

Worship Series 3

Worshippers Have a Lifestyle of Thanksgiving and Praise

Many Christians use the words thanksgiving, praise and worship interchangeably. They are all related but they are also distinct.

- Thanksgiving mostly relates to God's deeds.
- Praise relates to God's works also, but praise goes further to focus on God's character.
- Worship includes thanksgiving and praise but it takes us beyond thanking God for what he has done, beyond praising Him according to His excellent greatness. Worship takes us to a place of sheer awe of His presence and the wonderment of His essence.

1) Thanksgiving

- a) In the Old Testament, the sacrifice of thanksgiving and the sacrifice of praise are so closely related that frequently you will find the original Hebrew words translated thanksgiving in one bible and praise in another.
- b) Three biblical instructions regarding thanksgiving
 - i) Thanksgiving is to be a constant flow regardless of our circumstances.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 Rejoice always, **17** pray without ceasing, **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **19** Do not quench the Spirit.

(1) If giving thanks in everything is God's will for us then it follows that if we do not give thanks in everything we are out of God's will.

(a) Realize that in every troubling season of your life both God and the Devil is working:

(i) John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

(ii) AND... 1 John 3:8b "...The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."

(b) Be thankful that in the midst of whatever is happening becasue God is at work.

We can always give thanks to God because unlike us, He is never without a response to what the devil is doing! God is never taken by surprise and he specializes in working all things together for our good.

ii) Thanksgiving is a mark of the Spirit-filled life. SLIDE

Ephesians 5:17-20 “Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20** giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”

(1) It is impossible to be filled with the Spirit and to be unthankful!

(2) We are to satisfy our soul’s thirst with the Holy Spirit rather than wine (or anything else we use to substitute for inner satisfaction in this life)

A Spirit-filled church is one that encourages and motivates others through their love for the Holy Spirit and through their songs of encouragement and through their thankful hearts.

iii) Thanksgiving cultivates faith

Philippians 4:6,7 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(1) There is a lot of talk these days about soaking our spirit in the presence of God through worship... Think about this, how about **we soak our prayer in thanksgiving!**

We should never be asking God for something without being grateful and thankful for what he has already done.

(2) Thanksgiving triggers faith for miracles.

2) Praise

Thanksgiving can be something offered vocally or silently. But Praise is not silent, it is always vocal. It extols... it magnifies the Lord’s virtues.

Terry Law says, “its like an old Rogers and Hammerstein tune that claims, *a song is no song til you sing it*, so praise is not praise until you give it!”

- a) Never underestimate the power of your words! When God says, “Death and Life are in the power of the tongue...” (Proverbs 18:21), He isn’t merely warning us to be careful with our negative talk, he is encouraging us to understand how powerful our words are in both the natural and spiritual realm.

We are told in scripture: speak to mountains, speak to the devil command him to flee, speak to our own soul and command it to Praise God

- b) James warns us says our tongue “... is a restless evil, full of deadly poison” and that no human effort can tame it. (James 3:8)

Praise Tames the Terrible Tongue!

- c) The Power of Praise

Psalm 50:23 Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders *his* conduct *aright* I will show the salvation of God.

- i) Praise Silences the Devil

- (1) Psalm 8:2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

David knew that there was a kind of speech that was so powerful that even a child could speak it and it would silence the enemy.

- (2) Jesus quoted this Psalm in Matthew 26. When the children were shouting praise to Jesus in the temple the Pharisees told him to make them shut up! Jesus said, Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants *You have perfected praise*?’ (Mt 21:16)

Did Jesus misquote this verse? No he amplified it for our sakes. NO! “ordained strength” comes from “perfected praise”

Praise from our lips, which has been perfected by a thankful heart, produces ordained strength in us and it silences the voice of the devil.

- ii) Praise Prepares Us for Miracles

- (1) Jonah is in the belly of the fish... The lowest of the lows, he is slowly dying because of his disobedience. Inside the fish he begins to repent and then he voices praise!

Jonah 2:7-10 NLT As my life was slipping away, I remembered the Lord. And my earnest prayer went out to you... (v9) I will offer sacrifices to you with songs of praise, and I will fulfill all my vows. For my salvation comes from the Lord alone.”

10 Then the Lord ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.

- (a) When Jonah began to offer sacrifices of praise, He glorified God in the midst of the darkness and God acted on his behalf.

Perhaps praise makes the devil sick to his stomach and He has to release you!

- (2) Acts 16 Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown in the “belly” of a Philippian jail for preaching the Gospel and healing the sick. Badly injured and bound in leg irons they had no way of escape.

- (a) But at midnight they were praying and singing hymns to God and an earthquake hit and the chains fell off!

- (b) Before the sun rose:

- (i) They were set free of their chains
- (ii) They saved the panicked jailer from killing himself and led him to Jesus
- (iii) They led his entire family to Jesus
- (iv) They baptized them all
- (v) They were released from prison

“... whoever offers the sacrifice of praise... I will show my salvation”

Note: did Paul and Silas start praising so they could get free? NO! Prayer and Praise was a Lifestyle... Make it part of your Lifestyle

- (3) Praise Brings us into Power of His Presence SLIDE

Praise is the proper protocol for coming before God - Ps 100:4,5 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! **5** For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.