



Empowering People to Change the World

Face to Face with the King

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Face to Face with the King – Worship That God Likes

You can attend a worship service without ever encountering God personally. It's like going to a birthday party and enjoying the cake and ice cream, playing all the games, but never wishing a happy birthday to the guest of honor. Very few of us would consider doing that. Most of us would bring a gift and write out a card with a personal note in it outlining our favorite things about the person, recalling a favorite memory with them, even blessing them. But we rarely view our attendance on Sunday in the same light.

- There's a way that you act to make someone feel welcome in your home. Similarly, there's a way that you act in someone else's house that makes them feel appreciated. I want to act in a way that makes God feel both welcomed and honored. Sometimes, when I'm leading worship, I'm too focused on making you all feel welcome and comfortable, and not nearly focused enough on making Jesus feel welcome and honored in His house. I want to grow in that.

Pastor Joey read Psalm 100 last week. I like this passage because I think it outlines a clear pathway into the Glory of God for the worshiper. Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving; enter His courts with Praise. And ultimately, we want to enter the Most Holy Place to encounter the King of Glory.

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.” (Psalm 100:4-5)

7 Hebrew Words for Thanksgiving and Praise

- **There are seven Hebrew words in the bible used for thanksgiving and praise.** These words and their context can give us a glimpse into the way that God likes to be worshipped. The first two are most often translated as thanksgiving, but also as praise or confession. It's interesting to me that thanksgiving and confession are really the same thing; one focuses on what God has done, and one focuses on what we have done. We can really do both at the same time.

- **YADAH (יָדָה) – To extend or throw out the hands in praise, thanksgiving, or confession.**

1. Main idea: Fully raise your hands.

2. This is the root for the name Judah, which basically means “one who praises (*yadah*)” and is where we get the term “Jews” from. (Genesis 29:35)

“I will praise(Yadah) You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.” (Psalm 9:1)

3. 114 occurrences

- 2 Chronicles 20:21; Psalm 7:17; Psalm 28:7; Psalm 32:5; Psalm 33:2; Psalm 54:6; Psalm 75:1; Psalm 138:1

○ **TOWDAH (תּוֹדָה) – Thanksgiving offered in faith (given before the answer)**

1. Main idea: Faith-thanksgiving; also with extended hands (from *yadah*).
2. Precursor of Hebrews 13:15 “continual sacrifice of praise” and is connected to the idea of sacrifice/tithe

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving(towdah)” (Psalm 100:4)

“That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving(towdah), And tell of all Your wondrous works.” (Psalm 26:7)

3. 32 Occurrences

- Leviticus 7:12; Leviticus 22:29; 2 Chronicles 29:31; Nehemiah 12:27; Psalm 26:7; Psalm 42:4; Psalm 50:14; Psalm 50:23; Psalm 56:12

Thanksgiving Is the Fruit of Meditating on God’s Works.

- When you feed yourself on what God has done in your life, what He is doing in your life, and what He promises to do in your life, thanksgiving begins to erupt from your inner man. Your hands raise, and you begin to thank Him even for the things that He hasn’t done yet. You become so convinced of the reliability of His promises that no matter what situation you’re in, you’re grateful.

- Thanksgiving shifts your perspective from lack to abundance. When we take our eyes off what God isn't doing and start looking at what He is doing, we begin to see our situations very differently, and we are reminded of just how good God is.
- Entering the gates of God's temple is what takes place when we give thanks. Thanksgiving begins to impact your surroundings, and now you're moving from the natural into the supernatural. You step through the gates of the Lord, standing right where you are.

○ **SHABACH (שָׁבַח) – To shout or proclaim loudly and clearly**

1. *Shabach* moves along two main lines: (1) laudatory proclamation—public, enthusiastic praise directed toward the Lord; (2) calming or commending—both the stilling of tumult and the verbal approval of something. Rather than representing contradictory ideas, the two poles form a single concept: an authoritative utterance that either elevates or pacifies. Whether praising God, restraining a storm, or commending an action, *shabach* is a word of vocal mastery.

“One generation shall praise(*shabach*) Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts.” (Psalm 145:4)

2. 11 occurrences

- 1 Chronicles 16:35; Psalm 63:3; Psalm 65:7; Psalm 106:47; Psalm 117:1; Psalm 147:12; Psalm 148:1; Psalm 148:2; Psalm 148:5

When we thank Him for what He's done, it reminds us of who He is. The natural response is to begin praising Him.

Praise Is the Fruit of Meditating on God's Nature.

Praise takes us into the courts of the Lord, where we begin to see Him more clearly. We see His nature, His character, His surroundings.

○ **HALAL (הָלַל) – To boast, rave, shine, celebrate wildly, act clamorously foolish for God.**

1. Main idea: Unrestrained praise.

“My soul shall make its boast(halal) in the Lord; The humble shall hear of it and be glad.” (Psalm 34:2)

2. 165 occurrences

- Psalm 22:22; Psalm 44:8; Psalm 56:4; Psalm 56:10; Psalm 69:30; Psalm 109:30; Psalm 150:1-6

- **BARAK (בָּרַךְ) – To kneel and bless the Lord as an act of adoration and humility**

1. This is what Solomon did in 2 Chronicles 6:13, which invited the fire of God on the altar.

“Then David said to all the assembly, “Now bless(barak) the Lord your God.” So all the assembly blessed(barak) the Lord God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and prostrated themselves before the Lord and the king.” (1 Chronicles 29:20)

“Bless(barak) the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless(barak) His holy name! 2 Bless(barak) the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:” (Psalm 103:1-2)

2. 330 occurrences

- Genesis 24:48; Nehemiah 8:6; Psalm 16:7; Psalm 26:12; Psalm 34:1; Psalm 96:2; Psalm 145:21

- **ZAMAR (זָמַר) – To make music and sing songs in praise to God**

1. The verb זָמַר (*zāmar*) expresses the act of making music to the Lord, most often through singing accompanied by stringed instruments. It unites melody, instrumentation, and proclamation into a single act of praise, regularly directed to the covenant Name of God.

“And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises(zamar) to the Lord.” (Psalm 27:6)

2. 46 occurrences

- Judges 5:3; 2 Samuel 22:50; 1 Chronicles 16:9; Psalm 9:2; Psalm 21:13; Psalm 30:4; Psalm 47:6; Psalm 57:7–9; Psalm 108:1

When we thank God for what He's done, it reminds us of Who He is. When we praise Him for who He is, He begins to manifest Himself in those ways. He loves to come and confirm the things that we declare about Him. When we praise Him as the healer, we see people healed. When we praise Him as the Deliverer, we see people set free from bondage.

○ **TEHILLAH (תְּהִלָּה) – A spontaneous new song of praise**

1. *Tehillah* often defines praise as something that belongs intrinsically to God's nature and reputation. Moses anticipates a future song in **Deuteronomy 10:21, "He is your praise, and He is your God"** tying praise directly to divine identity.

Likewise **Psalm 22:3 states, "Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel"** indicating that praise is both the atmosphere and acknowledgment of His holiness. This is the garment of praise that casts off the spirit of heaviness. This is the praise that God inhabits and is enthroned upon. This is the praise that David declares will continually be on his lips (Psalm 34:1). This praise is also the "new song" throughout the Old Testament that ushers in the second coming of the Messiah. This was the praise that routed the enemies of Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20). This is like a prophetic, unrehearsed song from the heart.

2. 57 occurrences

- Deuteronomy 10:21; 2 Samuel 22:4; Nehemiah 9:5; Psalm 33:1; Psalm 40:3; Psalm 65:1; Psalm 106:12; Psalm 147:1
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- I love the unrehearsed song. Where the room shifts from singing about God or reading words that someone else wrote about God, and now, we begin singing to Him. When He inhabits our praise, we are now in the manifest presence of the King, and the only response is to pour out our love for Him in worship.

Thanksgiving responds to His deeds, Praise to His nature, Worship focuses on Him.

- Hebrew Word for Worship – שָׁחָה (*shāchāh*) To bow low; To lie prostrate; To descend; To yield your whole being.
- Greek Word for Worship – προσκυνέω (*proskuneō*) To kiss; To draw near; To adore; To fall at someone's feet.
- Worship is what happens when love finds love; when seekers become finders. This is where our role disappears. In Thanksgiving and Praise, we offer sacrifices – we sing songs despite our circumstances; we declare His Goodness and bless His name; but in Worship, we descend, and the offering becomes our lives. We become the sacrifice.

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.” (Romans 12:1)

Worship Is How We Interact with the Presence of God

- Hebrew Word for Presence - פָּנִים (*pānîm*) Literally: face, countenance, favor.
- Greek Word for Presence – πρόσωπον (*prosōpon*) Also: face, person, presence. Presence in Scripture always means face-to-face.
- Moses was face-to-face with God. Literally means mouth-to-mouth.

The Glory of God – our destination

- The glory is what we were actually designed to enter. Romans 3:23 tells us that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. If we fell short of it, that means it was the original destination. The Beauty Realm of God. This is where Moses stood. This is where Isaiah trembled. This is where Peter fell as though dead. This is where John said His face shone like the sun. This is the place you were created for.
- We are transformed according to the measure of exposure we have to His glory, which is the manifest presence of Jesus (the light of His face).

- God doesn't always show up with the weight of His glory. If He did, worship would be involuntary. We would have no choice. Everything bows to Him in the glory. But He loves to draw us into His Most Holy Place so that we can encounter His face, His presence. It truly changes us. It equips us to carry His presence into the world.
- The point of worship isn't to be transformed or to receive something that we can carry out to do horizontal ministry with people. That is a side effect of true worship. We enter the Most Holy Place to lay down everything we have and give it to the Lord. The point is to lose your life at His Feet and find it in His Face. He's just so good that when we yield everything to him, we emerge from His presence filled and overflowing.
- We have to start getting lost in His presence alone. We will never go anywhere in public that He hasn't introduced to us privately. Practice these principles. Go home and close the door. Jump and exult in the Lord. Be clamorously foolish. Sing your own song. Raise your hands and expose everything to Him. Hear His voice and begin to declare it in partnership with the Holy Spirit.

God is looking for Worshipers.

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24)

- God is less interested in worship and more interested in the worshiper. He is looking for someone to descend upon and consume with his fire. He wants to pour out the greater measure of His glory on a people that move beyond preference and routine and move into the Holy of Holies.

Worshiping in Spirit and Truth is being led by the Spirit in how we worship and withholding nothing from Him when we worship.

- We open our hearts fully to Him and allow Him to make the decisions. If He says jump, I jump. If He says shout, I shout. If He says kneel and bless, I kneel and bless. I want to practice quick obedience so that God knows that when He speaks, I respond. I don't care about having dignity or decency before men; I care about God knowing that I am willing to be the donkey

that the King of Glory can ride in on. I want to make history with God in private, so that He can make history with me in public.

- The veil was torn and became curtains. Giving you access into the Holy of Holies. We think the veil was torn and the manifest presence of God spilled into the world. That's not the case. The veil was torn, and finally gave us access to the manifest presence of God. Whether you access it or not is up to you. Sometimes God will ask you to be a gate that He can walk through. You lift up your head and fling wide the doors of your heart, and suddenly the King of Glory walks in the room.