

Real Worship

Setting Aside Preference and Submitting to the Bible

What Does Whole-Hearted Worship Look Like? part 2

Pastor Brad Bigney / Sunday, April 29, 2012 / Grace Fellowship Church

Luke 10:27 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind..."

Silence in the presence of God is most often associated with judgment. But praise God – we gather together as His adopted sons and daughters – ransomed, redeemed, bought back, loved, forgiven, and ready to say 'Thank you, thank you, thank you!'

Isaiah 41:1 "Keep silence before Me... come near together for judgment."

Habakkuk 2:20 "But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him."

Zephaniah 1:7 "Be silent before the Sovereign LORD, for the day of the LORD is near. The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has consecrated those He has invited."

Zechariah 2:13 "Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord, for He is aroused from His holy habitation."

Revelation 8:1 "There was silence in heaven for about half an hour..."

1. Bowing / Kneeling / Falling Prostrate

The physical posture of kneeling or bowing is a helpful reminder that we worship and serve a God who is a King. He's majestic and full of glory and splendor.

Daniel 4:34b-35, 37 (NIV) "... His dominion is an eternal dominion; His kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: 'What have you done?'... Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble."

Bow

Psalms 95:6 "Come, let us **bow down** in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker..."

Philippians 2:10-11 "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."

Kneel

The Hebrew root word for kneeling is "barak." It occurs 415 times in O.T.

2 Chronicles 7:3 (Dedication of the temple) "When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they **knelt on the pavement** with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD..."

Fall Prostrate

2 Chronicles 29:20 (David's prayer and dedication of the temple building supplies) "Then David said to the whole assembly, 'Praise the LORD your God.' So they all praised the LORD, the God of their fathers; they **bowed low and fell prostrate** before the LORD and the king."

2. Shouting

'Shavach' – a commending praise. The root of 'Shavach' is the same as the Hebrew word '**shavech**' which means 'to shout or to address in a loud tone.'

It's praise with an exclamation point! And it has the sense of commending or recommending God to others.

Psalm 117:1 "O, Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud (shavach) Him, all you peoples!"

Psalm 145:4 "One generation shall praise (commend- shavach) Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts."

Psalm 95:1-3 "Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us **shout joyfully** to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us **shout joyfully** to Him with psalms. For the Lord is the great God, and the great King above all gods."

1 Samuel 4:5 "When the ark of the LORD's covenant came into the camp, all Israel **raised such a great shout** that the ground shook."

Psalm 71:23 "My lips will **shout** for joy when I sing praise to you--I, whom you have redeemed."

We shout because we have a Savior and we've been redeemed!

Isaiah 6:3-4 "And one seraphim **cried out** to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory! And **the posts of the door were shaken** by the voice of him who cried out..."

Revelation 5:11-12 " ¹¹ 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, ¹² 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!'"

Revelation 7:9-10 " ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ and **crying out with a loud voice**, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"

Revelation 19:1, 6 " ¹ After these things I heard a **loud voice** of a great multitude in heaven, saying, 'Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!...' ⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thundering, saying, 'Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!'"

[Also see 2 Chronicles 20:19; 30:21; Psalm 150:5-6; Luke 19:37]

3. Dancing / Leaping

2 Samuel 6:14 (When the ark was returned to Jerusalem) "David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might..."

The Hebrew word used is '**whirling**' - it expresses joy and celebration!

2 Samuel 6:12b-16, 20-22

Ecclesiastes 3:4 "A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance..."

The Hebrew word used is literally '**to skip, leap, frolic**'

Malachi 4:2 that talks about the "Sun of Righteousness shall rise with healing in His wings... you shall go out and leap like calves released from the stall."

Psalm 150:4 "Praise Him with tambourine and dancing"

Psalm 149:3 "Let them praise His name with dancing.."

"No doubt a major problem that debilitates our worship is pride. Pride is probably the greatest hindrance to worship. Pride has ruined far more worship services than all the forces of hell combined. It is pride that gravitates toward conservative, low-key worship, because the ego is never fed by all-out worship. It is pride that restrains us from lifting our voices without fear in the congregation. Pride will rob us of the joy and release that come when we dance or lift our hands or bow in the presence of the Lord. Pride will incarcerate us in a self-conscious prison of spiritual bondage... The very essence of worship is self-abasement and humility. Worship is the humbling of self and the exalting of God. We have developed the remarkable ability, however, to worship the Lord without sacrificing our own sophistication. How is it that we're able to say, 'I exalt the Lord!' without once humbling ourselves?" *Exploring Worship*, Bob Sorge, p. 101

Our worship here on Sunday should just be releasing the praise and adoration that's been building up inside your heart all week long.

"Praise is inner health made audible." –**C.S. Lewis**