



DAY SEVEN BRIAN GIBBS

We are now coming to the close of our HEART OF WORSHIP fast. What a special week it has been. I'm grateful and freshly awakened to the Holy Spirit's activity among us all. He's wooing and drawing us in deeper and deeper into Father's love.

God says over each of you today: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness" (Jeremiah 31:3 NKJV).

The Apostle Paul asked this probing question: "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV).

Amazingly, this was God's epic dream all along, that in Christ, our human bodies become temples of the Holy Spirit's indwelling, and the gathered congregation at worship becomes a unified building of God (see Ephesians 2:20-22). The ancient Tabernacle of Moses, David's Tent of Meeting and the Temple of Solomon were proven as places where God's manifest presence visited and where His glory came to reside. "Presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice" in worship is a life-long commitment intended to open wide the gates for His manifest presence. Our worship and sacrifice through fasting opens wide our hearts for the Holy Spirit's leading, which ultimately yields a lifestyle of obedience and fulfillment in God's intended purpose for each of us, as His created and redeemed sons and daughters.

As living temples of His Holy Spirit, the Scriptures show us many ways to praise and worship God with our bodies:

- **Kneeling in worship (Philippians 2:9-10)**
- **Bowed heads (Micah 6:6-8)**
- **Raised heads (Psalm 3:3-4; Hebrews 4:16)**
- **Lifted hands (Lamentations 3:40-41; Psalm 63:3-4)**
- **Waved praise (Leviticus 9:21)**
- **Dancing with joy before the Lord (Psalm 30:11; 149:3; 150:4).**
- **Shouts of praise and making a joyful noise to God (Psalm 100:1-5) (Psalm 47:1)**
- **Shouts of joy and victory – raising up our banners in the name of The Lord (Psalm 20:5)**

In 2 Chronicles 20, there are eleven different Hebrew verbs that call for our active participation in worship:

- **hadad – to bend in deference to**
- **nafal – to prostrate before**
- **shakah – to fall before or do homage to royalty**
- **halal – to boast in the Lord**
- **gadul – to call out in a loud voice**
- **yadah – to hold out the hand to give thanks**
- **renah – to chirp or creak or sing (I found this one funny..."chirping" unto the Lord...I guess this is in reference to all the songbirds among us.)**
- **tehillah – to sing a hymn or spontaneous song**
- **carach – to kneel or lie down in reverence.**
- **simkah – to be gleeful**
- **samach – to brighten up**

Worship has always been about the heart to heart communion. Remember the awful rebuke that Jesus brought in the Gospel of Matthew 15? "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me" (Matthew 15:8-9 NKJV).

Remember, it is God who sees, hears and knows the hearts of all men. He knows the hearts that burn with a fragrance of pure worship and devotion.

The Example of 2 Chronicles 20 listed above, is an outflow and physical expressions of worship is what flows effortlessly through the body of Victory as we yield to Holy Spirit. These actions match the expressions of Jewish worshipers a millennia ago. Real worship can go deeper and far higher with a right spiritual, emotional or affectional heart-grasp of God's supreme value. Pure and true worship is based on a right understanding of God's holy nature – and our worship is valuing God's immeasurable worth. When we treasure and reverence God's presence and hold him as our highest prize, we can become fully satisfied by Jesus as we worship and exalt His infinite worth and beauty. That is what “worship” means and was designed to do – put the supreme worth of God on full display.

I know you and I are really feeling the physical effects from this fast. There's no way to get around it...fasting is hard and yet, it is our spiritual worship as an act of full devotion to The Lord. Again, the Apostle Paul wrote, “I appeal to you, therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, which is your spiritual service of worship” (Romans 12:1 NKJV).

As we prepare to break the fast and enjoy times of breaking bread and feasting together, let us worship and honor The King of Glory – singing his praise, bowing low, lifting hands, kneeling in reverence, raising our banners, dancing with joy, standing in awe of the “One found worthy!”

There are greater heights for us all to encounter together in worship to The Lord. The Holy Spirit is summoning us into great realms of glory. May our hearts burn together for Jesus' honor. May our worship be pure and found always to be in “Spirit and in truth.”

Bren and I love you all.
Be blessed...and More Holy Spirit!