

The Power & Practice of Praise & Worship!

Intro:

Our experience in Praise & Worship!

Judson Cornwall (1924-2005) 'Let us Praise', 'Let us Worship', 'Elements of Worship'.

What do we mean by Praise & Worship?

Praise:

To exalt, glorify, magnify, honour, revere, admire, respect and thank!

Praise must be founded on a correct Biblical understanding of who God is!

Praise in the Psalms:

Scripture is full of 'praise'.

David wrote about half the 150 Psalms.

The Psalms consist of prayers, laments, pleas, confessions, songs, declarations and praise.

There are many Psalms of praise 'about God' and many Psalms of praise 'to God'.

Praise 'about God' is a declaration of who He is, what He has done, His power, His grace, His creation, His sovereignty, etc – and is 'Faith Building'.

We are COMMANDED to praise.

Worship:

The word 'worship' is based on an old English word, 'worth-ship'. It honours the worthiness of the one worshipped.

Worship is our humble and heart felt expression of love, adoration, esteem and honour of who God is. It involves yielding, surrender (bowing) and sacrifice – to the one worshipped!

Jesus introduced the concept of True Worship:

John 4:23-24.

It can/does involve voice/words, song, action, surrender, life-style and service to the Lord.

All true worship flows from the cross!

We are INVITED to Worship!

God is both the object and initiator of true worship!

The Power & Practice of Praise & Worship...

Lessons from King Jehoshaphat:

2 Chronicles 17:3-6; 20:1-28.

'His heart was devoted to the ways of the Lord' V:6.

a) When facing the enemy Jehoshaphat sought the Lord.

2 Chron. 20:3-5.

Seeking God by prayer & fasting.

Psalm 83 goes here. (According to Reese).

Ps 83 is a prayer based on an assurance of Gods promise and power – as seen in previous victories!

b) God gave the people clear direction.

2 Chron. 20:14-17.

Do not be afraid or discouraged - the Lord is with you!

The battle is the Lords!

These are great faith building declarations about God - His presence and power!

c) Jehoshaphat humbled himself and prayed.

2 Chron. 20:18-19.

They bowed & fell down and worshipped.

They praised with a very loud voice.

Psalm 46 goes here (According to Reese).

Psalm 46 is a great faith building declaration of all God is and does!

Praise about God and His power is a much needed element in many of our churches today!

d) He set singers and praisers!

2 Chron. 20:20-22.

Jehoshaphat spoke words of faith to the people!

A divine strategy – praising God for His splendor, presence, power and love.

Clear action.

Complete dependence upon the Lord.

e) God gave them a great victory!

2 Chron. 20:23-25.

The enemy became confused & were defeated!

f) They had a celebration of praise & began to worship.

2 Chron. 20:26-30.

They assembled in the valley of Beracah/Praise.

Songs of victory, music, celebration, various kinds of praise.

Musicians with a range of instruments.

A psalm of praise

Psalms 150.

This Psalm depicts a bold expression of praise with music, words and song.

Praise Him for His amazing creation.

Praise for His great acts of power.

Praise Him with musical instruments – trumpet, harp (piano/keyboard), lyre (guitar), tambourine, dancing, strings, flute, resounding cymbals...

Everything that has breath – praise the Lord.

Everyone is involved (no spectators).

Lesson: We need to emphasise bold, faith building praise that declares who God is and what He does.

About the ministry of Jesus Isaiah said:

*Isaiah 61:3 “to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, **the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness**; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of Jehovah, that he may be glorified.”*

Worship – Word – Work

Acts 13:2-3

“While they were WORSHIPPING the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said (WORD), Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the WORK to which I have called them”.

Too much of our contemporary worship is for ‘worships sake’ and does not lead to the WORD and the WORK!

All true worship leads to faith-filled work with and for the Lord.

Praise & Worship in Heaven:

Scripture gives us a wonderful insight in to some aspects of heaven that inspire and challenge...

Rev. 19:1-10.

Heaven is alive with the tumultuous sound of praise and the deep expressions of worship.

Summary

Are you a part of this great company of people who are active in PRAISE and WORSHIP?

Set yourself to excel in Praise & Worship.