

# Praise and Worship

## Lesson Five

**Foundation Scriptures:** “<sup>1</sup> *Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the heavens of His power!* <sup>2</sup> *Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness!* <sup>3</sup> *Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp!* <sup>4</sup> *Praise Him with tambourine and [single or group] dance; praise Him with stringed and wind instruments or flutes!* <sup>5</sup> *Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!* <sup>6</sup> *Let everything that has breath and every breath of life praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! (Hallelujah!)” (Psalm 150 AMP)*

<sup>23</sup> *A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the **true (genuine) worshipers** will worship the Father in spirit and in truth (reality); for the Father is **seeking just such people** as these as His worshipers.* <sup>24</sup> *God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being) and those who worship Him must **worship Him in spirit and in truth (reality).**” (John 4:23,24 AMP)*

<sup>1</sup> *O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation!* <sup>2</sup> *Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!* <sup>3</sup> *For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.* <sup>4</sup> *In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the heights and strength of the hills are His also.* <sup>5</sup> *The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land.* <sup>6</sup> *O come, **let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker [in reverent praise and supplication].**” (Psalm 95:1-6 AMP)*

Our praise and worship to God is so much more than just the songs we sing or even the motions we go through in our worship services; **it’s a privilege, it’s an experience, it’s a lifestyle!** There are specific expressions of praise and worship used to convey our adoration to God throughout the Bible. Praise from the English Language’s perspective means **the act of expressing approval or admiration; the state of being approved or admired; the offering of grateful homage in words or song (as an act of worship); to speak well of.** However, when observed from the original languages of scripture, we discover a more expressive and accurate understanding of what it means to praise and worship the Lord.

### I. What Is Praise? (Types of Praise)

#### A. (Hebrew Language)

1. **Halal** (hä·lal') – to shine (figuratively of God's favor); hence, to make a show, to boast; to be (clamorously) foolish; to rave; to celebrate. (Psalm 150; I Chronicles 16:4, 23:5,30, 25:3, 29:13); the root of **Hallelujah – Praise The Lord!**
2. **Yadah** (yä·dä') – to throw, cast; hold out or extend your hand; to give thanks. **Judah** is derived from yadah and means “praised”. (Genesis 29:35; II Chronicles 7:6, 20:21; Psalms 9:1, 28:7, 33:2, 42:5,11, 49:18, 100:4; Isaiah 12:1)
3. **Tehillah** (teh·hil·lä') – song or hymn of praise; praise, adoration, thanksgiving (paid to God) (Psalms 22:3, 33:1, 34:1, 40:3, 66:2, 100:4; II Chronicles 20:22)
4. **Barak** (bä·rak') – to bless (as an act of adoration); to bend the knees to kneel or bow to; by implication to bless God; (Genesis 24:11, 48; Psalms 34:1; 95:6, 103:1-22)
5. **Towdah** (tō·dä') – to give praise to God by the lifting of the hand in adoration; confession, praise; thanksgiving in songs of liturgical worship – as in a procession or line (choir) of givers of thanks. (Psalm 100:4; Neh. 12:31,38,40; Jeremiah 17:26)

6. **Zamar** (zä·mar') – to sing, sing praises, psalms; to make music with instruments; to make music accompanied by the voice; to touch the strings, and refers to praise that involves instrumental worship. (Judges 5:3; I Chronicles 16:9; Psalms 9:2, 11, 21:13, 27:6, 33:2, 47:6, 92:1; 144:9; 149:3; Isaiah 12:1-6)
7. **Shabach** (shä·vakh') – to address in a loud tone, a loud adoration, a shout; proclaim with a loud voice unashamed; (Psalms 63:3-4, 117:1-2, 145:4, 147:12)
8. **Other** (expressions associated with praise)
  - a. **Taqa** (tä·kah') – to strike or clap hands (as done in rejoicing); to blow, clap, strike, sound, thrust, give a blow, blast. (Numbers 10:1-10; Psalm 47:1; Joel 2:1,15)
  - b. **Ruwa** (rü·ah') – to shout (in triumph, applause, war cry, or alarm); raise a sound, cry out, give a blast. (Joshua 6:1-5; Psalms 47:1, 95:1, 100:1)
  - c. **Ranan** (rä·nan') – to overcome; to cry out, rejoice; shout for joy, give a ringing cry (in joy, exaltation, distress). (Psalms 5:11, 20:5, 32:11, 33:1, 35:27, 95:1; 98:4)
  - d. **Karar** (kä·rar') – to whirl, to dance. (II Samuel 6:14-16);
  - e. **machowl** (mä·khöle') – dance, dancing (Psalms 30:11, 149:3, 150:4, Jer. 31:4, 13)

## B. Greek (Language)

1. **Ainos** (ī'-nos) – a saying, proverb; praise, admiring discourse. (Matt. 21:16; Lk. 18:43)
2. **Aineō** (ī-ne'-ō) – to praise, extol, to sing praises in honor to God; to promise or vow. (Luke 2:13, 20, 19:37; Acts 2:47, 3:8-9; Romans 15:11; Revelation 19:5)
3. **Doxa** (do'-ksä) – opinion, estimate, whether good or bad concerning someone; in the NT always a good opinion concerning one, resulting in praise, honor, and glory. (Matthew 6:13; Luke 2:14, 17:11-18; John 12:42-43; Romans 11:36, 16:27; Jude 1:24-25; Revelations 4:9-11, 5:12-13, 7:12, 19:7)
4. **Epainos** (e'p-ī-nos) – admiration, commendation, praise; to whom the praise is given. (Romans 13:3; Ephesians 1:6,12,14; Philippians 4:8, I Peter 1:7)

There are many different expressions of praise to God, but the overall desire should be the same; **a heart-felt display of the inward conviction of our love for Him**. Praises to God may look and sound differently from church to church and culture to culture. The beauty of it is...**All Of Them (Praises) Belong To God!**

## II. What Is Worship?

- A. Hebrew **shachah** (shä·khä') – **to bow down, prostrate oneself** (in homage to a superior); to depress, crouch, fall down (flat), stoop, humbly beseech, reverence. (Genesis 37:5-10, 42:6, 43:26-28; II Chronicles 7:1-3, 29:25-30; Psalms 29:2, 95:6, 96:9)
- B. Hebrew **Kara** (kä·rah') – to bend, kneel, bow, bow down, sink down to one's knees, kneel in reverence. (Ezra 9:5, Esther 3:2-6; II Chronicles 7:1-3; Psalms 22:27-29, 95:6)
- C. Greek **proskyneō** (pros-kü-ne'-ō) – **to kiss the hand to (towards) one**, in token of reverence; to adore; to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as

an expression of profound reverence; to kneel or prostrate oneself to pay homage (to one) or make obeisance (a bow, curtsy) whether in order to express respect or to make supplication. (Matthew 2:1-11, 4:8-10, 28:9; John 4:19-26)

- D. Greek **piptō** (pē'p-tō) – to fall down, fall prostrate; as in one rendering homage or worship. (I Corinthians 14:20-25; Revelations 4:10,11, 5:13,14, 7:9-12, 19:1-10)
- E. To **ascribe** (to attribute or think of as belonging) **worth** (having value and excellence of character).
- F. The **sacrificial surrender to God** that takes place **in the heart** (where **the will** of man is; when the will bows, it **dethrones self and enthrones God**, submitting to His Will).
  1. Worship is an **act of your will** (spirit man, desires, and emotions) which involves truth (in the **inward parts**), honesty, exposure, humbleness, nakedness, passion, and at times brokenness. (Psalms 34:1; 138:1,2)
  2. Worship is the ability to look at God and bow one's self before His Will.
  3. Worship requires a **personal intimate relationship** with God.
  4. **Worship honors God for who He is** (His Excellency and Perfection); while **Praise honors God for what He does** (His Mighty Acts).
  5. The **lifting of hands**, as an act of worship, is a **sign of surrendering one's will** and a willingness to yield to the Will of God.
- G. **Giving** is an act of worship. Giving of **our time, talents, and treasures** to God for the building of His Kingdom honors and ascribes worth to Him. (Exodus 25:2, 35:4,5, 20-29; Psalm 96:6-9; Proverbs 3:9) *“<sup>11</sup> And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and **fell down and worshiped Him**. And when they had **opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**” (Matthew 2:11)*

Too often, worship is associated with singing (in particularly with a slow song) or as another activity in our church services. **Our worship to God should be through our daily commitment and devotion to Him** as we strive to be more like Christ; by loving and serving others, denying our flesh (sinful nature), and by honoring and glorifying God in our mind, soul, and body. (I Corinthians 6:19, 20)

### III. **Why Should We Praise And Worship God?**

- A. We are **Commanded** to praise and worship God; not out of some obligation or duty, but rather a love to be in God's Presence. (Exodus 34:14; Deuteronomy 10:20, 21; Psalms 95:1 - 6, 150:1 - 6; Matthew 4:8 -11; Luke 4:8)
- B. **God is Worthy** of our praise and worship; which must be focused upon the worthiness of God as the only Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent God. For He alone is God! (Psalms 18:1- 3, 86:8 - 10, 117:1, 2; Revelation 4:11; 5:12)
- C. Praise and worship are the **“gate-passes”** which allows us to enter the sacredness of **God's Glory**. The psalmist writes, *“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving (**towdah**), and into His courts with praise (**tehillah**): be thankful (**yadah**) unto Him, and bless (**barak**) His Name.” (Psalms 100:4)*

God **inhabits the praises of His people** (Psalms 22:3). God dwells in the atmosphere of His praise. **Praise is a vehicle of faith which brings us into the Presence of God! Our worship moves God and activates His Power!**

- D. We are the temples of God's Holy Spirit. And like the OT temple, there is an outer court and inner court (that contained the Holy of Holies (Most Holy Place – the place where God dwells)). **Praise gets us into the outer court; while worship takes up beyond the veil into the Holy of Holies where God dwells.** (I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; II Corinthians 6:16 -18; Exodus 25; Exodus 26:31 - 37, 27:9 - 19, 40:1 - 38; I Kings 6:1 - 38)
- E. Worship draws us into an (inner) **Intimacy** with God. Worship flows from a **deep desire to love and fellowship with Him.** Intimacy is found among those who share a covenant relationship (marriage). A true marriage is a **deep intimate binding of two souls;** where more than a physical union occurs, but rather a union of one spirit where thoughts, emotions, and secrets are shared. God wants to have an intimate relationship with us. God invites us to **commune with Him and truly know Him.**

**It is through this intimacy with God that we invite the Holy Spirit to speak to us, convict us, comfort and strengthen us.** Through worship, we realign our priorities with God's and acknowledge Him as Lord of our lives. (Genesis 2:23, 24; Jeremiah 3:14; Isaiah 57:15; James 4:5 -10; Ephesians 5:25 - 32; Revelation 3:20)

- F. Praise and Worship are **weapons of warfare against the enemy.** An atmosphere filled with sincere praise and worship causes the Presence of God to arise and the enemy to scatter. No evil or no flesh can dwell (to long) in God's Presence. (Psalm 68:1- 4; I Corinthians 1:29)

When the enemies of the children of Israel came against them and King Jehoshaphat, **they praised (Judah) and worshiped God invoking His Presence.** God moved on their behalf setting up ambushes against their enemies. **There is Power in Your Praise and a War Cry (warfare) in Your Worship!** (II Chronicles 20:14-22)

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