

Real Worship

Setting Aside Preference and Submitting to the Bible

What Does Whole-Hearted Worship Look Like? part 1

Pastor Brad Bigney / Sunday, April 22, 2012 / Grace Fellowship Church

Our worship should be passionate and participatory because worship is our response back to God – and God’s a big deal!

“An emaciated gospel leads to emaciated worship. It lowers our eyes from God to self and cheapens what God has accomplished for us in Christ. The biblical gospel, by contrast, is like fuel in the furnace of worship. The more you understand about it, believe it, and rely on it, the more you adore God both for who he is and for what he has done for us in Christ. ‘Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!’ Paul cried (Rom. 11:33), and it was because his heart was full of the gospel.” *What is the Gospel?*, Greg Gilbert, pp 20-21

“The root of Christian worship is acknowledging, submitting to, and enjoying the supremacy of God’s glory – in all things.” *The Explicit Gospel*, Matt Chandler, p. 36

I Timothy 1:9-17

Worship should be passionate for three reasons:

1. WHO it’s focused on – Christ our Savior
2. WHAT it’s all about – the Gospel, redemption, and your biggest problem being solved
3. It’s PERSONAL – it happened to you!

1. SINGING

It’s not optional. The book of Job tells us that even at creation – in the very beginning - singing and shouting erupted when God flung the stars into the skies...

Job 38:4-7 “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

And Revelation 15 tells us that we’re going to sing in response to the final great victory!

Revelation 15:2-4 “And I saw something like the sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast... And 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...’”

There are more than 50 different words that are used in the Bible in the Hebrew language to talk about praise and singing.

TEHILLAH: *a Loud song of Praise: expressing the glory and honor due His name.*

Psalm 40:2-3 “He also brought me out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth – praise (tehillah) to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the Lord.”

Psalm 34:1 "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise (tehillah) shall continually be in my mouth."

Psalm 22:3 "But you are Holy, who inhabit the praises (tehillah) of Israel."

The people of God are a singing people because God is a singing God!

Zephaniah 3:17 “The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”

Psalm 9:11 "Sing praises to the LORD, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what He has done."

Psalm 66:2 "Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise (tehillah) glorious."

Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

Christians are a people that sing because we have something to sing about!

2. LIFTING HANDS

Lifting hands is a biblical expression of worship that is commanded in the Bible!

'Yadah': *To throw out the hands, to worship with extended hands.*

We communicate and express ourselves with our hands – especially regarding our emotions. Lifting your hands demonstrates vulnerability, openness and surrender.

Psalm 106:1 "Praise (halal) the Lord! Oh, give thanks (yadah) to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."

Psalm 118:21,28 "I will praise (yadah) You, for You have answered me, and have become my salvation... You are my God, and I will praise (yadah) You; You are my God, I will exalt You."

Psalm 99:3 "Let them praise (yadah) Your great and awesome name -- He is holy"

You see it used as a cry for help...

Psalm 28:2 "Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as **I lift up my hands** toward your Most Holy Place."

Psalm 143:6 "I **spread out my hands** to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Selah"

Psalm 88:9 "my eyes are dim with grief. I call to you, O LORD, every day; I **spread out my hands** to you"

You see it used as an expression of rejoicing and praise...

Psalm 63:4 "I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will **lift up my hands**" (Hebrew word 'Yadah' to throw out the hand)

Psalm 134:2 "**Lift up your hands** in the sanctuary and the praise the LORD"

Nehemiah 8:6 (After the public reading of Scripture) "Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people **lifted their hands** and responded, 'Amen! Amen!' Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground"

You see it used as a posture for prayer...

1 Kings 8:22 (temple dedication prayer) "Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the whole assembly of Israel, **spread out his hands** toward heaven and said..."

Ezra 9:5 (Ezra's prayer of repentance on behalf of the Jews who had inter-married) "Then at the evening sacrifice, I rose from my self-abasement, with my tunic and cloak torn, and fell on my knees with **my hands spread out** to the LORD my God..."

1 Timothy 2:8 "I want men everywhere to **lift up holy hands** in prayer, without anger or disputing."

3. CLAPPING

Creation itself is described as clapping their hands to the Lord.

Psalm 98:7-8 "Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell in it; let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together before the Lord"

Isaiah 55:12 "For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

Psalm 47:1 "Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy."

Clapping is a way of using your hands as an instrument – and a way to respond back to God for what you're hearing of WHO He is and WHAT He's done.

“... I must confess that I have ransacked the dictionary for words to describe what I have in mind... Here is what God had in mind when He created and fashioned your heart and stamped His indelible image upon it. I, you, we were made to be enchanted, enamored, and engrossed with God; enthralled, enraptured, and entranced with God; enraptured, excited, and enticed by God; astonished, amazed, and awed by God; astounded, absorbed, and agog with God; beguiled and bedazzled; startled and staggered; smitten and stunned; stupefied and spellbound; charmed and consumed; thrilled and thunderstruck; obsessed and preoccupied; intrigued and impassioned; overwhelmed and overwrought; gripped and rapt; enthused and electrified; tantalized, mesmerized, and monopolized; fascinated, captivated, and exhilarated by God; intoxicated and infatuated with God! Does that sound like your life? Do you want it to? Or is your greatest struggle in the Christian life resisting the urge to yawn from boredom and lifelessness? Do you realize how difficult it would be to sin if this were true of you? This is what God made you for. There is an ineradicable, inescapable impulse in your spirit to experience the fullness of God in precisely this way - and God put it there!” *Pleasures Evermore*, Sam Storms, p. 106-107

**As Christians, we’ve been called to an eternal preoccupation with God...
for WHO He is, WHAT He’s done, and WHERE He’s done it – in MY heart! That’s what fuels worship.**

How preoccupied are you with God?