

WHY WE WORSHIP

A **MANNAHOUSE** RESOURCE



All Scriptures quoted in this
booklet are taken from
the New King James Version of the Bible.

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WHY WE WORSHIP!

While in prayer on the Isle of Patmos, the apostle John was lifted into heaven and set before the throne of God. Here he witnessed God's awesome majesty, splendor and power and heard the heavenly crescendos of heartfelt worship and praise that rise to Him continuously. The following scripture is some of what he saw.

Behold, a throne set in heaven and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald ... and around the throne were four living creatures ... and they do not rest day or night, saying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" ... The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever ... 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 (Rev. 4:2,3,6b,8b, 10, 11).

Worship to God is a natural response to the revelation of who He is and what He has done for us. God is our creator and desires each one of us to know Him personally and to enjoy His presence and blessings forever. The Bible teaches us

that the One we worship dwells in a realm of power and majesty that we cannot conceive of in our most liberal imagination. He is the all powerful, all knowing, all wise, ever present God that loves us with an everlasting love and commitment.

The desire to worship Him grows in proportion to our revelation of His majesty, glory, mercy and love. The deepest and most extravagant worship takes place among those that live the closest to His throne. When we worship God we join the angels and heavenly beings that continuously sing and proclaim praise to Him in heaven.

The ability and calling to worship God is a privilege beyond description. The fall of man turned our worship toward ourselves and to things in this fallen creation. The Holy Spirit, who dwells in the life of every believer, has opened our eyes to the reality of who God is and how we are to live in reference to Him. He is constantly turning our hearts to the throne of God and to the Lord Jesus Christ, who has restored us to our original destiny as children of God.

As we worship God through praise, adoration, giving thanks etc. something beautiful takes place in our souls. Worship joins our hearts to His and His life begins to flow into our souls. Our revelation of Him increases and His presence begins to encompass us. The Holy Spirit ministers grace to our inner life in the form of peace, joy, love, patience, healing, etc.

JESUS SAID:

“... 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 spirit and those who worship Him **must worship in spirit and truth.**”

John 4:23-24

EXPLANATION:

“God desires to fill us with His Holy Spirit, and to guide us into all truth.”

John 16:13. But what is this truth? Jesus said, **“Your word is truth.”** John 17:17

CONCLUSION:

We believe that the **Holy Bible**, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, has been **given** to us **to instruct us how to worship God**. In this booklet we will explain **Why We Worship The Way We Do. Basing our convictions on what the Word of God teaches.** II Tim. 3:16-17

Q: Can we use **Old Testament scriptures** to help determine how we should worship God today?

Paul, the New Testament Apostle, **did**.

“But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.” Acts 24: 14

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” Rom. 15:4

“Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they are written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come.” I Cor. 10:11

Additional Scripture: II Tim. 3: 16

SINGING

"Sing praise to the Lord, You saints of His." Ps. 30:4

"Oh Come, let us sing to the Lord" Ps. 95:1

"Sing praises to our King, sing praises!" Ps. 47:6

Additional Scriptures: Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Ps. 27:6, 81:1

KNEELING

"Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." Ps. 95:6

Additional Scriptures: *II Chron. 6:13; Luke 22:41; Acts 9:40; Acts 20:36*

STANDING

*"behold, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
who by night stand in the house of the Lord"* Ps. 134: 1

Additional Scriptures: Ps. 135:2, Deut. 10:8

LIFTING UP HANDS

“**Lift up your hands** in the sanctuary ... ” Ps. 134:2

“Therefore I desire that **men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands** ... ” I Tim. 2:8

Additional Scriptures: Ps. 63:4, 141 :2, Lam. 3:41, Ex. 17:8-13,
I Kings 8:22, II Chron. 6:13

CLAPPING

“Oh, Clap your hands, all you peoples!” Ps. 47:1

Additional Scriptures: Ps. 98:8, Is. 55:12, II Kings 11:12

DANCING

“Let them praise His name with the dance ... ” Ps. 149:3

“Praise Him with the timbrel and dance ... ” Ps. 150:4

Additional Scriptures: II Sam. 6: 14-16; Jer. 31:4, 13;
Judges 11:34, 21:21-23; I Sam. 18:6; Ex. 15:20; Ps. 30:11; Eccl. 3:4; Luke 15:25.

SHOUTING

“Let them shout for joy and be glad ... ” Ps. 35:27

Additional Scriptures: Ps. 47:1, 27:6, 32:11, 98:4, 132:9 & 16,
II Sam. 6:15, Josh. 6:10, 16 & 20

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

*“**Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet;** Praise Him with the lute and **harp!** Praise Him with – the **timbrel** and **dance;** Praise Him with **stringed instruments** and flutes! Praise Him with **loud cymbals;** Praise Him with **high sounding cymbals!**” Ps. 150:3-5*

*“Then **David and all the house of Israel** played music before the Lord **on all kinds of instruments** ... ” II Sam. 6:5*

Additional Scriptures: Gen. 4:21, Ps. 33:2-3, 71 :22, 144:9, Isa. 38:20

SINGING A “NEW SONG”

At some point **during a worship service** a member of the music ministry or an individual in the congregation **may sing out with a spontaneous “new song”** from the Lord.

At times the **entire assembly may** even join in and **sing** this **“new song”** to the Lord.

*“He has put **a new song in my mouth** ... ”* Ps. 40:3

*“Oh **sing** to the Lord **a new song**”* Ps. 96:1, 98:1

*“Praise the Lord! **Sing** to the Lord **a new song**, And His praise **in the congregation of saints.**”* Ps. 149:1

Additional Scriptures: Ps. 33:3, 144:9, Rev. 5:9, 14:3

PROPHECY

The Old Testament prophet Joel predicted:

*“And **it shall come to pass** afterward that **I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy ...**” Joel 2:28*

This gift of **prophecy** was **first given** to the Church **on the day of Pentecost** (30 A.D.), when 120 disciples of Jesus were Baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2: 1-8), **and is still a vital part of the Church today.**

Therefore, during our worship service **an individual in the congregation may** be inspired to **speak out a word of prophecy** to be heard by the entire church assembly. I Cor. 14:31

The **purpose** of this inspired word from God **is for our edification** (to build us up), **our exhortation** (to stir up), and **our comfort** (to cheer us up) as is shown in I Cor. 14:3.

TONGUES

Jesus said that **one of the signs that would follow believers** would be speaking in new **tongues**. Mark 16: 17.

This was **fulfilled when believers** in Christ **were Baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke with new tongues**. Acts 2:1-4, 10:44-46, 19:1-6.

Paul the Apostle **desired all Christians to speak in tongues** and was grateful to God that **he spoke in tongues more than anyone** in the Corinthian Church. I Cor. 14:5, 18.

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF TONGUES:

1. Whenever a **tongue, during a worship service**, is distinctly **heard above** the rest of the **congregation**, it should be **followed by an interpretation** in the known language (English, in our case. I Cor. 14:27), thus building up the Church.
2. In our **individual prayer life**, a **tongue** spoken to God **edifies** (builds up) the **believer**. I Cor. 14:2

ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT WORSHIP

Q. How should we come into the presence of God?

“... Come before His presence **with singing**. Enter into His gates **with thanksgiving**, And into His courts **with praise**. **Be thankful to Him, bless His name.**” Ps. 100:2, 4.

The Bible teaches that **God dwells in the praises of His people**. “*But You are holy, Who **inhabit the praises of Israel.***” Ps. 22:3.

Q. Should we praise the Lord in a public church meeting?

“*My **praise shall be of You in the great congregation.***” Ps. 22:25.

“***In the midst of the congregation will I praise You.***” Ps. 22:22.

Additional Scriptures: Rom. 15:6, Ps. 18:49, 40:3, 84:4, 111:1, 149:1.

Q: Who should praise the Lord?

*"Let **everything that has breath** praise the Lord, Praise the Lord" Ps. 150:6*

*"**And all flesh shall** bless His holy name ... " Ps. 145:21.*

*"Praise the Lord, **all you Gentiles**; Laud Him, **all you peoples.**" Rom. 15:11.*

Additional Scriptures: Rev. 5:11-14

Q: Can't I just praise the Lord in my heart and not out loud?

*" ... **make** the voice of **His praise to be heard.**" Ps. 66:8.*

"My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord ... " Ps. 145:21

*"Therefore by Him let us continually offer **the sacrifice of praise** to God, that is, **the fruit of our lips**, giving thanks to Him name." Heb. 13: 15.*

Additional Scriptures: Ps. 63 :3, 66: 1, Hosea 14:2.

Q. Did Jesus encourage His disciples to praise God?

*“Then, as He was now drawing near ... **the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice** for all the mighty works they had seen,*

*And some of the **Pharisees** called to Him from the crowd, “Teacher, **rebuke Your disciples.**”*

*But He answered and said to them , “**I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.**” Luke 19:37, 39, 40.*

Additional Scriptures: Matt. 21 :9-16

Q. What did the disciples do, after Jesus ascended into heaven, while they were waiting to be baptized in the Holy Spirit?

*“And **they** worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and **were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.**”*

Luke 24:52-53

Q. Is it possible to praise the Lord too much?

*"I will **ble**ss the Lord at all times; His **pr**aise shall continually be in my **mouth**."* Ps. 34: 1

Additional Scriptures: Ps. 146:2, 35:28

Q. Won't the visitors to our church be "turned off" when they see the whole congregation praising the Lord?

"He has put a new song in my mouth - Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the Lord" Ps. 40:3.

Q. Should we worship the Lord in our homes?

" ... Let them sing aloud on their beds." Ps. 149:5.

Even **heaven** will be **filled with continuous, "Loud" Praises to God.**

Rev. 14:2, 3, 6, 7; 4:8-11; 19:1-10.

Q. Isn't it ever quiet in heaven?

Yes. The Bible says for ½ hour. Rev. 8:1.

SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

Many times, when we enter the House of the Lord, **we may feel enthusiastic about** coming to **worship** God. At **other times**, the prospect of **praising and thanking God seems to be the last thing we would like to do**. It is at these uninspired times that we can be drawn into the very presence of God by offering a **“Sacrifice of Praise.”**

On the opposite page, the Bible teaches us that we as priests before God (Rev. 1 :6, 1 Pet. 2:9) are to **offer a spiritual sacrifice of praise to God**.

This is to be done **with our lips (voice)**, and truly becomes a sacrifice in that **it is done whether we feel like it or not**.

We should **praise God for who He is, and thank Him for what He has done**.

“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.” Heb. 13: 15.

“**You** also, as living stones, **are being** built up a spiritual house, **a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifice** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” I Pet. 2:5

“ ... His **praise** shall **continually** be **in my mouth**.” Ps. 34: 1

“**giving thanks always** for all things to God ... ” Eph. 5:20

“**the voice of joy** and the **voice of gladness**, the voice of the bridegroom, and the **voice** of the bride, **the voice of those who will say: ‘Praise the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for His mercy endures forever’** – and of those who will **bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord**.” Jer. 33: 11

Additional Scriptures: Jer. 17:26; Ps. 50:5, 14, 23; Ps. 107:22, 116:17

BIBLE CHARACTERS WHO OFFERED THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS:

- 1. PAUL AND SILAS**, after being severely **beaten**, offered a **Sacrifice of Praise** to God. Acts 16:25
- 2. Jonah**, after being in the belly of the great fish for three days, offered a **Sacrifice of Thanksgiving** to God. Jonah 2:9

Additional Scriptures: King Jehoshaphat. II Chron. 20: 1-25

They didn't feel like Praising God, but were willing to sacrifice.

Q: What were the results of their sacrifices of Praise and Thanksgiving?

1. An **earthquake shook** the **prison** where **Paul** and **Silas** were, and they were **loosed from** their **chains**. The **prison doors** were **opened**, and **the jailer and his family got saved and baptized**. Acts 16:25-34
2. **Jonah** was **vomited out** the great fish and went on his way to be **used by God to preach to Ninevah**, “that great city,” and **save them** from the judgment of God. Jonah 2:10, 3:1-10

Their actions were scriptural.

“For we **walk by faith, not by sight**.” II Cor. 5:7

“But **without faith it is impossible to please Him** for he who comes to **God** must believe that He is, and that **He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him**.” Heb. 11:6

OUR GOAL IN WORSHIP

*“Indeed it came to pass, when the **trumpeters and singers were as one**, to make **one sound** to be heard in **praising** and **thanking** the Lord, and when **they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord** saying; ‘For He is good, for His mercy endures forever’, that **the house**, the house of the Lord, **was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering** because of the cloud; **for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.**” II Chron. 5: 13-14*

“But I will hope continually, and will praise you yet more and more.”

Ps. 71: 14

As we seek to glorify the Lord according to the Biblical pattern, it is essential that we never permit our worship to become a mere ritual or religious form. Therefore, we must continually **allow the truths of worship to be maintained under the anointing of the Holy Spirit**. Only then may we become the true worshiper Jesus described who would one day **“worship the Father in spirit and in truth.”** John 4:23-24.



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