

Worship is Warfare

By Pamela Christian

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God.” This quote from William Temple is inspiring and truly helps us gain perspective of the enormity of worship.

We read in Ephesians 6:10-18 about the need to put on the whole armor of God in order that we are protected and have the weapons we need to war against the enemy of God. However, this one passage is not exhaustive—there are other weapons that help us attain spiritual victories—worship is one.

Worship is offered in many ways: praise, thanksgiving, adoration, meditation, study of Scripture, and more. Worship is expressed in many different ways, singing, shouting, prayer, applause, music, dance, art and more. Worship is demonstrated in many ways, kneeling, bowing, laying prostrate, raising hands and more.

The fruit of our worshiping God, connecting with God, elevating Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, is vast. We are transformed as we draw nearer to God and the enemy of God is reduced and restricted the more we praise God.

There are certain steps we can take to become better in the practice of worship. Pray that Christians everywhere begin to embrace worship of the Lord in greater measure, especially in these difficult days. Here are some steps we can follow:

1. First we need to practice the presence of God, which is to look for God in all matters and circumstances. Instead of noticing the work of the enemy concentrate on the workings of God.
2. Second, we should utilize many different opportunities of worship, when we are alone, when in church, when in small groups. We can worship God anytime and anywhere.

3. Third, we should find ways to truly prepare for worship, deliberately focusing our hearts and minds on Christ, intentionally putting the cares of the world aside. Arrive early to the place of worship to calm your heart and center your mind.
4. Fourth, approach worship with a willingness to experience the power of the Lord. Literally express your welcome of the Holy Spirit, invite Him to make His presence known.
5. Fifth, we need to cultivate a holy dependency, recognize and intentionally be wholly surrendered to God and dependent on God. We should concentrate on the realities that only in Him can we move, and live and have our being.
6. Sixth, absorb distractions with gratitude. Instead of being annoyed, learn to conquer the disruption maintaining the spirit of worship. Distractions are intended by the enemy of God to interrupt our worship of God. Don't let the enemy have the victory.
7. Seventh, learn to offer a sacrifice of worship which is to worship when you don't feel like it. When we have just experienced a major blow, and worship is not our first natural response, deliberately choose to respond with your spirit and worship the Lord, confident He will give you the victory.

Sing to the LORD, All the Earth
1 Chronicles 16:23–36, BSB

1Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. 2Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim His salvation day after day. 3Declare His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all peoples. 4For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. 5For all the gods of the nations are idols, but it is the LORD who made the heavens. 6Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty fill His sanctuary. 7Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 8Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering and enter His courts. 9Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth. 10Declare among the nations: "The LORD reigns!" The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity. 11Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea resound, and all that fills it. 12Let the fields exult, and all that is in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy 13before the LORD, for He is coming— He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His faithfulness.