

Extravagant Worshipers

How To Shoot Your Own Horse!

Worship has never been a difficult expression for me. For some of you it has been an unusual adventure to say the least. Many contribute my open expression of worship as “being that type of a guy.” What does that mean? If you understand the DISC personality chart I would be considered an I, excitable and expressive. Or if you looked at the simple observations of if I am an introvert or extrovert, that’s why I express myself before the Lord like I do. Others might think that it’s because I came from a Pentecostal/Charismatic background, and you know...that what they do. Others thought understand that my open expression of worship to God is not based upon a personality trait or a certain style of worship, but upon Biblical principles that demand some kind of response. I am not intending on making anyone feel uncomfortable or say you have to act like me to be spiritual. What I am saying is that I am agreeing with the majority of you when I say that worship is a personal expression and experience. But where I might cross the line is where worship has expressions that push us out of our personal boundaries threaten our comfortable culture of worship. I was fortunate to learn early in my childhood the freedom of a **Biblical, outward expression of worship that invites the personal presence of God and generates healing properties in my body, soul and mind.**

Example: Last week I had mentioned that I had the opportunity to speak at the City Jail to about 30 inmates. I had been sick all day long with an unusual headache. It was one of those headaches that you didn’t want to talk or have any noise of any type around you. I knew that I could not cancel on Clyde Jackson, who oversees this ministry, because he had worked so hard to make sure this would work with my calendar.

As I prepared the songs I would be leading I could feel the fever in my body and try my best to concentrate on the songs and chords and not the pain. I entered the jail, walking in faith because this has not been the first time I’ve experienced this. As I began to lead the worship time I fully expressed every song from the bottom of my heart. Of course you know what happened, my pain went away and I felt stronger than I had in a couple of days. I felt anointed, deliberate in my message and I believe God showed up. Worship healed me, anointed me, empowered me and laid down the foundation for other people’s healing, anointing and empowering.

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...”

Romans 1:16

- **Our English word "worship" is derived from the old Anglo-Saxon term, *weorthscipe*, meaning "worth-ship," which gradually evolved into the word "worship." It refers to the attribution or expression of worth or value toward any object. Jesus next summarizes the essence of true worship, “True worshippers,” He says, “Shall worship God in spirit and in the truth” (John 4:23-24).**

What Worship Is Not (ESP)

- **Worship is not an expression as much as it is a foundation**

Worship is the foundation to all our belief. It is foundational in all we are as a Christian. If you do not worship God, you do not believe in God.

“Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”

Exodus 34:14

“¹⁶Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. ¹⁷Then the LORD's anger will burn against you, and he will shut the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the LORD is giving you.”

Deuteronomy 11:16-17

- **Worship is not a style but a statement**

- **Worship is agreeing with Gods Word by expressing it outwardly and openly.**

- **Worship is not a program but a path**

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Worship Tool Kit

Abraham and Issac- Genesis 22:5

- Abraham said to his young men/servants- wait here while we go worshiper

*“He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will **worship** and then we will come back to you. Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife.”*

Genesis 22:5-6

- **Worship-** shachah {shaw-khaw"} 7812- to bow down

Official Worship Kit

- He took with him **wood, sacrifice, fire** and a **knife**- tools for worshipers
 - **Wood-** Represents the fuel or the fire. It is what burns up the sacrifice and begins the process of sacrifice. Unless there is wood, the fire can never consume the sacrifice. The wood, a necessary part of worship. Notice that Abraham had to take all the parts of worship to the mountain top, nothing lives up there, you have to bring your own.
 - **Sacrifice-** This is the acceptable act of man before God. A sacrifice was not free and it required man's hands to slay the sacrifice. It could not be just a gift to God, something handed over to Him. Neither could it be something burned alive. It had to be slaughtered. When the sacrifice was brought to God, you had to end it's life. You had to participate in giving it death. The death of the sacrifice was our part. The consumption of that sacrifice was God's part.
 - **Fire-** This was the source of deliberately releasing everything to God.

The sacrifice could have been killed, but it could also be eaten or left to remind us of what we did, our sacrifice. The sacrifice could have been the original tailgate party. But the fire burns all the evidence to remind us of what we had done. The fire burned up our opportunity to offer the same sacrifice again. In other words, when a person feels like they have sacrificed something to God, let's say a gift to the church, whatever they symbolically attach that sacrifice to, the church building, the pastors salary or a new van, if there was no fire involved, that sacrifice will only rot on the altar! The fire consumes the gift where you no longer look at it and excuse yourself from doing it again because there is still some resemblance of a sacrifice on the altar.

- **Knife**- The knife represents the cutting away of my ownership, my ties and my hand on the sacrifice. I intentionally take the life of what I sacrifice. See, God will not kill your animal and you can not leave it open to Him. "God, what I have is yours, take what you want." "Really?" He asks. What we are really saying is, "God, pry these things from my hands. I want to want to give them too you but I am too obsessed with them, so you will need to take them from me. OK Lord, I'm ready, burn them up. I'm laying them down on the altar. Come on God, just take them." And He never will, because they are yours to kill.

Cain and Able

³In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. ⁴ But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

Genesis 4:3-5

How to shoot your own horse: There was a farmer who had some cattle and a horse. At times the farmers would help each other out. Sometimes their cattle would get out of the fence and the other farmers would help take care of them. But one day one of the farmers favorite horse came up lame. It was evident that the horse was not going to survive. The farmer asked a friend down the road if he could come down and help him put his horse out of misery. The farmer came down and said, "You have to shoot your own horse." There is no one who can do that for you. It would be a favor for the farmer to do it for you, but it is the final act of love that you would finally give it up and put it away. No one can shoot your horse!

Noah

¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷ Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you--the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground--so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number upon it." ¹⁸ So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. ¹⁹ All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds--everything that moves on the earth--came out of the ark, one kind after another."

Genesis 8:15-19

Why Did God Promise To Never Destroy The Earth? The Sweet Smell of Sacrifice

“²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. ²¹ The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. ²² “As long as the earth endures, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

Genesis 8:20-22

Spectator verses Participation

At any time in a service there can be someone who walks out and says, “Man, that was a life changing experience, that was powerful and refreshing. And a person sitting right next to them is walking out of the service thinking, “Oh, that message really didn't ring the bell like I've heard before. That was about a five on my voting system.”

Same preacher, same Holy Spirit hearing the same Word. What's the difference? One is a spectator and one was a participator. God responds to those who:

- **Ask, seek and knocks-** (Matthew 7:7)
- **Hunger and thirst-** (Matthew 5:6; John 6:35)
- **Desiring** (Psalm 10:17),and **searching** (Laminations 3:40)

God is drawn to people who are not spectators but participators in the relationship. Sometimes waiting on the Lord is nothing but rating the Lord. I was rebuked early in my life as I was seeking after the Lord and His Spirit spoke to me and said, “You don't want me to speak to you, you want to here Me speak to you and see if you want to agree with Me. I refuse to be picked and chosen from. When you are ready for me to speak to you and you want to respond to me, then I'll speak.

- **So the question is, do you want to be attractive to God and hear His voice?** Worship is an issue that must be settled or you will never grow with God. You will never learn how to interpret His voice or will you be able to understand His Word.

Power of Praise: Psalm 40

“¹ I waited **patiently** for the LORD...”

Psalm 40:1

- **Patiently-** qavah {kaw-vaw’}- to **wait, look for, hope, expect**

Walnut Blondie- Apple Bee's has a gift from God. It is something that I love to sit down and wait patiently for. I am not walking in asking, “Where's my Walnut Blondie?” I am waiting, talking to my wife but over her shoulder I am anxiously looking for, hoping for, expecting to get my Walnut Blondie!

I am not going to God, sitting for a few minutes going, I wonder what He has for me. After a couple of minutes the Walnut Blondie doesn't show up so I walk out. That is not patience, that is crazy! The expectation must be mine the solution is His.

"¹I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. ²He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand."

Psalm 40:1-2

God's Response to My Patience- When I operate in the correct patience God responds to me. It says that two things happen:

- **He turned to me-** Full acknowledgment
- **He heard my cry-** Full attention
- **He lifted me out of the slimy pit-** Prisons sometime were nothing but a pit with a hole to drop the person in. The moisture would accumulate similar to a cave and the water would collect.
- **He lifted me out of the mud-** This pit was muddy from the many feet that had walked on it and mixed the moisture with the soil.
- **He lifted me out of the mire-** The mire: dung, feces (bo/rborov - dung, mire)
- **He set my feet on a rock-** Something solid, something warm and consistent
- **He gave me a firm place to stand-** Something that would not move!

"³He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God."

Psalm 40:3a

New Song- It is an unrehearsed expression from your heart. It is a **new hymn**, (t@hillah {teh-hil-law'}) -praise, song or hymn of praise), of praise.

Affect of A Worshiper

"...Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD."

Psalm 40:3b-4

Why would many see, fear and put their trust?

Gary Skinner/Plain Vanilla Wrapper- Ten years ago Gary Skinner found himself with his face on the floor with his arms up over his head and his nose planted in the carpet. He prayed, "Lord, I was told today at church that if I would get on my face and worship you, I could find some answers...that I could connect with You...that you would change me. Is this what they meant?"

His nose was getting rug burn and he turned his face to become more comfortable where he lay for almost two hours. The reason Gary was laying on the floor that day is because in the 40 years of his life he had managed to assist his marriage in dissolving into a divorce, a bankruptcy, a lost business, \$500,000 of debt, and the judgment of becoming a convicted felon. He had attempted to turn his life around, remarry and change friends. But in his 22 years of life without boundaries you would find him constantly reading his Bible, going to church and Bible studies, even praying, but inside he was a mess.

With his face in the carpet he was waiting to hear an audible voice or a personal visitation from Jesus, maybe an angel would show up. But nothing did. Finally he prayed, "Lord, I know a lot about You. But I don't think I know you. Something is missing. Will You teach me about You? Will You change me? Will you re-wire the way I think? I'm really tired of living life my way."

Immediately something started happening around him. God's presence invaded his room and for the next eight months he continued to call out to God in the same room, on the same floor, in the same position, three or four nights a week, sometimes up to three hours. The Holy Spirit gently taught, corrected and transformed his life there, on the floor, with his face in the carpet.

Gary admits that not all of his floor time were amazing encounter with God. Some times he had sought God and wondered if he had gotten anything at all.

Brick and Mortar- A few years back I, (Neil) had personally started a search for God and I had entered dry times. I sought the Lord desperately over two to three days with nothing really being reciprocated. I questioned everything from personal issues that may not have been resolved, rebuking spirits that were hindering me from moving on and thought that perhaps I had become religious and God had moved on, so maybe I should too. Then the Lord reveal to me something I will never forget. He showed me a picture of a brick wall. It looked good and beautiful. But a strong wind came and the brick wall fell down, scattering all the bring in every direction. The Lord said, "Look, what do you see?" I responded, "Brick!?" Then He asked, "Look closer, what do you not see?" I looked closer and saw clean brick laying all over the place. If you have ever worked around a brick wall and have had any time tearing one down you know that it is not nice and clean. It is some of the dirtiest work around. Was was it that I didn't see? Mortar. The brick had no mortar.

The Lord showed me another picture in my spirit. It was a brick wall again, but this time it had mortar between the brick. The wind blew and the wall stood. It was amazing because of a weaker substance, the mortar, was giving strength to a firmer substance, the brick. The Lord spoke to my heart that in the prayer times when it feels like I am getting nothing, when I pray in my Spirit, when I am waiting upon the Lord, He is applying mortar to the "revelation" of His Word that I am incapable of living without His help. We are too full of revelation. We have walls of it, but a wind blows and we topple down, unable to stand very much stress or opposition. His mortar ties the truths of His word together in one firm wall.

Dry Times Are Not Defining Times

Gary mentions that after about three weeks he was wondering, "I don't know if this is doing anything at all. I don't think I'm really changing." But later that day somebody on the freeway cut him off which almost forced him into the ditch. He immediately responded, "Lord bless that guy. He probably feels awful that he did that. He's probably going through something difficult and his mind wasn't on his driving." He drove for another couple of miles and then realized, "Who was that? That's not how the Gary Skinner I know would normally handle himself?" Now Gary's life is a testimony as to what God can do. **Men see him and fear and put their trust in God!**

Responding Correctly To God

⁴Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods."

Psalm 40:4

Three responses to being blessed:

1. **Makes the Lord his trust-** He/she is convinced that THIS God is THE God! It is not a wishy washy relationship. God is your source of strength. You cannot have an idea to try God, you must believe that He is:

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Hebrews 11:6

"⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does."

James 1:5-8

2. Does not look to the **proud-** Looking for **someone**
3. Who turn aside to **false gods-** Looking for **something** else

"⁵Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare."

Psalm 40:5

The testimonies of those whose Lord is God are many. There are many stories when people have absolutely allowed God to be their one and only source. All the things that God has taken your life through and how that has affected other people, there are too many stories to tell.

Reality of Worship

"⁶Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. ⁷Then I said, "Here I am, I have come — it is written about me in the scroll."

Psalm 40:6-7

God is not after your stuff, He is after your heart. He knows when you are in relationship with Him and when you are not. He is constantly contending for your heart. He loves you and desires to have your heart.

Arrested By God

"⁸I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

Psalm 40:8

Expressions of Worship

- The full expression of praise and worship is not a Pentecostal or Charismatic characteristic, it is a Biblical One!
 - **True Biblical Worship is an Outward Expression of an Inward Saving Grace.**
 - **True Biblical Worship Is Very Serious To God.**

- **True Biblical Worship Is Spontaneous --- Not Programmed.**
- **True Biblical Worship will always Offend some people.**
- **True Biblical Worship must flow from a Heart of Humility.**
- **True Biblical Worship for you is the Next Expression You Need to Yield to.**

True Biblical Worship Is Expressed In Several Ways:

1. **Worship Is An Expression to God By--- Song and Music**
 - Of All of God's Creation, Only Man Expresses Himself Through Song and Music.
 - Music is a Vehicle by which we Communicate with God and express our heart
 - The Danger is when we allow Music to become the Focus rather than Merely A Vehicle.
 - We Are All Performers --- God Is The Audience.
 - How You Sing Defines Your Understanding of Worship and your knowledge of God and His Word
2. **Worship Is An Expression to God By --- Praise And Shouting**
 - Two *Words of Worship* mentioned over and over again in the *Scriptures* ---
 - "Amen," (So be it, This is true)
 - 1 Chron. 16:36; Neh. 5:13; 8:6 ; Psa. 106:48; 2 Cor. 1:20 ; Rev. 3:14 ; Rev. 7:11-12 ; Rev. 19:4
 - "Hallelujah"- "Hallelujah" is also a *Transliterated Hebrew* word --- it means, "*Praise The Lord.*"
 - One of the only words *Pronounced The Same In Every Language of The World.*
3. **Worship Is An Expression to God By --- The Clapping of And The Raising of The Hands.**
 - The Clapping of Hands (*Psa. 98:8 ; Isa. 55:12*)

**"O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph."
Psalms 47:1**
 - The Raising of Hands (*Psa. 141:2 ; Psa. 28:2 ; Neh. 8:6 ; 1 Tim. 2:8*)

**¹ Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD who minister by night in the house of the LORD. ² Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD."
Psalm 134:1-2**
 - The lifting of the hands is a symbol of Surrender
 - The lifting of the hands is a symbol of Openness and Trust.
 - The lifting of the hands is a symbol of Affection or Love.
4. **Worship Is An Expression to God By --- Dance. (Exo. 15:18-21 ; 2 Sam. 6:1-3)**
5. **Worship Is An Expression to God By--- Bodily Praise (E. William Hendrickson did a study of Bodily Praise or Worship in the O.T. and had these findings)**
 - 4 references to **Bowing** the head,
 - 6 references to **Standing** with reverence,
 - 9 references to **Lifting The Eyes** toward God,

- **12** references of **Kneeling** in adoration and humility,
- **14** references to the **Lifting of The Hands** toward God,
- **28** references to **Laying Prostrate** before the Lord.