



TRUE WORSHIP

**The
Everlasting
Gospel**

by

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A Servant of Christ**

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GLORY TO GOD MINISTRIES

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Chapter One

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

God is calling His people to the subject of worship in these last days. Throughout eternity God has desired that His people worship Him. He desires that they come to Him with a spirit of praise and thanksgiving, for He alone is God and there is none like Him.

In these last days, according to the Book of Revelation, there is a call going throughout the world. That call is for God's people to worship Him, the Creator. In **Revelation 14:7 KJV** an angel brought a message... *"Saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: And worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters'."*

This word will be going out prior to the mark of the beast and the time of bible prophecy which is still ahead. We believe that the Spirit of God is moving in an even greater way as the day of our Lord's return draws closer. God's people are beginning to enter into a new dimension of worship and praise.

I have found that worship is a subject that needs to be taught. People need to learn how to come into God's presence and worship Him in spirit and in truth. I thank God with you that His Holy Spirit is revealing these truths to us, that we might grow in understanding of God's Word and that we might grow in an expression of our love for our heavenly Father. That expression of love is known as worship and praise.

A call from our Lord to worship Him is in **Deuteronomy 26:10**. *"And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O Lord, has given me. Then you shall set it before the Lord your God, and worship before the Lord your God:"* In this Scripture God is calling us, through His servant, to come into His presence with an offering in order to worship before the Lord our God.

"Give to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!" **1st Chronicles 16:29**

"Oh come, let us worship and bow down: Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." **Psalms 95:6**

"Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him all the earth." **Psalms 96:9**

"Then Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! For it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve'." **Matthew 4:10**

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"God is a Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
John 4:24

"Then he said to me, 'See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and those who keep the words of this book: Worship God.'" Revelation 22:9

The background of Revelation 22:9 is this: the apostle John was going to bow down to the angel who brought him the revelation by the Spirit of God. The angel said, "Don't bow down to me: Worship God." This powerful word expresses the call of God Almighty to His people that we are to worship Him. We are to put no one or nothing before Him. We are not to bow down to angels, for we are here on this earth to worship God and Him alone. We are created to be to the praise of His glory. The call of God for all eternity is to worship Him, bow down to Him, honor Him, and give glory to His holy name.

I am excited about this message because I believe that the Spirit of God is the One giving the call to minister concerning worship. I believe this call will go throughout the Body of Christ. The Lord's ministers will be bringing it forth and teaching by the Holy Spirit of God. Then God's people will grow to prepare themselves for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the time when we will sit before the throne of God, worshipping and giving glory and honor to Him. He alone reigns on the throne; He alone is God.

The Lord has been dealing with me about the importance of coming into His presence to worship Him in spirit and in truth, and how to come into His presence.

Chapter Two

ATTITUDES OF WORSHIP

HOW TO WORSHIP GOD CORRECTLY

The Holy Spirit Himself ministered through various words of prophecy about how to come into God's presence and how to worship Him correctly in spirit and in truth:

1. Come in Holiness.

When we talk about holiness, we have noticed that some people get upset about it. They think it is unattainable. It is something they cannot grasp or deal with because in themselves they are not holy. Man, in himself, is poor, miserable, and wretched. Nevertheless, the Word of God shows what He has done in our behalf through the blood of Jesus Christ.

God is holy, according to His Word, and there is none like Him. Those who would come to Him must be holy. It goes beyond some people's comprehension that they can come into the presence of God. There is a fear in their hearts about Him, and a feeling of unworthiness. They wonder if they have the right to come to God and to be in His presence.

*"Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them." (Note here that this unpleasing offering was called "strange fire," which God had commanded them not to offer. This offering was not correctly brought to God, so His judgment was brought down upon them). "So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. And Moses said to Aaron, 'This is what the Lord spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy: and before all the people I must be glorified.' So Aaron held his peace." **Leviticus 10:1-3***

There was a high calling upon the priests when they came into the presence of God; they were to have prepared themselves. They were to have sanctified themselves by the means that the Lord had set down. They were to be cleansed, prepared, and made holy as they came before Him because only holiness would stand in the presence of God.

How important for us to understand the need to be holy as we come before the Lord! We need to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus. We need to be prepared. Otherwise we are not coming into God's presence properly.

"Then Moses called Mishael and Elzapan, the sons of Uzziel, the uncle of Aaron, and said unto them, 'Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp.' So they went near and carried them in their tunics out of the camp, as Moses had said. And Moses said unto Aaron, and to Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, 'Do not uncover your heads, nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the people. But let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the Lord has kindled. You shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die, for the anointing oil of the Lord is upon you.' And they did according to the word of Moses." **Leviticus 10:4-7**

The anointing oil of the Lord upon the priest was part of the sanctifying process in the Old Testament. God's anointing was upon them, and they were to be ministering in the tabernacle of the congregation, and they were not to go out to the rest of the people lest they die also.

"Then the Lord spoke unto Aaron, saying, 'Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest ye die: It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean; and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord has spoken to them by the hand of Moses'." **Leviticus 8:11**

"Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" **Exodus 15:11** It needs to be established that a holy God can have only holy people coming into His presence.

The people recognized that they could not come before a holy God on their own.

- *"And the men of Beth Shemesh said, 'Who is able to stand before this holy Lord God? And to whom shall it go up from us?'"* **1 Samuel 6:20**
- *"Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy."* **Psalms 99:9**
- *"And one cried to another and said, 'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!'"* **Isaiah 6:3**
- *"Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy: For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested."* **Revelation 15:4**

These Scriptures deal with the fact that God is holy, perfect, and blameless, and it is established throughout the Word of God. There is none like Him.

The Lord's call to His people concerning holiness is shown in the following:

- *"For I am the Lord who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy." **Leviticus 11:45***
- *"To grant to us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life." **Luke 1:74-75***

It is the call of God to us, His people, to be holy and righteous (in right standing) with Him.

- *"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God," **2 Corinthians 7:1***
- *"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." **Hebrews 12:14***
- *"...Because it is written, Be holy, for I am holy." **1 Peter 1:16***
- *"Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness..." **2 Peter 3:11***

According to His Word, God desires us to be holy as He is holy.

Again, the term "holy" strikes fear in many people. As they look at themselves, they see themselves unworthy, weak, and failing every now and then (sometimes more often). Still, as we study how to worship, we realize we are to come into His presence in holiness.

2. Recognize That God Has Made You Holy.

Is it possible to come into the Lord's presence in holiness? On what basis do we have to come to Him? Take a look at what God has to say about it:

*"Iniquities prevail against me; as for our transgressions, you will provide atonement for them." **Psalm 65:3***

*"Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil." **Isaiah 1:16***

*"Come now, and let us reason together,' says the Lord, 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.'" **Isaiah 1:18***

In the Old Testament scarlet was a dye. When it was put into the material, it could not be removed. *"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white*

as snow.” In other words, though it be impossible for our sins to be removed, God says He will remove them. He will make us holy in His presence.

"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness, and from all your idols." Ezekiel 36:25

"In that day a fountain shall be opened to the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness..." Zechariah 13:1

God will cleanse us. It is tremendously exciting to see what He is doing. He is making us holy.

"And he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness." Malachi 3:3 This means an offering that is worthy and acceptable to God.

"...Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word." Ephesians 5:25b-26

We are washed, cleansed, and made holy by the Word of God. As we learn to appropriate the blood of Jesus that has been provided for us, the Lord cleans us and makes us holy. God Himself has made us worthy to come into His presence. He alone could do that because He alone is holy. Since He, in His love, wanted us to worship and praise Him, and have life with Him forever, He had to move in our behalf to prepare the way for us to come. He had to do the cleansing. Otherwise we never could have come into His presence.

I thank God for the privilege of coming into His presence through the blood of Jesus. His blood has made us holy and worthy so that we can now come freely. We can worship Him and give Him the honor that is due His name because He has made us sons and daughters through the blood of Jesus Christ.

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Hebrews 9:14

Works done on our own are dead as far as God is concerned, nor are they pleasing to Him. As the blood of Jesus was given for us, and as we now appropriate it in our daily lives, the Lord cleanses us and makes us holy so that we can come into His presence and serve Him with a clean heart. We can know that His power is flowing through us, that He is receiving the offering of our lips and the sacrifice of praise before Him.

"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanses us from all sin." 1 John 1:7

We want to come into His presence cleansed, knowing that we are forgiven. If we have any unforgiveness in our lives towards anyone, we need to ask God to forgive us and then come to worship and praise Him.

3. Come with an Awareness that Worship is Only Possible Because of God's Mercy.

"But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; and in fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple." Psalm 5:7 Fear means reverence or holy awe towards God. It is important that we pay close attention to this because it is an attitude He would have us develop. Because of His mercy we can now come, for in His love, He has not held our sins against us. He has made us worthy and holy by the blood of Jesus, and He now allows us to come into His presence.

Because of the mercy of God we have been put in right standing with our heavenly Father through Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 10:18-25** gives a fuller explanation of His mercy:

"Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

To sum up: We are called to worship God. He has made us holy enough to come into His presence because of the blood of Jesus and because of His mercy.

The Old Testament tells us that this matter of coming into God's presence was one of seriousness. The priest going into the Holy of Holies had bells around the bottom of his robe, which would jingle as he walked inside. If he was not right with God when he walked into the Holy of Holies, he would drop dead. Because of that, they tied a rope around the high priest's ankle in case something should happen while he was in there (that he had not sanctified himself correctly). Then they would be able to pull him out by the rope. If everything went well, the priest came walking out. If it didn't go well, then he was to be pulled out. You might

think this strange, but remember they were dealing with coming into the presence of God Almighty. He has set down ways to come into His presence and to worship Him. As His children, it is the desire of our hearts to come in the way God has instructed us.

We now come in through the blood of Jesus Christ as shown in the New Testament. We are bound with God in an everlasting covenant. His promise is that He is ours and we are His. Therefore, worship and thankfulness are attitudes that come from our hearts to the Lord. We want to worship God, and we want to do it in a way that is pleasing to Him.

4. Come Before God with the Purpose of Heart to Honor and Glorify Him.

"Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." **Psalm 29:2** We are to come before God, giving glory to His name, in an attitude of heart which is pleasing to Him. We are to come in the beauty of holiness.

I want to emphasize that we are to give to the Lord the glory due to His name. In other words, God has glory coming because of who He is and what He has done in behalf of His people. As we come to Him, we are to give Him the glory and the praise that He is worthy of.

"You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!" **Psalm 22:23**

Again, this is a call to give glory and honor to the Lord. This call goes out to His people. Since we are His people, we want to glorify Him, give Him honor, and give Him praise. We want to recognize who He is. He is the Lord God of hosts. There is none like Him; there is none beside Him. He alone is God. He alone is worthy to be praised; great is our God and greatly to be praised. Honoring Him and glorifying Him is to be the attitude of our hearts as we come to Him in true worship.

"O Lord, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth." **Isaiah 25:1**

As we teach about worship, I believe that the Spirit of God ministers to people in a spirit of worship. Enter into that tone of worship as you learn about it because you are not just being taught. This is a time of worship and praise to God as well. Because we are studying about worship, we cannot help but give glory and honor to the Lord. So, expect that as you read, you are worshipping and praising Him with me today. The Spirit of God will touch your life in a new and refreshing way.

5. Come Before the Lord with Reverence.

As stated previously, holy reverence is often called fear. We come before God, counting it as a sacred time, as a holy time, as a special time. It is a time in which we and God become one. We unite with others in giving Him praise and thanks. Then the power of the Holy Spirit is free to minister.

Many times the Spirit of God begins to move in the place when we praise and worship Him. He does wonderful things too great for our minds to understand. As people enter in, much will happen in the spirit, in the mind, and in the physical realm because the Spirit of God will minister. This attitude of reverence is something that is often lacking.

Worship does not involve just being quiet. Quietness often has nothing to do with praise and worship. Praise can be loud because we are rejoicing. What we need is an attitude of the heart that we are in awe of Him, honoring Him and glorifying Him in holy reverence.

"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him." Psalm 89:7

In **Exodus 3:5** we find an example of God's servant Moses coming into the presence of God on holy ground. *"Then he said, 'Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground'."*

God told Moses not to come up until he had taken his shoes off because he was in a holy place. We are not recommending today that you take off your shoes, or this or that, when you go into worship. However, if God calls you to do something while worshipping, be obedient to do it!

As we enter into worship, we should recognize that it is a holy time. It is a special time which should not be clouded with distractions and distracting thoughts. It is a time when all of our being is to be focused upon the Lord.

Here is another account of needing holiness when coming into God's presence: *"Then the captain of the Lord's army said to Joshua, 'Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.' And Joshua did so." Joshua 5:15*

As we come into God's presence to worship, God will move, and it will be a holy time.

"Be angry, and do not sin: Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still." Psalm 4:4

"Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him." **Psalm 33:8**

"But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him." **Habakkuk 2:20** God is to be revered and honored as we come before Him.

"And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good?"

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 Again, we see the call to reverence God, to honor Him in a holy time.

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear [reverence] God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all." **Ecclesiastes 12:13** The call is to reverence God, which has to be an attitude that we begin to develop within our hearts. It is a matter of coming into the presence of a holy God who has given us the privilege and right to worship and honor Him.

"The Lord of hosts, Him you shall hallow; let Him be your fear and let Him be your dread." **Isaiah 8:13**

Many times people have a disrespectful attitude when they come into worship. This needs to be dealt with seriously. God has set down our time of worship as a time of holiness and honor. So, it is tremendously important that we not neglect to do so. Take time to prepare before coming to worship. Pray in the spirit, pray with your understanding, sing and rejoice in the Lord. As you come into worship with other believers, be ready to go.

People come in with thoughts weighing them down. They are thinking about other things or scurrying around. They may be relieved to finally get there, but then it takes a long time to get them into a spirit of worship and praise. I find it is helpful for all of us to enter into worship before we ever get together with other believers. At that point we will see a powerful move of the Spirit of God because of the unity and oneness right from the start.

I am fully convinced that we are not to come into God's presence being afraid of Him. What Isaiah 8:13 is talking about is understanding that God is holy and that He has given us the right and privilege to come to Him in worship. We do not need to be afraid of Him, but we do need to reverence Him.

It would be like coming into the presence of the king, as recorded in the bible, and recognizing that we were under the king. The king was free to do whatever he wanted to do. In the same way, God is Lord of all. He is King of kings. As we come into His presence, we need to reverence Him. We need to honor Him.

He is our friend and our Father, and we are to show Him honor for now and forever.

6. Learn How to Listen to Him.

When people come to worship, they often minister to one another. Worship is not a time of edifying one another as much as a time of edifying and worshipping God. As one worships Him, the attention goes toward Him, and then He will edify every person.

We know that as we pray in the spirit we are edified. But, who are we praying to when we pray in the spirit? It says we are praying to God (1st Corinthians 14:2), and He edifies us. As we pray, worship, and sing praises with our spirits and with our understanding, He is the one who is moving. Please note, the attention is going to God.

It would do us well in our worship time to learn to listen to God. This is something that we have to develop. It is difficult for many people to sit still and be quiet because they are so used to busily running around and being active. There comes a time, as we are entering into worship by the Spirit of God, that we need to just listen to God, and He will move in our midst.

In **Acts 13** a group of men who were in various ministering offices came together to worship. **Verses 2-3** tell us, *"As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said: 'Now separate to me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'* Then having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away."

In **verse 2** it says, *"As they ministered to the Lord..."* This is what worship is all about, ministering to the Lord that which God has a right to have: our worship, our glory, our praises, our honor, our whole being. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost spoke to them (one of the spiritual gifts was operating there). As they ministered to the Lord, the Holy Spirit then ministered to them. This is always the way it is when we enter into the true worship that is pleasing to God. He will always come down and minister to His people. As we listen for His voice, He will speak in that still, small voice inside.

"Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. Do not be rash with thy mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God: For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few."

Ecclesiastes 5:1-2

A fool is known for talking too much. Proverbs say that the wise man says few words, but what he says is of importance; it is valuable. The fool talks about everything that comes to his mind, and there is not much of importance coming into his mind to talk about. When we come into God's presence, He wants us to be sincere in heart and words. . . and listen to Him.

As you grow in the spirit, the Lord begins to minister to you by speaking to you. It may be in an audible voice, or it may be inside you. You will find that when God speaks, He has few words to say, but they are to the point, they are true, and they change people's lives. He wants to be heard today in our hearts. As He is heard, changes happen.

"So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

James 1:19-20

As we learn to listen to God, then we get His direction. He will never steer us wrong. He wants to lead us in the true path. He wants to lead us in His true ways.

Idle words are not pleasing to God. He says He will hold us accountable for the words that we speak. (Matthew 12:36-37) I do not take that as condemnation because God understands the way we are, but I do see it as an encouragement to speak that which is profitable to the hearer. Especially when we are speaking to God, we should speak from the heart because He knows what is in our hearts. It is important that we learn to know what is in us too. The closer we draw to God and He draws near to us, we are able to get His clarity of instruction, wisdom, and understanding. I find that as we enter into worship, He often gives direction and leading.

"Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them." **Ezekiel 33:32**

Many times God's words come to us as a pleasant voice and like an instrument. We will hear those words, but it is important to do the words, not just go through the motions. Get serious about what God has given you to do and then do it.

Worship is more than something we do. Worship is our way of giving honor and praise to our God. It is our way of expressing our love for Him and our thankfulness to Him.

7. Put Aside and Avoid All Formalism.

Avoid mere traditions of men when coming to God. Put the commandments of God first.

In **Matthew 15:1-9** Jesus said that the people did not worship God correctly. *"In vain they worship Me, teaching doctrines the commandments of men."* Formalism and man's ways of coming to God are not pleasing to Him. Jesus made this quite clear. The only thing pleasing to God is coming to Him His way, and He is the One who has set down the ways in which we are to come.

The finest way to come is with a clean heart, knowing that the blood of Jesus has washed us clean. We are forgiven and not forsaken, and we are God's children. He lives within our hearts. He is the One who has made us holy and worthy. This is not a dead ritual. We come to our God in truth, rejoicing in His presence.

The Lord tells us in **Hosea 6:6** - *"For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."* Come to God with knowledge of the ways He has set down, with a true heart that is pleasing to Him.

For your own reference you might also like to take a look at **Isaiah 58**. The acts or attitudes that deal with true worship (and not dead formalism) are listed there.

Chapter Three

ENTERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

On a February day in 1982, the Spirit of God gave a word in one of our meetings. I would like to share with you as the Lord gave it and as it was recorded during the time the Spirit was ministering. The Spirit of God was teaching on worship and how to come into His presence. It was to this effect:

- “Comfort My people with these words: That I love them. That I care for them, and I will strengthen them. That I will help them. That I will hold them up with My Word, for I am their God. Comfort them with these words. Teach them, My son, to worship Me – what to do in my presence. Teach them that I might receive their praise. Teach them how to come before Me, for I love them and want them to know how to come into My presence that My joy will fill them to overflowing. Teach them, for I am with you.”

This was the preface to the message that the Lord brought forth.

God wants us to come into His presence in worship because He loves us. *“In Thy presence is fullness of joy.” Psalm 16:11 KJV.* The word being brought forth stated that the joy of the Lord will fill us to overflowing as we worship Him. The body of the Spirit’s instruction was given through the prophecy. I take the liberty now to share the Scriptures with you as they were inserted the day after the message was brought forth.

- The prophecy continues, “Prepare your hearts to receive Me,” said the Lord. “Prepare your hearts to receive from Me. Cast all your doubt, worry and fear away from your heart, for I love you. Set your heart upon Me, not on the things of the world. Set your heart upon Me, and I will put everything into perspective because I love you.”

The scriptural base for this part is found in **1st John 4:18-19.** *“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”*

In order for us to come into God’s presence in worship, the Lord would have us cast aside all doubt, worry and fears from our hearts because His perfect love casts out the fear and the torment involved in the fear. This will help us as we enter into worship.

The second part the Lord brought (as we were ministering) was for us to set our hearts upon Him, not on the things of the world, so that He may put everything into perspective, because He loves us. *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that*

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is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” 1st John 2:15-17

Another Scripture that was given was *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:33* As our hearts get off the world and onto God in worship, then God starts to order our path.

- The prophecy continues. “You have been risen with Me and are seated with Me in heavenly places, so praise Me as if you were in heaven.”

The Scripture to confirm that is in Ephesians. *“...And raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:6* This tells us what has been done for us in Jesus Christ.

As the Word said, we have been risen with Jesus and we are already seated with Him in the heavenly places, even though we are in this world (also see **Colossians 3:1-5**). The Spirit directed that we are to praise Him as if we were in heaven. We are not of this world but belong in heavenly places with our Lord Jesus. We are in this world for a mission and a purpose – to spread the love of God. When we leave here, we will be with our Lord forever and ever, sitting before His throne, worshipping Him, praising Him and giving Him glory that is worthy to His name. We have been created to be the praise of His glory. **Ephesians 1:12** Let us put into practice what will come in the new heaven and new earth.

- The prophecy goes on. *“I have given to you a new heart that you might worship Me in spirit and in truth.”* Jeremiah 32:38-41 and 31:31-34 were given by the Spirit the following day. They were not given at the time of the prophecy but later were given for teaching and instruction purposes and to amplify the ministry for God’s people.

“They shall be my people, and I will be their God; then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and of their children after them. And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they shall not depart from Me. Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.” **Jeremiah 32:38-41** Here the Lord has made a change in people’s hearts.

The Lord followed up with:

“And they will go there, and they will take away all its detestable things and all its abominations from there. Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new

spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.” Ezekiel 11:18-20

We see God giving a new heart to His people. He has told us here in the prophecy that He had given us a new heart that we might be able to worship Him in spirit and in truth. *“But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Romans 10:8-10*

As people hear the Word of God, the Word goes forth and touches their hearts by the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and the Lord produces faith in their hearts. As people have a change of heart, they respond to God. He enables them to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

There is a change of heart that God has given to His people through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. *“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever...” 1st Peter 1:22-23*

The Lord has made us born again and alive to His Spirit now so that we will be able to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Before we received Jesus into our hearts as our Lord and Savior, our spirits were dead to God. Now, since we are born again because of the blood of Jesus and the Word, we are able to worship God. We are able to come into His presence, in spirit and in truth, for our spirits (new hearts) are alive to Him.

God has prepared us to worship Him now. *“Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:5-8*

Clearly it says, *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh,”* (and it cannot worship God), *“and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”* (and is alive to God). **John 3:6**

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is

Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” **John 4:23-24**

We have to be alive to the Spirit of God and have to have a new heart before we are able to enter in worship in spirit and in truth, which is holy and acceptable to God. According to the prophecy that was given and according to the Word, God has given us new hearts that we might be able to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

- The prophecy continues: “Come into My presence in Holy Spirit and awe, reverence, and quiet. Get all irreverence out of your thoughts. Not quiet as one would understand quiet, but rather not doubtful and fearful.”

The Scripture to confirm this: *“For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: ‘In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.’ But you would not,”* **Isaiah 30:15 KJV**

The Lord dealt with the fact that we are to come in a spirit of reverence and awe, and be quiet in our hearts and minds. Irreverence to God is putting things of the world before Him, putting things that have no place there before God Almighty. A key statement is, “not quiet as one would understand quiet but rather, not doubtful and fearful.” The quietness is an inner peace and a rest which the Lord has for His people. He will give it to us as we enter into worship. The attitude in which we come into God’s presence is to be one of quietness and confidence that He is in the midst of His people and all is well!

- “My Spirit will teach you how to worship Me in spirit and in truth.”

The following Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit will teach us, as God’s people, how to enter into worship and what is pleasing and acceptable to Him at that time. *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”* **John 14:26**

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” **John 16:13**

It is speaking about the ministry of the Holy Spirit here, as the Spirit of God was saying. His Spirit will teach us how to worship Him in spirit and in truth. (See also **1st Corinthians 2:9-13**) These verses tell us that the Spirit of God will lead us into all understanding concerning how to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

- Let us go on with the prophecy. “Your mind rejects what I tell you, so reject your mind.” This was a powerful statement. It took me a little searching

before the Lord to realize what He meant. I do not believe that God wants us to throw aside our minds. On the other hand, He has a higher purpose as we start to understand worship and all spiritual truth. All spiritual truth is basically not received by the mind but received by our spirits which are alive to God.

Proverbs 20:27 KJV *“The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord,”* which means that God lights and directs us through our spirit and not through our mind. All the things of the spirit are, interestingly enough, foreign to the mind and the mind will reject them and cast them down. The Spirit of God was telling us that the mind will reject many of the things of the Spirit. So what we need to do is to reject our mind, or put it aside, and seek God in the spirit to find out what He is trying to reveal to us.

Spiritual things cannot be understood by a person who is operating by his mind, they can only be understood by a person who is operating by the Spirit of God. Another Scripture that was brought out at that point: *“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.”* **1st Corinthians 14:14** In the Greek the term for “understanding” is “mind.” The Scripture refers to praying in tongues (or praying in the spirit), and the mind is unfruitful or unproductive during that time as one is praying in the spirit.

If we do not get our minds out of the way as we are worshipping God in the spirit, the mind will actually become a hindrance to us. Romans 12:2 says we are to renew the mind, not have it conformed to this world, but bring it in line with God’s Word. That is what we have to do according to the Word. It says that the mind is unfruitful and unproductive when we pray in the spirit. Many people think that is crazy. Why do we do it? We do it because it is how God intended for us to worship Him, in spirit and in truth. **John 4:23-24; 1st Corinthians 14:14-15** The mind has to be brought into line with the Word of God. The Spirit was directing it as He gave instruction that day through the prophecy.

- The prophecy went on. “I bring you life abundantly if you will set your heart to learn of Me. Cleanse yourself of anything in your heart that is displeasing to Me and will hinder your worship to Me.”

The Scripture that was given: *“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”* **Isaiah 59:1-2** Apparently, as the Spirit was directing, we need to do some cleansing before we enter into the presence of God in worship and praise. We need to ask the Lord to cleanse our hearts of anything known or unknown that might be hindering the flow of His Spirit in our behalf. **Psalms 51:10-17** was also given.

The attitudes of our hearts (or actions we have done) will hinder our worship. God wants us cleansed of these. He wants us under the blood of Jesus. He wants us to come to Him as it says in 1st John 1:9, and acknowledge our sin to Him. As we do so, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. It is important that, as we enter into worship, we do so as the Spirit directs.

- The word of prophecy continued. “Learn of Me. Learn what My Spirit says to you. Cast aside all cares about situations you may be in. Cast your cares upon Me, for I love you.”

The Scripture given was “ *Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*”
1st Peter 5:7

- The prophecy continued. “I gave My life for you as you might come to Me and have rest.” The goal of the Christian walk is to enter into the rest of the Lord. The scripture reference was **Hebrews 4:1-11**.

How exciting that Jesus Christ, in His love, gave His own life for us, did all the work for us, took all of our sins and all that separated us from God upon Himself and gave us His right-standing with the Father, that we might enter into rest. The rest was provided by God Himself. This is what worship is all about. As we grow in understanding of worship, we see that we actually do enter into the rest of God as we worship Him in spirit and in truth.

- The prophecy went on. “Abundant life I gave My life for.”

The Word says, “*The thief [Satan] does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I [Jesus] have come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly.*” **John 10:10**

- The prophecy continued. “Willful resistance to My Spirit grieves Me. Grieve not My Spirit, for I want you to be free to worship Me, free to love Me, free to love one another as I have loved you.”

Scriptures references are **Hebrews 3:7-19**, **1st Thessalonians 5:16**, and **Ephesians 4:29-5:2**. In this we see the call of God. In the love of God, the working of the Spirit has set us free. We are not to willfully resist doing what the Lord says because that actually grieves His Spirit. It puts us into a position where we are not able to worship Him because we are out-of-sorts with Him. Obedience to God’s Word enables us to walk in the fullness of what He has provided for us. It actually allows His love, mercy, and every blessing to come to us. When we are disobedient to the Word of God and willfully resisting Him, at that point, He is not free to do what He wants to do towards us in His love.

- “I want you to be free to give your life for one another, as I gave My life for you,” the Lord Jesus tells us.

“This is My commandment, That you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down his life for his friends.” **John 15:12-13** This was the whole point of Jesus’ life, that we were to be set free as He gave His life for us, that we could now give our life for others. **1st John 3:16** deals with the same thing.

- The Spirit of God continued in ministering the word. “Stir up the gift within you, that you might worship Me in spirit and in truth.”

We see in **2nd Timothy 1:6** that we are to stir up the gift, the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2:38** deals with the fact that as we repent and are baptized, the Spirit of God is then able to come to us in response to our being born again and asking to be filled with the Holy Spirit (or through the laying on of hands). As we noted before, the Holy Spirit does not come with water baptism. **Acts 8:15-17** But as we stir up the Holy Spirit within us into worship, then we are able to worship God in spirit and in truth.

- The word continued. “I know your needs better than you do.”

Matthew 6:8-32 says that God knows our needs even before we ask.

- Then the Lord said, “Enter into My presence with praise.”

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; Be thankful to Him, and bless His name,” rejoicing in the Lord! **Psalms 100:4**

Chapter Four

THE WORD OF GOD AND WORSHIP

HOLD THE WORD IN HIGH ESTEEM

God's Word is going forth throughout the world, and as it does, it is touching the hearts of those who hear. It is producing faith within them to receive all that the Lord has for them. I thank Him again for the privilege to share His Word with you because we believe that the Word of the Lord is spirit and life. It brings changes to those who hear it. God's ability actually comes within us, and we become one with Him through His Word. I thank the Lord that as we continue in this study on worship, a deeper understanding and appreciation for our Heavenly Father is coming to us, and a deeper appreciation of His love for us as His people. This Word of God brings life wherever it goes forth.

I hold the Word in very high esteem, higher than anything else in this world. His Word and He are one. Therefore, we respect and honor His Word. I believe it is important that I share this with you because there is a relationship between the Word of God and worship. We will show a new dimension to worship which the Spirit has revealed. I do not believe it is anything new, but it is another understanding of something that is in the heart of God, which you will see as we review the subject in this chapter.

Psalm 138:1-2 speaks about our hearts towards the Word. *"I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods will I sing praises to You. I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your loving kindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name."* Let us now look at the relationship between worship and the Word of God. I would like to share some understanding about things present (here and now) and things to come in the new heaven and new earth, with our Lord forever and ever.

MANKIND'S PURPOSE

The purpose of man, as he was created, was to be to the praise of God's glory. **Ephesians 1:12** In the beginning God created man. Man was in communion with Him and in perfect fellowship with Him. He walked and talked with the Lord, physically, as one with Him. This is the way Adam and Eve walked the earth, being in perfect communion and fellowship with God. Mankind was created to have fellowship with Him, to be one with Him.

After the fall, Adam and Eve became separated from the Lord. They were no longer able to physically nor spiritually commune with Him, because of their separation. Nonetheless, God wants people to have fellowship with Him again. The call of His Word goes out to us that we are to be born again. As we are born

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again, His life comes into us, and we become one with Him again, in spirit. Our bodies are still separated from Him, but He is waiting for the day when we will be one with Him again, in spirit and in body. We will then stand before His presence day after day, like Adam did before he disobeyed. We know the blood of Jesus has paid the price for our separation. Whoever looks to the Lord Jesus Christ and calls upon His name will be saved and the life of God will flow to him. As such, we become new creatures, old things are passed away, and the Lord makes everything new.

We are now able to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth, as He desires.

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is a Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” **John 4:23-24** This is the way God desires us to worship Him. I fully believe that as you start to grow in understanding of the Word, you will learn that the key to the Scriptures is a call to worship, honor, and reverence the Lord above and before anything or anyone else in this world. He has set down a purpose for His Word. That purpose is clearly given to us in the Holy Scriptures.

I want to show you that there is a difference between the Word of God and worship. There is a very important difference, and I believe it will become clear to you as we continue.

A BALANCED VIEW

Many people put down worship because one, they do not know how to enter into worship, and that is part of the problem. Two, they do not understand what worship is about and that is part of the problem. Three, they would rather hear teaching than to worship God. What we are trying to do is to bring a balance concerning the importance of teaching and His purpose and the importance of worship and its purpose.

Here is the purpose for the Word of God: *“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.* **2nd Timothy 3:14-15**

The first purpose for which the Holy Scripture (the Word of God) has been given is to make us wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. We know that faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. As we hear the Word in this life, it produces faith within us by the Holy Spirit, to enable us to receive His life. That is the first and foremost purpose of all Scripture, to lead us to have life with God because of faith in Jesus Christ, enabling us to see His whole plan

of love and purpose for us. From the beginning of the Word of God to the end, we see His plan of life for His people, that whoever would call upon the name of the Lord would be saved. It is important to understand why we have the Word, and then why we worship.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” 2nd Timothy 3:16-17

Secondly, all Scripture is profitable for doctrine, teaching, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. *“Profitable for doctrine”* means teaching us and setting down God’s standards. What does He have for us, what are His teachings? *“Profitable for reproof and correction”* means God’s Word shows what is right before Him and what is wrong before Him. When we are wrong, His Word will reprove and discipline us, will cleanse us and drive us to the Lord Jesus Christ. As we do so, we will be forgiven and cleansed. God will then enable us to do what is right, as we seek to walk in His Word.

“Instruction in righteousness” has to do with **Ephesians 1:17-19** and following – *“...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.”* that we might know what is the hope of our calling in Christ Jesus, that we might know our inheritance in Christ Jesus, and our rights and privileges as the children of God. The Word tells us that to as many as receive Jesus Christ gave He power to become sons of God. (John 1:12) His life is within us, and now He has given us rights and privileges as His children.

The Word instructs and shows us what is ours in Jesus Christ. It tells what it means to be righteous and holy and blameless in God’s sight. It then goes on to show the exceeding greatness of His power that is available to us in Jesus Christ. It teaches us about the authority of the believer through the name of Jesus and the right and privilege to use His name. It says that to as many as believe in Him, they will do the works He did and even greater works than these. (John 14:12) Whatever we ask in the name of Jesus He will do that the Father be glorified in the Son and that our joy be full. *“Whatever you ask in My name, I will do,”* Jesus says.

We learn all these wonderful and exciting truths from God’s Word, and if we act upon them, His life and power flows, and things start to happen in others’ lives.

In review, the Word of God has a very definite purpose for us in this world, in this life: 1) It helps us to come to God. 2) It enables us to grow in the Lord. 3) It will

keep us in life as we obey it. 4) It establishes us and keeps us in fellowship with Him. **Ephesians, chapter 6**, deals with the Word of God as being the whole armor, which consists of the Word of God. We see its great importance.

A DIFFERENT WORKING

I would like to show you something that reaches beyond these things. It has to do with worship and the significance of it in a believer's life. I believe worship is even more significant than the Word of God. You will understand why as we go on.

1st Corinthians 13:8 and following tells us *“Love never fails. But whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there are tongues they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.”* This deals with spiritual gifts and the operation of the Spirit of God. *“Where there are tongues, they will cease”* is often quoted, and some say this means that tongues are no longer for today. I would like to point out that the verse continues, *“Whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.”* We ask people if they believe that knowledge has vanished. They say, “No, we still have the Word of God.” That is correct. But the day is coming (and soon) when knowledge shall vanish. We see that there is a time when all of the workings that are in effect now, whether it be spiritual gifts, the preaching of the gospel, or the Word of God, will end. The Word will no longer be in effect for us as we understand it now in this world and life. You will understand this more as we go on.

“For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part shall be done away.” **1st Corinthians 13:9-10** When the Lord Jesus returns and the new heaven and new earth is established, then that which is in part shall be done away with. We will see a new order, a higher order brought in by the Lord as the new heaven and new earth is established. We will find a change has happened in what we have always thought of as the gospel at that point. We see, though, that the Word of God is forever settled in heaven and that heaven and earth will pass away but not one part of God's Word will pass away until everything is fulfilled. It will all stand.

What I am trying to point out is that there will come a new order, and in that new order we will see a new operation. We have God's Word right now, and His Word is intended for us to use today – now. It is what will keep us walking strong in the power of God Almighty in this world. When we enter into the new world, there will be a different order of working. All these things shall pass away. (**1st Corinthians 13:8**) There will be no more need for it. There will not be any more need to preach salvation because everyone has made their choice to be saved or are condemned forever (because they rejected the Lord Jesus Christ). There

will not be any more choice. We will either be with God or we will be separated from Him.

COMMUNION IN WORSHIP

What are they doing in heaven in the presence of God? Throughout the Bible it talks about the bride and the bridegroom. Jesus being the Bridegroom and we as God's people (the Church) being the Bride. I fully believe that the day is coming when the Lord and His people are going to be one. Not only in spirit, but we are going to be one forever. The Bible speaks about a communion in worship. As we worship God, we become one with Him. As God's people are worshipping, the Bride and the Bridegroom become one in a way that cannot be expressed, in the same way as the union of a husband and a wife. When God's people start to worship Him, it is a union of His people, His Bride, with Himself. It is exciting to see the implications of what happens as people start to worship God.

Many times, as we were worshipping and praising God in the service, the Spirit of God moved among the people and healings happened without any prayer, just as the Spirit of God was ministering. Deliverances took place and people were freed by the power of God, as they worshipped Him, giving Him honor.

“Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying:

*‘You are worthy to take the scroll,
And to open its seals;
For You were slain,
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
And have made us kings and priests to our God;
And we shall reign on the earth.’*

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice:

*‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!’*

And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

*'Blessing and honor and glory and power
Be to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!'*

Then the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever." Revelations 5:8-14

Here we see the same kind of thing going on in heaven: *"Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:*

*'You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created.'* Revelations 4:9-11

We see the same thing in the following Scripture:

"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

*'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom,
Thanksgiving and honor and power and might,
Be to our God forever and ever.
Amen.'* " Revelation 7:9-12

In heaven they were worshipping and praising God before His throne, giving Him glory and honor.

"And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:

*"Great and marvelous are Your works,
Lord God Almighty!
Just and true are Your ways,
O King of the saints!*

*Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?
For You alone are holy.
For all nations shall come and worship before You,
For Your judgments have been manifested.’ ”*

*“After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.” **Revelations 15:2-8***

FACE TO FACE BEFORE HIM

In the Old Testament, God came down and inhabited a building, a tabernacle. Later, when Solomon built the temple, the Lord came down and inhabited the temple. As He came into the place, His glory (His presence) came in. Only certain people could go in, and they had to be sanctified before the Lord to come in because it was holy ground. No one was able to come in except those whom God instructed and were sanctified as holy. As we stated earlier, those who did not prepare themselves properly died in the presence of the Lord.

In the New Testament the Lord changed His order of working. He now lives in the hearts of His people. 1st Corinthians, chapter 6, says we are temples of the Holy Spirit. The life of God is no longer in any buildings. Therefore, we need to change our view of the Church in the New Testament. The Church is not a building. The Church is the people of God who are indwelt by the Spirit of God. That is the Church that the Bible talks about in the New Testament. As such, God now indwells His people. This is the importance of keeping our lives clean before Him – we are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

As we enter into the new heaven and new earth, when the Lord brings time to a close, and He establishes everything, we with Christ judge the fallen angels and unbelievers, 1st Corinthians 6:2-3. We will see the different order that God will be working.

Revelation 22:4 tells us, *“They shall see his face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.”*

What is the importance of this? In the Old Testament no one could see the face of God. In the New Testament, no one could see the face of God. But, in the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:22), the Lord is no longer living in a building (as in the Old Testament), no longer living in His people (as in the New

Testament), but He is now living as the temple Himself. In the new heaven and new earth, *“But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.”* **Revelation 21:22**

For the first time, the Lord and His people will be one in a physical kind of way that we will, as it says in Revelation 22:4, *“See His face.”* In that new heaven and new earth there will not be death to those who look upon God. We will see His face. Face to face we will stand before Him in worship and in praise.

Christianity is the only religion which deals with a physical resurrection. In this world we worship God in the spirit, but there will come a time when we will physically stand before His presence, face to face. The greatest revelation of the Spirit of God as the Bible shows is to have His glory come into our presence in the form of smoke, as a cloud. It may be that we may even be able to see the hind parts of God as Moses was able to see. However, in this world we will not be able to see the Lord as we will in the new heaven and new earth because this body is not able to take on His holiness. In the new heaven and new earth the Lord has prepared a new spiritual body to match our spirit. We will walk and talk in His presence worshipping Him before His throne forever. **1st Corinthians, chapter 13**

What is the significance of this? 1st Corinthians 13 clearly brings out that there will be no more need for the Word of God. *“But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.”* We will not need to be instructed in righteousness. We will not need reproof; we will be walking in the presence of God. *“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face...”* **I Corinthians 13:11-12** In this world we see dimly, even with the Word of God because we cannot see the Lord face to face. *“But then face to face.”* In the new heaven and new earth we will see God face to face. *“...Now I know in part; but then I shall know just as I also am known.”* **I Corinthians 13:12** This is the beauty of entering into the life of worship and praise. We are preparing ourselves for what is ahead.

AN ETERNAL HIGHER ORDER

Revelation 14:6, 7 mentions an everlasting gospel. You are sure to find this interesting! What the gospel consists of is not the gospel as we understand it. It actually has nothing to do with salvation in Jesus Christ. It has to do with an eternal higher order that belongs to God’s people through Jesus Christ. It is an eternal principle. The gospel that we understand is temporal. It is for this period of time until the final judgment. At that point those who have received Jesus will be saved, those who have rejected will be lost.

Look at the content of the eternal, everlasting gospel: *“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, [here comes the content of the everlasting gospel], Fear [reverence] God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: And worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”* **Revelation 14:6-7 KJV**

There is the content of the everlasting gospel. We are to enter into a dimension of worship where we reverence God and give glory to Him. We worship the Creator God who made heaven and earth, the sea and the fountains of waters. We will be doing this forever and ever before His throne. Even though right now we can worship Him in spirit and in truth, we have the physical part of us dragging us down. We have to really enter into the spirit to worship Him in this life. We need to pray in tongues, worshipping God in the spirit, and worshipping with our understanding. 1st Corinthians 14:14-15

We need to come into the dimension of worship where we seek the Lord and enter into His presence (as has been laid out in previous chapters) in holiness because He has made us holy, and then make sure our lives are clean. This dimension of worship will be greater than anything that is spoken about in this world because the worship dimension is how we will spend forever before our Lord, face to face. Let us get ready and get started. That day is coming when we rise to meet Jesus in the air and we will be established before God face to face, worshipping Him. I look forward to that, as I know you do also.

Chapter Five

HOW TO GLORIFY GOD

The Word of God tells us we are to glorify God – that is why we were created – to be to the praise of His glory (Ephesians 1). Let us take a look at different ways we can give glory to God, for this is a part of worship. Our entire lives are to be dedicated to worshipping and honoring the Lord.

1. The first way found in the Scriptures that we can give glory to God is in our praise. **Psalm 22:23** tells us, *“You who fear [or reverence] the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him; and fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!”* We know that God’s promises have gone to those who have turned to the Lord Jesus Christ and have called upon His name. As we have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, we shall be saved, and we will not be ashamed when we call upon Him. His power and ability have gone towards us, in our behalf, setting us free. So, out of a thankful heart to God, we now lift up our praise and thanks to God for all His wondrous love towards us.

2. The second way in which we give glory to God in our lives is through good works. People really look more at what we are doing than listening to what we say. As I have been stressing, it is important to say what great things God has and is doing in our behalf. This is a part of our praise and thanksgiving to Him. We should let the people know what great things God is doing and wants to do in their behalf. However, as people look at our lives, we can be saying one thing and doing another. This is not pleasing to the Lord, for one. Secondly it really hinders our testimony. People will not take what we say seriously if the actions in our lives are to the contrary.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” **Matthew 5:16** As the people see our good works, the works that are proceeding from faith, they will glorify God. Good works are always something that proceed from saving faith. If we are saved, there will be good works in our lives. People will start to see a difference. We will seek to be a blessing to everyone around us. It is important that the people are going to actually give glory to God. We give glory to Him by our godly works that follow our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. *“For we are His [God’s] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which the Father has prepared for us to do.”* **Ephesians 2:10** Again, these good works proceed from the saving faith that is in our hearts.

Here is what true religion is. *“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit the orphans and widows in their trouble and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”* **James 1:27** This is speaking of some of the good works through which we can give glory to God.

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Other works that are pleasing to God are found in Isaiah 58. Many times people really do not know what is acceptable and pleasing to Him. That is why I have been trying to present how God wants us to come to Him in worship. I want you to know what is involved in worship so that you may be able to do that which is pleasing. We have God's holy Word to give us the guideline and to instruct us in how to do it. In Isaiah 58:6 and following, the Lord gives us what is pleasing to Him, what works are pleasing to Him, what true religion is.

“Is this not this the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that thou cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be by your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’ If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you extend your soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters does not fail. Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall rise up the foundations of many generations, and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In. If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath [7th day – the Lord’s Day Creation Sabbath], from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the Lord, and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken.” **Isaiah 58:6-14**

These works are pleasing and acceptable to God. These works are a part of the good works we are doing when we are giving glory to God. The people around will give glory to God as a result of what we have done.

2nd Corinthians, chapter 9, says specifically that as we give to the poor, God receives the glory out of the lips of the poor when their need is met by Him. They then in turn begin to pray for the people who have met those needs, giving glory and thanks to God. This way everyone rejoices in the Lord.

3. The third way of giving glory to God is found in **John 15:8**. This deals with fruit bearing. *“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”* In other words, fruit is coming out of our lives as a result of our

lives being changed by the Lord Jesus Christ, and we are starting to walk in the way God would have us to, by His ability and His might, strength, wisdom, and love.

We do not have to work to make this fruit happen. It will come as we stay attached to the Lord Jesus. As we continue in the Word of God, then that Word is what sets us free, and the life of God flows from us. God makes the changes. It is nothing we can work at or make happen. It is simply that we are yielded to the Lord, doing what He says by His ability and His power. **Philippians 2:13** says, *“For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”* At that point fruit will come, and the result is that the Father will be glorified through what is going on in our lives.

4. The fourth way that we can give glory to God is found in **Romans 15:6** where it deals with spiritual unity. *“That you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* As the people glorify God, He is pleased. Something that is really needed in the Body of Christ today is unity. In other words, in the Spirit, *unity* should already exist amongst those who have called upon the Lord Jesus Christ. That unity is a bond in the Spirit – where we are of one heart, one mind, and one purpose – to lift up the Lord Jesus Christ. As we are doing so, the Lord will draw all men to Himself and He will be glorified as a result.

We are seeing the need for people to pull together in the Lord. We should put aside unbelief and doctrines of men and commandments of men, things we have just mentioned, that are actually hindering our worship of God in spirit and in truth because we have put other things before Him. As a result, there is division in the Body of Christ.

When spiritual unity starts to happen, people come into agreement, not just saying, “Oh, yes, I love Jesus and they love Jesus; we’re brothers.” When it comes down to practicing unity and working together to the glory of God, some people cannot because they have different beliefs. When that kind of nonsense is put aside and Jesus is lifted up in the hearts of the people, then God will get the glory and we will be glorifying Him.

As long as there is division and bickering in the Body of Christ, the Lord is not getting any glory. His work is actually being hindered, and since people’s hearts are not right with Him, they are not able to enter into a true state of worship. The true state of worship involves unity. When we speak of the glory of God, we are speaking of His presence. How important it is that unity exists if the glory of God is going to come into a place as we worship Him. **Ephesians 4:11-15**

5. The fifth point on which we can give glory to God is found in **1st Corinthians 6:20**. *“For you were bought at a price, therefore glorify God in your*

body and in your spirit, which are God's." As we start to realize that our spirits, minds, and bodies do not belong to us but to God, at that point His power will come into our lives and transform us. We are no longer poor, miserable, wretched and weak sinners, separated from God, but we are one with the Lord. He is in us, and we are in Him, and we flow together in unity. This has to do with giving our entire spirit, mind and body to the Lord for His purposes. As we receive Jesus Christ into our hearts as Lord and Savior, our spirits are born again and we are made alive to God.

Romans 12:1-2 goes another step – we are to now offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, which is acceptable to God. That is our service, our duty, our purpose, to be dedicated to God in body. Secondly, we are not to let our minds be conformed to this world but have them transformed or renewed by the Word of God. Then we can begin to move in His will and know His will. In order to give glory to God, we need to have our bodies, minds, and spirits completely consecrated or dedicated to Him

This is what worship is all about. It is a heart that is set upon God, that comes into His presence totally sold out to Him, not wanting to do one's own will and one's own ways but solely wanting to do His will and ways. It is possible because God has said that He is the one working in us, causing us both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Then as we come into that kind of understanding, as we come into worship, our life is transformed. We know *"...it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God..." Galatians 2:20*

We see, yes, our life is no longer our own, it belongs to God. We want to glorify Him in everything that we are doing, saying, thinking. We just want to live, move, and breathe the Lord Jesus Christ. This kind of attitude and these kinds of actions, as we are totally sold out to God, will give Him glory. We will also find that His ability will flow in our lives to enable us to walk closer with Him everyday as long as we are in this world, waiting for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is very important that we be totally sold out to the Lord. Many times we might think, *Yes, Lord, I'll do this to keep that and do my thing with that, and the rest I'll give to you.* That kind of attitude is not really pleasing to Him because it is not total surrender to Him. It is not having Jesus Christ as Lord. So, I encourage you today, as I encourage myself everyday, yield every area of your life to the Lord Jesus Christ. Do not let any darkness, any attitudes of this world, or any attitudes of self (pride) get in the way of being yielded to the Lord. Let Him have full reign in your life. As we do so, He is glorified.

Many say the Christian walk is difficult. I do not believe that. It is the easiest thing, really, that there ever was when we are totally sold out to God because it is actually His ability, faith, and life flowing through us. We are a new creation, a

new creature. Old things are passed away and He has made everything new. We are now moving, not in our own ability, but in His ability. That is what makes things easy.

Jesus never intended us to carry burdens. He said, *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest.”* **Matthew 11:28** To me, when God speaks about rest, He means that it is easy. Sure, we might be persecuted for the Word of God, but it is easy to be a Christian as we think upon the Lord Jesus Christ. Even in persecution, we are not to be cast down. Paul was never cast down, even through all the persecution he experienced. (See 2nd Corinthians 4) He never fell to the enemy’s wiles because he knew God was his strength. Yes, he had many problems going on in his life as he was persecuted for the Word of God, but the Lord took him through them all to victory. And, God will see you through them all. He will see me through them all. That is His promise. It says, *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.”* **Psalms 34:19**

I want to encourage you to give every area over to the Lord because it is those areas that we have not given over to the Lord that are dragging us down. They are giving the enemy an opportunity, and we do not want that anymore.

Here is a quick review. The ways we can give glory to God are:

- Praise from our lips
- Good works from our lives (actions)
- Bearing fruit – a product of God working in our life through our spirit. Again, the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These will be produced as we walk hand in hand with Jesus. Note: We have all of this. Therefore, it is for others through us.
- Spiritual unity – we, God’s people, are to be in oneness and unity, purposing in our lives to give God the glory and the praise, not being divided over the doctrines and traditions of men, and unbelief of what the Lord has and does. Ignorance of God’s Word.
- Being totally sold out to the Lord, giving Him glory through our spirits, minds and bodies.

6. Prayer is the sixth way we can give glory to God. God is glorified as His people pray. Jesus said, *“He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”* **John 14:12-13**

As God’s people pray in the name of Jesus, He will move and do the work, and

the Father God will get the glory. That is why we always encourage people to pray. Call upon the Lord in the authority of Jesus Christ and let His power flow into this world to touch and change someone's life. The result is that people give glory to God. It comes as a direct result of prayer. If we are not praying and believing Him in the name of Jesus, nothing is going to happen. We are His people, mighty in spirit, moving out in the name of Jesus. As we pray, God will do something, for that is what He says. And then the Father will be glorified in the Son because we ask in the name of Jesus, and Jesus did whatever it was we asked. I love that promise.

7. A seventh way we can give glory to God is found in Jesus. *“So when he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him. If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately.’”* **John 13:31-32** As we lift up Jesus, the Father God is then being glorified. Every time we speak or act in the name of Jesus, God will get the glory because Jesus Christ is Lord. This is what God has done.

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
Philippians 2:9-11

The Father is being glorified every time Jesus is being lifted up as Lord. This is tremendously important and exciting for our lives as we move ahead in the Lord Jesus Christ. Every time we speak or act in the name of Jesus, God is being glorified. He glorified Jesus. (And, as the Father was being glorified, Jesus was being glorified, because God was doing a perfect work in Jesus Christ. He sent forth His love into this world and revealed Himself to us that we might know who the Father is, so that we might be able to come to Him through the precious blood of Jesus. We can come to Him in boldness and in confidence with full assurance of life and salvation, of being His sons and daughters. We have full assurance that His life now resides in us and that we are one with Him as He is one with us, that we might give Him glory and praise that is worthy to His name, that we may be able to come to Him in worship.)

I give God the glory today for what he is doing in your life and in my life as we move ahead in His Word and promises, and as we lift up Jesus as Lord.

David gave glory to God: *“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; For all that is in the heaven and in the earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all.”* **1st Chronicles 29:11**

Chapter Six

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Let us look at the difference between worship and praise, how praise operates, and the benefits that come from praising the Lord. Praise comes from a thankful heart to God. It is different from worship. When we are praising people, we are acknowledging them. We are giving thanks, honor and glory for what they have done. In the same way, as we praise God, we are acknowledging God, giving Him glory, honor, and thanks for the things He has done, is doing, and will do in the time ahead.

Many times as we praise the Lord, we are giving Him thanks for what He is going to do in the time ahead. Worship is more of a love relationship with God. Praise often sets up worship. As we acknowledge and honor the Lord and give thanks, at that point we are setting up a relationship where worship is able to freely begin to flow in the spirit of the meeting (or in our home or wherever we are).

Often as we leave praise, we enter into worship. It is at that point that we rest in the Lord. We worship and delight in His presence – spiritually, it is a love relationship going on. Praise is a little more active and involves more physical exuberance on the part of the people.

Concerning the encouragement to praise, God's Word says that praise can be expressed through singing to the Lord.

➤ *“Sing praises to the Lord, which dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people.” Psalm 9:11* Here is a relationship of praise and declaring His doings, the works of His hands.

➤ *“Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful. Praise the Lord with the harp; Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.” Psalm 33:1-3*

This kind of praise involves rejoicing in the Lord. Praise is comely or fitting for the upright. It is behavior that is pleasing to God. It comes from a person who has been set free by the Lord Jesus Christ. We are righteous in God's eyes, and we are put into right standing through the blood of Jesus. Praise comes forth from us for what great things the Lord has done in setting us free. It is acceptable behavior that comes from a heart that knows it has been freed by the blood of the Lamb.

Praise can be expressed through the use of musical instruments and the singing of a new song. We know that God is the One who has put a new song in our hearts. So now we sing to the Lord.

1st Corinthians 14:15 tells us we sing to the Lord either with our understanding (singing praise to God so that other people understand it), or we sing in the spirit (in tongues) to the Lord. Both are acceptable and pleasing to God. He says to do both. Why? *“For the word of the Lord is right, and all His work is done in truth. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of goodness of the Lord.” Psalm 33:4-5* This is why we lift our praise and thanksgiving to God.

Praise comes from a thankful heart to God. It is always rooted in the ability of God and the works He has done amongst His people. This is why we come and acknowledge God by thanking and praising Him and telling the people what great things God has done in behalf of His people, you and me. This is what praise is about – acknowledging God. It enables Him to move as we praise Him.

➤ Here is another expression of praise coming forth: *“Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.” Psalm 100:1-5*

Many times when people are praising God, a joyful noise goes up to Him. There is exuberance! It may be loud, and it is joyful. Praises are always rooted in joy because in the presence of God is fullness of joy. The Bible says that He inhabits the praises of His people. At that point He actually comes into the place. Then His ability and working is able to flow. Wherever God is present there is fullness of joy. (Psalm 16:11) We serve the Lord with gladness and we come before His presence with singing.

Singing often brings the Spirit of God into a place. As we rejoice in the Lord and sing, God is free to move. As David was playing on the musical instrument and singing praises to God, the demonic spirit that was influencing King Saul would leave. As people begin to sing and rejoice in the Lord, the influence of the enemy which is over a person often begins to lift and lighten as the person lifts up praise to God through singing (a confession of the mouth).

We are to enter into His gates with thanksgiving (again, praise is centered in thanksgiving to God for the works He has done), and we enter into His courts with praise (that is, an expressing of thanksgiving, mercy and love of the Lord for His goodness towards his people). As we are doing so, He is pleased. When we

come with a thankful heart to Him and bless His name because of His goodness, God begins to move in our behalf.

- *“Let the people praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.” Psalm 67:3*

This is an exhortation for God’s people to acknowledge His great workings. As we do so, we are testifying to God’s greatness, which then allows His ability to flow into any given situation.

- *“Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it; you coastlands and you inhabitants of them! Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory to the Lord, and declare His praise in the coastlands.” Isaiah 42:10-12*

Again, we see a call for God’s praises to go throughout the world because of who He is and because of the greatness of His workings in behalf of His people who have called upon His name. God loves His people. He loves you and me today in a way that we cannot even begin to acknowledge or express. As we praise God, we are acknowledging Him with our understanding. As we praise Him in spirit (in tongues), we are praising Him from our spirit by the Holy Spirit, who knows the innermost thoughts of God.

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”
Romans 8:26-28 That kind of praise is pleasing and acceptable to God. (1st Corinthians 14:2, 15)

I fully believe that, according to the word in Ephesians 1:12 and other places, we are created for the purpose of being to the praise of God’s glory. We are here to acknowledge and honor the Lord, to give glory to Him and to love Him. Also, we are here to tell people about the great workings of our God in behalf of His people. As we do so, we actually allow the people to be set free. They hear about the greatness of the Lord and His workings, and they then turn to Him. He is faithful to move towards anyone who calls upon His name. They will not be ashamed.

- *“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.” Hebrews 13:15* Our

purpose and calling, because of Jesus Christ and the working of God's love towards us, is to offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually; that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. This is our purpose. There are not to be any more blood sacrifices. Once and for all the blood of Jesus has paid the price to make us right with God. Now it is only our due service to give thanks to Him – the sacrifice of praise.

I get so excited when I look at the purpose God has given to us and for us in this life. We are here, saved by the blood of Jesus, to tell people what great things He has done. This is what praise is all about. As we are acknowledging the Lord, in praise and thanks for what He has done, He moves in behalf of His people.

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people; that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light, who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not [in times past] obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” **1st Peter 2:9-10**

I love this! We are a royal priesthood! The priesthood in the Old Testament offered up sacrifices to God. In the same way, we New Testament priests offer up the sacrifice of praise to God out of thankful hearts for the greatness and the goodness of God's mercy and love towards us, in loving us and setting us free in Jesus Christ.

Our groaning, griping and complaining causes God to leave the situation. When we praise Him instead, then He comes into the situation and is able to move in our behalf.

Psalms 148-150 is very good material for praising the Lord. Many times they seem to just flow together. We can praise the Lord together by simply reading Psalms 148-150. It is exciting to read God's Word aloud and speak our praise and thanks to Him. We are acknowledging Him, we are honoring Him, looking to Him, and reverencing Him. As we do so, His ability begins to flow.

As we noted earlier, there are different methods of praise. We see in some places in the Psalms it says, *“Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with a voice of triumph!”* **Psalm 47:1** Other times, we see the use of various musical instruments. Clapping, shouting, praising with a loud voice, praising with a low voice, praising on the trumpets, praising in a dance (David danced before the Ark of the Covenant as he was bringing it into Jerusalem), and as we praise the Lord by acknowledging Him, many times the body responds by dancing to the Lord. This is acceptable behavior to God.

I have ministered in many places with different kinds of worship and praise to God. As long as it is done out of a heart that is open and yielded to Him, and the people are doing it as to the Lord, then it is pleasing and acceptable. God looks at the heart. In some places a dance would seem to be inappropriate, but according to the Bible, in some situations and circumstances it is not inappropriate. It is a way to praise the Lord.

We are not talking about obnoxious behavior but we are talking about delighted hearts in the Lord, who are lifting up their spirits, minds and bodies to exalt the Lord God and to give Him thanks for all He has done. Praise is, many times, more exuberant than worship. Praise stirs up the people and many times their bodies jump, they shout and give glory to God this way. Worship, many times, enters more into a peaceful rest, into a communion with the Lord. Praise sets up worship. We begin by acknowledging God's greatness out of a thankful heart. Then we enter into worship—our love affair with God.

See some of the results when people started praising the Lord. Something happened in their midst as the people lifted their thoughts off the situation and got them onto God. Notice what He did. **2nd Chronicles 20:21** The background is that there was an army coming against Jehoshaphat and the Israelites. They were in bad straits, being outnumbered seriously. It looked like all was lost for them. As they were fasting and praying the Lord gave them some direction. He told them to send out the singers in front of the army. They were to send out the praisers and the people with the musical instruments.

This is quite unusual battle strategy and war behavior – to send out singers and praisers in front of the warriors, but, this is what God instructed. Here we have a powerful lesson to learn concerning praise.

- *“And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for His mercy endureth forever.”* **2nd Chronicles 20:21 KJV**

This is what Jehoshaphat told the people to do.

- *“And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.”* **2nd Chronicles 20:22**

They were brought under by the power of God. God Himself moved in behalf of the people as they acknowledged the Lord and began to praise Him, thank Him, and sing about the beauty of His holiness, about how wonderful the Word is, and how wonderful His deeds are. The power of God came forth and He routed the enemy Himself.

If we want victory in our lives, we need to learn how to praise the Lord and acknowledge Him rather than the situation or the circumstance. As we lift our hearts to the Lord, then His power flows into our situation and He is free to work.

I thank God for David. As he was confronted with Goliath he spoke out his confession. You will remember that Goliath said, “ ‘What am I, a dog, that you send some little kid out here to get me?’ ” “And David said, ‘*This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you.*’ ”
1st Samuel 17:46

As David acknowledged the Lord, and he began to praise Him, that young man slew the giant. In the same way, as we acknowledge God and praise Him, no matter how limited we may feel or how we think we are, the greatness of the Lord will well up inside because He is in us. It will be His ability that will actually route the enemy, not ours, for we have no ability of our own.

That is why the Lord says in His Word, “*My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.*” **2nd Corinthians 12:9**

As we learn to praise the Lord and acknowledge Him, we are actually loosing His ability into the situation. He is then able to set the captives free, literally. Spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically He is able to set His people free, as we from a thankful heart acknowledge God is greater than the situation. As we start to lift our voices to praise Him, we are then very close to entering into worship where communion and a love relationship with Him begins to flow.

Worship may go from exuberant praise as we enter into His gates with thanksgiving (shouting, dancing, playing musical instruments) into suddenly entering into a worship dimension where everything quiets down. It may be that we are totally still before the Lord, as He ministers to us and we minister to Him. This is a love relationship of oneness in worship, in honor to His name.

Paul, in prison, was in a circumstance where he was in bondage and chained up. He and Silas began to worship and praise God. The Bible says they were singing at the top of their lungs, shouting to God and praising Him, and acknowledging Him so that the whole prison heard what they were doing and singing. **Acts 16:25-34** At that point, an earthquake opened up every cell door in the prison, and God set the captives free. Paul and Silas were not crying, griping and complaining about their situation and how bad they had it. They began to acknowledge the Lord in the situation, and they praised Him. As they did so, the power of God moved.

I know for a fact that the power of God will work and move in behalf of His people because He inhabits the praises of His people. As His people start to praise Him

and get their minds off themselves and their situation and onto God to acknowledge Him, then He moves.

When the Lord is praised, His presence comes into the house, *“So that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.”* **2nd Chronicles 5:14.** See also **2nd Chronicles 5:11-14**

Chapter Seven

THE GLORY OF GOD

The glory of God is usually depicted throughout the Bible as the presence of God. Praise and worship involves coming into His presence. Therefore, we can begin to expect that we will see the same evidence of His presence that was noted in the Old Testament. In the New Testament it should be even better, or at least the same.

Let us see what happened when the presence of God came in Old Testament times. Moses went up to Mount Sinai: *“Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain. Now the glory of the Lord rested upon Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. The sight of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was in the mountain forty days and forty nights.” Exodus 24:15-18*

The glory of the Lord is represented throughout the Bible as either fire or a cloud. It appears to be just that way; as a cloud, a fog, or a kind of mist in the room.

As people worship the Lord, there will be different manifestations of the Spirit of God. When we are talking about His glory, we are talking about a physical manifestation of the Spirit of God’s presence in this earth.

“Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys: But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the Lord was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.” Exodus 40:34-38

Again, we find the glory of God being shown in the form of a cloud. Whenever the presence of the Lord was there, there was a cloud representing it. As it covered the tent of the congregation, the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle, and at that point they stayed where they were. We also see that Moses was not even able to enter into the tent of the congregation because of the glory cloud, the presence of the Lord that filled the tabernacle.

Another term for the glory of the Lord is the “shekinah glory.” The Bible, in several places, talks about the shekinah glory or presence of God. A cloud or mist is present. We have seen this many times in meetings we were holding or

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were attending. The Spirit of God was alive and moving as the people worshiped and praised Him. God Himself was in their midst. Jesus says, *“For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am in the midst of them.”* **Matthew 18:20**

The glory cloud is where God actually, physically, comes into our midst. We know that He is there by the Word of God, but as he comes in the glory, it is in a physical manifestation of His Spirit that we can see.

I remember my first deliverance experience, where the Spirit of God was teaching me about delivering people from demons. (See *Satan’s Defeat* book.) After a demon had left a woman, her face suddenly lit up (the New Testament talks about *“The glory of the Lord shining round about them.”*) This woman’s face literally lit up with the presence and glory of the Lord. Another time as the Spirit of God was teaching me how to deliver people from demons, a cloud filled the room. So powerful was this cloud, that it was all I could do to kneel. His presence and power was exhibited as the glory cloud filled the room.

Ever since, when we shared that testimony, on many occasions the glory of God came into the place where it was being shared. Once we were coming back from Arizona (where we had been ministering) and began to share with another individual in the car concerning the testimony of the deliverance just referred to. The glory of the Lord came into the car and filled it. The anointing of the Spirit rose up strongly and we were totally overwhelmed. Prophecy began to flow as God spoke to us concerning things of His Spirit and the work that was to be done at the next stop.

When you are in a place where the Spirit of God is flowing and ministering, many times you will see a cloud or haze come into the place. Do not be concerned; just recognize what it is and start to honor and reverence His presence. God is truly there! Scripturally, in the Old Testament, the cloud was the evidence of the presence of God, the shekinah glory.

The dedication of Solomon’s temple is recorded in **2nd Chronicles 5:11-14** and **1st Kings 8:10-11**. I have taught on this many times. One time a woman who had listened to the teaching (and had always wanted to see this happen) came to our park revival and was praying out in front. She looked up and saw a cloud roll into the meeting. It rolled in from behind me and stayed just behind me as I ministered the Word. When I finished and began to go out to minister to the people, she sat there and watched the glory cloud of God go over the people. God’s power began to move to set the people free because it was actually Jesus ministering that night.

It is Jesus ministering wherever God’s people go out in His mighty name. Jesus says, *“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name I will do it.”* **John 14:13-14**

We know that as Jesus was ministering, the power of God (the Holy Spirit) was there moving and ministering. We expect to see great and mighty things done by the Spirit of God. That night in particular, the Spirit ministered in physical manifestation. People were going down under the power of God. Falling under the power is also a physical demonstration of the power of God's Spirit ministering in and to His people.

“And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord.”

1st Kings 8:10, 11

Here we find that the glory cloud of God came into the place and the people who were the ministers were not able to stand up because of His power and presence.

Would that this were happening all over today as God's people are ministering. Would that their ministry would be so pleasing to the Lord, that He comes in, in full demonstration of His presence, with power in His Spirit.

The men in **1st Kings, chapter 8**, were not able to minister because of the presence of God. He was actually doing the ministering that day. This is the kind of thing we can hope for and believe God to happen in the meetings as we are worshipping and praising Him. If these things happened in the Old Testament, they can certainly happen today. Part of God's promise is that we will see even greater demonstrations of His Spirit in the New Testament than they saw in the Old.

“And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.” **Luke 2:9**

This is the account of the shepherds on the night of the Lord Jesus' birth. As the angel of the Lord came to them, the glory of the Lord was present in the cloud and shone round about them, and the shepherds were afraid. During a holy visitation, people are filled with awe and reverence for His holiness and presence. This is the same way it ought to be. God will come into a place where He is being honored and revered – where He is being worshipped, praised and given glory, where His work is being acknowledged, and people are believing Him for what He has promised to do — all of it, not just a part.

We believe that the Spirit of God wants to minister divine life, divine health, divine provision, divine protection, and divine blessing of every kind to His people. We have seen that when His presence came into a place, people were healed simply as they worshipped Him. The Holy Spirit rolled over the place, and the people were healed or delivered as they lifted their hearts to worship and praise Him, the

King of kings, the Lord God of Hosts. We can expect this to happen today, just like it did back then. Praise God, it is happening today wherever the Spirit of God is moving and people are honoring and reverencing Him.

The Book of Acts gives us the account of Stephen being stoned to death for his testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. *“But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.”* **Acts 7:55** The glory of God being, again, the presence of God. Stephen saw His glory-presence and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. We usually think of Jesus as sitting at His right hand, but in this account Jesus was standing. I believe that Jesus was giving a standing ovation to the first martyr who died for testifying to the glory of Jesus Christ. Wherever His people are honoring Him, reverencing Him, and standing up for what He has said, that is where He will make His presence known.

Today the Lord is searching throughout the whole world, looking back and forth for someone in whose behalf He can show Himself strong and mighty. **2nd Chronicles 16:9** Would it be you? I believe it will be, as your heart is open to all that God has for you in Jesus Christ.

Leviticus 16:2 gives us another account of the shekinah presence, the glory of God. *“And the Lord said to Moses: ‘Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark; lest he die, for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.’”* **Leviticus 16:2**

When the Lord’s presence was there, He did not want anyone in the tabernacle. One had to be prepared to go into His presence. We do not need to be afraid to come into His presence because of the blood of Jesus. The blood of Jesus has covered us, forgiven us; it has made us right with God.

Being in His presence is a “holy time.” In the Old Testament, if the priest was not prepared to come into the Holy of Holies, he would drop dead. That is why they tied a rope around his leg and sewed bells on his robe to make sure he was still walking around inside. I fully believe, if we are going to see the glory of God come into a place, the people have to be of one mind and one heart (unity). They have to believe the Lord, worship and praise Him and be covered by the blood of Jesus. That means we should have our lives clean before Him, forgiven. We should come as fit vessels to worship, honor, and praise the King of kings. I thank God today that the blood of Jesus has made us right with Him. Now we need to walk in it – keeping our lives clean and keeping our lives holy before the Lord.

“Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And he called to the man clothed with linen,

who had the writer's inkhorn at his side." **Ezekiel 9:3** Often the cloud will come down and then lift up. Therefore we need to be conscious of the working of God. When the presence is coming down, that is when the power is there. It is there to do anything that needs to be done. Expect that will happen by the word of God. It allows freedom for the Lord to do whatever He wants to do. If He chooses to come into a meeting in the glory cloud, praise His holy name for it. We know that with or without the glory cloud, He is present and He will move in behalf of His people if we are simply believing Him and taking Him at His Word and taking it as true.

When you are in meetings where the Spirit of God is moving in power, you may see someone fall onto the floor. This can catch people off guard. What they are seeing is a demonstration of the power of the Spirit of God in the physical realm. Some may think the person has fainted or died.

Look briefly at what actually happens when a person falls down under the power. Some call it "slain in the spirit." I do not particularly care for that term because the person is not dead. What is actually happening is the Spirit of God is coming upon them and the human body cannot contain His power and presence. A person falls down, "appearing" to be dead.

Is there anything in the Bible about people falling down under this power? I would like to share with you a few Scriptures to get you started. You can look them up for yourself. For example, when Judas led the soldiers and mob to get Jesus. *"Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, 'Whom are you seeking?' They answered Him, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus said to them, 'I am He.' And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. Now when He said to them, 'I am He,' they drew back and fell to the ground."* **John 18:4-6**

Here was a demonstration of the power of the Spirit of God flowing over mortal bodies. The body cannot hold it so it falls down under His power. As soon as Jesus answered them, *"I am He,"* the power went forth and they fell. Someone might say, "Yes, but that was in the presence of Jesus. Jesus said, *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst."* **Matthew 18:20** If people fell over backward in the presence of Jesus, then why would they not do it now? He is here; He is wherever people are ministering by the Spirit of God, in His name.

After Jesus rose from the dead, the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. *"His countenance was like lightning and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became as dead men."* **Matthew 28:3-4**

The men (in mortal bodies) became as dead men. That means they fell down. Have you ever seen a dead man standing up? Certainly not. These men fell under the power of the Spirit of God. People might think it was just an angel. Note here that the Spirit of God, the third person of the Godhead, is greater than any angel, and He is here. He is moving through the people that are filled with His Holy Spirit. He is alive and is in His people.

Here is the account of the transfiguration: *“While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!’ And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.”*

Matthew 17:5-6 They fell to the ground under the power of God.

Acts, chapter 9, tells us of Saul’s conversation on the road to Damascus and says that he fell to the earth. *“Then he (Saul) fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’”* **Acts 9:4** In **Acts, chapter 26** Paul recited the same event, and he says that the people all fell. *“And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”* **Acts 26:14** The others did not get anything but they fell anyway. Why? They came into contact with the supernatural presence of God. The Lord spoke to Paul, not to any of the others. Note here that the others went down, too, under the power of God because they were in His presence.

This is what happens when someone falls down under the power of the Spirit of God. They are coming under an overwhelming power of His divine presence.

For example, Ezekiel fell to the ground in the presence of God. (**Ezekiel 1:28**) *“Then the Spirit entered into me when He spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard Him who spoke to me.”* **Ezekiel 2:2** Ezekiel fell under the appearance of the glory of the Lord, but the Spirit set him back up on his feet!

This is the kind of thing that happens when the Spirit of God is moving, when the people are worshipping, praising, reverencing and honoring Him. The Spirit is able to do some exciting things.

In meetings, some people think it is funny when others fall down. They do not really understand what is going on. But we know today that in many situations the glory of God comes in like a cloud and fills the temple, and the people go down under the power of the Spirit. We see healings happen. We see people’s lives changed. We have seen alcoholics instantly changed, instantly sobered up by God’s power. We have seen people taken off of drugs by God’s power and the effect of the drugs broken. We have seen demonic bondage broken. As people are being ministered to by the Spirit of God, things really happen. People

falling down under His power appear strange to the physical eyes and the mind, but the Bible says it is spiritual, and it *is* of God.

Many say you should not be looking for physical manifestations. What would you say to this? We ought to be believing the Lord, that the same things that happened in the Old Testament will be happening in the New Testament and certainly ought to be happening today. Why? *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”* **Hebrews 13:8** If He did those things in the Old Testament, He is certainly going to do them in the New. If He did them in the New Testament, He is certainly going to do them today (because we are still in the New Testament).

I fully believe there will be a revival of physical phenomena in these days in which we are living. We are on the edge of it right now. The time is coming when it will get stronger and stronger. Before the return of our Lord Jesus, God’s power will come into manifestation in this hour in a way that we have never seen before, as people are looking to Him, and believing Him, and worshipping and honoring Him.