son to have relationship with you. John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

So, the next time you are at some large venue listening to your favorite worship songs, or you're faced with a battle for your health, your finances or the state of your country, remember the true connection is to bring God into the situation, which begins with true worship.

Romans 12:1-2 says

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

God responds to true worship and sacrifice, these acts help us find and do HIS will!



I have a lot of titles: husband, dad, pastor, and entrepreneur, the greatest one is dad. After raising my own girls, I find my greatest joy is in mentoring others, not only in their walk with God, but in all things aviation. I have the honor of serving as Men's Pastor at Fullness in Christ Church Since 2015. I am an entrepreneur and owner of Emerald Arrow Aviation LLC, specializing in completion of experimental home-built aircraft. My team and I have completed more than 80 aircraft with countless customizations of certified aircraft.

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DECLARING THE TRUTH



by Jennifer Peikert

Encountering God

Many of us long for and desire to encounter God. We want to have an encounter with God that will change us forever. We want to experience Him in fresh new ways. One way that we can do this is to lose ourselves in worship. I have had many encounters with God as I have lost myself in worship. I have learned that if I can quiet myself, shut out all distractions and focus on God, I can lose myself in Him. When I have done this I have had the most incredible encounters with God.

We think many times that we are waiting on God, when in reality He is waiting on us. God is speaking to us continually. The question is: Are we listening? God is ready to invade us! He is ready to bring us those encounters. Will you lose yourself in worship? Can you be in worship and just lose yourself in Him?

I hear the Lord saying, “It is time for Heavenly visitations, Heavenly encounters and for you to be marked by Me. I am ready, are you? It is time for you to be rocked by Me.” I would like to share some experiences I have had myself with encounters with God.

My husband Jay and I have traveled to seven countries so far ministering and bringing the word of the Lord to the nations. In these meetings the worship is in a different language we do not speak. So, during worship, I have learned to LOSE myself to God. As I have done this the encounters have been incredible and life changing. I have had Heavenly encounters. I have had Jesus come and take my hand and take me to Heaven. I have had encounters with angels and seen and heard incredible things from the Lord. I would not have had these if I had not been quiet, given myself to Him, and put all my focus on Him and Him alone. When I go into my prayer/alone time with God at home, I have learned it isn’t time for me to do all the talking. So many times, we need to put ALL our focus and attention on God and just sit and listen.

Let’s all be honest; many times, when we get “alone” with God, we want to do all the talking and do not give Him any time to talk to us. When in truth, what God has to say to us and show us is SO much more important than what we have to say. My “silent” times with God have been the times I have had the most amazing encounters with Him. Those times have been when I have been forever changed and rocked by God. What if we simply lost

ourselves to and in Him during worship and our alone time with Him?

I have gotten absolutely quiet in worship and shut out what was going on around me, put all my focus on God and lost myself to Him and amazing things have happened. God wants to do this with you; He wants you to have encounters with Him. One encounter comes to mind as I write this that I believe God wants me to share with you.

My husband and I were in Brazil ministering and during the worship time I began to sing my own song to the Lord. Then, suddenly, I just stopped and lost myself in Him. Jesus came to me, took my hand, and took me to Heaven with Him. He walked me down the street talking to me the entire time we were walking. He asked me questions, and He wanted my answers. He was patient with me. He waited until I could answer. I was truly wrecked by God and so overwhelmed. Once I could answer His first question, He would ask me another, and as I answered that one there was another question. When I answered Him, He said what He wanted to say to me for my life; then I was back in the worship service. Some of you may think I’m crazy, and that’s ok. However, I am telling you the truth when I tell you this story; this happened. And it can happen with you too, if you will lose yourself in Him and to Him.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (NKJV)

“I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows— such a one was caught up to the third Heaven. And I know such a man— whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which is not lawful for a man to utter.”

I have also been in worship, focused on God, lost myself in Him, and was taken into Heaven in the Spirit to another place to accomplish something for God. I am not making this up, this has really happened to me. I have friends that this has also happened to. I have never written about any of my experiences before, but, I know God is wanting me to now. Because this is about to happen more and more to the people who will believe and lose themselves to Him.

James 4:8a (NKJV)

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

Draw near and shut everything else out but Him.

Deuteronomy 4:29 (NKJV)

“But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Your soul is your mind, will, and emotions. Set aside all distractions; focus your mind on Him; get out of yourself/lose yourself in Him, and you will experience the encounters and adventures with God that you have desired. God longs for us to develop a deep relationship with Him. He wants to come and take you places that only He can. An encounter with God will transform us. The Samaritan woman's life was radically transformed when she had an encounter with Jesus (John 4:4-42).

John 4:10 TPT says: Jesus replied,

“If you only knew who I am and the gift God wants to give you, you'd ask Me for a drink, and I would give you living water.”

Oh, if we only knew. Lose yourself and learn who He is and what He wants to give you. My prayer for years has been, “God I want to know your heart and feel your heartbeat.” I have experienced both; I am learning His heart, feeling His heart and knowing His heartbeat.

John 4:14 (TPT)

“But if anyone drinks the living water I give them, they will never be thirsty again. For when you drink the water I give you, it becomes a gushing fountain of the Holy Spirit, flooding you with endless life!”

Get alone with God, lose yourself, and drink Him in. Drink His water, His living water, and you will become a gushing fountain.

God has been calling us for a long time now, and He has been waiting to reveal Himself in a greater measure of intimacy and power. He has been waiting to encounter us. We haven't been waiting on God, He has been waiting on us. God wants you to experience Him personally; He wants you to truly know Him, and He wants you to know His heartbeat. Your encounters with God are not based on your qualifications, capabilities or what you do or don't do or titles. It happens when we focus, listen and respond to Him. You don't have to be perfect in order to encounter God. You just have to believe and make yourself available to Him. You must focus on Him and surrender. Encounters with God are not for the select few; they are for us all. It is for those who hunger for Him and hunger for more.

Zacchaeus ran away from the crowd and climbed up a tree to see Jesus. What extent will you go to encounter God? Let's get away from the crowd and run to Jesus. Set aside all distractions and yield to Him, surrender to Him

and lose yourself in Him. Do what it takes to encounter God. He is waiting!!

Right now, I hear the Lord saying, “I am waiting; I am here to encounter you to bring you to places you have only imagined. I have secrets to tell you and things to show you that will shake and rattle you to the core and transform you. I want you to see and KNOW who I really am. I want you to know My heart. I want you to experience every facet of who I am. I want you to walk with Me and talk with Me. I want you to listen to what I have to say to you. I have much to show you and say to you. Come away with Me. Enter in, and close out everything else but ME. I have journeys to take you on with Me. Some are for your eyes only. I will show you and tell you secret things. There are encounters after encounters that I have for you. Lose yourself and set yourself aside, and focus on ME. Let's go; I am ready! Are you?”

Church worship is not about the worship team performing. It is about the worship team themselves entering in and experiencing God and leading us in. Worship isn't about us but about God. Our alone time with God really shouldn't be all about us, but about God. If I am always talking, how can I hear, how can I listen? If I am watching the worship leader and the band, how can I focus on God. If I am looking around at what is going on around me more than I am on God how can I enter in? My attention will be divided. God wants our undivided attention. He wants to invade and encounter us in ways only He can. My husband Jay says, “God isn't a cheap date.” He wants our attention. He wants our ears, He wants our hearts. He wants our attention. He deserves it.

Every time I have lost myself to Him, I have had encounters with Him that have rocked me to the core and transformed me. We have to get out of ourselves and get into Him. We have to get out of the soulish realm and get into Him. God has so much that He wants to show you and tell you, and there are places He wants to take you. **Will you shut everything out and listen and go with Him?**

I believe that God wanted me to write this column about encountering Him because it is time for these encounters. He has waited long enough for us. He is beyond ready to take you places in the Spirit with Him. He has secret things He has longed to tell us.

This column and this word is to get you ready for your Kairos moments with God. Set aside time. Worship Him and close everything out; lose yourself in Him; surrender Yourself; be quiet and listen and go with God. You will never ever be the same.

It is time to enter the Throne Room of God. It is time for us to be quiet and let Him speak. It is time to enter quietly and sit and listen and let Him invade us and to experience great encounters with God. I believe with everything in me that as we do this our meetings, services and churches will be rocked, wrecked, and forever changed by God because we will be rocked, wrecked, and forever changed by God. You will look, talk and even smell different. You will be bubbling with new wine, and you will be a gushing

fountain of Holy Spirit. I want to experience absolutely EVERYTHING God has for me. I'll be honest; the greatest things I have received and experienced with the Lord has been in the quiet, still times. Don't misunderstand me here; I love praise, and I love worship. They are two of my favorite things. When I come to a place where I can be quite in these two things God has done incredible, unimaginable things.

I hear the Lord saying, 'It is time for you to be marked by Me. It is time for you to let Me rattle your cage. It is your RELEASE time. You were born for such a time as this.

This is the beginning of your season of encounters with Me. You will NEVER be the same. I am taking you places only I can. Open your eyes and your ears. Open your heart to Me, and let's go on the greatest adventures of our lives. Fear not for I am with you. Heavenly encounters are your destiny. Encounters with Me are your destiny. And it starts now.

The scripture in John 4 says, *"if you only knew"*.

God says to you right now, *"It is time for you to know. It is time for you to be still and know that I am God."* It is time to ENCOUNTER GOD!!!!

Jennifer Peikert is a prophet and minister who travels with her husband Jay all over the world preaching the Gospel, healing the sick, being a prophetic voice to the nations and seeing signs, wonders and miracles everywhere they go. They have ministered in Japan, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Honduras, Cuba and different places in the U.S.A.



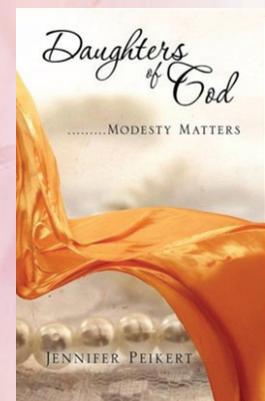
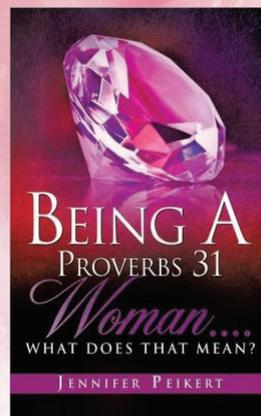
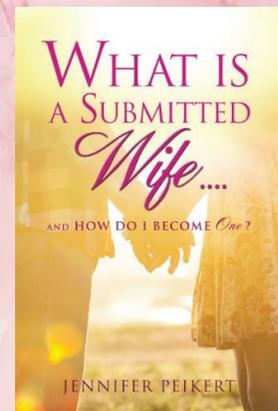
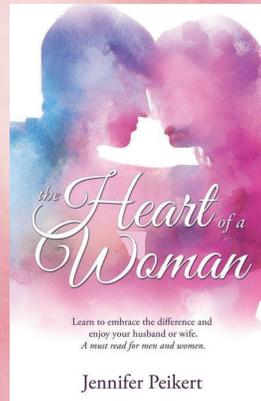
Jennifer is also an accomplished author. She has written 4 books with one translated in Spanish.

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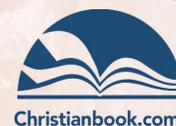
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By Budd Rodgers

The Shepherd's Voice

IN THE SPIRIT

As I was praying about what I should say about worship in this issue of FULLNESS ONLINE, I heard very distinctly the words, “in the Spirit”. I asked HOLY SPIRIT to give me further guidance and I heard the words, “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day”.

I then recognized those words coming from the apostle John as written in the book of Revelation, chapter one, verse ten.

Revelation 1:10-11, says, “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a great voice like a trumpet, saying, ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last’, and ‘What you see, write in a book, and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.’”

I am not suggesting that any of us will be getting new revelation to write additional scripture. That is not the case. Everything God has said to us in the Bible is final and there are no postscripts. However, we have to see the correlation between being “in the Spirit” and worship based on what Jesus said in regard to “how” we worship.

“Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. Yet the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. For the Father seeks such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.’”

If I am understanding Jesus correctly, to be a true worshipper, I must worship the Father “in spirit” and “truth”. This can be done, or Jesus would not have said this is how worship should be done. I do not believe we have the natural capability to be in the “spirit”. We must have help from our Helper, Holy Spirit. Probably all of us have at one time or another said we were in worship and yet we were making mental “to do” lists or thinking about

other things while we were “worshipping” our Lord.

I am convinced that worship is a focused event upon “one being”, and for us that being is God. The apostle Paul wrote in the letter to the Romans, that the “Holy Spirit helps us when we pray.” He certainly helps us when we worship. In these days, getting focused can become a challenge with all our gadgets and all the news events continually at our fingertips. Our example of getting focused should be found in the life of Jesus.

I can only imagine that there was a comparable situation when Jesus found himself surrounded by thousands of people at times and multiple groups of people demanding His time to “do” something for them. He chose to focus on His mission. He deliberately chose to “get away” on a mountain to pray and worship His Father in heaven.

If you and I are going to really worship the Lord, we must deliberately choose to get in the Spirit and focus on the Lord Jesus who is an embodiment of Father God. To focus, everything else has to be shut out. For instance, can we truly worship the Lord while driving down the freeway going seventy miles per hour in a lot of traffic? With God, all things are possible!

Is it possible to focus on the Lord when we ought to pay attention to our surroundings? Maybe so...read this in 1 Corinthians 14

“For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men...For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.”

Maybe our focus is not mental but rather spiritual. If our understanding is unfruitful, we can then focus on what God is saying through us by His Spirit in our spirit. Many times when we pray, we speak out of our minds. Jesus said we should speak out of our hearts.

I am reminded when Jesus told His disciples that He was going to be killed and Peter rebuked the Lord and

of course Jesus came back with a stern word of rebuke Himself and told Satan to get behind Him.

These are the days to focus on doing the will of the Father. We must maintain our determination to hear from God through His Word both written and the voice of the Holy Spirit as we seek the face of God in worship. Although we will not get inspiration to write the Bible, we will get inspired to hear from Jesus and do His bidding. Many want the revelation from Jesus but aren't willing to pay the price of time alone fixating on Jesus to get the revelation from Jesus.

Speaking of time, NOW is the time to worship in Spirit and Truth. Don't you think it is time to get spiritual? Really. Time to get focused on the Lord Almighty and give all honor due unto Him.

Until next time! – BLESSINGS

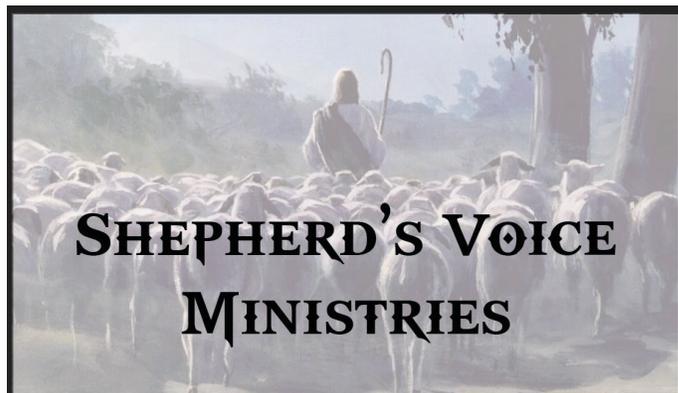
BR



Budd is the Managing Editor of Fullness Magazine Online. He graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in Business Administration. Budd has been in Ministry for 40 plus years in various capacities, including pastoring and church planting. He is the founder of Shepherd's Voice Ministries Inc., a 501(c)3 prophetic ministry. He has an anointing to activate every generation to promote the kingdom of God and is available as an itinerant minister.

www.shepherdsvoiceministries.net

He and his wife Susie are Elders and Young Adult Pastors at Fullness in Christ Church in Fort Worth, Texas.



SHEPHERD'S VOICE MINISTRIES



Budd Rodgers, the founder of Shepherd's Voice Ministries, and has an anointing to activate every generation to promote the kingdom of God and is available as an itinerant minister.

Budd flows in revelatory knowledge with prophetic accuracy.

Budd is such a blessing. I'm so thankful for His life and ministry. One thing I admire and respect about Budd is his ability to be flexible with what the Lord is doing. He yields to the Holy Spirit. We had a service where he was set to speak, but the Holy Spirit was on the move and his time to share got cut substantially. The grace he exemplified was encouraging to watch. He recognizes that the glory is for the Lord alone! This is what it looks like to be a surrendered vessel that allows the Lord to take the lead and have His will be done!

- Rachel D.

If you would like to see God move in your church or city, contact Budd Rodgers at:
svministriestx@gmail.com
www.shepherdsvoiceministries.net



Fullness in Christ Ministries

Ministry to Orphans and Widows in the Philippines

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. James 1:27 (NLT)

We have long been touched by the conditions of widows and fatherless children in the Philippines. A few years ago we began to hear that God wanted FCM to build Children's Homes. They would be called "The Father's House" and would provide godly homes for orphaned, abandoned and/or abused children. We now have 2 homes and 1 foster home. They are legally licensed and under the authority of the Philippine social services. We will eventually have 10 such homes across the Philippines. They will be small homes with 10 to 20 children, fostering a family atmosphere.

We also are concerned about widows in the Philippines. Many times they are elderly, in poor health and have little to no source of income. We currently have ministry to widows in two locations. It involves food, other essentials and helping to meet other practical and spiritual needs. They especially enjoy the personal care shown to them. Our desire is to expand this ministry in more locations and to more widows.

You can make a difference in the life of a child or a widow.

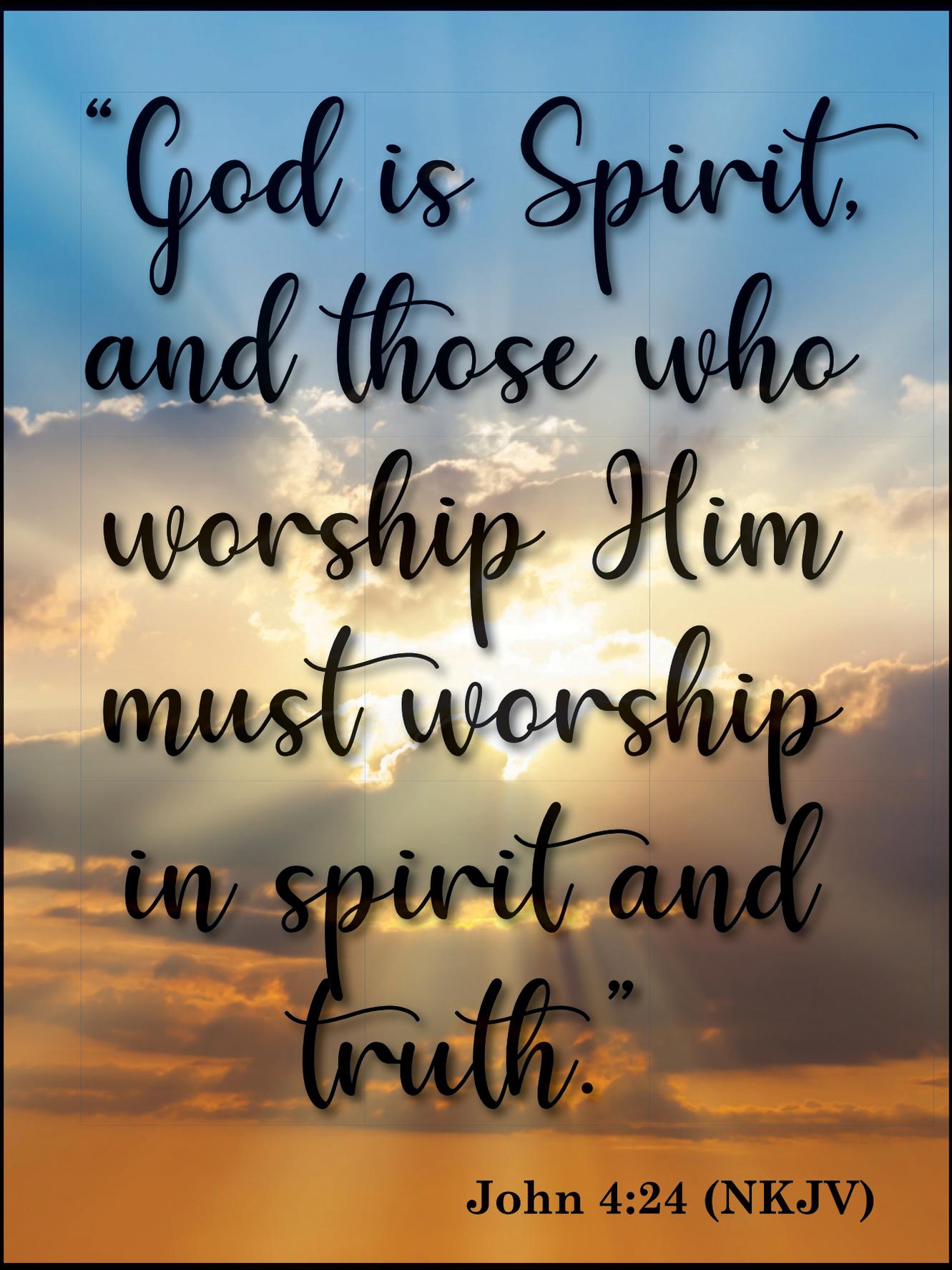
To give for this ministry, go to <https://fullnessonline.kindful.com>.

Select the campaign "Caring for Orphans and Widows."

If you prefer to pay by check, make it to "FCM" and send it to Fullness in Christ Ministries, PO Box 136117, Fort Worth, TX 76136.

Be sure to note on the check "Ministry to Orphans and Widows".





*“God is Spirit,
and those who
worship Him
must worship
in spirit and
truth.”*

John 4:24 (NKJV)