

How to Prepare Your Heart (cont.)

To go before the holy King of the universe, we must first be a holy people. Knowing that the Holy Spirit is with us and in us, our public lives as well as our private lives must be accountable to His Word. The hidden things of a person's heart are only hidden from other people, *not* God. A true worshipper must worship privately at home not just in the rush of Sunday morning. It is possible to get to the place where our hearts are already prepared for congregational worship. As worshippers, we are to facilitate the Holy Spirit's direction that the pastor is submitted to.

Here are a few things to spiritually check off every day before your worship time whether it's privately or with other Christians.

- ❑ Always approach God through Jesus Christ. (John 14:6)
- ❑ Have a repentant heart keep things out of your life that may cause you to stumble or fall away. (1 John 1:9)
- ❑ Worship God the Father and pray for will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven and forgive all who have offended you. (Matthew 6:9-15)
- ❑ Before you minister to the Lord and His people, make sure your heart is free of strife or ill will towards another person on the worship team. If this is not corrected, the atmosphere among the platform and out among the people could be bound up with strife, division and the Holy Spirit will be grieved.

Ministering with Your Pastors & With a Worship Team

Being in submission to your leaders and having respect for those ministering with you.

Keys to a successful worship team are:

- ❑ Submitting to the authority that God has placed over you.
- ❑ Trusting that your leaders hear God and know His direction for a service.
- ❑ Keeping your heart in subjection to the worship leaders and pastors at all times.
- ❑ Respecting those around you.
- ❑ Discerning the moment and the situation in how you approach the pastors or worship leader with requests, suggestions or problems.
- ❑ Being helpful in preparing for rehearsals and services.
- ❑ When direction is being given, listen to the leader without talking to the person (s) next to you and refrain from playing around on your instruments.
- ❑ Do not leave the platform unless you have communicated to the leader why you are leaving and when you're coming back.
- ❑ If you're going to be late or absent to a rehearsal or a service, please communicate to the leader or chief musician in advance IF possible.
- ❑ Listening to worship music and practicing your instrument or vocal.



Worship Etiquette

The Life of a Worshipper The Greatest Commandment

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul. And with all thy mind, and with all thy strength this is the first commandment.

31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

(Mark 12:28-31 KJV)

- ❑ Our purpose in life is to be pleasing to God every day. Having a lifestyle of praise and worship is to be the “norm” for Christians. In other words, our life is to be worship to God.
- ❑ The things we do and say. How we treat others and how we act when we are upset or under pressure and how we respond to others when they communicate in the wrong attitude.
- ❑ Your attitude and decisions in everyday life either reflects your worship of the Lord or the worship of yourself
- ❑ Worship is not just a couple of slow songs right before a sermon. Worship is an expression of complete surrender and obedience to Jesus Christ. It's being mindful and considerate of pleasing God instead of only doing what you want to do.

The Functions of Praise & Worship

What is...

- ❑ **Praise-** to command; to applaud; to express approval of; to magnify God

because He is far greater and above all creation.

- ❑ **Worship-** to revere, honor and have a deep respect for God; to have humility and recognition of dependency upon Him; to express intimate, intense love to God.
- ❑ Praise and Worship is bi-directional. You praise and worship God by directly singing to Him or speaking to Him. You praise and worship God *indirectly* by telling others or singing about His Son, His Spirit and the things He has done.

When...

- ❑ When we feel like it.
To express gratitude towards God during times of great joy and peace is the natural thing to do. We should be bold in our praise when it comes to telling others of the wonderful things that He does on a daily basis.
- ❑ When we don't feel like it.
Our praise should be the same when we are feeling great and life is wonderful and also when everything is caving in on us. Why? Because God's love, help and mercy is the same no matter what. We must move beyond our pride and feelings of self-centeredness to put forth energy to praise and worship God.

The Functions of Praise & Worship

How ...

- ❑ Speaking our praise (Ps. 34:1; Eph. 5:19)
- ❑ Singing (Ps. 28:7; Ps. 96:1-2)
- ❑ Clapping (Ps. 47:1; Isa. 55:12)
- ❑ Raising of the hands (Ps. 63:4; 1 Tim. 2:8; Lam. 3:4)

- ❑ Shouting (Ps. 5:11; Ps. 35:27)
- ❑ Dancing (Ps. 149:3; 150:4)
- ❑ Making Joyful noises (Ps. 100:1; Ps. 66:1; Ps. 88.1)
- ❑ Playing instruments (Ps. 150:3-5; Ps. 33:2-3)
- ❑ Kneeling (Ps. 95:6; Rom. 14:11; Eph. 3:14)
- ❑ Standing (Ps 4:4; 135:1-3)
- ❑ Singing in the Spirit (1 Cor 14:15; Jude 20)

How to Prepare Your Heart

Coming Before the Lord to Worship in Quiet Time & with a Body of Believers

3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in his holy place?

4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. (Ps. 24:3-4 KJV)

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
(Matt. 5:8 KJV)

These scriptures are not speaking of perfection. However, the Holy Spirit is saying that we must come to God with right motives and with a heart that is thankful and repentive at the same time. The word praise in the Greek is *katharos*, meaning “clean” and “uncontaminated.” This happens when a person is born-again and is kept that way by grace through faith afterwards.