

Core Values ~ Lesson 1: Foundational Values

Presence – seeking the authentic manifest presence of God in all gatherings

There are program churches, teaching churches, fellowship churches and outreach churches – we are a presence church that has programs, teaching, fellowship and outreach.

God is omnipresent, but chooses to reveal or manifest himself in different ways.

- 1) **We seek God's _____ face _____, His presence, not just His benefits.**
 - a) Psalm 24:3-6, Exodus 33:18
- 2) **We are careful to have the fear (reverence) of the Lord and honor His presence.**
 - a) There is a specific way that we may approach God – Psalm 24:3-6
 - b) Understand the presence of a Holy God is not to be approached carelessly – Acts 5:1-11
- 3) **We are dependent on Holy Spirit to lead us and to set us apart _____.**
 - a) Exodus 33:13-16
- 4) **We expect the _____ natural _____ flow of the gifts of the Spirit.**
 - a) Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12

Prophetic – hearing and following the Voice and Leading of God

- 1) **We seek the counsel _____ of Holy Spirit first in decisions and direction.**
 - a) Psalm 37:5 Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.
 - b) Psalm 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way.
- 2) **We trust and follow the leading of Holy Spirit over experience, opinions, popular trends and traditions.**
 - a) Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.
 - b) Psalm 18:30 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.
 - c) Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
- 3) **We expect the prophetic gifts to regularly flow through God's people in all settings**
 - a) 1 Corinthians 14:1 (NKJV) "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy"

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The Word – living by the authority of the Word of God

Matthew 4:4 (NKJV) “But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”

1) We strive to preach the uncompromised _____message_____ of the Gospel with integrity.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV) “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2) We expect preaching of the Word to ___challenge_____ us, convict us and actually bring change through revelation of Truth.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

3) We submit to the Bible as the final _____authority_____ in all matters of life, building our lives upon the infallible principles of the inerrant Word of God.

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NKJV) “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Prayer - setting a foundation of prayer in everything we do

Prayer is communication, interaction, fellowship and partnership with God.

- Prayer Creates Fellowship (Matthew 14:23)
- Prayer Renews Us Spiritually (Psalm 16:11)
- Prayer Makes Us Co-Laborers With God (Genesis 1:28, Matthew 28:18, 1 Cor 3:9)

Philippians 4:6 (NKJV) “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God”

1) Prayer is more than an activity, it is part of our identity.

- a) Isaiah 56:7 (NKJV) “...For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations”

2) We believe individual and corporate prayer supernaturally _____moves_____ the hand of God.

- a) 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)

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3) **We trust that when we humble ourselves and call, God ___hears_____ and answers.**

Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

1 Timothy 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—

4) **We believe is our privilege and responsibility to pray all kinds of prayers for all people.**

a) James 5:13-18 (NKJV) **“Effective, fervent prayer of the righteous avails much”**

- i) **Effective** = Energeo: to be **active**, efficient, be mighty in
- ii) **Fervent** = Zelos: heat, **zeal**; from zeo “to be hot” (boil, of liquids; or glow of solids)
- iii) **Righteous** = Dikaios: equitable in character or act [***in right standing with God***]
- iv) **Avails** = Ischuo: to **have force, can do, prevail**, be of strength

b) Praying in the Spirit is normal Christianity and essential to our relationship with God, and effectiveness in prayer.

- i) **Romans 8:26** Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
- ii) **Ephesians 6:18** praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—
- iii) **Jude 1:20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

Worship - honoring God as a redeemed people

Psalm 107:1(NKJV) “Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. 2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, 3And gathered out of the lands,From the east and from the west,From the north and from the south.”

1) **We worship as a natural _____response___ to the ___revelation___ of who He is what He has done for us.**

Psalm 100 (NKJV)

Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!

2 Serve the Lord with gladness;Come before His presence with singing.

3 Know that the Lord, He is God;It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,And into His courts with praise.Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

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5 For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.

2) **Our expression of worship is based on the example and instruction given in Scripture.**

- a) Psalmic or ___Davidic___ worship is the form of corporate or individual worship that expresses thanksgiving, praise and exaltation (worship) to God himself through songs written to and about Him using various musical instruments and physical activity.
- b) Singing: Psalm 30:4, 95:1, 47:6, 81:1, Eph 5:19; Col 3:16
- c) Kneeling: Psalm 95:6, 2 Chron 6:13, Luke 22:41, Acts 9:40, 20:36
- d) Standing: Psalm 135:2, Duet 10:8
- e) Lifting Hands: Psalm 134:2, 63:4, 141:2, Lam 3:41, Ex 17:8-13, 1 Kings 8:22, 2 Chron 6:13, 1 Tim 2:8
- f) Clapping: Psalm 47:1, 98:8, Isaiah 55:12, 2 Kings 11:12
- g) Dancing: Psalm 149:3, 150:4, 30:11, 2 Sam 6:14-16, Jer 31:4, 13, Judges 11:34, 21:21-23, 1 Sam 18:6, Ex 15:20, Eccl 3:4, Luke 15:25
- h) Shouting: Psalm 35:27, 47:1, 27:6, 32:11, 98:4, 132:9, 16 2 Sam 6:15, Josh 6:10, 16, 20
- i) Instruments: Psalm 150:3-5, 33:2-3, 71:22, 144:9, Isa 38:20, 2 Sam 6:5, Gen 4:21
- j) Spontaneous Song (“New Song”): Psalm 40:3, 96:1, 98:1, 33:3, 144:9, Rev 5:9, 14:3

3) **Worship is not for us, not our entertainment – it’s for an audience of ___one___**

4) **In Worship, we engage in ___ Spirit ___ [Holy Spirit enabled] and in Truth [Jesus, who is the truth, is the center of our worship].**

- a) John 4:23-24 “...the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...”
 “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. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

“Indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: ‘For He is good, for His mercy endures forever,’ that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.” (2 Chronicles 5:13-14)

True, God-focused, redemption spawned, awe-inspired Worship creates an environment that God wants to manifest himself in.

5) **We Worship God because he deserves it and our awe, passion and love for Him cannot and should not be contained.**