

The Role of Worship in the Healing Ministry

Worship is an integral aspect of the Healing Ministry. Throughout the scriptures we can see it used to bring the healing presence of God into the midst of a situation. To understand how effective worship can be in the healing process, we must first get a better understanding of what worship really is.

Worship and Praise must be the Believer's top priority. It must be a priority for those that are seeking healing in their lives, as well.

Worship is simply an attitude of the believer's heart. The attitude of the person's heart must be that God is who He says He is (Hebrews 11:6). The attitude of the believer's heart must be that of believing that God is who He says He is and that He can do what He says He can do. It is also making a conscious decision in acknowledging and allowing Him to be the absolute and final authority within their heart.

Below are brief definitions of the term "worship," as found in the scriptures, for our discussion.

- Hebrew - "shachaw" - *To lay down prostrate, in homage, to a deity, someone or something; to bow down to a deity or a person or thing that is held in the highest regard.*
- Greek - "proskuneo" - *To turn towards in acknowledgement of a deity, person or thing for the purpose of paying homage to or giving reverence and respect to the deity. It means to adore, to "kiss towards," a deity or a person or thing that is held in the highest regard. It means to lay down prostrate and bow down to a deity, someone or something. It means to "draw near to" one that you desire to be with. Figuratively speaking - "Like a dog licking its Master's hand."*

Worship is an "attitude of the heart" directed towards an audience of one. True worship is a lifestyle lived out by the worshipper, not because he/she is forced but rather because he/she desires to worship. The worshipper recognizes who God is and the love that God has given to them. Therefore, we gladly express ourselves to Him through the actions and lifestyle of worship.

Worshipping, as in our definition, acknowledges the object of our worship – God, Yahweh Adonai - as the supreme authority in our life. The term "lord" defined means to be the absolute, supreme and final authority within a person's life - the supreme commander.

Let's look at the following scriptures.

- Psalm 136:3 - *God is the Lord of all lords that are in this earth.*
- Revelations 17:14 and 19:16 - *Jesus is Lord over all lords.*

Notice when referring to God or Jesus in the above scriptures, the writers capitalize the letter "L" the word "Lord" signifying the preeminence of God over any and every other leader. You cannot truly worship God unless He is your Lord - your absolute, supreme and final authority within your life. Romans 10:9, 10 is very clear in describing how Jesus becomes a person's personal Lord and Savior.

- *By confessing with your mouth and believing in your heart that Jesus is who He says He is - Savior and Lord of all*

Our first priority as a people of God is to worship Him. It is an expression of our love for Him. It is why we exist. Our commitment to a lifestyle of relationship with God flows from out of our worship. Our worship, therefore, must be open and honest. It must be our most truthful place with God.

We all know the scripture found in John 4:24 - *“God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.”* But what does this really mean. To worship “in spirit,” refers to being born again which means that our spirit is renewed and we are made “alive to God through Christ” (Romans 6:11 - *“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord”*). We now have the ability to communicate and worship God - spirit to Spirit.

To worship “in truth” actually infers that we are to worship in “true reality.” What this means is, simply put, that we are to be real and honest before Him. What I mean by this is that when we are in the presence of a Holy God, who knows all, we are not to put up a phony façade and pretense. No, we are to be real and up front. Concerning our discussion about worship and healing, this would mean that when we approach Him, spirit to spirit, we do so because we now have a right, through Jesus, to come to His throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). As I mentioned previously, we are also to be real. If we are struggling and going through illness and health issues and we are “feeling,” yes, I said “feeling,” (Ooh a bad word to many Christians!!) we are to come before God and be real and honest about it. He knows it anyway.

One of the greatest pressures that has been placed Christians, either by ourselves, or by other well meaning Christians, is that we cannot express what we really feel. The lie tells us that if we express or say how we feel, then we are not walking the “faith walk.” There is some truth to that. We are to walk by faith and not by sight (2Corinthians 5:7). We are to see things that are not as though they are (2Corinthians 4:18). However, we have made it so that it becomes a bondage to us. The devil then takes that and places even more guilt and condemnation upon us. We end up, down deep, either resenting God, becoming angry with God and many times just giving up on God. This then causes us to think and have the attitude that if and when we do come before God we cannot really tell Him how I feel because He may get angry with me because I'm not walking in faith. Hogwash!!! He knows what is going on. He is looking for you to be real with Him. That is the essence and at the core of any intimate relationship - truthfulness.

Many times we see in the Psalms that David would start out being super real before God. He would pour out his heart and soul about how he was “feeling.” By the time we get to the middle of the Psalm, David's whole attitude changed. Why? ... because David was real. God allowed him to get all his anxieties and fears out. God is a very good listener. That was and is most of the problem - for David and for us. Those

pent up anxieties and fears that are deep within. But yet David had such an intimate relationship with his God which enabled him to not be afraid of what God thought about him. Instead he trusted God in that he knew his God would be such a good listener. He knew his God would not be judgmental or condemning of the way he was feeling. David worshipped God by being real and honest. In doing this, as we said, the healing began to take place for David. His attitude and countenance changed. The healing process had begun.

The important lesson to be learned by us is that we need to be honest and real before our God. That is part of the healing process. The situation may be dire, however, we can acknowledge the situation as such - it is okay. Look at Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. In their time of trouble, they were real about it. They trusted God no matter how it may have seemed and no matter how it would eventually turn out. Daniel 3:16-18 they in essence told Nebuchadnezzar - "If our God delivers us or if we go into the fiery furnace, we will not bow down to any other god but our God." You see, it is all about worship and who you are "bowing down" to and who you are turning towards and acknowledging. True worship is the loving and worshipping of God for who He is. Not for what you want or for what you get out of it. It is a time of literally, being real and genuine with the Lord. It is a time of being "you" before God. Coming to Him just the way you are

Worship leads us into a time of self-examination. Worship will bring us to times of repentance and the acceptance of forgiveness. It brings forth a realization of the love that God has for us. It is through this intimate relationship with God that we find ourselves able to receive healing and deliverance in a greater way. The above are all vital to the healing process.

Praise" is also an important aspect within the healing ministry. The term, "praise," comes from the Hebrew word, "halal," which means to make God known: to shine forth: to make a show: to be clamorously foolish causing to celebrate - to boast about our God and who He is. The term "praise" is a verb, an action word. Praising God is really the actions that stem from the attitude of our heart of worship.

The word used in Psalm 150: 1-6, for "praise" is "halal" - It means to celebrate who God is. Psalm 150:6 states, "Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord." It is a requirement, a command of God that we praise Him. "Praise" brings us into His courts, to enter into His presence. (Psalm 100:4 - *We can and should enter into God's presence with praise.* Psalm 22:3 - *God dwells in the midst of the praises of His people.*

Praise is an important weapon in spiritual warfare against the forces of darkness. If we read Joshua 6:1-20 concerning the account of the walls of Jericho the whole scenario here depicts how worship and praise can be used to defeat the enemy. The children of Israel obeyed God and marched around Jericho as God had said. This was an act of "worship" through their obedience. It led to the actions of praise, which in this instance was blowing the trumpet and making a "shout" causing the "walls" to fall and throw the enemy into confusion, which brought forth victory for God's people.

In 2Chronicles 5:11-14, we see that when everyone was in one accord praising the Lord together as one, the Lord came in the midst of His people in a powerful way and the enemy was totally defeated.

The quality of our praise and worship is directly related to our "fellowship" with God. The definition of the term, "fellowship," comes from the Greek word, "koinonia." It means to be in partnership with or to participate with someone; to have social interaction and be in unity with someone; to have the ability and legal right to communicate with and be in communication with someone; to share things in common with someone else; to be a companion.

Our first and primary fellowship must be with God. It is only when our relationship with God has been restored through Jesus, that we can then have true fellowship with the Lord. Our fellowship with the Lord is expressed in and through our praise and worship. Only when our fellowship with the Lord is right can our worship and praise be effective and blessed.

- 1John 1:3, 6, 7 - *Our first and primary relationship must be with God and with Jesus. All other relationships will be able to flow from our first relationship with God. Our relationship with others will be healthy if our relationship with God is healthy.*
- James 4:8 - *As we draw near to God He will draw near to us.*

The Use of Music in the Healing Ministry

As with everything else, God was the creator of music. In Genesis 1:1, it simply states that God created the heaven and the earth and we can assume that this also means everything in heaven and earth. The spoken Word of God created all things.

Creation itself is an example of a great, orchestrated symphony. All the galaxies, stars, planets were made in perfect harmony with each other. Everything worked with each other; the planets orbiting around the sun, the solar system around the galaxy. Earth was created in a distinct order and every creature lived in harmony before sin came along and brought discord. Genesis 1:3-28, 31 tells us that everything was created according to God's perfect plan, working in harmony with each other.

The angels formed angelic choirs and the concept of music was seen at the beginning of time. Check out the scriptures below.

- Job 38:7 - *the angels sang at creation*
- Luke 2:13, 14 - *sang at the birth of Jesus*
- Revelation 5:11-12 - *they sing praises of the "Lamb of God"*

Music is a very real part of the heart of God. It entails His character and personality. We see that the idea of music and its make-up is an integral part of God's idea of unity in the Body of Christ concerning the bringing forth of His kingdom.

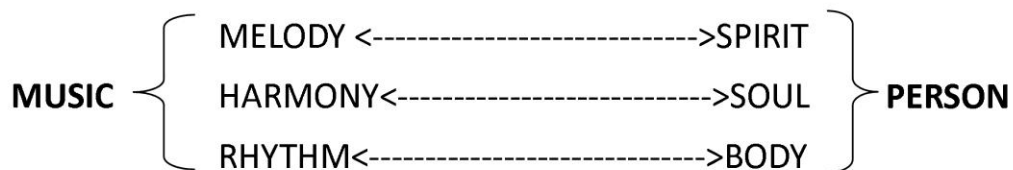
- Matthew 18:19 (Amplified) - *harmony, like a symphony - the Body of Christ is to make a beautiful "Symphonic" sound unto the Lord not just with music but with their united hearts.*
- Acts 2:2 - *When there is one accord, unity, unison, harmony in the Body of Christ, God's power and Kingdom is able to flow.*

PROPER ORDER OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP

- Music is basically made up of three parts – Melody (words or prominent theme), Harmony (accompanist music), and Rhythm (the beat)
- A Person is made up of three parts – Spirit, Soul, and Body (1Thess 5:23)

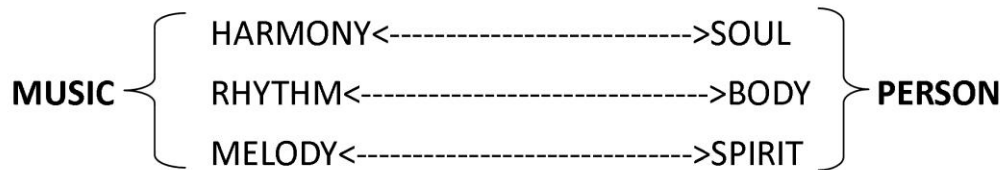
GOD'S DIVINE ORDER OF MUSIC

- The words or the prominent theme are the priority. They are ministering unto God from out of our Born Again Spirit. Worshiping God Spirit to Spirit
- The Harmony and Rhythm is secondary and if not there you would still be able to worship God



SATAN'S PERVERSION OF MUSIC

In this perversion of music, the harmony is made the prominent aspect, overpowering the melody. The “worship” then comes from the soul, and the emotions. A very “soulish” type of worship which is not pleasing to God – Genesis 4:3



SATAN'S PERVERSION OF MUSIC

In this perversion of music, the rhythm is made the prominent aspect, overpowering everything. The “worship” is totally of the “flesh. “ Anything of the “flesh” becomes a terrible stench before the Lord. This is satan’s favorite type of “worship.” It worships him, and him only



The music of worship that is used to bring healing, is the music that is in the order of **God's Divine Order of Music**. Music that ministers to the spirit of both God and the believer as its priority will attract God's presence and it is in God's presence where healing and deliverance abounds.

A Practical Look at Examples of the Power of Worship in Healing and Deliverance

1Samuel 16: 15 – 24 – David and Saul

- In verse 14 we see that an evil spirit had come upon Saul
 - This was a tormenting spirit that came upon Saul
 - As we can see from the remainder of Saul's life that this spirit brought upon him also problems with his mental capacities as well as paranoia, schizophrenia and other debilitating problems.
- Notice that it was Saul's servants who saw that there was a problem with Saul and that they knew the problem was an evil spirit.
 - Saul did not see that he had a problem. He was blinded to it.
 - That is why we all need to have those who we can trust speak into our lives and allow them to tell us what they see when we can not "see the forest through the trees."
 - Often our spiritual condition is far more apparent to others than it is to our selves.
- David, who had just had the Spirit of God come upon him (1Samuel 16:12, 13), was now moving in the power of the Lord.
 - The servants called for a person who would be able to play music that would bring healing to Saul.
 - It is important to make mention here of a few things.
 - ✓ Music in itself is neutral – it is neither bad nor good.
 - ✓ Music can be used for great good or for great evil, because it is such a power tool of communication to our inner being.
 - ✓ It is in the hands and the spirit behind those hands, of the individual who is using the music.
 - Saul needed to be led into worship, so it was important to seek out a man to do the job.
- The evil spirit departed. Then Saul became refreshed and well: God used David to minister to Saul.
- It is important to note that the evil spirit came back to oppress Saul. Through worship the evil spirit departed, however, Saul never replaced the evil spirit with the God's Spirit. Saul also continued on in his disobedience which opened the door to be oppressed even greater. This is why it is importance to not just get the spirit of darkness out of the individual but also to fill that vacancy with the presence of God.

2Kings 3:15 – Elisha

- A little background (2Kings 1-14)
 - In the scriptures leading up to this scripture there were three kings that were going up to fight against Moab.
 - These kings did not seek the counsel of God nor did they seek the counsel of God from his prophet, Elisha. They just went out in their own understanding.
 - Elisha had heard about this.
 - The kings finally decided to seek out the prophet of God only after they could find no water and became desperate.

- By the words spoken by Elisha when the three finally came to him it would appear that the prophet was dealing with some “anger issues.”
 - ✓ “What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother.”
 - ✓ “As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you.
 - ✓ Yes, even great men and women of God can have the same issues as we deal with.
- The Healing Process for Elisha
 - Elisha knew the power of worship and was wise enough to call for a time of worship.
 - When he began to be in the midst of worship the anger departed and the Spirit of the Lord was able to break through upon him.
 - The word of the Lord came to Elisha and he was able to give strategy to the kings and they won a mighty victory.
- This demonstrates the great spiritual power that there is in the “sound” that music brings forth.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

- We are told to enter into acts of worship
 - Sing spiritual songs from out of our spirit with our “spirit language.”
 - Make a melody within our heart
- The connection with being filled with the Spirit and praise is significant. Those who are filled with the Spirit will naturally praise, and praise is a way that we are filled with the Spirit.
- Where the Spirit of the Lord is there will always be liberty and freedom from any darkness that may oppress us. (2Corinthians 3:17)

Acts 16:24 - 26

- Through their worship Paul and Silas were set free from their physical bondage of being in chains and in prison.
- Through the same attitude of worship, how much so can we be free from the bondage of spiritual sickness, disease, illness and other “chains” that we may be bound in.

A Brief Overview of what the Word tells us concerning the Ways of Worshipping Our God

- ❖ To revere with extended hands - Psalm 63:4; 1Timothy 2:8
- ❖ To bow down prostrate before the Lord - Psalm 95:6; Revelations 22:8, 9
- ❖ The giving of thanks to the Lord - 1Chronicles 16:8; Psalm 100:4
- ❖ To testify or make known what God has done - Psalm 89:1; Acts 4:20
- ❖ Clapping hands unto the Lord - Psalm 47:1; Isaiah 55:
- ❖ To sing to the Lord - Psalm 47:6, 7; 1Chronicles 16:9, 23; James 5:13
- ❖ Singing and praising the Lord "in the Spirit" - Psalm 104:33 - The word "praise" used here is tehillah; 1Corinthians 14:15 - *Paul exhorts the believer to sing with or in the spirit.*
- ❖ To "Bless" the Lord - Psalm 103:1, 2; Psalm 135:19, 20
- ❖ To Kneel before God - Psalm 95:6; Ephesians 3:14
- ❖ To "Celebrate" before the Lord - Psalm 22:22; Psalm 150 - The word used here for praise is the term "halal."
- ❖ To make a "joyful noise" unto the Lord - Psalm 98:4, 6; Psalm 100:1
- ❖ To shout praises unto God - Joshua 6:16; Psalm 132:9, 16
- ❖ To "dance" before the Lord - Psalm 149:3; Psalm 150:4
- ❖ Praising the Lord with instruments - Psalm 150; Joshua 6:5,20 - (shofar-ram's horn)

Conclusion

Worship and Praise Must be the Believer's Top Priority. It must be a priority for those that are seeking healing in their lives. Worship is simply an attitude of the believer's heart. The attitude of the person's heart must be that God is who He says He is. If God says that He is Yahweh Raphka, the God that heals you, then that is exactly who He is - the God that will heal you. The attitude of the believer's heart must be that He is also "Lord of all" - the absolute, supreme and final authority within their heart and over every other thing in heaven, earth, and under the earth, including sickness, disease and even death itself. Worship acknowledges the object of our worship – God, Yahweh Adonai - as the supreme authority in our life. We turn towards Him as the very source of our lives. The quality of our worship and the praise that stems from that attitude within our heart is directly related to our "fellowship" with God. Our Worship should be a time of being real and genuine with the Lord. It is a time of being ourselves before God. We can come to Him just the way we are because we know that we are always accepted by Him.

Any music that may be used is, and should be used as a tool in our worship that may be a vehicle to bring God's healing power in the midst of the individual or group. Any music that may be used should be in line with "God's Divine Order of Music." Music that ministers to the spirit of both God and the believer as its priority will attract God's presence and it is in God's presence where healing and deliverance abounds.