

## **BUILDING A PLATFORM OF PRAISE**

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### **Prophetic word given in 1999**

*Come build me a platform of praise. A platform upon which I can stand and reveal myself to you, reveal my Name, my Nature and my Glory. I want it simple and free from sophistication because the glory is to be mine. Come build it together, each of you take up hammer and saw, wood and nails and build for me a platform of praise.*

### **1. WHAT IS WORSHIP?**

#### **a. worship is 'worth-ship'**

We worship God when we esteem him and value him more highly than anything else in all creation and express that honour and reverence through our words, our actions and through the totality of our beings.

This is only possible through the work of the Spirit who opens our hearts and minds to the person and character of our God and who empowers us to look beyond ourselves and to adore, reverence and honour him.

Worship is a response to the revelation of the Spirit and a catalyst to the revelation of the Spirit so that we go ever deeper through worship into encounter with God.

#### **b. Key words in Scripture that relate to worship:**

- |               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| - Worship     | - To celebrate     |
| - Praise      | - To be grateful   |
| - Rejoice     | - To boast         |
| - Give thanks | - To exalt         |
| - To magnify  | - To ascribe glory |
| - To honour   | - To come towards  |
| - To be loud  | - To kiss his hand |

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- Adoration
- Reverence
- Awe
- Enthroned
- To be silent
- To make a noise – Psalm 98:4
- Hallelujah – to make a joyful noise
- *Yadda* – to move the body
- *Zamar* – to sing and play instruments
- To prostrate ourselves
- To clap hands – Psalm 47:1
- To lift hands – Psalm 63:4
- To dance – Psalm 149:3

- c. To worship like this is to involve body, mind, emotions, will (to offer a sacrifice of praise) Habbakuk 3:17.

*Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.* Hebrews 13:15-16

**d. What worship does God like?**

- He likes a spectrum of different forms of worship at different times. When we worship we need to be sensitive to the type of worship the Father is looking for.
- At the end of the day the key is the heart, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

## **2. WHY IS WORSHIP IMPORTANT?**

### **a. The honour of his Name**

*Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.* John 4:23

*Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.* Exodus 34:14

*This is what the LORD Almighty says: "I am very jealous for Zion; I am burning with jealousy for her."* Zechariah 8:2

### **b. Our transformation in to his likeness**

*But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.* 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

### **Hindrances to worship**

*"Empty hearts, prayerless spirits, tired bodies, undisciplined minds, unopened bibles are greater hindrances to worship than all the demonic activity of hell! Satan is not our greatest enemy when we want to enjoy a rich and full worship experience – we are when we are not prepared to pay the price."*

Judson Cornwall

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We kill the spirit of worship through:

- Self-preoccupation
- Passivity
- Unbelief
- Fear of man
- Ingratitude
- Lack of truth
- Pursuit of self-comfort – pleasant emotions

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* Colossians

**c. Worship draws heaven to earth**

- God inhabits the praises of his people. See Psalm 22:3; Psalm 114:2.

**d. Worship puts the enemy to flight.** See 2 Chronicles 20