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FORWARD

The life style of worship that the New Testament believer lives is the essence of their walk and the evidence of their commitment to God. Therefore the promotion of the worship of God is the furtherance of a growing intimate relationship with Him.

To know and continue to draw closer to Jesus in our relationship with Him is the plan for the New Testament believer and has always been the main goal of the Gospel. That our walk with God would become evident to all men and would lead them to Him is our goal, for if He be lifted up he will draw all men unto himself (Jn 12: 32).

Throughout my years of ministry it has become apparent that believers can engage in the corporate worship of God and yet not experience that intimacy with Him as a life style, turning their corporate worship time into a religious practice much like the Old Testament believers and missing out on the greater experience that a New Testament believer is created to enjoy.

It is true that the corporate worship of God has increased greatly over the last decade producing some of the finest worship songs ever written and aiding people of all ages to enter into a level of worship that has been lacking for some time. So it seems evident that God is bringing his people to a higher level of worship and calling them closer to Him which is His desire.

Yet in order to keep that intimacy with God at the forefront of the worship experience I have found it helpful to concentrate my study efforts on the New Testament side of worship. As I did I found many helpful insights that enhanced my worship experience and brought me closer to God, eliminating the infiltration of practices that brought me religion without relationship. For in the garden when God and his created being Adam first fellowshiped together there was no religion or set plan to bring them closer together, there was only unbroken fellowship one with the other.

They did not have to work at it; it was something that came natural.

Because I have been called to a position of Worship leader it has made me seriously seek out what this place is we all try to attain and ascertain why it has been limited to a service with a time frame attached to it? Surely there is more, for the God of Heaven did not start out with a religious program and certainly it is not his ultimate goal. Hence I felt compelled to undertake this work called NEW TESTAMENT WORSHIP. May you draw closer to Him through what He has revealed.

Mark Krysiuk

New Testament Worship Part 1

Chapter 1 Fulfilling of the Old

The central focus of the Old and New Testament is Jesus Christ. So in our quest to establish an intimate life style of worship I found it helpful to concentrate my efforts on Him for he is the way, the truth, the light and the object of our worship.

The central theme of the redemption of mankind (or drawing men unto Himself) is the binding that holds the bible together. It starts in Genesis and ends in the book of Revelation where it states

“ Behold the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them.” (Rev 21:3)Emphasis mine.

As we will see in our first scripture the Old Testament is filled with types and shadows, and the four Gospels are the account of Jesus and his earthly ministry that ***fulfilled*** those types. The rest of the New Testament is the application, by the church of all that Jesus accomplished or fulfilled. Therefore we shall focus the bulk of our study on the New Testament portion of scripture.

The first scripture reference we shall look at is found in Mathew 5: 17. The words are those of Jesus himself:

“ Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

The scripture says that Jesus did not come to abolish Old Testament practices **but** he did fulfill them. As this happened it changed our outlook or should have on many Old Testament

themes, worship of God and the presence of God being but a few of them.

I think it's important to note that a lot of the types and shadows brought forth in the Old Testament were not for showing us *how* but to show us *what* Jesus has accomplished by His life, death and resurrection.

Using the type of the Tabernacle that represented the place where they went to meet with God in the Old Testament was not to show us *where* we needed to go to get with God. Rather it showed us in the completed work of Jesus where *we are* seated, in heavenly places with Christ (Eph. 2:6). This is what Jesus has done for us and all we need to do is put aside all the areas of the flesh and soul that so easily keep us from that place. So now we can enter into the place provided for us because Jesus has made the way (Heb. 4:16). The task of getting there is already completed.

We can see in Mathew 27:50,51 that when Jesus said "*it is finished*" on the cross and gave up His spirit the Bible says that the veil of the Temple was rent in two. This means that the place where the priests went once a year to meet with God was now open to all who would come by way of Christ Jesus. We no longer need to go to a certain place to meet with Him. Jesus explained this to the woman at the well. In Johns' Gospel chapter 4 and verse 21 He said to her concerning worship in one of the clearest explanations of New Testament worship

" you will neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem worship the father".

That was the place, he was trying to get her to understand it was not a physical one. He went on to say that the hour was now here when true worshipers would worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Meaning that true worshippers would not have to go to a specific place to worship the Father but it would come from the heart, the inner man and it would be sincere, not a religious exercise. This was also the essence of John the Baptist's ministry.

To prepare people for the coming of the Lord by turning their focus from what they did on the outward to what they **were** on the inside. He told them that their actions were worshipping God but their hearts were far from him. Think of it, you can do something, anything really that would simulate a heart that is after God and seem as though you are a worshiper of God yet your heart may be far from Him.

As we continue our text in Mathew chapter 5 and go to verse 21 we see Jesus Teaching the same message. Jesus begins to challenge what we think about certain sins in contrast to what God thinks about them. He says

*“ you have heard it said by those of old that if you murder someone you would be in danger of judgement. But I say to you that whoever is **angry** with his brother is in danger of judgement.”*

It was our heart attitude that was the focus of Gods attention, not our actions. Remember what the Lord said to Samuel when he was about to anoint the next King of Israel “ *the Lord does not see as man sees; for **man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.***” (1 Sam. 16:7)

Jesus was bringing them past religion to a place where they actually looked within themselves and asked the question why do I do what I do. That place within themselves that they looked to is the heart of worship that God is seeking in all of us. It’s the place that true worship comes from. It is worshipping in spirit and in truth.

This is a New Testament type of thinking. To begin to make an inward assessment of our hearts and why we do something as opposed to what we do is the central part of the rebirth of the heart that was written in the Old Testament when it said “ *I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh*” (Ezekiel 36:26). A stone is hard, rigid and not pliable. It speaks of being calloused and unbending. New

Testament thinking is all about attitude and why we do what we do, not just what we do. There is no rule or regulation that can dictate an attitude and **that** is the difference between seeming to be right and actually being right. It is not something that can be seen from the outward appearance as the Lord said to Samuel, but must be spiritually discerned.

When we as a people come together corporately, with our hearts in a place of love and adoration for Him and our reasons for loving and worshipping Him are in check, we will experience togetherness with Him like we have yet to encounter. For who can ascend the hill of the Lord but he who has a *pure heart* and clean hands.(Psalm 24:3,4)

Jesus came so we could get to the heart of the matter and draw closer to Him. That has always been the desire of God that we would be in close fellowship with Him, shedding the religious practice of worship and beginning to worship Him in spirit and in truth. The father is seeking those kinds of New Testament thinking Christians to worship Him. (John 4:23, 24).

This new move of worship is not just to make the sound more excellent or the songs better. No when we hunger for Him from our hearts the songs will come and the sound will be excellent. Our hearts will spill over with songs that express our love and adoration for Him. We will desire to be with Him in His presence and never want to leave. For God is seeking such to worship Him.

New Testament Worship Part 1

Chapter 2 The Place of the Heart

For the purpose of reaching a fuller understanding of New Testament Worship we will here examine the heart with its attitudes and desires for it is the central focal point of worship i.e. its point of origin.

The Bible clearly identifies the heart as the place where the issues of life originate.

*“Keep your heart with all diligence for out of **it** flow the issues of life.” (Prov. 4:23).*

Your heart and its attitude towards God and your fellowman are one of the key reasons and focal points of Jesus’ ministry and His New Testament Church. As of late it seems that we are more focused on what we should do to be right rather than being right from the heart.

As we begin to look at the heart it will soon become apparent that there are many people under the assumption that they do what they do and it matters little because God knows my heart. Ever heard that phrase before? Well the statement itself is true enough for God truly knows the thoughts and intents of the heart. Yet the more important question still remains, **DO WE KNOW OUR OWN HEARTS?** Is it possible to fool ourselves? The psalmist David was giving us some insight when he said

“let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to the Lord my God.” (Psalm 19:14) Emphasis mine.

David was checking his heart to make sure it was right before God.

This point needs careful and thorough attention and I pray that the fullness of it will be received into your spirit man. This point of knowing our own heart can bring more benefit to your life than any other truth I know. It is a terrible thing that plagues us and robs us of intimate times with God and fruitful living.

In raising our children my wife and I have found that God does not look at the outward man but He looks at the heart. So if we can train our children's hearts, and not just get their outward appearance to obey, we will be giving them the best opportunity to prosper here and here after. As a minister of the Gospel I feel compelled to help others know their own heart. That is why Worship is so important. If we can know our hearts truthfully without hiding things from ourselves either consciously or unconsciously we will not be surprised on that day when we stand before the Lord. Think of it, wouldn't it be wonderful to stand before the Lord and have a clear assessment of who we are and the condition of our hearts? The key is found in HUMILITY. Humility is also one of the keys to the entranceway into the presence of the Almighty and a subject we will discuss in detail as well a bit later on. Suffice is to say for now that without humility we run the risk of making a false assessment of our own hearts and end up with a shipwrecked faith.

To better understand the heart and it's attitudes lets look at the book of Joshua.

In chapter 5 verse 13 of the Living Bible it says Joshua was sizing up the city of Jericho, meaning he was thinking of strategies to seize it. At this very time the Lord shows up as the Commander in chief of the army of God. Joshua not knowing who he is asked him if he is for Israel or the enemy. Interestingly enough Jesus responds by saying that he is not for them or their enemies. Now some with an Old Testament mentality would find that hard to swallow but the fact is that God would have ALL men to be saved, including Joshua's enemies. Did he not send Jonah to Nineveh for the salvation of those that were there? Were they not the enemies of Israel? After some persuasive circumstances caused him to

fulfill Gods' call he went and delivered the message. Jonah of course was not happy with the outcome of the crusade, to his dismay it was a complete success. Joshua had a different response; he falls down and worships the Lord, showing humility of heart.

In my study of these scriptures I was led to a footnote in the Oxford Scofield Reference Bible that gives the Bible definition of some of the variations of the word *sin*. One was the definition of the word trespass. This definition so changed my understanding of the heart and why we do what we do that it is vital that we understand its meaning. The Bible definition of the word trespass is;

the intrusion of self-will into the sphere of Gods divine authority.

You see at the time the Lord showed up to Joshua he was starting to make his own plan to take the city of Jericho. But Jesus intervened and brought him back in line with doing what God wanted him to do. *He got back to that place by worship, out of a humble heart.* A scenario you will find happens quite often in the Scriptures. As we finish out the story we see Joshua one of the mightiest warriors of the Bible given a plan by God to take the city. The plan included by natural standards one the most ridiculous war plans ever given. Take your army and walk around the city once a day for six days. On the last day walk around it seven times (making yourselves really tired) and then all of you get together and yell real loud. I'm sure it wasn't what Joshua had in mind. Actually God uses this "makes no sense" method quite often. Moses was sent to defeat the greatest army of that time with one other guy and a stick (some plan!). Gideon was sent to war only after reducing his army from 32,000 to 300. The Bible says that God reduced his army so that they would not think they did it in their own strength Judges 7:2.

All these men as you will find upon further study were in an attitude of worship upon receiving the plan. Moses took off his shoes in the presence of God. Joshua did the same. Gideon after hearing a prophetic dream and its interpretation fell down and

worshipped. When he got up he said to Israel arise for the Lord has delivered into your hands the host of Midian.

I learned from this definition that the sin of trespass is more prevalent in believers than I ever thought possible. It certainly was in me. You see trying to do something for God without fellowship with him out of a humble heart of worship may actually be trespassing. Remember God does not see as men see but looks at the heart.

True worship can break the power of that hindering force and bring God's people to a level of intimacy with Him that will bring such power and unity to the body that no weapon of the enemy will be able to stop a people seeking after Him.

My desire is that the Church would begin to honestly assess their attitude of worship towards Him and not let our self-will intrude into God's desire for our lives. God is seeking such people to worship Him.

New Testament Worship Part 1

Chapter 3 **“WE ARE SEATED”**

In the last chapter on the heart I mentioned something at the beginning of the chapter that is a topic of great importance when it comes to the true New Testament worship of God. The statement was that our heart attitude towards God and **our fellow man** is one of the key focal points of Jesus’ ministry.

I think it’s important to note that not only is our attitude towards God important but Jesus clearly taught that our attitude towards our fellow man is equally as important. Jesus went so far as to say if you come with a gift to the altar yet you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there and go and make it right. **Before you worship the Lord** have your relationship between you and your fellow man reconciled (Mathew 5:23, 24). Imagine a God who is seeking men to worship Him saying don’t do it until you are reconciled with your fellow man. Sounds like your attitude can’t be totally right for worship unless your relationships are in order. Jesus also said that the world would know who we are by our love one for another (John 13:34). Not just how well we sing and lift our hands. True worship is deeper than that.

This Chapter is named “we are seated” with the emphasis on we for the reason above stated. As I study the Scriptures I have noticed some things that happen to the body of Christ only as a whole.

For example in 1Thessalonians 4:17 it says we will be caught up **together**. In Mathew 18:20 Jesus said when two or three are gathered **together** he is in the midst of them. He was not talking about only physically being together, for we often gather together as Christians and yet are not in one accord. To say that just being in the same place means that He is there would be hypocritical.

Not Jesus' style at all. It says in Ephesians that he made us alive together and that he raised us up together and made us sit together, that we are framed together and grow unto a holy temple and that we are built together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.

These scriptures clearly indicate that God has raised us up together. In fact it says He made us to sit together. I think He did that for a reason. We need to get along, even more than that we need to prefer one another. It even says that we are being built together into a holy habitation. That means we are going to have to grow together, not apart.

It says in Philippians chapter 2 verses 3-8, that Jesus gave up His place in glory and came down and became a man and even died for us. In verse 3 Paul admonishes us to esteem others better than ourselves.

You see God's heart is for men. He gave his son for that reason. He created the earth and the fullness thereof for us to enjoy. Everything that we behold shows the love and mercy that he has for us, for God so loved the world that he gave.

Over time I have come to understand that if our focus is not turned towards others then it ends up on us one way or another. Even when it comes to worship, we spend enough time in worship to get released from that burden, or feel fulfilled, or get us through the next day or week and it lacks that love for mankind that is the father's heart. The kind of love that will cause us to desire the best for our enemies as well as our friends is what God desires.

Jesus said:

“ But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will

be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and the evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your father also is merciful.”

Jesus clearly teaches in Lukes’ gospel chapter 6 verses 32-36, that; if we love those that love us what credit is that to you. He says even the sinners do that. And if we lend to those in whom we expect return, what does that prove? If we just love our brothers and sisters in Christ or the brothers and sisters in Christ that love us only, what does that say about us? You see the church at large has not looked any different than the world in some aspects. God says pray for those you don’t like. Give to those you don’t like with the expectation of nothing in return, then we will be sons of the Most High.

God knows it’s a long road to travel in our hearts from avoiding some one, to heartfelt prayer and giving to them with the prospect of nothing in return, yet it is Gods desire for us.

Yes we are seated in heavenly places together with Christ but for that to become a New Testament reality, the we part needs to be something that is, first of all done in the body of Christ and then the world with heartfelt compassion.

How far has the Church strayed away from these concepts? The heart of a true worshiper can not ignore or deny these things. It is at the core of his very nature. For he knows full well no matter what position he holds in the body of Christ that we are mere men and the only thing that sets us apart from the world is our being in fellowship with the King of Glory and each other.

For God is seeking men of this condition of heart to worship Him that way.

New Testament Worship Part 1

Chapter 4 The Unstoppable Force of Humility

The subject we are about to look at is one of the greatest in the Bible. It shows itself in every aspect of the Christian life, and is in fact one of the key factors to understanding the New Testament, and the heart of a true worshiper.

Without humility you have no worship, for to worship or pay homage to one greater than yourself you must acknowledge your own place of lower stature. There is a saying I heard that explains it well and it says “ God is God and you are not.” Worship starts from a place of humbleness before God, for God gives grace to the humble and humility is the true spiritual force behind everything we do as Christians.

Weather we know it or not God goes through great lengths to keep us humble. Many times we will complain to God about our circumstances but without them we would loose our humble perspective and miss the greater place that God would have us to be in. You see God is not trying to change your circumstance He’s trying to change you.

In Deut. 8:2 the Lord says

*“ And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, **to humble thee...**”*.

Imagine that, the Lord led them into the wilderness specifically to humble them. In fact it goes on to say in the next few verses that he caused them to hunger and fed them manna so that they would learn that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. It looks like

God went way out of his way and brought man way out of his way to make sure he stayed humble.

As one lives in humility it gives us a spiritual edge or grace that one would not have if there were no humility. There are three aspects of this grace that comes from humility that I would like to address. It is these attributes that make it an unstoppable force.

Jesus said unless we humble ourselves and become as little children we can not even *see* the Kingdom of God. So the first one is **Perspective**.

With a humble attitude we see things differently. It gives us a heart Perspective that sees the behind the scenes spiritual view of what is happening, which is invaluable to the truth seeker. We trust in the Lord with our whole heart and lean not on our own understanding because we are in a place of humility of heart that gives us a heavenly perspective.

The heavenly perspective is as if we were in the heavenly place looking down at ourselves and seeing Gods view of what is happening. I call it seeing the big picture.

Without a humble attitude the information we take in will be tainted by the attitude that we have when we look at the given situation. If we were offended then our perception of the situation will cause us to see it as if we were wronged. When we see from a heart of love we see with compassion to reach another. Whatever attitude we have when we see it will determine our decision on that situation.

With perspective comes the next point, which is **Wisdom**. When we see the big picture we get a clearer view of what is happening. Having this view gives us the ability to make decisions that will cause us to build the Kingdom of God rather than tear it down. That is wisdom that comes from a humble perspective.

The ability to use the information we have to help others and ourselves is wisdom. God calls this type of wisdom very valueable, more valuable than riches, something to be sought after diligently. Psalms 25 Verse 9 says He guides the humble in what is right and

teaches them His ways. True humility gives us the proper perspective which in turn guides our decisions with Godly wisdom.

The last point is the worshipers true power source, the place from which he draws his strength and life, the presence of God. Without humility you can not dwell in this place.

The English language falls woefully short of words to describe the power available here. We will start this subject in the book of Ephesians, chapter 2, and verses 4- 6.

*“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and **raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**”*

You see it is stated very clearly that we are the body of Christ and that we are seated in heavenly places **in** Christ.

The blessings, the power, the insight, the authority we have as Christians comes from being in Him.

Lets list the first few things that we have ***in Christ*** according to the book of Ephesians, you can look them up yourself, I will just give you the chapter and verse;

- 1) All spiritual blessings in Him 1:3
- 2) We were Chosen in Him 1:4
- 3) We find Redemption in Him 1:7
- 4) We have Forgiveness of sins in Him 1:7
- 5) We know the mystery of His will in Him 1:9
- 6) We have an inheritance in Him 1:11
- 7) We have the seal of the Holy Spirit in Him 1:13
- 8) We are Raised up together with Christ in Him 2:6
- 9) He makes us sit together with Christ, in Him 2:6
- 10) We have Deliverance from the curse of the law in Him 2:15
- 11) We have Access to the Father in Him 2:18

We could go on much further but you get the point. Being in His presence is Gods intention for us, yet so few of us experience it on a daily basis. His presence is what was supposed to separate the Christian from the world. Yet instead it seems to have separated the true worshipers from the Christians. For with those who dwell under the shadow of the Almighty comes all the other traits that separate us from the world. He desires that we walk in them, for he is seeking such to worship Him.

New Testament Worship Part 1

Chapter 5 The Heart of Worship

Up until this point I have refrained from giving a definition of worship, but now may be a good time to do so.

For many years I have been asked to define worship, and over the years my definition has changed. First I looked at it as *the act* of worship, and studied it that way for years. Many books on the subject have been written from that perspective, and I did learn much about the ritual of worship and why it has the effect that it does on the human heart and mind, some of which I will get into later on in this work. Yet something was missing and I could not bridge the gap between the act of worship and the lifestyle of a worshiper. Then over the years I began to see that people were not changed by the act of worship, they basically remained the same. I began to see that two people would be in the same service and one would change and the other did not. So my quest began anew with the goal of finding God, not a program to be like Him.

Over the years I have found a groundswell of people that have a sincere hunger for Him. They don't want another sermon about Him, they want Him, they don't want to sing another song about Him they want to be with Him.

So over the years I have come to acquire this definition of worship: the humbling of oneself and the exalting of God above everything that we would deem important, making Him the center of Everything that we are and do.

After some events in my life that caused me to seek Him I began to understand that if people were going to change they needed to be with Him. And my studies brought

me back to the basics with a new insight that I didn't have before.

It says in Psalms 100 that we enter *His gates* with thanksgiving and *His courts* with praise. They are His gates, and I'm suppose to go to where He is. God never leaves me, I leave Him by making Him inconsequential in my life. People don't do it on purpose, they do it out of habit.

Psalms 89:15 (NIV) took on new meaning,

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of Your presence.

Wow I'm beginning to learn how to acclaim Him and walk in the light of His presence, not just go there for a visit.

Did you ever experience the manifest presence of God in a worship service and the worship team stopped playing music for a short interval of time? The presence of God is still strong but there is no music playing. At that moment peoples' hearts are worshiping God; that's real worship. We really can worship Him without the music. Some of my most intimate times of worship came during silence.

It's funny, our religious nature makes us want to ask the question, What do I need to do to get to heaven? Just give me the minimum requirement so I can do it and get back to my life. We just visit Him once a week and never want to dwell there.

Likened unto modern day Pharisees

In Johns gospel chapter 5 verses 19-47 Jesus speaks to the religious leaders of his time and explains to them their lack of relationship with God. They were angry that he called God his father, and that he made people that were sick well on the day that God ordained for rest. Imagine wanting to make a person well rather than resting from our labor. You may be laughing but we do much the same with our religious nature, even after we are saved.

One of the scriptures Jesus used in his dissertation to the religious leaders sums up the whole idea of religion verses relationship. That is verse 7:

*“You diligently study the scriptures because you think by them you possess eternal life. **These are the scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.**”*

Out of all the times that the Lord was asked about getting into the kingdom, the terminology that was used by Him was that of relationship. In Mathew 7, Jesus said that not everyone that called Him Lord would enter the kingdom of Heaven. To those that did not He said *“I never knew you.”* Sounds like relationship. When Elijah proclaimed a drought he did it through his relationship with God. 1 Kings chapter 17 verse 1 says that Elijah said to Ahab

*“ As the Lord God of Israel lives, **before whom I stand**, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”*

You see he was in Gods presence while he made such a statement. It is relationship that brings change to peoples lives, not religion.

Did you ever notice that Jesus didn't do his miracles the same way all the time. To some he laid his hands on them, to others he told them to go wash themselves in the river, to other he said to go and his word that was spoken had already preformed the needed results. To some he even spit and made mud to heal them. He did things out of relationship with his father not out of a set of rules. Relationship is the key to spiritual growth and that comes from intimate times of worship with Him, it is the heart of worship. For the father is seeking those with that kind of heart to worship Him.

New Testament Worship Part 1

Chapter 6 Staying In Christ

So the very practical question arises, how do we remain in that place of fellowship with Him so as to attain to the fullness of what God would have for us? We will here try to uncomplicate this process, for I know from whence I came and how difficult it is to reach that place. Not that I have obtained it as Paul says but clearly there are guidelines to follow to help us remain in Him.

Let us look at the definition of eternal life for some starting point on this subject. John 17:3 says this;

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou sent.”

The word *know* here is the Greek word *Ginosko*, and it means; a deep intimate knowledge that can only come through a cultivated relationship. First of all we see that this relationship that we desire to keep alive must be cultivated. That will take some time and effort on our part.

I recall in the earlier years of the ministry that one of the worship team members came to me and asked me to help them become a worship leader. I explained to this person; I can teach you the chords, and I can teach you the practical aspects of the ministry, but if you want to know how to hear His voice, that is something that needs to be cultivated between you and God, I can't help you acquire that ability.

Yet there are some general guidelines we can use from a practical aspect that can help us. One basic principle that I learned early on was that if I was going to help people enter into the presence of God, I was going to have to go there

myself and I was going to have to do it often. You can't be a guide if you don't know how to reach the destination that you are bringing them to.

The second was equally as simple; you can't be trusted to follow the **voice of God** if you can't carry out **the written principles** that he brings before you in His word. 1John 2:3 says;

“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.”

And again in 1John 3:21;

“Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.”

According to this it says we need to be in touch with our own heart, something I went over in a previous chapter. Once we know the word in our hearts we need to follow it so that our hearts do not condemn us and we feel confident to stand before Him.

Yet the best way to stay in fellowship with him is to desire it, always have it at the forefront of your mind. The following is a quote from the amplified bible that shows that desire in the heart of the apostle Paul. It is taken from Philippians 3:7-10. I quoted it almost in it's entirety because it has such a superb description of the heartfelt desire that the apostle had. Notice how nothing else, including his ministry got in the way of his desire to know and be with Jesus.

But whatever things I had that I might have been gains to me, I have come to consider as (one combined) loss for Christ's sake.

Yes, furthermore, I count everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege (the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and supreme advantage):

I must interject here because Paul is about to give the answer to his quest, the ultimate goal of his seeking, the final sum of everything that he is after. Let us not miss this because this is what we are all looking for .

of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord and of progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him [of perceiving and recognizing and understanding Him more fully and clearly].

Progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, understanding Him more clearly? Wow what a quest. That seems to be a message that has been buried underneath a lot of other stuff of less importance in this day and age. For every time Jesus spoke of obtaining heaven He related it to knowing Him or His father. Lets see what level of importance Paul puts on this quest of his?

For His sake I have lost everything and consider it all to be mere rubbish (refuse, dregs), in order that I may win (gain) Christ (the Anointed one), and that I may [actually] be found and known as in Him, not having any [self-achieved] righteousness that can be called my own, based on my obedience to the law's demands (ritualistic uprightness and supposed right standing with God thus acquired),

Wait you mean there is a ritualistic uprightness and supposed right standing with God. If I can be fooled into thinking that I have this, then what am I looking for? Lets read on.

but possessing that (genuine righteousness) which comes through faith in Christ (the Anointed one), the [truly] right

standing with God, which comes from God by [saving] faith.

There it is that genuine righteousness which comes through faith in Christ. That is what we are looking for. So in what way did Paul assure himself and his hearers of obtaining this righteousness? Let us see where he put his efforts.

[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His person more strongly and more clearly],.

That sounds like a man that is after God, it's no wonder the man wrote two thirds of the New Testament. His main desire was to know Jesus. Sometimes that gets lost in our quest for ministry or our personal goals or even our need to provide for our families.

So how do we stay in that place with Him? We pursue Him with all our heart and soul. James 4:8 says if we draw near to Him He will draw near to us. You see it's Him we are after, it is Him that we should be striving to know better. I heard a good math equation once that has helped me keep my God given ministry on track and my eyes on Jesus and not get side tracked with other things that seem right and it goes like this;

Jesus + anything doesn't = Jesus anymore

You see once you have Jesus, if you begin to add anything; program, work, ministry, goal however good it may be, you can as Paul said; "try to finish in the flesh what you began in the Spirit". And it becomes so easy to put our efforts

into other things and make our relationship with Him not as important.

You see it's all about our hunger level for Him and for Him alone for God is seeking such to worship Him.

New Testament Worship Part 2

CHAPTER 7 WORSHIP AND THE SOUL

As we begin this chapter we start the second part of this work which will focus on a more detailed look at the worship experience.

The human spirit, soul and body have within them many fascinating details, details which God himself has built into them. Many of them are beyond the realm of the natural eye and yet play a huge part in our walk through this life.

The bible states that we are a tripartite being, meaning that we are made of three parts, spirit, soul and body. We are a spirit, we have a soul and we live in a body.

As we shall soon see one of the most important parts of the human creation of spirit, soul and body would have to be the soul. For God clearly spells out its value when he says

“ For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul ” (Math 16:26).

It is clear from this scripture that your soul is worth more than the entire world and all its contents. I would call that pretty valuable. Please note that satan spends your entire life time trying to get your soul to hell. Also note the price God paid in order to offer your soul access to Heaven.

Soul is the Greek word *psuche* and means the seat of your mind, will and emotions. We will now see what a major part these aspects of your human make up play in the life style of worship we are called to live.

In the 8th Psalm the psalmist writes these words which Jesus quotes in the 21st chapter of Mathew and the 16th verse:

“out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast ordained praise (or strength KJ) because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.”

In Mathew Jesus used the words thou hast “*perfected praise*”.

So how does praise out of a child like heart still or paralyze the enemy? Let’s take a closer look.

The three aspects of the soul all come into play as we actively worship God.

Have you ever noticed how music actually speaks to you without the use of words? Music can make you happy or sad or can even motivate you. That means that somehow the music communicated something to you. Music is the language of the soul. It can speak without the use of words. It moves your emotions.

Words on the other hand captivate your mind. God uses His word to renew your mind. So we see two parts of the soul that are being engaged as we worship God, the mind and the emotions. The only part left I call one of the most powerful forces ever created, the WILL.

The will is the part of you that no one and I mean no one has control of accept you. God has given you free will. That means you can look at the creator of the universe and say “take a hike” if you so desire. It also means satan can not make you do anything either, you must use your will and decide to do it.

So here is the daily struggle of the soul we all fight with. Satan wants you to follow him and his ways so he tries to get you to decide (with your will) to follow him, weather consciously or unconsciously. He knows he can’t make you

so he tries to lure you through your thoughts (your mind) and your emotions, your feelings i.e. happy, sad, angry, bitter ect.

God also with his love is wooing you to come to Him. During worship your **thoughts of the mind** are on God, your **emotional desire** is for Him and you have decided with your **will** to worship Him. Your mind and emotions are on God and that means that satan has no way of tempting you, he is paralyzed or stilled if you will. The avenues that satan uses to sway you toward his ways ie the mind and emotions are redirected and he has no access to your soul. Because you have decided to worship God satan has no way in, you have stopped him cold in his tracks,

Notice when Jesus was tempted by satan in the desert that the last thing he said was

*“ you shall **worship** the Lord your God and Him alone shalt thou **worship** ”* (Math 4:10).

And it says after that satan left him. It was after his acknowledgement of worship of the father that satan fled. The word says that

“he will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is stayed on thee.” (Is 26:3)

In Romans 8:6 it says

*“ to be carnally **minded** is death; but to be spiritually **minded** is life and peace.”*

Do you see the power in the worship of God? That is why He commands you to worship the Lord thy God with your **whole heart and soul and mind** and Him alone shalt thou worship.

We live in a day where the devil is contesting for your thoughts all day, every day. He tries to swing our wills

towards unbelief, doubt or any other avenue that will distract our minds and hearts from being fixed on Him. It is obvious that God is raising up an army of new testament worshipers that are fixed on Him and willing to pay the price no matter what the cost to walk with God, even if it goes against the religious establishment that permeates our culture. For God is seeking such to worship Him.

New Testament Worship Part 2

CHAPTER 8 ZION

We shall begin this portion of the work from the destination we are seeking and work our way back since that is the way most of us experience it. In our quest for the true New Testament worship experience there is a place, well I call it a place but it is not a place in the physical sense of the word, but a spiritual one, that defies all natural explanations.

We are about to address the spiritual journey so to speak of the worship experience. Just as we can clearly tell that we are in the presence of God at times and at other times are not, it is obvious that something beyond the realm of the natural is occurring. Although He never leaves us nor forsakes us and He is everywhere all the time, there is a certain aspect of His presence that we experience when we are engaged in the worship of Him that has a marked difference from the others. This is the aspect of His presence that we are addressing here.

Let me ask a few basic questions so we can throw ourselves out of the realm of the natural and begin to focus on the supernatural.

- 1) The bible clearly states that **we are** seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. **Well are we** seated in heavenly places or are we here reading this work right now?
- 2) The bible also says that before we accepted Christ that we were dead in our sins and trespasses. Were we really dead when we received Him or alive? If we were dead then how did we receive Him?

- 3) Gods' word declares that in the spirit there is neither male nor female, bond nor free, Jew nor Greek. Am I a male after I receive Christ or not?

These questions sound some what ridiculous but they make us realize that there is another realm that the bible talks about that is not of this world, regardless of what our natural surroundings tell us. So with this supernatural realm in mind let us look at the worship experience from the inside out, so to speak.

We will start from one of the most basic of praise and worship scriptures and apply this supernatural aspect.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving. Enter into His courts with praise (PS 100: 4).

A very familiar scripture about the presence of God, but let us look at some basic truths that can not be denied here, regardless of how they might rock our theology. Let us look at the same scripture but with the emphasis on where we are when we experience His presence.

*Enter into **His gates** with thanksgiving. Enter into **His courts** with praise.*

The scripture clearly teaches us that when we enter into that presence of God, we go through **His gates** and enter into **His courts**. Now if I were to come over to your home to be with you would you be coming to my house or would I be in yours? Obviously I would be at yours. Then why do we think that God comes to our services and shows up at our meetings? The fact is that he doesn't come to our parties but He does invite us to His. This kind of takes the pride out of our services that God showed up at my place, did he show up at yours? The bible teaches that He has given us access to the throne of God. Giving us access means that He allows us to **come to Him**, where He is.

In Old Testament times the people of Israel would sing songs as they walked up the mountain of the Lord to be in His presence. These songs are found in the book of Psalms 120-134, and are called the songs of ascents, meaning the songs that were sung as they ascended the mountain of the Lord.

This is a very good type or shadow of what Jesus has done for us by giving us access to the throne of God. We can come boldly to the throne room of his grace at anytime from any place, weather we are at a church service or not. For Paul and Syllas it was a prison cell not a church. We have access to **His throne room**.

The danger that we need to watch out for is, if we raise our hands or sing real good, or dance just right, or pick the perfect song list, God will show up in our church. The priests of baal used to do things to try and get their god to show up like, cut themselves or chant the right prayers ect. We can not do things to make God show up, but we can however enter into **His gates** with thanksgiving and **His courts** with praise.

In Psalm 132:13,14 it is stated:

*“For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for His dwelling place;
This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.”*

God dwells in Zion, forever, it is His resting place. Where is Zion? To be honest it doesn't really matter that much. The point is that God is somewhere in the heavenly realm and He has given us access to that place, let's call it Zion. He desires that we commune with Him. When we leave the confines of the natural and shut out the ties of the earthly realm that hold us down, we can experience being in His presence. This is why, as stated in the last chapter, when our mind and emotions are turned towards God we cut off the distractions of the enemy that keep us from experiencing the place where God would have us to be.

If in the middle of the worship experience something in the natural realm happened like the fire alarm going off or something falling and making a loud noise occurred, what would happen? You would leave the spiritual realm and again begin to focus on the natural surroundings demanding your attention. ***The essence of being in His presence is your hearts location.*** That is what the presence of God is all about. We have access at all times yet we only tap into it on certain occasions. But it is clear that God is starting to move on His people and draw them to himself and we are less and less relying on our natural surroundings and more and more learning to trust in the Lord and stay in His presence. For the Lord is seeking such to worship Him.

NEW TESTAMENT WORSHIP PART 2

CHAPTER 9 LAW VS. GRACE

This is the ultimate battle for true worship, the supreme foe that we must face and it is best known as RELIGION, or LAW, mans attempt to reach God by his works. We will concentrate on the subject of worship here but the principle is equally as crucial in every other aspect of your Christian walk. It is what Jesus came to confront in Gods' people. It is what John the Baptist came to prepare the people to receive from Jesus, relationship rather than religion.

Think of it, the whole nation of Israel was following the Jewish religion when Jesus came. Pretty impressive to get the whole nation to follow the laws of God, yet Jesus didn't think it was very impressive. Also note that when Jesus started His ministry it says in Luke's gospel chapter 4 verse 16, that Jesus was in the temple when he delivered his famous words from Isaiah:

“ The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”.

Jesus was in church talking to church people when he talked about being poor, brokenhearted, captive, blind and oppressed.

When religion prospers those are the earmarks of the people who are caught in that type of system. You can see it all around the world, where ever there is a religious system that the people have embraced you will find they are poor, brokenhearted, in religious bondage, blind and oppressed. Also note that these terms have a

spiritual connotation to them. In the book of Revelation the 3rd chapter Jesus is addressing the Laodicean church and they think they are rich and in need of nothing. Meaning they have by natural standards a good, prosperous, healthy church. Yet Jesus says they are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. It is clear that what you see on the outside may not be the spiritual reality.

Herein is the crux of New Testament worship, you can worship Him with your mouth, with all the right songs and all the right actions and yet have your heart far from Him. It can sound excellent, look excellent and have scripture to back it up yet miss the mark by a mile. Wow that is scary.

There was always meant to be a certain fear of the Lord involved in our daily walk. For we must all work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. We need to again learn to humbly follow Him and seek to hear His voice and follow what he would have for us to do and not give our responsibility to follow Him over to someone else like the children of Israel did. *“Moses you go talk to Him and find out what he wants us to do and then come tell us so we can do it and then get back to our lives and never have to meet with Him or talk to Him”*.

Worship is personal, one on one with God. Not to be shrouded in a service time and made to be like a ritual, that when once completed it gives you a sense that you are ok for awhile, when in reality you are no better off then when you started and sometimes worse.

Gods' people are at a cross road in this area. Can we once again get back to the place where God is everything in our lives? Or more likely, will we heed the call of God when He reaches out to a generation on the brink of rewriting the idea of God in our lives? We have some how watered down the gospel to the point where it has become almost powerless in our lives. The saints of past generations did mighty works for God. People were healed by the shadows of the apostles. Saints would gather and pray until the buildings shook with the power of God, and men would rip off the roof to get to God.

It is interesting to note that Jesus came at a time in history when religion had sapped Gods' people to the point where they were powerless. Gods' word says when the appointed time had come the Messiah came to earth. It seems that once again the time is right for Jesus to show up. I don't mean a church movement but Jesus himself speaking to his people. That happens during true worship.

True worshipers are emerging everywhere, they are not at the top of the spiritual circuit usually but they are out there doing the works of Jesus. Helping the down trodden, feeding the hungry, helping Gods' people to follow Him and not taking them for themselves. They're the ones that are truly touching lives and allowing people to walk with Jesus and hear His voice. It's a ground swell of loyal, humble worshipers. They are in every nation, every denomination, and they are not bound by their titles. Because they walk in His presence they are not moved by false doctrines, false teachers, numbers, riches or any other thing that might cause them to loose their focus. Their only quest is to know Him and be with Him. It is their joy, their desire and the driving force that causes them to fulfill Gods' plan in their lives. That is what He is looking for, He is seeking such to worship Him.

New Testament Worship Part 2

Chapter 10 The Battle is The Lords'

God has always used the foolish things of this world to confound the wise. He delights in the fact that he can take something that by our standards is insignificant and use it to change the entire world.

He did it with Moses and Abraham and Gideon and Joshua and the list goes on and on. As you begin to look at the big picture you can see the awesome power He has displayed and how it affected the kingdoms of this world. Regardless of the path that man has tried to follow just the very presence of Jesus on the earth has changed the course of mankind even if we didn't want it to. As much as the devil has infiltrated mankind and tried to stop Gods plan, it has been the mere presence of Jesus and his followers that has steered the course of the world.

\ When the children of Israel showed up at the banks of the promise land it was not a coincidence that there were giants occupying the land. The devil knew full well that God had promised this land to His people, that is why the devil had it occupied with the biggest scariest looking bunch he could find.

As you look at the big picture it is clear that this battle that is going on in this world is between God and the devil. When satan stole the world back from Gods created beings back in the garden it was war. And as He so often does God used the very thing that the devil tried to hurt God with as the weapon to defeat him. That was us. That is why it says in the book of Ephesians 3:10 that

“ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known **by the church** to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,”

Those principalities and powers are demonic forces. God has made it known **through us** how awesome he is.

We must stay in a humble position so as to rely on God to defeat the enemy. It is His battle, it is His war. When we are weak He is strong.

The Battle of the Ages

The devil has tried throughout history to stop Gods' plan for mankind.

Jesus was to be born of Jewish decent, that is why the devil tried to destroy them (the Jewish nation). Jesus had to be born of the flesh, that is why Herod tried to kill all the babies born in Bethlehem, to stop Gods' plan for mankind. Gods' people were promised the land of Israel, that is why there were giants there to stop them from entering.

The Jewish nation had to be established for a final time so that the final culmination of the prophecies of Israel could be fulfilled. That is why Hitler tried to destroy all the Jews so that Gods' plan could not be completed. But the very thing that satan tried to do to wipe out the Jewish nation was the thing that ended up establishing them again as a nation in their homeland in preparation for the end of the ages. You see the battle truly is the Lords.

As the end of the age comes to the forefront God needs his people to be available for the final assault that is about to take place. Worship plays a most major key role in that final quest.

Worships' Role

We must be humble (acquired through worship). We must be able to hear His voice (acquired through worship). We must be able to act with His power (acquired through worship). We must be able to stand against the world and its lusts (acquired through worship). **WE MUST BE AVAILABLE TO HIM.**

We as the church have the most awesome assignment handed to us, one that the prophets of old could only dream of, a chapter taken out of the best book, in the most exciting part of the book and handed to us to live out. People from many ages past have read

of the times we now live in and marveled at the awesome things that are taking place right now in these times.

Yet with this great time in which we live comes a host of challenges that confront us and fight for control of our lives so that we drift from our God given destinies and become weak and powerless.

We live in an age of marvel, an age where technology can take you anywhere you want to go, even if that place doesn't exist you can create it, a time that so captivates your senses it literally leaves nothing to the imagination. It possesses great power to distract us from seeking Him, for there is always something more exciting to do. God is clearly calling us to lay down the things that so easily distract us and once again come to a place of total dependency on Him. We can not serve two masters, we must worship the Lord with all o heart, soul and mind, For God is seeking such.

New Testament Worship Part 2

CHAPTER 11 POWERLESS

We now enter the final stages of where we are, how we got there and how to get back. The first thing we must recognize is the state that most Christians are in at this point in time. Jesus stated that we could recognize his people by a couple of different ways, one being by their fruit. That does not mean by how many people know that Jesus is the Christ, for even demons admitted that Jesus was the Christ when they said “ for we know that you are the Christ” and “ have you come to torture us before our time”? It is apparent by this passage that they knew that he was the Christ yet it didn’t change their status as far as heaven was concerned. He also said you will know us by the love that we have one for another, something I touched on earlier. So it seems evident that we clearly lack the evidence that we operate in the supernatural power from God that changes the world around us as many other generations have in the past. We seem to walk in a form of believing and knowing yet lack the evidence that would separate us from the world. As I stated in the last chapter, we live in a world that has assaulted our senses and rendered us almost uninterested in the power of the almighty one that dwells inside of us. For lack of a better term we seem to enjoy ourselves a lot more than the things of God.

In 1 Timothy chapter 3 it spells out an attitude that will prevail in the last days. A time in which I am sure that we are clearly living in right now. It states:

“ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men will be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

Traitors, heady, high minded, **LOVERS OF PLEASURE MORE THAN LOVERS OF GOD;**

**HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS BUT DENYING THE POWER THEREOF;
FROM SUCH TURN AWAY.**

Paul was writing to Timothy here warning him of false teachers and doctrines that would creep into the church in the last days. Lets look a little deeper at these characteristics of this last days apostasy.

Note many of these words in the original are found only in these verses.

- 1) Lovers of themselves: (v2) from the Greek *philautos*, fond of oneself, selfish. Only here is this word found
- 2) Covetous: (v2) from the Greek *philarguros*, fond of money. Only here and Lk 16:14 is this word found.
- 3) Boasters: (v2) from the Greek *alazon*, braggarts, self-exalted. Here and Rom. 1:30.
- 4) Proud: (v2) from the Greek *huperephanos*, to indulge in pride or self-gratulation; be exalted; elated; glory in self; display or strut self before others; undue sense of superiority; unnatural self-esteem; arrogance; wishing all men to receive their sayings as oracles. Here and Rom. 1:30, Lk. 1:51, Jas. 4:6, 1Pet. 5:5.
- 5) Blasphemers: (v2) from the Greek *blasphemia*, an insulting remark or curse, even attributing to satan the works of the Holy Spirit. It is unforgivable if it is done maliciously and knowingly.
- 6) Disobedient to parents: (v2) Head-strong children.

- 7) Unthankful: (v2) from the Greek *acharistos*, ungrateful, found only here and Lk. 6:35.
- 8) Unholy: (v2) from the Greek *anosios*, without piety; no reverence.
- 9) Without natural affection: (v3) living in unnatural affection sins; perverts; homosexuals; sodomites.
- 10) Trucebreakers : (v3) from the Greek *asunthetos*, not morally bound to any agreement; not dependable; treacherous to covenants; faithless to promises; false to trusts.
- 11) False accusers: (v3) from the Greek *diabolos*, slanderer; accuser; adversary.
- 12) Incontinent: (v3) from the Greek *akrates*, no control of appetites and passions. Only found here.
- 13) Fierce: (v3) from the Greek *anemeros*, wild; savage; uncivilized. Only found here.
- 14) Despisers of good men: (v3) from the Greek *aphilagathos*, unfriendly to good men. Only found here.
- 15) Traitors: (v4) from the Greek *prodotes*, betrayers; only found here and Lk. 6:16, Acts 7:52.
- 16) Heady: (v4) from the Greek *propeteis*, rash; hasty; reckless; headstrong. Only here and Acts 19:36.
- 17) Highminded: (v4) from the Greek *tuphoo*, senseless; conceited; silly.
- 18) Lovers of pleasure (v4) Sensual gratification is their god.
- 19) Having: a form of godliness: (v5) from the Greek *morphosis*, a semblence; sketch; form. Only here and Rom.2:20. Their religion is only in their creed and formal confession of faith, not in their hearts.
- 20) Denying the power of godliness: (v5) Destitute of godliness, having no faith that one can be godly in this life.

These are the traits of a church in a state of apostasy. As you can see it strips you of power to the point that you don't even

believe that you can live a godly life. These traits don't come upon you overnight, it takes years of complacency and wrong unchecked teaching to render a church in this state. I fear my generation has played a big part in allowing ourselves to get into this place. Through doctrines unchecked and teachings that bring men to themselves but not to the God of our fathers and a way of life that so much indulges in the delicacies obtained by following the principles of God that we have left the God who made the principals. As is says in the book of Revelation chapter 3 verse 17 of the Laodicean church, they thought they were in need of nothing. They thought they were rich and increased with goods and in reality Jesus said they were wretched and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.

Imagine thinking your at the top of your game when you are really at the bottom and almost out of the game. Yet Jesus clearly says if we repent we can get back to that place of fellowship with Him.

I am seeing that attitude begin once again to emerge in the body of Christ. Worshipers are beginning to heed the call and come back to that one on one that was lost years ago. They have learned a great lesson at a great cost and they are once again heeding the call back to God for He is seeking such to worship Him.

New Testament Worship Part 2

Chapter 12 **The Call**

The final hour is upon us and the call has gone out to all those who have an ear to hear. We can not shrink back into a world of comfort or bring new converts into a Christianity devoid of substance and power. Just by virtue of the fact that we are here in this time is evidence enough that we are called to a time of great importance, to a place in history that no one could have scripted except God Almighty. Yet we still have been given free will, the greatest power on earth right now. Do you realize that you can capture Heaven or Hell just by an act of your free will? You can decide to fill your life with things that will hurt you and others or things that will help you and others, it's all there for the taking, God has given us that power and he won't intrude on it even if we decide to walk away from Him and serve ourselves.

Yet the call still goes out to a people being bombarded by all kinds of evil in every conceivable shape and form designed to pull us away from Him. It's in the music and the movies we watch, it's on the TV and the radio, it covers the books and the magazines filled with lies and deceit, sex and immorality, lust for power and money, yet we can decide to turn to God in the midst of a perverse generation and begin once again to call on the name of Jesus, to walk humbly before Him and live godly before an evil generation.

Lessons from The Past

Has history taught us anything? Three times the Jewish nation has been blessed by God. A God who has defeated their enemies and provided for their every need in abundance and in the midst of their prosperity they have forsaken the God that has given

it to them. The god who uses mercy and grace to draw men to himself has been abandoned more times than not by those who have received the blessing. Do we think that we are any better than those Old Testament believers who thought that God was always going to be on their side no matter what they did? Is mankind really any different from one generation to the next? The bible says that these things were written for our example. So that we could look and see how mankind acts in the midst of certain situations, hopefully giving us the tools to avoid such mistakes when the same situation comes upon us. Can we put such warnings to good use? God seems to think we can or they would not have been given.

So the call goes out to this generation and it is clear that we can walk in a closeness with God that makes the world seem pale in comparison. Which brings us to the crux of the matter, for it is here in this place of fellowship with God that the New Testament worshiper is called to, where the world is powerless to penetrate. A place where we have no desire for the things of this world, they don't motivate us or cause us to make decisions that would pull us away from our God or our god given purpose, a place where we have no fear of men neither those with big titles or those without. And because we walk with our God, we give with purpose of our time, money and belongings' expecting nothing in return, for our heart is to bless, not to be blessed. Worship to us is not a song singing service but a humble heart attitude that shapes our lives and dominates our thoughts so as to affect all those around us. Not only is this place attainable but it is a place that is moving to the forefront of the New Testament believers experience in this day. Worship experiences in the church world have taken on a much more personal aspect to them. God is speaking directly to his people. For his sheep hear HIS voice. And those who are led by the Spirit of God are called the sons of God.

If you have a relationship with God I am sure you sense a personal tug to come closer. As I travel I find that it is everywhere. People are hungry for Him like never before. Worship services like they used to be don't satisfy us anymore because people have a

deeper one on one with Him and they are experiencing Him in a deeper way, so business as usual leaves them unfulfilled.

We must continue to climb that Holy Mountain of God to the place of His presence. That is the only way that we can be with Him, to hear His voice and heed His call. The call goes out to come again to His throne of grace and walk in the power that he so graciously gives to all those that truly desire to fulfill His purpose, for he is seeking such to worship Him.

New Testament Worship Part 2

PURE WORSHIP CHAPTER 13

The true meaning of worship has been shrouded in religion, church, music and a host of other movements that have really kept it's purest meaning hidden from the common believer. When you recognize what worship is in it's purest form you will begin to see the fullness of what a New Testament worshiper really is.

The Greek word for worship is *proskuneo*, which literally means to kiss. This denotes a closeness that is shrouded in trust and honor, a face to face experience. This is a place of togetherness with God that defies place, time or circumstance. That is the reason the women at the well was told by Jesus that the time has come for worship to be done not only on this mountain but in spirit and in truth, everywhere and anywhere the worshiper would go.

Real Worship

You see worship in it's purest form is an attitude of the heart, Not for a service time, (hate to burst your bubble worship leaders). It is for all those who have a heart after God. It is now becoming a must for His people. It is our way of life. For the just shall LIVE BY FAITH. That means total trust and in constant communion with Him.

Ever since we left fellowship with God in the garden he has been courting us so to speak. Wanting to fellowship with us and talk with us. If we had just followed his rules as in the Old Testament it would not have drawn us into communion with him as he desires. That is the difference between Old Testament ritualistic worship and New Testament worship.

New Testament Worship is a face to face reverence yet fellowship at the same time. It's communion with another being as

friends do. I quoted in the beginning of the book a scripture from the book of Revelation that states;

“ Behold the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them.” (Rev 21:3)

You see he has always wanted to be with you from the beginning. He sent his son to prove that. And now since he has opened the door for us to enter His presence, he is calling us closer and closer to Himself. You see each new era or move of God in the past so to speak has opened the door for us to come closer. In each new move we have had to learn not camp out on one truth but to see the big picture, that God has always wanted to know you and always wanted for you to know him. Not just to look for a better way, Not just know of him but actually know him for you see like it says in the end of the book he will dwell among us, that is we will hang out together. That is what all of these centuries of struggle have been for. So that in the end, of our own free will we will hang out together and enjoy one another.

As New Testament worshipers we have the privilege of enjoying that experience here on earth. As we do it will change the face of how the nations perceive God and will open the door for millions of people to finally get a real assessment of this God who has been reaching out to them since the day they were born for you see it is people just like you and me that he is seeking to worship Him.

New Testament Worship Part 2

Chapter 14 **Conclusion**

We have been for years trying to figure out this God that has revealed himself to us and even out of good motives we have tried to market the gospel in a more attractive way and in some ways we have had as some might say a degree of success. Yet in all of our toiling I fear we have tried to finish in the flesh what was started in the Spirit and that is the place where we have arrived at today.

Yet many are awakening to the Spirit in a new way and it has been brewing in their hearts for a long time. People are bursting with renewed desire to be with God. They don't want to hear the same old thing about who he is they want to talk to Him and he is answering and for many it is refreshing. All these things they were told about Him can actually be experienced in a new way. It is like being taught about baseball from every angle, this is the bat, this is the ball and this is how the players are suppose to play. But finally you actually get in the game and it is so exciting to actually experience this thing that you have been taught about for all these years.

God wants his people to walk with Him. Not walk like Him but actually walk with Him. That is the thing that will separate us from the world. We don't want to indulge in the things of this world, we are in communion with the God of the universe and there is nothing in this earth that can compare. Why do you want to spend time praying rather than something else? It's simple, because it's better. Why do you want to spend time in worship rather than something else? It's simple, because it's better.

The conclusion of the matter is this:

The ultimate experience is to worship the Lord with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind, for he is seeking such to worship Him.

My prayer is that you experience the fullness of a personal walk with Him that changes you and all those around you.

In the service of the King,
Mark Krysiuk