

SPIRIT FILLED WORSHIP

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 (niv) But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, ²⁵ as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”

The Apostle Paul is revealing the **potential** that lies within a Spirit-filled worship service.

SPIRIT-FILLED WORSHIP CREATES AN AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE.

Paul says that *"they all prophesied."*

This does not mean that everyone present actually delivered a prophetic message at the same time.

This would be contrary to Paul's teaching on the right use of prophecy in a meeting.

1 Corinthians 14:29 (nlt) Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said.

Rather, Paul is describing a **prophetic atmosphere** within the meeting, and this is evident in whatever is done, said, or sung.

This prophetic atmosphere creates a deep awareness of God's presence.

Where this prophetic quality is missing, corporate worship will eventually be reduced to the level of human performance.

The awareness of the presence of God, and His voice speaking among His people, is the one thing corporate spirit filled worship can create that the world cannot even begin to emulate.

SPIRIT-FILLED WORSHIP GENERATES AN ATTITUDE OF EXPECTANCY.

Paul describes this worshipping community of believers as a growing church where unbelievers and seekers are attending the meeting.

The local church is firstly a place of worship, not evangelism. However, the local church does its best evangelism through its life-giving Spirit filled worship.

SPIRIT-FILLED WORSHIP STIMULATES PARTICIPATION.

A worship service includes the entire congregation.

*1 Corinthians 14:26 (niv) What then shall we say, brothers? When you **come together** (plural) **everyone** (singular) has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.*

Paul emphasizes the congregation-wide participation by everyone individually contributing.

- Plural - Corporate Participation (cp. *14:24,26,31*)
- Singular - Each one has some gift, function, or office; (cp. *12:7,11,12,13,18,27*)

*Matthew 18:19-20 (nkjv) “Again I say to you that if two of you **agree** on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰ **For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.**”*

Jesus uses the word "*agree*" which in Greek is "**sumphoneo**" and carries a sense of harmony, unity, balance; it is the source of our word "*symphony*".

Nothing should be allowed in the church service that disturbs the "*symphony*" of worship.

Everyone is included and has their part to play in creating the symphony and harmony of worship.

SPIRIT-FILLED WORSHIP EXPRESSES GENUINE GRATITUDE.

Worship that does not express heartfelt gratitude to God for who He is and for what He has done is not true worship.

***Psalm 30:12 (nkjv)** To the end that my **glory** (kabowd) may sing praise to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will **give thanks** to you forever.*

***Psalm 149:5-6 (nkjv)** Let the saints be joyful in **glory**; (kabowd) let them sing aloud on their beds. **6:** Let the **high praises of God be in their mouth**, and a two-edged sword in their hand,*

“kabowd” meaning: the weight of ‘honour’.

This use of ‘kabowd’ shows that the psalmists reckoned that their voices could attain no higher honour than to sing their praise to and of God.

Our heartfelt gratitude for everything God has done and for who He is should be expressed through our worship and the way we live our life.

This is how we can honour our Lord!