

## Session Ten

# Created To Worship

(Written by Sarah Kawalsingh)

### Introduction

We were created for a purpose, and one of the amazing purposes for which God created us is to be worshippers.

Throughout the Bible, God gives us the blueprint of how He desires to be worshipped in music and in song. For many years, God has been pouring out His Spirit in the area of praise and worship. Songs of adoration, love for Jesus, thankfulness, and many more give us the opportunity to express to God how we feel.

### I. Why Is Praise And Worship Important To God And His People?

It's important to God that when we sing songs of praise and worship He has our hearts (Psalm 86:12; 111:1; Deuteronomy 10:12-13). We do not come to church to offer lip service or sing songs that are musically inspiring and leave us feeling good; instead we worship God in Spirit and in truth.

You may have heard people say that it doesn't matter how we worship, as long as it's sincere; but throughout the scriptures it is made clear that God is interested in our heart-attitude *and* the actual form in which worship is expressed.

**John 4:23-24 (NIV)**

*Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.*

**1. What is Worship?**

The word 'worship' means, literally, 'to bow yourself down' or 'to extend yourself toward'. It conveys the idea of adoration, admiration and intense love.

**2. Worshipping in Spirit**

When we truly worship God we give complete access to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will maximise our worship as we enter into the presence of God. True worship is not mere form and ceremony but spiritual reality, which is in harmony with the nature of God, who is Spirit.

*"True worship has always been spiritual and in the Spirit, so when we worship God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit our worship will be both 'in spirit and in truth'."*

- Judson Cornwall

**3. Worshipping in Truth**

The Greek word for 'truth' is 'Aletheia' (Strong's no. 225). *Aletheia* is the opposite of fictitious, feigned or false. It denotes veracity, reality, sincerity, accuracy, integrity, truthfulness, dependability and propriety. God wants us to understand who He is and why He is worthy to be worshipped. God created us with our own free will; hence He only wants us to worship Him with understanding.

*"To worship in truth means to worship according to God's own revelation of himself and his purposes for mankind, and not according to religions, philosophies, ideas and inventions of man. So we worship according to the truth about Jesus, that he is our Saviour, Prophet, Priest and King- our supreme example of manhood, and an undistorted image of the Creator. Without the knowledge and application of these and other marvellous truths about Jesus, our worship would be shrouded by mists of ignorance and uncertainty."*

- Graham Kendrick

#### 4. God Delights To Dwell With Us When We Worship Him

When we understand the importance of worshipping God in Spirit and in truth we give open access for Him to be amongst us (2 Chronicles 5:13-14).

***Psalm 22:3 (Amp)***

*But You are holy, O You Who dwell in [the holy place where] the praises of Israel [are offered].*

#### 5. Obedience Calls For Sacrifice

When we worship God it's not based on options or on how we feel, instead the Psalms are full of instructions compelling us to worship God. As humans we may not feel like worshipping because circumstances around us are not going well. We have to put our feelings aside and, out of obedience and love for the Lord, choose to offer a sacrifice of praise and worship (Romans 12:1).

***Psalm 96:1 (NIV)***

*Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth.*

***Psalm 147:7 (NIV)***

*Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; Sing praises on the harp to our God.*

## II. Singing In The New Testament Church

*(Adapted from 'Song of the Lord' by Dr. David Blomgren)*

Key Scriptures:

- Ephesians 5:19
- Colossians 3:16

The three different aspects of singing can be depicted by the use of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. These are not meant to be options for the church to choose from; all are to be functioning in the church today.

### I. \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: *Songs of praise from the scripture, character or manner of Old Testament Psalms.*

Purpose: *Directed primarily to God.*

## 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: *Songs of praise of human composition on Biblical themes.*

Purpose: *Directed primarily to man as a testimony of what the Lord has done or is going to do in their lives.*

## 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: *Songs of praise of spontaneous (or un-thought of) nature with unrehearsed melodies, sung under the direction of the Holy Spirit.*

Purpose: *Directed to both man and God.*

A spontaneous song of praise (or 'Song of the Lord') can be directed in two ways:

- Man to God (e.g. singing a song to the Lord telling Him how much we love Him)
- God to man (e.g. a prophetic word given in song)

There are three basic purposes in the singing of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs:

**1. Encouragement Of Self*****Ephesians 5:19 (NKJV)***

*Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*

**2. Encouragement Of Others*****Colossians 3:16 (NKJV)***

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

**3. Lifting Up The Lord*****Colossians 3:16 (NKJV)***

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

Today, as in New Testament times, all believers are priests before God. We might not be tuneful enough to be in the worship team, but that does not disqualify us from singing and worshipping God. As the psalmist wrote:

**Psalm 47:6 (NKJV)**

*Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!*

### III. Worship Requires Our Everything

The worshipper who believes that to worship God we are to be still and quiet is far from the truth (although there are moments for this). Instead it is quite the opposite. Here are nine different ways in which the Bible tells us to worship:

I. \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 145:21 (NKJV)**

*My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever.*

*“The human tongue releases spiritual power. Words spoken in faith can declare the purpose of God and affirm man’s agreement with it.”*

- Author unknown

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 104:33 (NKJV)**

*I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.*

*“O for a thousand tongues to sing! My great redeemer’s praise, the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of His grace.”*

- Charles Wesley

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 100:1 (NKJV)**

*I Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!*

*“Worshippers can feel emotions for God so strongly that they can and should express their feelings audibly in shouting. Emotional excitement in worship should not seem strange.”*

- Ernest Gentile

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 63:4 (NKJV)**

*Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.*

*“Hands are the symbol of supplication. Outstretched hands stand for an appeal for help. It is the silent yet eloquent attitude of a helpless soul standing before God, appealing for mercy and grace.”*

- E.M.Bounds.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 150:3-5 (NKJV)**

*Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals!*

Being able to play an instrument in the house of the Lord is indeed an honour. If you are gifted enough to be able to minister in God’s house in this way then give it your all and allow God to use you to usher in His presence.

6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 47:1 (NKJV)**

*Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!*

We can clap to express joy, or applaud to say we approve. How much more does the King of Kings and Lord of Lords deserve our show of appreciation?

7. \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Chronicles 20:19 (NKJV)**

*Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.*

*“I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene and wondered how he could love me, a sinner condemned unclean.”*

- Charles H. Gabriel

8. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exodus 34:8 (NKJV)**

*So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.*

Bowing before the Lord is one of the most reverent things we can do in His presence. It puts us in a vulnerable position that says to God, 'I am brought down low so that You can be exalted'.

9. \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalms 149:3a (NKJV)**

*Let them praise His name with the dance.*

The psalmist David knew what it meant to dance before the Lord. David knew what it was to abandon everything before the Lord and give Him his all (1 Chronicles 15; 2 Samuel 6).

**2 Samuel 6:22a (NKJV)**

*And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honour.*

## IV. What Does It Mean To Become A True Worshipper?

A person becomes like the object he/she worships. The Bible tells us of those who make idols: *those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them* (Psalm 115:8).

Our love relationship with God helps us become more like Him. Believers change when they worship. When we begin to worship we lay everything down at the altar of our heart, making no room in our lives for anything that could distract us from worshipping God.

*I'm laying down at the altar of my heart  
Giving my all, set me apart, for your cause Lord  
It's not about me, I surrender  
Take my life make me new, at the altar of my heart  
- Sarah Kawalsingh "At The Altar Of My Heart"*

## V. A True Worshipper

*(Quoted directly: 'Worship God' by Ernest Gentile)*

A fallen woman who was touched and blessed by Jesus had chosen His way to be her way. As she thought of Him and all He had done for her, she decided to look for Him to express the deep appreciation that filled her heart. When she learned that Jesus would be dining at the house of Simon the Pharisee, she determined to go there. She realized how irrational it would be to arrive uninvited at a dinner party of one of the city's most illustrious persons. Such a gathering would be no place for an immoral woman to appear!

The sins of her past loomed before her eyes. Rather than discouraging her, they sent her searching through her belongings for a gift suitable to express her deep repentance. Her eyes lit upon the alabaster box, and she knew immediately that this most precious possession would declare the feelings of her heart. The expensive ointment contained in the vial suddenly seemed of little value when compared to the miracle Jesus worked in her life. Grasping the gift, the uninvited woman hurried to the dinner.

Meanwhile, Jesus arrived at Simon's house. No affectionate embrace or kiss greeted the visiting rabbi, and no water was offered for the washing of the visitor's feet. These actions did not go unnoticed by those present, but Jesus offered no protest or comment. We can only wonder why the common courtesies of the day were not performed. Was Simon so excited that he forgot? Some suggest that the oversights were deliberate.

The guests intermingled and conversation flowed. Servants brought the food and drink while the guests reclined on low couches around the table. Undoubtedly, Simon wished for all to be impressed, and he savoured the effect created in having the popular teacher in his home.

Then it happened. Suddenly she was there, bending over the bare feet of Jesus! The reclining men looked aghast at the immoral woman who not only had broken in upon their revelry but dared approach the honoured guest.

Silence fell upon the room as the woman's tears began to drop upon Jesus' dusty feet. The revelation of who He was broke upon her, and the woman's soul released like a fountain. Her copious tears washed the Master's feet. And she added reverent kisses. The perfume of the alabaster jar began to permeate the atmosphere. To everyone's amazement, the woman anointed His feet.

Then, undoing the tresses of her hair, the bowing woman began to wipe dry the feet of Jesus with her crowning glory. The woman and Jesus seemed oblivious to any embarrassment. However Simon quickly responded by decrying such an emotional display as unnecessary and unwarranted. The woman's very character and motive were questioned. Since he strained to accept Jesus as a prophet, the Pharisee was easily amazed at, and contemptuous of, the sinful woman's acceptance of Him as Saviour.



Jesus received the woman's tears, kisses, ointment and the drying of His feet with her hair. The Lord saw in this obeisant woman an expression of worship that would be envied by every succeeding generation and culture. What was unorthodox and improper to the religious Pharisee was completely approved – even preferred – by Jesus.