



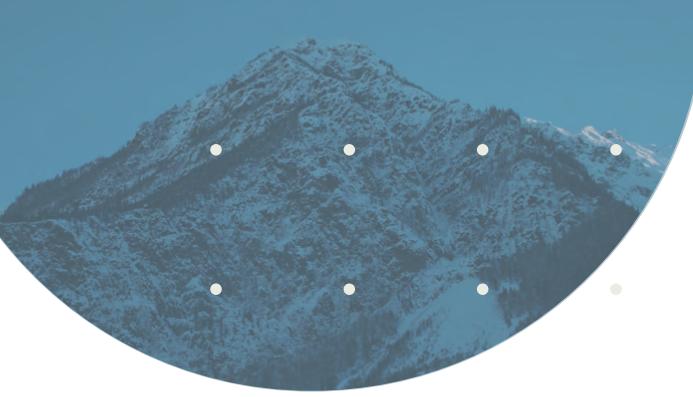
WORSHIP & PRAISE

The Heart of Worship

BURNING HEARTS CHURCH

Sharing about the power of worship &
why its important.

BURNING
HEARTS



WHAT IS WORSHIP & WHY MUSIC?

The foundations of music as an integral way that God's people worship goes all the way back to Old Testament times. In the book of Exodus, chapter 15 we see Moses leading the Israelite people in a song of victory over their enemies after escaping from their Egyptian oppressors. The people sang "I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." (Exodus 15:1-2). We see in 1 Samuel 16:23 that David, prior to becoming king of Israel, uses his gift of music to overthrow spiritual powers that were harassing King Saul. The power of music alone is evident in this passage, none the less the implications of music that is guided by the Holy Spirit having even greater power.

When David became King, the role of music as a tool of worship escalated to a whole new level. In 2 Chronicles chapter 5 we read: "Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:) It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God." (2 Chronicles 5:12-14) In this passage we see the result of God's people joining together in a unified heart and sound to give glory to God. One of the truths revealed to us in this passage is this: In response to His people giving Him glory, God reveals His glory to them. Wow!

Also in 2 Chronicles, we see the first occurrence of God actually commanding worship to be expressed through music. "He (King Hezekiah) stationed the Levites in the temple of the Lord with cymbals, harps and lyres in the way prescribed by David and Gad the king's seer and Nathan the prophet; this was commanded by the Lord through his prophets" (2 Chronicles 29:25).

As we study the scriptures it becomes apparent that God created music - arguably one of the most wonderful, compelling, and glorious creations - for two primary purposes: 1) for the purpose of returning wonder, glory, and praise back to Himself, and 2) to bring freedom to those who hear its sound. In a similar way that music touches and moves us so deeply, God seems to also be moved with emotion - and maybe even moved\ to action - by our humble songs of adoration.



THE CALL TO WORSHIP

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.”

- Psalm 100:4

Praise is our response to the ways of God. (His nature, who He is.)

Thanksgiving is our response to the acts of God. (What He has done.)

Worship is our a response to the Presence of God. (The very nearness of Himself.)

Praise and thanksgiving both require action on our part. Praise is often visible (i.e. 7 Hebrew words for “praise”). Thanksgiving is often verbal. Worship is unique in that when we truly worship it is no longer what we do or what we say that is our sacrifice to God, rather, in true worship we become the sacrifice. True worship is the place of total surrender - surrender of our hearts, will, mind, emotions, rights, and entire beings. Worship is the holy place of surrender where we say “yes” to whatever God wants to do in us and through us.

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.” (Romans 12:1 Italics added.)

It is in these moments of surrender and sacrifice that God continues to transform us more and more into the image of Christ. The beautiful thing about worship is that although it is not about performing some sort of actions or presenting some sort of plea, worship does lead us to action. Check out what James tells us in his book. “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” (James 1:27)

True religion (true worship) is two-fold. It is to fully love and serve the people of the world, and to maintain total purity in the process. If God said it, then we can do it!

HEART, SOUL, STRENGTH & MIND

“All of me was made to worship all of Him.” Growing up, this was a quote I heard often from a spiritual leader in my life. It so clearly sums up the message we find in Luke chapter 10 which says: “And he answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind,’” (Luke 10:27a).

There are 4 distinct components of loving God presented in this passage that provide clear implications for the ways and the depths at which we are called to worship.

1. With all our heart.
2. With all our soul.
3. With all our strength.
4. With all our mind.

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THANKSGIVING

Psalm 107:21 says, “Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love, and His Wonderful deeds to men.” (NIV)

Thankfulness is another facet of worship. Psalm 100:4 talks about how we “enter His Gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.” As we begin to thank God for who He is, for all that He has done in our lives, and for the many blessings He has given, we simultaneously are enabled to enter into His presence in a joyful atmosphere of worship. Psalm 50:23 tells us that as we give thank offerings to God, a way is prepared for us to see and experience the salvation of God. Thankfulness prepares a way for God to reveal Himself.

SOAKING

Soaking - also known as “waiting in God’s Presence” - is the practice of taking dedicated time to rest in God’s Presence and receive from Him. Our lives can be full of stress and demands, but as we learn to soak in His Presence, we will find that we can encounter God’s peace no matter what is going on in our lives. Jesus demonstrates the intensity of peace that is offered to us through Him in Mark 4:38-40 which states: “Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” By developing and implementing the practice of “soaking” into our lives, we can walk in the same peace that Jesus did in the boat that day with His disciples. Soaking helps us respond to Jesus call in Matthew 11 when He says “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

OTHER REFERENCES: Psalm 46:10, Psalm 34:14 and Psalm 37:37.