

Practical Discipleship: Praise & Worship Experience

Presentation Outline – Sis Jane Jacobs

Definition of Praise

- Praise is a fundamental, active response of humanity to God's self-revelation, proclaiming His worth, merit, and significance. (Holman Bible Dictionary)
- Praising God by commendation thus means that we entrust ourselves to His care and recommend that others do the same (Webster's Dictionary)
- In biblical contexts, praise is often differentiated from prayer, focusing specifically on exalting God for who He is and what He has done
 - A form of worship that involves expressing gratitude, admiration, and glory to God
 - Methods including vocal song, instrumental music, physical movement, and obedience.

Praise & Worship as a Force

- Praise and Worship is a Divine Key
- Praise and Worship is a Spiritual Weapon
- Praise and Worship is a mystery that unlocks the supernatural
- When a person truly understands praise and worship, they move from being ordinary to extraordinary, from weak to strong and from bound to free
- Praise & Worship are not just songs we sing or words we say, they are the language of the Kingdom
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- 1 Chronicles 29:20 - *“Then David said to all the assembly, ‘Now bless the LORD your God.’ So all the assembly blessed the LORD God of their fathers and bowed their heads and prostrated themselves before the LORD and king.”*

Praise

- Praise comes from a Latin word meaning “value” or “price”
- It is the act of proclaiming God's merit or worth
- A response to God's actions, deliverance, Favour, and revealed nature.
- Proverbs 27: 21 **“You need a hot fire to see if silver and gold are pure. In the same way, when people praise you, they can see what you are really like (ERV)**

Mode of Expressing Praise

- Offering of sacrifice
- Prayer: (Phil 4:6; James 1:2-4)
- Vocal and Musical
- Physical Acts: dancing, lifting hands, or bowing (2 Samuel 6:14)
- Lifestyle: A holy life and acts of obedience (1 Peter 1:1-9)
- Testimony - Sharing what God has done (Psalm 66:16)

Praise in relation to Worship

- Praise is often considered a subgroup or form of worship, focused on thanking and glorifying God for His works and perfections
- Unlike silent meditation, praise is generally expected to be vocalised or manifested outwardly

Hebrew Terms and Concepts

- Halal: The Hebrew root for "hallelujah", meaning to shine, boast, or celebrate
- Yadah: To worship with extended hands
- Zamar: To praise with instruments and song (Psalm 144:9)
- Barak: meaning "to kneel", "bow", or "bless", representing an act of adoration, submission, and humility before God.
 - It signifies humbling oneself to honour God as King, often translated as "bless" or "praise" (Psalm 95:6)
- Posture of our heart: Praise is to originate from the heart and not become a mere outward show (Matt 15:8-9)
- Corporate Praise: (1 Corinthians 14:40)
- Refuelling: Sit under the ministration (Matt 15:8)

Question??

What is your understanding of this statement? - *"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honour Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me" (Matt 15:8)*

Right Rendition to Praise

As believers, our expectation for the "right rendition" to praise God goes far beyond just singing songs in church; it is a lifestyle of honouring God that originates from the heart and manifests in our actions, attitudes, and words. The Bible presents praise as both a duty and a privilege, requiring us to acknowledge God's sovereignty, goodness, and holiness.

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!" (Psalm 150:6)

Definition of Worship

- Human response to the self-revelation of the triune God" (The Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary)
- An interrelation between divine action (God revealing Himself, His purposes, and His will) and the worshiper's response of adoration, humility, submission, and obedience
- The Hebrew word for worship – "Shachah"
 - Means to bow down, prostrate oneself, or lay flat on the ground in submission and reverence
 - It implies a total surrender to God rather than just a physical act,
 - Often used to describe humbling oneself before a higher authority

What is your own definition of Worship ???

- Worship is not about music it is about surrender; it is not about "Talent" it is about relationship
- We worship God for who He is
- Daniel 3:8-25

Core Components of Biblical Worship

- A Lifestyle, Not Just Music
 - Involves daily actions like serving others, obeying commandments, and living righteously, which are considered spiritual sacrifices.
- In Spirit and Truth (John 4:24)
- Reverence and Submission (Psalm 95:6)
- Total Surrender (Romans 12:1)
- Focus on God

Lack of Preparedness

- The Parable of the Faithful and Unfaithful Servant (Luke 12:47-48)
 - The action
 - The sin
 - The consequence
 - The lesson

Our Challenge

- Become a worshiper, not just a singer
- Become a true carrier of His praise, not just a listener.
- Our lives become a living altar of Praise and worship
 - will not only see miracles, but we also walk in the very presence of God Himself
- Worship precedes creation
- Worship breaks chains and wins battles (Revelation 4:8-11)

Let us throw away anything that distracts us when we enter God's sanctuary, minimise every distraction, and be sensitive when we are ministering to God and His people.