

Section 10: Scriptural Worship

I. Attitude Toward Worship

A. Acts 2

Those entering a Pentecostal service for the first time may have a reaction similar to that experienced by the onlooking crowds in Acts 2.

1. Some were confounded, amazed, full of marvel, and in doubt, according to Acts 2:16—17.
2. Others mocked (Acts 2:12).
3. Some were convicted of their evil deeds (Acts 2:37).
4. About three thousand of the crowd were so overwhelmed they gladly received the word and were baptized (Acts 2:41).

B. Peter's Explanation

1. Some onlookers on the day of Pentecost even accused the disciples of full of new wine (Acts 2:13).
2. Peter's response to this charge was not a denial, but an explanation (Acts 2:14-15). The accusation of being drunk was accepted, but with clarification. "These are not drunken as ye suppose...but this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;...it shall come to pass...saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh." Acts 2:15-17. ¹²⁰

3. In summary, Peter was simply stating the believers were drunk on God's Spirit!

II. Arguments Against Emotional Worship Countered

A. Man is an emotional Creature

1. There are those who consider worship to God to be limited to a few sacred hymns, a monotone message, and the dropping of an envelope in the offering plate, They consider it sacrilegious to display any type of emotion in worship. Yet, these same stiff, dignified individuals will absolutely go wild at a football game. Some fans in Europe were killed at a soccer game in 1985 because of the emotions displayed by those who worship sports as their god. Is it not strange that people will get more excited at a football game than at a church service designed to praise the God who created them? Romans 1:25 speaks of those who worship the creature more than the Creator,
2. Some people contend that they are just not the emotional type. To state this is to deny a basic truth concerning the make-up of human beings. Man is an emotional creature who experiences a wide range of emotions including joy, grief, excitement, and disappointment. One phone call announcing a tragedy or happy event will stimulate the emotions of even the individual who uses the "not emotional" excuse as a reason not to worship.

3. The real reason they do not worship is they have not experienced Christ in such a way as to invoke worship. After experiencing deliverance, healing, and salvation, one has to worship.

The chorus expresses it so well:

“If you could see where Jesus brought me from
To where I am today
Then you would know the reason
Why I love Him so
You can take the world ‘s wealth and riches
I don‘t need earth’s fame
But it’s my desire to live for Him”¹²¹

B. Lame Man’s Worship (Acts 3:1-19)

1. The healed man went into the temple walking, leaping, and praising God (vs. 8).
2. Notice the temple goer’s reaction. It was one of wonder and amazement (vs. 10). The Jews were not Shocked at his way of worship, for the Jews had a history of worshipping their God with exuberance (see lesson on Old Testament worship). The amazement was what had happened to the man (healing, vs. 10).
3. Can one imagine would happen if similar circumstances were to occur in most Sunday morning services today. There are those who would be more concerned with the lame man causing their scheduled order of service to be in disarray

by his leaping, that they could not glorify God for the miracles.

III. Old Testament Worship

This lesson will consider seven different Hebrew words rendered for the English word 'praise'. To aid further study of this subject, reference material will be noted. Beside each Hebrew word will be the numerical listing as found In the Hebrew and Dictionary of Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.

A. YADAH (3034) To revere or worship with extended hands. The opposite is to worry and wring the hands.

1. Psalms 7:17, Psalms 67:3,5

B. TOWDAH (8426) Adoration, sacrifice of praise, thanks.

1. Psalms 50:23 This kind of praise glorifies God.
2. Psalms 100:4-5 "Enter into courts with praise."

Enter into sanctuary with praise instead of depression. This is not a praise upon circumstances or how the individual feels. But rather a praise to bless God's name because the "Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations".¹²² Simply, He is still God and deserves our praise because of who He is, not because of who we are, or how we feel. There are times due to opposing circumstances that it will take this sacrifice of praise to worship God.

C. TEHILLAH (8416) Laudation in a hymn of praise.

1. Psalms 22:3 God inhabits (to dwell in; occupy as a place of residence; to reside; remain) the praises of His people.
2. Psalms 33:1, 34:1 Praise should be continually in your mouth.
3. Psalms 145:2 Praise Him every day and praise His name for ever and ever.
4. II Chronicles 20:22 The Lord defeated the enemy by Israel praising God.

D. BARAK (1288) To kneel to praise God. Judges 5:2, Psalms 72:15

E. ZAMAR (2176) To touch strings of an instrument. To celebrate in song and music: give praise, sing forth praises. Psalms 21:13, Psalms 108:1

F. SHABACH (7623) To address in a loud tone. I.e. commend, glory, keep in, praise, still, triumph.

1. Psalms 63:1-3 Because thy lovingkindness which is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.
2. Psalms 117:1 Praise the Lord all nations because of truth and kindness.
3. Psalms 145:4 We owe it to future generations to praise God.

G. HALAH (1984) Rave to the Lord, boast about the Lord, praise, rage, shine, celebrate, foolishly, clamorously.

1. II Chronicles 5:13-14 This kind of praise produced a glory cloud in the temple.
2. Psalms 148, 149:3, 150 You can praise your problems away. This kind of praise binds the enemy. Praise God in the dance. Every time praise is used in Psalms 148, it is this type of praise: to rage, to make one seem foolish. Psalms 148:11 commands all people to praise the Lord in this form of worship.

Though a different word was used, this is the type of praise DAVID offered to the Lord in II Samuel 6:12-23.

One may say they are not the emotional type and just can't get beside themselves in this manner. The scripture does not allow exceptions.

3. In the PAST, Pentecostals have been taught to shout only if God moved on then in a special way. Statements such as "don't get in the flesh" have stifled some's worship. Some are expecting God to reach down and drag them around service. But there is no harm done by jumping up and down, dancing before the Lord, running the aisles just because you want to praise Him in manner. The restraint is not if you have or have not felt a special move. But the restraint is the "why" of your worship. If your worship to praise the Lord, it is in order regardless of special

feelings you may or may not have. On the other hand, it is never in order to shout, dance, clap etc. if it is to bring attention to you. David exemplifies the correct “why” of worship in II Samuel 6:21, 22 - “It was before the Lord...”¹²³

Emotional worship is in order as long as it is for the Lord, and not to draw attention to the worshipper.

IV. Reasons For Worship

A. Emotional Response - This type is when worship is in response to a blessing, healing, miracle, feeling, song, victory, etc. (Acts 3:8, Exodus 15). Feeling good can cause this type of worship to come forth. Remember, however, the just live by Faith, and not just by feeling (Romans 1:17).

B. Response to Truth and Knowledge - Many limit “HALAH” type worship to just when they feel a certain touch of God. However, it is perfectly in order to worship “Halalah” style when one considers God’s greatness.

1. The psalmist said, “I will praise thee;” not because he felt good, but because “...I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are thy works; and my soul knoweth right well” (Psalms 139:14).¹²⁴
2. Paul and Silas did not feel good in their bodies after being beaten and put in stocks. But when they began to think of their Saviour, praise came forth (Acts 16:23-25).

V. Results of Praise

1. Bands of bondage are loosened (Acts 16:25-26). Some people will not worship until they feel free. Note however, the apostles worshipped in spite of bondage. And because they worshipped, the bonds broke. The enemy will try to convince people they are not to worship in a service until they feel a certain liberty. But the way to receive that liberty is to worship first. Worship to God guarantees His Presence, for He inhabits the praise of His people (Psalms 21:3). There are some who say they will go to another church because that church worships more. How foolish, the church does not worship, people worship. If you feel there should be more worship, you start worshipping more.
2. Worship binds the enemy (Psalms 148:6-8), When God's children praise Him, it thwarts the working of Satan.
3. Lack of praise produces barrenness (II Samuel 6:20-23). The reason some churches can't grow is because professional saints (Michal) stand by Judging rather than worshipping.

VI. Summary: The Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of Praise (Psalms 148; 149; 150)

- A. God is to be praised in everything (I Thessalonians 5:18).
- B. He should be praised every day, continually, and forever and forever (Psalms 33:1, 34:1, 145:2). Sometimes it takes an effort of sacrifice to praise Him (Hebrews 13:15).