

11-14-2021, COTR Texarkana

Title: Let the Worshippers Arise, pt. 5

Purpose: Provoke people to pursue the Presence of God, i.e., be close to God, through worship, prayer and an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Truth for Today: Worship is a door into the Presence of God.

Text: Psalm 95: 1-2

Topic: Worship, Praise, Presence of God, Glory

Series Title: Let the Worshippers Arise

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

Let the Worshippers Arise, pt. 5

- I. Introduction (Song: I come to the garden alone)
 - A. Review: Today we'll conclude the series, Let the Worshippers Arise. My intent in the series is to provoke you to prioritize and deepen your worship of God by the way you live and using all Biblical expressions such as singing, clapping, raising hands, kneeling, laying prostrate, dancing, shouting and using musical instruments.
 - B. Today's Text: [Psalm 95:1–2 (ESV) Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! **2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;** let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!]
 - C. Truth for Today: Worship is a door into the Presence of God.
 - D. Today we'll see what the Bible teaches about experiencing the Presence of God in everyday life. Experiencing His Presence means being close to God, knowing He's near and experiencing manifestations of the HS. We'll answer 3 questions: (1) What is the presence of God? (2) What are Biblical examples of the manifest presence of God? (3) How do we get closer to God and become aware of His presence?
 - E. Title: Let the Worshippers Arise, pt. 5
- II. What is the presence of God?
 - A. Def. Presence: the state or fact of being present. A person or thing that is present but may not be seen.¹ Therefore, the Presence of God: e.g., (Ps. 95:2 'let us come into His Presence'), means God is present but not seen. The Hebrew word for Presence means 'face'³. Though we can't see God, we can know He is near and experience His Presence. [James 4:8 (ESV) **Draw near (NLT come close) to God, and he will draw near (NLT come close) to you.**]
 - B. Def. Omnipresence of God: God is present in all places at the same time.⁵ [Psalm 139:7–8 (NLT) I can never get away from your presence! 8 If I go up to heaven, **you are there;** if I go down to the grave, **you are there.**]
 - C. Def. Manifest presence of God: God reveals Himself in a way that is obvious to our understanding.⁵ Experiencing His Presence isn't spooky weird but Biblically sound. E.g., Stephen saw the Lord when he was stoned, Ananias had a vision from God, and Paul received a prophecy during worship and began his mission to the Gentiles.
- III. The Bible is filled with examples of the manifest presence of God
 - A. General examples of the manifest presence of God: (1) Adam [Genesis 3:8 (ESV) And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden...and the man and his wife hid themselves from the **presence of the Lord**...] (2) Moses and the burning

- bush, (3) Fire and smoke on Mt. Sinai, (4) Fire on Mt. Carmel with Elijah, (5) Day of Pentecost during prayer tongues of fire, (6) After the persecution of Peter and John, [Acts 4:31 (NLT) After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.] (7) Peter in prison and the church is praying and an angel opens the prison door, (8) Paul and Silas praying and singing hymns at midnight and God sends an earthquake to free them. (9) Mt. 1:23 (NLT) The virgin will conceive a child...and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘**God is with us.**’] [Mt. 18:20 (NIV) For where two or three gather in my name, **there am I with them.**”] if Jesus is among us through the Holy Spirit, shouldn’t we expect to experience His Presence?
- B. The manifest presence of God is often revealed during worship.
1. OT dedication of Solomon’s temple, [2 Chron. 5 (NLT) Solomon finished all his work on the Temple of the Lord...7 Then the priests carried the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant into...the Most Holy Place...12 And the Levites who were **musicians**...stood at...the altar **playing cymbals, lyres, and harps**...13...they **raised their voices and praised the Lord** with these words: “He is good! His faithful love endures forever!” At that moment **a thick cloud filled the Temple**...14 The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for **the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple of God.**]
 - a. Truth for Today: Worship is a door into the Presence of God. Their worship was God’s love language (// a child saying daddy I love you); Worship is an invitation for God to come to His people; they worshipped, and God responded. There’s a connection between worship and the presence of God.
 2. NT, [Acts 13:1–3 (NLT)...prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch... Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen, and Saul. 2 One day as these men were **worshipping the Lord** and fasting, **the Holy Spirit said**, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.”] Worship invited God to speak. The Holy Spirit revealed Himself through the gift of prophecy and the gospel went to the Gentile world. Worship opened the door to the prophetic.
- C. What can we expect when the Presence of the Lord is manifested? (1) The gifts of the Spirit to manifest, [1 Cor. 14:24–25 (NLT) But if all of you are prophesying, and unbelievers or people who don’t understand these things come into your meeting, they will be convicted of sin and judged by what you say. 25...their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and worship God, declaring, “**God is truly here among you.**”] (2) peace, (3) deliverance from evil, (4) joy, [Psalm 16:11 (ESV)...**in your presence there is fullness of joy**...]
- IV. How do we get closer to God and become aware of His presence?
- A. [James 4:8 (ESV) **Draw near (NLT come close) to God, and he will draw near (NLT come close) to you.**] I.e., we can do things to experience the Presence of God.
 - B. Follow the example of Jesus: Spend time with God in quiet communion and prayer.
 1. He started His day with God, [Mark 1:35 (NIV) Very early in the morning...Jesus ...went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.] After fed 5k, [Mark 6:45–46 (NIV) Jesus made his disciples...go on ahead of him...he dismissed the crowd. 46 ...**he went up on a mountainside to pray.**] Before a big decision, [Luke 6:12–13 (NCV)...Jesus went off to a mountain to pray, and **he spent the night praying to God.**13 The next morning, Jesus chose twelve of them, whom he named apostles]

2. No human being was ever closer to God the Father than Jesus. Spending time with His Father was a priority to Jesus. He spent time with God to start His day and then throughout the day. He teaches us that spending time with God in quiet communion and prayer is the door into the Presence God and God will speak to us
- C. Follow the example of Stephen: live a life yielded to the Holy Spirit.
1. 1st deacons, [Acts 6:3–5 (NIV)...choose seven men...who are known to be **full of the Spirit** and wisdom...5...They chose Stephen...Acts 6:15 (NIV) All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that **his face was like the face of an angel**. Acts 7:54–55 (NLT) The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen’s accusation...55 But Stephen, **full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus** standing at God’s right hand.]
 2. To be *full of the Holy Spirit* means, “whom the Holy Spirit directs,” or “whom the Holy Spirit possesses,”⁶ allowing the Spirit to work in them.⁷ The best way to experience God’s Presence is to be continually filled with the HS, i.e., yield to His control in our life every day.
- D. Follow the example of David: don’t let sin control your life and be a worshipper.
1. Don’t let sin control your life, context Bathsheba, [Psalm 51:1–12 (NLT)...O God...blot out the stain of my sins. 2 Wash me clean from my guilt...10 Create in me a clean heart, O God...11 **Do not banish me from your presence**, and don’t take your Holy Spirit from me...] Sin separates us from God; purity and holiness draw Him closer. [Psalm 24:3–4 (NLT)...**Who may stand in his holy place?** 4 Only those whose **hands and hearts are pure...**]
 2. Be a worshipper, [Psalm 95:1–7 (ESV) Oh come, **let us sing** to the Lord; let us make a **joyful noise** to the rock of our salvation! 2 **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving**; let us make a joyful noise to him with **songs of praise**...6 Oh come, **let us worship and bow down**; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! 7 **For he is our God, and we are the people** of his pasture...
 - a. David taught us Truth for Today: Worship is a door into the Presence of God.
- V. Conclusion: May the Presence of God be the defining mark of our life.
- A. Moses leading the children of Israel through the wilderness and into the Promised Land, [Exodus 33:12–15 (NKJV) Then Moses said to the Lord...13...**show me now Your way, that I may know You** and that I may find grace in Your sight...14 And He said, “**My Presence will go with you**, and I will give you rest.” 15 Then he said to Him, “**If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.**]
1. The desire to be close to God, to know God intimately defined Moses’ life. May it be the same for us.
- 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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