

Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship. Our Ministry to God. Undated, unsure if ever shared with SCF*

In this we are going to look at Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship. In essence the Word of God requires from us a response and that first response comes in our appreciation of what He has planned, what He has achieved thus far in our lives and a response of love and adoration to a Holy God. This response comes in three elements which are the title of this.

Thanksgiving

In the Old Testament the Hebrew language of that time did not have a word for thanks or thanksgiving, the word that they used meant *I will tell of your name* which wasn't so much a *thank You, Lord* but rather *I will tell, I will declare Your goodness*, which is an expression of praise.

Thanksgiving and praise are co-related.

1 Chronicles 16 verse 4-7

He appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the LORD, even to celebrate and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel: 5 Asaph the chief, and second to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-edom and Jeiel, with musical instruments, harps, lyres; also Asaph played loud-sounding cymbals, 6 and Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests blew trumpets continually before the ark of the covenant of God. 7 Then on that day David first assigned Asaph and his relatives to give thanks to the LORD.

We can see then that the first stage of worship starts in the area of thanksgiving leading into praise. Again in the Psalms we see this principle of a starting place, or a place of entry.

Psalms 100 verse 4

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

To enter His gates, the entrance into His courts, is through Jesus. Jesus comes from the line of Judah and Judah means *let God be praised*. We can only enter into praise as we go through the walls of salvation, we can only enter into salvation through Jesus who is the gateway into the Kingdom of God. It's important to realise that every part of the Tabernacle of God has meaning.

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who led Stevenage Christian Fellowship* and who founded our organisation, about which you can find out more at http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship. Our Ministry to God. Undated, unsure if ever shared with SCF*

Every piece of furniture has been placed in it for a purpose, even the names of those who were involved in thanksgiving and praise had their meaning. David means *well beloved*, he was a man after God's heart. Asaph means *collector*, he was a collector of songs and musicians. Zechariah means *God remembers*. Jeiel means *God snatches away*, we have been snatched away from the hand of satan. Shemiramoth means *fame of the highest*. Jehiel means *God lives*. Eliab means *God is Father*. Benaiah means *God has built*. Jahaziel means *God sees*. Each name expresses God's character and deeds, each person was determined to give thanks to God, not just now and again, but continuously.

1 Chronicles 23 verse 30-31

They are to stand every morning to thank and to praise the LORD, and likewise at evening, 31 and to offer all burnt offerings to the LORD, on the sabbaths, the new moons and the fixed festivals in the number set by the ordinance concerning them, continually before the LORD.

This was David's instructions to those leading the worship. They were appointed to the task as we are, the minds and hearts of a thankful people. A tank-full of thanks is our weapon of war, we don't have to fire shells or bullets, thanksgiving and praise will cause the enemy to scatter.

Isaiah 25 verse 1-8

O LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness. 2 For You have made a city into a heap, a fortified city into a ruin; a palace of strangers is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. 3 Therefore a strong people will glorify You; cities of ruthless nations will revere You. 4 For You have been a defense for the helpless, a defense for the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat; for the breath of the ruthless is like a rain storm against a wall. 5 Like heat in drought, You subdue the uproar of aliens; like heat by the shadow of a cloud, the song of the ruthless is silenced. 6 The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, and refined, aged wine. 7 And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations.

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International.

They were produced by Dennis Marshall who led Stevenage Christian Fellowship*

and who founded our organisation, about which you can find out more at

http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship. Our Ministry to God. Undated, unsure if ever shared with SCF*

8 He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken.

This is why we should give thanks to God and how our thanksgiving turns into praise. Surely this brings to our hearts thanksgiving and praise to our God.

Praise

Having come through the gate with thanksgiving, we now enter into the courts situated within the walls of salvation and as we begin to be aware of what Jesus has done for us and what He has planned for us, it causes us to want to praise Him. There are, however times when, because of our circumstances, we do not feel like thanking or praising Him, a good illustration of this is seen in the life of Jonah.

Jonah 1 verse 1-17 to 2 verse 1-10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me." 3 But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. 4 The LORD hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up. 5 Then the sailors became afraid and every man cried to his god, and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen sound asleep. 6 So the captain approached him and said, "How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish." 7 Each man said to his mate, "Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us." So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, "Tell us, now! On whose account has this calamity struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?" 9 He said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land."

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who led Stevenage Christian Fellowship* and who founded our organisation, about which you can find out more at http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship. Our Ministry to God. Undated, unsure if ever shared with SCF*

10 Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, "How could you do this?" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. 11 So they said to him, "What should we do to you that the sea may become calm for us?"—for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy. 12 He said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, for I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you." 13 However, the men rowed desperately to return to land but they could not, for the sea was becoming even stormier against them. 14 Then they called on the LORD and said, "We earnestly pray, O LORD, do not let us perish on account of this man's life and do not put innocent blood on us; for You, O LORD, have done as You have pleased." 15 So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging. 16 Then the men feared the LORD greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. 17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 2 verse 1-10

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish, and he said, "I called out of my distress to the LORD, and He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice. "For You had cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, and the current engulfed me. All Your breakers and billows passed over me. 4 "So I said, 'I have been expelled from Your sight. Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.' 5 "Water encompassed me to the point of death. The great deep engulfed me, weeds were wrapped around my head. 6 "I descended to the roots of the mountains. The earth with its bars was around me forever, but You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God. 7 "While I was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, And my prayer came to You, into Your holy temple. 8 "Those who regard vain idols forsake their faithfulness, 9 but I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the LORD." 10 Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who led Stevenage Christian Fellowship* and who founded our organisation, about which you can find out more at http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship. Our Ministry to God. Undated, unsure if ever shared with SCF*

The Lord instructs Jonah to go to Ninevah; he flees from the presence of the Lord on a ship. The Lord hurls a great wind on the sea, the ship is about to break up, the sailors become afraid whilst Jonah sleeps. The captain wakes Jonah up and tells him to call on his God. They decide that Jonah is responsible for their dilemma.

Jonah owns up - confesses his faith and as a result they toss him overboard (its all in God's hands) who causes a big fish to swallow him for 3 days and nights. Does this remind you of something? Jonah prays, calls out to God and God hears him. The sacrifice of thanksgiving attracted God's attention, so it is with us today, as we make the sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise to God, He hears what we have to say and acts accordingly. Jonah's body was imprisoned, but his spirit and his faith were active. Sitting in the stomach of the fish at the bottom of the sea, probably with seaweed wrapped around his neck was hardly the ideal place to minister thanksgiving to the Lord. We can't choose the place to minister to the Lord always or have the right feelings, but we do have to make the sacrifice when we don't feel like it, at whatever place we are at.

Psalm 3 verse 8

Salvation belongs to the LORD; Your blessing be upon Your people!

Psalm 31 verse 22

As for me, I said in my alarm, "I am cut off from before Your eyes"; nevertheless You heard the voice of my supplications when I cried to You.

Psalm 42 verse 8

The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime; and His song will be with me in the night, a prayer to the God of my life.

Psalm 69 verse 1-3

Save me, O God, for the waters have threatened my life. 2 I have sunk in deep mire, and there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and a flood overflows me. 3 I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; my eyes fail while I wait for my God.

David himself knew what it was to be to be in the depths of despair.

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who led Stevenage Christian Fellowship* and who founded our organisation, about which you can find out more at http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship. Our Ministry to God. Undated, unsure if ever shared with SCF*

Praise is a lifestyle which is willing to declare the merits of God in spite of personal feelings and circumstances.

We see in the book of Psalms, which incidentally is the central and longest book of the bible, both the times of despair and the times of great joy interwoven to make up the life of most of us. To follow are some more reasons from the book of Psalms for praising God.

Psalm 3 verse 3

But You, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the One who lifts my head.

Psalm 92 verse 1-4

It is good to give thanks to the LORD And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; 2 To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning and Your faithfulness by night, 3 With the ten-stringed lute and with the harp, with resounding music upon the lyre. 4 For You, O LORD, have made me glad by what You have done, I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands.

Psalm 95 verse 6

Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

Psalm 102 verse 18

This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.

Psalm 111 verse 1

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart, in the company of the upright and in the assembly.

Psalm 116 verse 1

I love the LORD, because He hears my voice and my supplications.

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who led Stevenage Christian Fellowship* and who founded our organisation, about which you can find out more at http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship. Our Ministry to God. Undated, unsure if ever shared with SCF*

Psalm 142 verse 7

"Bring my soul out of prison, so that I may give thanks to Your name; the righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me."

What are the results of praise?

Psalm 22 verse 3

Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

There are many ways we can praise God. Some are vocal, some are physical, maybe dance and drama. Some are very loud, cymbals, hand clapping. All are acceptable to God, if not to people. One translation of the Hebrew word *Hallel* is being *clamourishly foolish* which means that you have to be God aware rather than self aware. Magnify, shout, circle in joy, remember, acknowledge, praise, sing, rejoice, worship, kneel, prostrate yourself, dance, delight, take pleasure in, harvest thanksgiving, give, ascribe, honour, glorify, proclaim, make music, testify, shout for joy, leap, skip, cry aloud, shout in triumph, play, lift up His name.

Worship

John 4 verse 19-24

The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship."

21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

23 But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

There has always been a battle between God and satan for worshippers, man was made to worship God; satan tried to persuade Jesus to worship him.

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who led Stevenage Christian Fellowship* and who founded our organisation, about which you can find out more at http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

Matthew 4 verse 8-11

Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."

10 Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" 11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

Jesus knew that we should worship the Lord our God and serve Him only. Worship has to do with bowing down, a physical act. In the Old Testament the power of God caused the people to fall prostrate before Him. There are many words that are associated with the word *worship* or adoration, esteem, honour - all speak of an attitude of heart love towards Jesus. Worship is a lifestyle that willingly submits to the authority of God after having been made aware of His great love towards us as individuals. Worship is the total surrender of our whole being, spirit, soul and body. It is not necessary to exercise faith in our worship because worship speaks of the presence of God, we do not need faith when we have His presence with us.

John 4 verse 24

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Hebrews 11 verse 1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Worship is when our body and soul come under the authority of the Holy Spirit filled life. When we are in the presence of God in true worship, we have come through the gates of thanksgiving and entered into His courts of praise. Both steps require faith, but as we come into the presence of God the Father we are no longer in hope but in that position where we can glorify and honour Him.

Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship. Our Ministry to God. Undated, unsure if ever shared with SCF*

John 4 verse 10

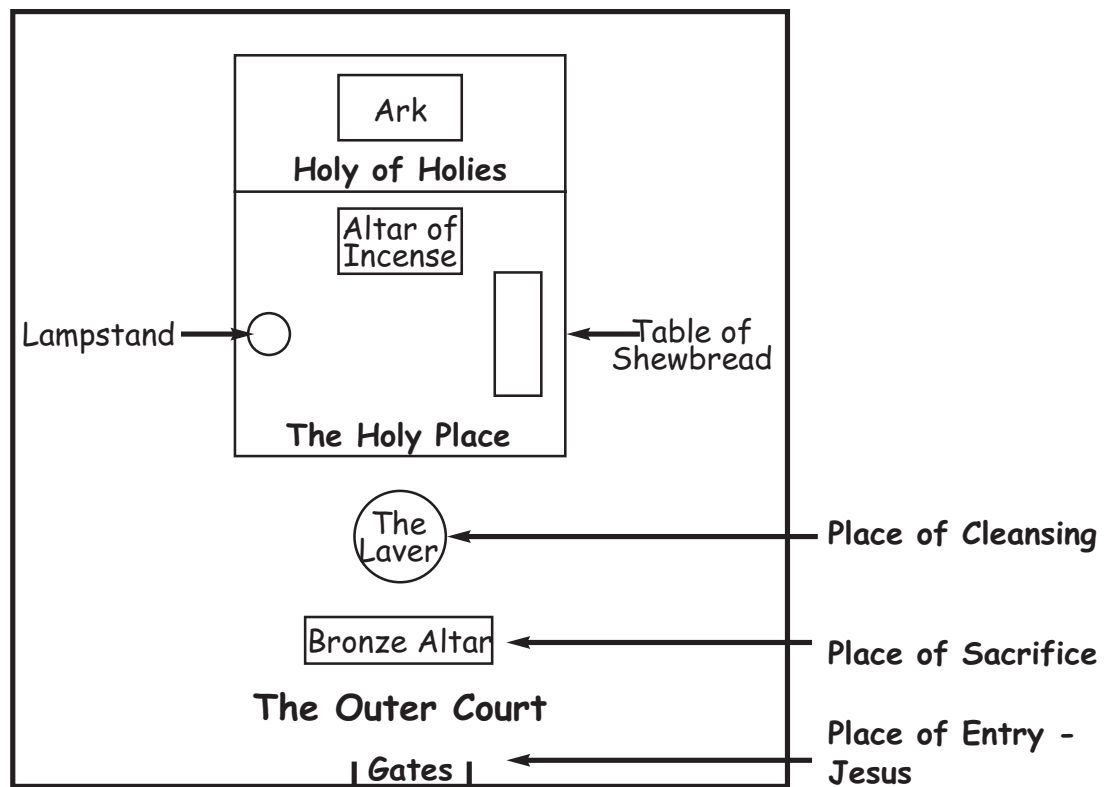
Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

We saw how Jesus had said to the Samaritan woman in John 4 that the Samaritans worshipped that which they did not know, but he also spoke to her telling her that if she only knew the gift of God (meaning Jesus) He would have given her living water. We can only worship in spirit and in truth the one we know. The dead cannot worship God but those who are alive in Christ, God seeks after to worship Him.

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who led Stevenage Christian Fellowship* and who founded our organisation, about which you can find out more at http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship.
Our Ministry to God. Undated. Unsure if every shared with SCF*

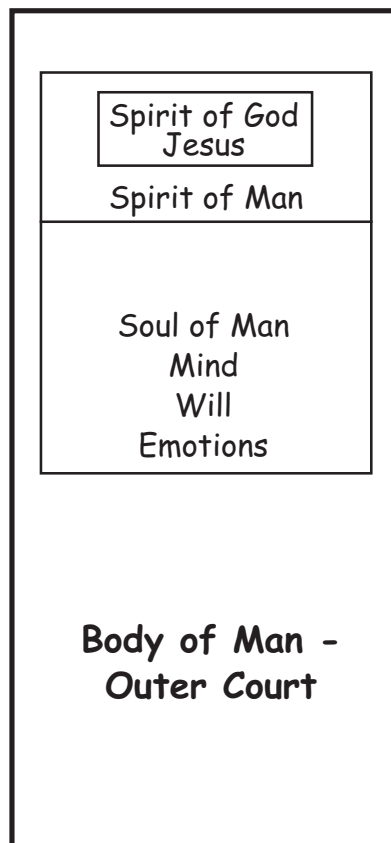
God's Tabernacle - Old Testament



God's Tabernacle - Man. New Testament

2 Corinthians 6 Verse 14-18

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? **15** Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? **16** Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the Living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. **17** "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT



IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. **18** "And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

1 Thessalonians 5 Verse 23-24

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **24** Faithful is He who calls you ,and He also will bring it to pass."

3 John.1 Verse 2

"Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers."

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who led Stevenage Christian Fellowship* and who founded our organisation, about which you can find out more at http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/