



## Prayer Focus

March 15-21, 2021

### Heart of Worship

We were made to worship the Lord. When we worship, we are participating in a divine activity, one that is a gift from the Lord.

The [Westminster shorter catechism](#) states:

**Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?**

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, [a] and to enjoy him for ever. [b]

[a]. [Ps. 86:9](#); [Isa. 60:21](#); [Rom. 11:36](#); [1 Cor. 6:20](#); [10:31](#); [Rev. 4:11](#)

[b]. [Ps. 16:5-11](#); [144:15](#); [Isa. 12:2](#); [Luke 2:10](#); [Phil. 4:4](#); [Rev. 21:3-4](#)

When Paul and Silas commanded the spirit of divination to come out of the slave girl, her masters seized them and dragged them in to the marketplace to the authorities. It is recorded in Acts 16 how the men brought them to the authorities and after accusing them, *“the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.”* Acts 16:22-24

*“<sup>25</sup>But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup>Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.”* Acts 16:25-26

Worship shakes the foundations of the strongholds of our minds, and looses the chains that improperly bind us.

It is humbling to reflect on these men, having been dragged and stripped and beaten, sitting stockaded together - praying and praising God.

**There is a lesson in the word's emphasis on worship for the believer. Worship is the yielded heart's response to God, it is a gift of encouragement in times of trouble, and it is also a witness to the world.**

Worship is the fruit of His implanted word in our hearts.

*"<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering; <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. <sup>14</sup>But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. <sup>16</sup>**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.** <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:12-17*

Worship is a representation of being filled with the Spirit of God. When the Spirit is present (i.e., bubbling up) worship flows from within the depths of our beings.

*"But whoever drinks the water that I give him will never be thirsty again. But the water that I give him will become in him a spring of water [satisfying his thirst for God] welling up [continually flowing, bubbling within him] to eternal life." John 4:14 Amplified*

The Holy Spirit leads us into wisdom through worship.

*"<sup>15</sup>See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, <sup>16</sup>redeeming the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but **be filled with the Spirit,** <sup>19</sup>**speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,** <sup>20</sup>**giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,** <sup>21</sup>**submitting to one another in the fear of God.**" Ephesians 5:15-21*

Worship is a natural expression and witness of gratitude and praise for all He has done, and is doing in our lives.

*"I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps. **He has put a new song in my mouth—Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD.**" Psalm 40:1-3*

*"The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted. It is God who avenges me, And subdues the peoples under me; He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me*

*from the violent man. Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the nations,  
And sing praises to Your name.” Psalm 18:46-49*

## **Pray**

- Abba, we thank You for the gift of worship, we thank You for how worship enables our minds to have right thinking about You and ourselves, the times and eternity; we pray that we would have hearts that worship You at all times.
- We pray that we would express trust and faith through worship even when we are suffering or going through difficulties.
- Abba, we pray that we would be like Moses and Miriam, Deborah and Barak, Hannah, David, Mary, Paul and Silas--that we would praise You in response to the victories, the valleys, and to your calling, Lord.
- Lord, we pray that we would conquer the enemy's lies through worship and praise and that You would give us new songs of truth to glorify Your name.
- Lord, we declare and proclaim that “the joy of the Lord is our strength” and we pray that Holy Spirit would fill us anew, flow into us and out of us, and let Your Spirit bubble up in us as we testify of You in our daily lives.