

10-24-2021, COTR Texarkana

Title: Let the Worshippers Arise, pt-3

Purpose: Lay a foundation for Biblical expressions of praise and worship and provoke people to be devoted worshippers of God.

Truth for Today: The Bible teaches us how to express our worship through expressions of joy, and reverence to God.

Text: Psalm 47:1

Topic: Worship, Praise, Clapping, Lifting Hands, Kneeling

Series Title: Let the Worshippers Arise

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Let the Worshippers Arise, pt-3

- I. Introduction: Kid's song offering Kid's notes track: worship, bow, praise...token
 - A. Prayer missions team to Mexico
 - B. Review Series: 'Let the Worshippers Arise'. Last week we answered the question, what can happen when we worship. Worship can (1) Change our heart, Nebuchadnezzar, (2) Open the door for miracles, Paul and Silas in prison, and (3) Be a way of fighting spiritual warfare, Jehosophat. The 1st week, we learned that worship is how we express our love devotion to God, by (1) how we live and (2) how we praise Him, e.g., singing, clapping, kneeling, etc. Today we'll go deeper and talk more about how the Bible teaches us to express our praise and worship to God: (1) Expressions of joy, (2) Expressions of honor/ awe/ and reverence, (3) Some expressions of worship can be joyful or reverent depending on what we feel.
 - C. Title: Let the Worshippers Arise, pt-3
 - D. Truth for Today: The Bible teaches us how to worship God with joyful and reverent expressions.
- II. Expressions of joy in worship
 - A. Clapping and Shouting, [Psalm 47:1 (ESV) **Clap your hands**, all peoples! **Shout to God with loud songs of joy!** 1 (NLT) Come, **everyone!** Clap your hands! **Shout to God with joyful praise!**]
 1. We praise people when they do something we approve of with clapping and shouting, e.g., kids on stage, employee of the month. If we praise athletes and performers on stage with clapping, how much more does Jesus deserve our praise. Expressive praise is how we acknowledge God as the source of all good gifts. If you weren't raised to worship this way, clapping and shouting may seem disrespectful or lacking reverence in church; they're not.
 - B. Dancing, [Psalm 149:3 (NLT) **Praise his name with dancing**, accompanied by tambourine and harp.] Def. dance: to dance in a ring, to whirl around.
 1. Much modern dance is not modest but seductive and sexual. That's not what the Bible advocates. Dancing, usually accompanied by songs and instruments, was practiced in the religious life of ancient Israel.³ Dancing is a way to celebrate the goodness of God. [Psalm 30:11 (NLT) You have turned my mourning into **joyful dancing**. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with **joy**]

2. The 1st time I was around people who clapped or even danced in church, it confused me, until I saw it was in the Bible. Then I was free to express my joy.
 3. Video fball⁵ praise Tx AM vs. #1 Alabama, game is tied seconds to go. Why is joyful praise ok at a football game but not in church?
 4. Joyful praise is a Biblical way to express our thanks to God. In a proper desire for reverence, many have removed joyful expressions of praise. They're missing out on something Biblical and wonderful. Call Kid's on stage
- C. Kids sing and praise: God like it when kids praise, [Mt. 21:15–16 (NLT)...the teachers of religious law...heard even **the children in the Temple shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David."** But the leaders were indignant. 16 They asked Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?"...Jesus replied. "Haven't you ever read **the Scriptures...You have taught children and infants to give you praise.**"]
- III. Expressions of honor/ awe/ or reverence in worship
- A. Context, Nehemiah 8:1–6 (NLT)...They asked Ezra...to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses...5...When they saw him open the book, **they all rose to their feet (ESV stood)**. 6 Then Ezra praised the Lord, the great God, and all the people (NIV responded, "Amen! Amen!") as they **lifted their hands**. Then they **bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground**.
1. *Standing* is a way to show respect and honor, e.g., Navy officer entered the room, 'attention on deck'. This is why we encourage people to stand during worship.
 2. *Kneel/ bow* Ps. [95:6 (NIV) Come, **let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.**] Our posture is a conduit to express our heart.
- B. *worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground*, [Luke 17:15–16 (NLT) ...when he (*leper*) saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, **shouting, "Praise God!"** 16 **He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him** for what he had done.] Elijah's miracle, [1 Kings 18:39 (NLT) And when all the people saw it, **they fell face down on the ground** and cried out, "The Lord—he is God...]
1. Lying stretched out on the ground with one's face to the ground expresses deep gratitude and complete dependence on God.
 2. An attitude of respect for God and God's House is sometimes missing in church today, e.g., leaving trash, cut fingernails, leftover food, etc.
- IV. Some expressions of worship can be joyful or reverent depending on what we feel
- A. Singing
1. Singing in our native language [Psalm 47:6 (NLT) **Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises!**] Singing to God is the most universally recognized forms of worship in the world. 211 times in ESV.
 2. Singing in an unlearned, spiritual language. [1 Cor. 14:15 (NLT)...what shall I do? I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. **I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand.**] In the NT, people who were baptized in the Holy Spirit received a special ability to pray or sing in an unlearned language to God. Neither they nor others understood it and it was a wonderful thing. I practice this every day. Praying/ singing in the Spirit is one of the most meaningful parts of my relationship with the Lord. Caveat, in church, be respectful of people around you, [1 Cor. 14:23 (NCV) Suppose the whole church

meets together and everyone speaks in different languages. If some people come in who do not understand or do not believe, **they will say you are crazy.**]

3. Singing a new song, personal and spontaneous, expressing our love for God. [Psalm 149:1 (ESV) Praise the Lord! **Sing to the Lord a new song**, his praise in the assembly of the godly!] e.g....
- B. Raising hands, [Psalm 63:4 (ESV) So I will bless you as long as I live; **in your name I will lift up my hands.**] 1 Timothy 2:8 (ESV) I desire then that in every place the men should pray, **lifting holy hands...**] What does lifting our hands to God mean? I recognize You as God, I need you, I want you, I depend on you, I want to be with you, etc. Worship involves our body as well as our heart and mind. Our posture makes a statement to God and others.
 1. You don't have to clap, raise your hands or even dance in worship but why wouldn't you want to?
- C. The use of musical instruments
 1. Instruments were a vital part of Jewish worship in the Bible. [Psalm 150:3–6 (NCV) Praise him with **trumpet blasts**; praise him with **harps and lyres**. 4 Praise him with **tambourines** and dancing; praise him with **stringed instruments and flutes**. 5 Praise him with **loud cymbals...** 6 Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!]
 2. David wrote most of the Psalms. He was called a man after God's heart; David was a worshipper and I've chosen to follow his example.
 3. David shows us instrumental worship can drive away evil. [1 Sam 16: 23 (NLT) And whenever the tormenting spirit...troubled Saul, **David would play the harp**. Then Saul would feel better, and **the tormenting spirit would go away.**]

V. Conclusion: Call Kid's on stage

- A. [Psalm 111:1 (ESV) Praise the Lord! **I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart...**in the congregation.] Story a dad made his son clap and kneel in worship. Outwardly he was doing the right thing, but he was just clapping and kneeling, not worshipping. True worship is more than a religious act; genuine worship comes from a heart freely given to God; if we love the Lord with all our heart, we'll express it.
- B. Kids sing and praise: 'We Bow Low'

VI. Response

- A. Prayer
- B. Souls

VII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

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2. Youngblood, R. F., Bruce, F. F., & Harrison, R. K., Thomas Nelson Publishers (Eds.). (1995). In [Nelson's new illustrated Bible dictionary](#). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc.
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