

Worship His Way

Francis Chan made this statement: "You hear phrases like, 'I didn't really like worship today.' ... That is one of the stupidest sentences you could ever say... Did it ever occur to you that we weren't worshipping you?"

I also hear frequently "I didn't get anything out of worship today" or "I didn't get anything out of church today."

If a worship service is designed to worship God, then it only makes sense to find out how God wants to be worshipped and then do that.

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

God is Spirt

- This means that He does not have a body. Jesus, incarnate, has a body. But the Father does not.
- He is invisible
- He is omni-present
- He is eternal
- He is not susceptible to anything that can destroy a body
- He is immortal
 - **1 Timothy 1:17** Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

We must worship Him in Spirit

- Because He is spirit, We must worship Him in spirit.
- We are a triune being – Body, soul, and spirit.
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:23** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Our Body is how we relate to our physical world. 5 senses.

- Our Soul is how we relate to each other – our personality, thinking, emotions.
 - Our spirit is how we relate to God
- It is possible to engage in acts of worship that are not truly worship because they do not come from the spirit.
- Worship from the body – acts. Raising hands, kneeling, clapping. Are we doing these because we are compelled to, or just to do them because we believe that's right?
 - Church that choreographed their worship
- Worship from the soul – much more deceptive.
 - Emotionalism
 - Mentally going through the checkboxes
 - Knowing what to say or what to sing.
 - Danger of doing things from rote.
- When we worship from the body or soul we tend to fall into the trap of making worship about ourselves
 - I only worship when I feel it
 - I didn't like the song selection so I couldn't worship
 - When they hit that key change I just felt the presence...
 - I'm here to worship because I need a breakthrough...
 - I fulfilled my obligation...
- We worship from our spirit
 - Our spirit is made alive and connected with the Holy Spirit
 - We must allow His spirit to worship Him through us
 - True spirit worship is surrendering our souls and our bodies to Him, and allowing them to respond to what God is doing.
 - Maybe we do kneel, maybe we do feel His presence at that key change, but not because we are trying to, but because we are truly worshipping.
 - We need to understand our identity. That we are worshipping from a place of righteousness and perfection, because that is who we are in Christ.
 - Understanding that we are children of God, under His covenant.
 - Worship should come as a natural response to what God has done, what He is doing, what His promises are, and simply who He is.

- There is nothing of self in worship.

We must worship Him in truth

- This means no false worshiping.
- True worship that comes from our spirit, we mean it with all of our heart.
 - **Mark 7:6** He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: '*This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.*'"
- We worship Him because He is worthy of worship
- Our worship must be informed by His Word.
- The more intimate your relationship, the deeper your worship. We cannot worship a God we do not know.

So, besides this, how do we worship God on His terms?

God gave us a model for worship when He designed the Tabernacle of Moses. This same model is carried through the Temple and we even see it in the Throne room of Heaven in Revelation (which is the real thing, the earthly ones are simply models of that).

Thus, our worship should reflect God's dwelling place in heaven.

The Tabernacle of Moses is a Biblical model for the way that God desires His people to enter into His presence.

- This is not to say that if you don't follow this perfectly that you will never be in His presence.
- What this is, is a default method for entering into God's presence.
- There is no such thing as a magic formula in the Bible, but following this outline prepares one's soul (mind, will, emotions) for entering into the manifest glory of God.
- Over 50 chapters of the Old Testament refer to the Tabernacle and 43% of Hebrews deals with the Tabernacle. Why Hebrews? – Because

Early Jewish Christians were getting impatient with Christ's return, they were being persecuted and were wondering if they should convert back to Judaism. Hebrews was written to show how much better Christ's ways are over Mosaic ways. This is important because the fact that the Tabernacle is such a vital part of Hebrews shows how vital it is to New Testament worship.

Hebrews 9:1-8 Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. ² For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; ³ and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, ⁴ which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; ⁵ and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. ⁶ Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. ⁷ But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; ⁸ the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.

- This passage clearly indicates that the Tabernacle was created by God as a way for the people of God to worship Him
- But it says "that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing."
- Only the High Priest could go in, not all people, and he only once per year.

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

- This is one of the most significant changes between the Old Testament worship and New Testament worship.
- As we go through the model of the Tabernacle, we will be using Hebrews 10 as a guide to make sure we keep it New Covenant!

- As a side note, the priest would have made the evening sacrifice at 3pm. This is the same time Jesus died and the veil was torn in two. A priest would have been there!

The Tabernacle

There are 3 main metals used in building the Tabernacle.

- Bronze or Brass, both called Brazen. This represents judgment. Purification.
- Silver – Redemption, Cleansing
- Gold represents purity or Deity.

3 colors of yarn

- Blue – Connection of earth to Heaven
- Purple – Royalty, Authority
- Scarlet – Sacrifice and Atonement

Other materials

- Acacia wood. This represents man. Also incorruptibility
- Linen – Righteousness
- Goat Hair covered in Ram skin, died red – Protection, Purification, Covering (The blood of the Lamb covers the goat)

3 groups of 3 types of materials make up the tabernacle

3 parts to the Tabernacle:

- Outer court (anyone)
- Holy Place (priests)
- Holy of Holies (High priest only)

We are also 3 parts:

- Body (world conscious) – How we interact with the physical world
- Soul (self-conscious) – How we interact with others and ourselves
- Spirit (God-conscious) – How we interact with God

Overview

Outer court = Thanksgiving (What has God done)

Holy Place = Praise (God's character and who God is)

Holy of Holies = Worship (This is God's manifest presence – Even though in Hebrews it says we enter in with boldness – we never enter in lightly. It is because of Jesus' blood we can enter)

There are 7 pieces of Furniture:

Outer Court:

Brass Alter - Blood of Jesus (We are righteous)

Brazen Laver - God's Word

Holy Place

Table of Showbread – Submit your will

Golden Candlestick - Deal with your mind

Golden alter of incense - Submit your emotions

Holy of Holies

Ark of the Covenant - Sin is covered

Mercy Seat - Presence of God

Hebrews 10:19-25 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and *having* a High

Priest over the house of God, ²² 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. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ 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.