

# Lesson 11

Teacher's Manual

## WORSHIP AND PRAISE

READ & MEDITATE ON: Psalm 150

MEMORIZE: Hebrews 13:15

### INTRODUCTION

Among God's people the world over, there is a special word that is used to express praise to God. This word is almost unchanged in every language. It is the word, HALLELUJAH, which literally means, "Praise ye the Lord." It is a universal exclamation of adoration. Other phrases such as, "Thank the Lord," "Glory to God," and "Praise the Lord," are also common among born-again believers. This is because the Bible is filled with exhortations to praise God for all His wondrous works. Praise is a natural act for those who know God. When a person experiences salvation, sees who God is and what He can do, praise issues forth spontaneously. Praise is the highest expression of worship. Worship adores and reverences God for who He is. Praise expresses appreciation and gratitude for all He has done. "Make his praise glorious" (Psalms 66:2), for our God is great and greatly to be praised!

#### I. WORSHIP

The first mention of the word, worship, in the Bible is found in Genesis 22:5. God had asked Abraham to offer his only son. He was obedient to the voice of God. Abraham left his servants and took Isaac with him to the mountain. He did not know what the final result would be, but he had complete confidence in God. Abraham told his servants, "I and the lad will go yonder and worship." He was really saying that even though he did not understand God's will, he would subject himself to it. He honored God and revered His Word. This is true worship.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them..."

*Exodus 20:3-5*

The object of our worship is God and God alone. "...For it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve" (Matthew 4:10). Idolatry and false worship is forbidden, but true worship is commanded (Deuteronomy 26:10, Psalms 95:6, Revelation 14:7 and 22:9). The first chapter of Romans (verses 21-32) explains the danger of half-hearted or insincere worship. When people worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator, their hearts become fearfully darkened and their lives become exceedingly corrupt.

B. Our Attitude Toward Men

Because man is made in the image of God, it is impossible to worship God and ignore or mistreat our fellowman and brethren in Christ. "...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40). Our attitude toward God is reflected by our attitude toward our brethren. Again, Jesus says, "By this shall all men know ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). I John 4:20-21 says, "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother he is a liar." Our true love (worship) toward God demands that we have the right attitude toward our brethren. If there is conflict between you and your brother, resolve it before you worship God.

"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother and then come and offer thy gift."

*Matthew 5:23-24*

C. Our Attitude Toward Circumstances

Since we have discovered that worship begins with a correct attitude, we will be able to worship God continually. We can worship at home, on the job, at school, and in the market...everywhere! We should confirm our allegiance to God when things are going wrong for us as well as when things are going good and in times of sorrow as well as in times of rejoicing.

One Bible interpretation of the word praise is, "a thankful confession." We see then, that praise and thanksgiving are very intimately related. Hebrews 13:15 expressly adds to this insight:

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."

Notice that we are exhorted to offer up praises continually. Our life should be one of constant praise and thanksgiving. The Old Testament priesthood had to offer up animal sacrifices continually. We, (the New Testament royal priesthood), are to offer up spiritual sacrifices of praise continually to Him who has called us out of darkness into marvelous light (I Peter 2:9). The Bible especially encourages thankfulness in regard to prayer (Philippians 4:6 and Colossians 4:2).

Our daily lives should express a continual outflow of praise and thanksgiving--regardless of circumstances. Sometimes situations arise or something unpleasant happens that may tempt us to doubt God's providence. We must continually remind ourselves of God's wisdom in knowing what is best for us and His promise that, "...all things work together for good to them that love God, who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Notice, this scripture did not say all things were good. It says all things work together for good. It is easy to be thankful when everything is going our way. But when trouble comes can we still obey the divine commands found in the following scriptures?

"In every thing give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."  
*I Thessalonians 5:18*

"Be filled with the Spirit...giving thanks always for all things..."  
*Ephesians 5:18,20*

In everything? For all things? How can this be humanly possible? Well, perhaps it is not humanly possible--but with God all things are possible. If we are not careful, we can question the will of God in regard to this. Especially when tragedy strikes. Our understanding causes us problems when we try to figure out why God allows certain things to happen in our lives and then we complicate matters even more in trying to figure out how the circumstance is for our good. It takes real faith in God to accept His plan for our lives at times. However, when we sincerely thank God for a situation--believing that He knows what is best and is able to work it out for our eventual benefit--we can praise Him regardless of the seeming evil that has come upon us. This releases a supernatural power, a divine force that will bring about changes that are nothing short of miraculous.

The cause of the Israelites' complaining was unbelief. Unbelief is at the root of all our little grumblings. They could have received abundant blessings in a land flowing with milk and honey, if they only would have refrained their murmuring lips.

The Apostle Paul practiced what he preached to the Hebrew Christians. He had every right to complain about his circumstances when he was flogged and thrown into prison for preaching Christ. What did he and Silas do as they sat on the cold, damp dungeon floor in stocks with blood streaming down their backs? Complain to God for what He allowed to happen to them while they were doing His work? Not these men of faith! "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them." They knew that praise would unleash the power of God to work in their behalf--and it did: "And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every ones' bonds were loosed" (Acts 16:25-26). God can shake the foundation of our problems, open doors for us and loose the bonds of tension and nervousness...if we can just learn to praise Him. Cultivate an "attitude of gratitude." Move off of "Grumble Street" and on to "Praise Avenue." Hallelujah living can be yours! Rejoice evermore! In everything give thanks! (I Thessalonians 5:16,18.)

"...Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 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. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

*Colossians 3:15-17*

### III. PRAISING GOD TOGETHER

Sincere worship results in the spontaneous expression of praise among Christian groups as well as individuals. The exuberant worship of the ancient Hebrews becomes a brand new experience every time God's Spirit-filled people meet to praise Him. Some of the most exciting and meaningful times in your experience with God will be when you are worshipping God with your whole heart together with His people. This is because the Lord manifests Himself as we praise Him. "...Thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel" (Psalms 22:3). As God breathes on a congregation, sometimes there is a holy hush of solemnity. Sometimes, like a dove, the Spirit moves in gentle peace. On other occasions a holy excitement sweeps over the people as they rejoice. There are times of weeping, times of an awareness of God's awesome power, times of inward searching and times of special moves

From Strong's Concordance we find that the word praise, in its original Old and New Testament uses, meant the following to God's people: Laudation--or a hymn of praise; to revere or worship with extended or upraised hands; playing a musical instrument, at times accompanied by voice; to boast, thus to be clamorously foolish; applause. Let us examine each of these definitions in light of worshipping God together.

A. Laudation

When the church comes together for worship, there will be times when the whole service will be given to laudation, including the preaching. That means that we will be extolling His greatness and mercy by testimony, song and preaching. It will be a service where spoken or vocal praise will be predominant.

We TESTIFY PUBLICLY to the goodness of God because in the Bible we read:

"Come and hear...and I will declare what he hath done for my soul."

*Psalms 66:16*

"...Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:"

*Luke 12:8*

B. To Revere Or Worship With Extended Or Upraised Hands

The extended or uplifted hand is a symbol of surrender or reverence to a greater power. There is something special about praying or praising God with uplifted hands. It seems to create an atmosphere of sincerity and respect. Many people that have received the Holy Ghost, received it while their hands were uplifted. When we praise or magnify God, it is natural to raise our hands.

We RAISE OUR HANDS in prayer and praise because, in the Bible we read:

"Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord."

*Psalms 134:2*

it. The sixth chapter of II Samuel tells of the great praise that David felt when the ark of the Lord was returned to Jerusalem. Verse 14, "And David danced before the Lord with all his might." The third chapter of the book of Acts tells about a lame man being healed, and going into the temple walking, leaping, and praising God. On the day of Pentecost the disciples were accused of being drunk on new wine, but Peter explained that they were just full of the Holy Ghost.

We make LOUD NOISE AND DANCE in the Spirit because in the Bible we read:

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all  
the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice..."  
*Psalms 98:4*

"Let them praise his name in the dance...  
Praise him with the timbrel and dance."  
*Psalms 149:3, 150:4*

#### E. Applause

If anyone anywhere is deserving of applause, God is. Clapping the hands is a natural way to express applause in honor to the one who is worthy.

We CLAP our hands in applause and in accompaniment to music and SHOUT because in the Bible we read:

"O clap your hands, all ye people; shout  
unto God with the voice of triumph."  
*Psalms 47:1*

The book of Psalms is the greatest collection of written praises the world has ever known. Let your heart rejoice as you read these selections from the "hymnbook of Israel." In the following scriptures, notice: how to praise Him, who should praise Him, where to praise Him, why we praise Him, when to praise Him and what to praise Him for!

Psalms 5:11, "But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee."

Psalms 63:5, "My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips."

Psalms 66:8, "O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard."

Psalms 67:3, "Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee."

Psalms 69:30, "I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving."

Psalms 71:8, "Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day."

Psalms 71:14, "But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more."

Psalms 95:1,2, "O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."

Psalms 100:1-4, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

Psalms 103:1,2, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."

Psalms 107:8, "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"

Psalms 113:3, "From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised."

Psalms 145:1-3, "I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever, Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable."

Psalms 147:1, "Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely."

Psalms 150:1,2, "Praise ye the Lord, Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness."

Psalms 150:6, "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord,"

Every human being has an innate desire to worship something. God has created mankind with this capacity. People all over the world worship everything under the sun: money, pleasure, fame, education, idols, nature and other things that have been created. They worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator and their foolish hearts are darkened (Romans 1:21-25). But we who have been born again of water and of the Spirit know who is the only One to be worshipped and we worship Him in spirit and in truth. Let us never be ashamed to show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (I Peter 2:9)!



Psalms 9:1,2, "I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High."

Psalms 18:49, "Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name,"

Psalms 22:22, "I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee."

Psalms 29:2, "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

Psalms 32:11, "Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart."

Psalms 33:1, "Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright."

Psalms 34:1, "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

Psalms 47:6, "Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises."

Psalms 48:1, "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness."

Psalms 57:9, "I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations."

Psalms 63:3, "Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee,"

Psalms 63:4, "Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name."

"...men (should) pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands..."

*I Timothy 2:8*

We PRAY ALOUD because in the Bible we read:

"I,..will call upon the name of the Lord."

*Psalms 116:17*

"...They lifted up their voice to God with one accord..."

*Acts 4:24*

C. Playing a Musical Instrument, At Times Accompanied by Voice

If we are to praise through our music, it must be designed to praise Him. It is not the instrument or the musician that is important, but the one who is being exalted. It might be easy for a gifted musician to want to call attention to themselves, but remember if we are praising God, He should receive all the glory. The music should exalt God and not create feelings in people that are wrong. There are certain beats and moods created in some music that are contrary to true worship. We believe in dancing in the Spirit, leaping and shouting, but if these responses are created by the beat alone, either the music or the individual (or both) are wrong. Music can help to create a worshipful spirit in the church service or it can be a hindrance to true worship. Every musician should be sensitive to the Spirit so that their music can be an asset to the service. Music should be for the purpose of praising or exalting God.

We SING AND PLAY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS with all of our hearts because in the Bible we read:

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. Sing unto the Lord with the harp, and the voice of psalm. With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King."

*Psalms 98:4-6*

D. To Boast, Thus To Be Clamorously Foolish

There should always be time in our services where excited, enthused folks are able to express their praise to God. There is something unique and wonderful about a person who is able to express their praise in an excited and uninhibited way. When God has done something great for us we should be excited about

of the Holy Ghost as God blesses us with His Presence. The eternal world of God becomes a thrilling reality as we worship and praise Him. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

God accepts and welcomes heartfelt praise expressed by congregations. It is good to praise God before His saints (Psalms 52:9). It is right to praise Him during corporate worship (Psalms 22:22). Psalms 35:18, says, "I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people." Any church service is blessed when the majority of the congregation offers sincere praise unto God. When we praise Him, it helps create a spiritual atmosphere of faith, confidence, love and expectation. It makes it easier for the preacher to get clear spiritual direction and creates an atmosphere where the Word of God will be more effective. If you will learn how to praise sincerely, you will be more receptive to spiritual instruction from the preached Word of God. Praise does not take the place of preaching, but greatly enhances it.

Even though praise takes on many forms: singing, music, uplifted hands, applause, laudation, (all of these expressions as well as others are acceptable in the house of God), we need to be sensitive to others in the congregation. Do not forget that your pastor is in charge of the service and he is responsible for the order in which the service is conducted. You should always be sensitive to his instructions and desires. Your enthusiasm should not and does not give you a right to ignore his feelings or those of the rest of the congregation. "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints (I Corinthians 14:33). The Bible tells us that we are members of one body, and that body must be of one mind if it is to accomplish anything for God. That is certainly true of our worship and praise. We are instructed in Romans 15:5-6, "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

God is not the author of confusion, but at the same time He does not expect our church services to be dead and dry with never a voice lifted in praise. From the book of Genesis through the book of Revelation, we find that God's people and His creation praise Him exuberantly, loudly, and joyfully. Praise can be expressed in many different ways. It is a mistake to think everyone must respond in an identical way. We are individuals and are all blessed with our own particular expressions and personalities. It would be wrong for you to try to be someone else. We are all unique and yet every one is loved by God. You should not think less of yourself or anyone else just because everyone does not respond to God in the same manner. However, every man should give his best efforts to God. The important thing to remember is that God accepts praise on the basis of sincerity and honesty. Apostolic Pentecostals, since the early days of the church, have been known for their lively, exuberant worship. This is one reason our services are so distinctively different.

The story of Jehoshaphat gives us a remarkable example of how God works while we praise Him. This is dramatically illustrated by The Amplified Bible in II Chronicles 20. One day King Jehoshaphat awoke to find Judah surrounded by powerful enemies. In desperation and hopelessness he cried out to God, "we have no might to stand against this great company that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (verse 12). Notice he took his eyes off the problem and looked to God instead. This did not mean he escaped reality. He just realized his helplessness and turned to the Lord for help. Do not be preoccupied with threats of evil and adversities in your life. Know that God is in control of every situation, and He will speak to you as He did to Jehoshaphat, "Be not afraid or dismayed at this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's...You shall not need to fight in this battle; take your position, stand still, and see the deliverance of the Lord (who is) with you..." (verses 15 and 17). Jehoshaphat and the people were then given orders to, "...sing to the Lord and praise Him in their holy (priestly) garments, as they went out before the army, saying, Give thanks to the Lord, for His mercy and lovingkindness endure for ever!" (verse 21). This certainly was a strange way to face threatening circumstances. What happened? "And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord sent ambushments against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, and they were (self-) slaughtered" (verse 22). We do not need to be defeated by circumstances if we are ready to accept the fact that we are powerless and that the battle is not ours, but God's. Worrying will not help. The only way out of any dilemma is through faith--and praise is the language of faith.

Just as praise is the language of faith, so complaining is the language of doubt. Beware of grumbling when things do not go the way you would like them to! Grumbling comes too easy to all of us. It is the very opposite of thanksgiving. Murmuring is the opposite of trust and acceptance. Instead of saying, "Thank you, Lord," we often times say, "God, why did this have to happen to me?" By complaining, we are accusing God of mismanaging our life. God destroyed the children of Israel for complaining about the way He chose to lead them (I Corinthians 10:10-11). It makes God angry to hear folks murmur (Numbers 11:1). Petty gripes ended up keeping the Israelites from entering into the promised land. Insignificant grumbings can keep us, too, from enjoying God's best for us.

"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God."

*Hebrews 3:12*

"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it...For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest..."

*Hebrews 4:1,3*

Immediately after Job had received word of the loss of most of his possessions and all of his children, the Bible says that he fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, and said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job was faithful to God when he had been blessed with prosperity and his attitude did not change when he had to suffer (Job 1:13-21). After the loss of family and possessions, Job was afflicted with sore boils from the top of his head to the sole of his feet, yet he said, "though he slay me, yet will I trust him." II Samuel, chapter twelve tells the story of the death of King David's infant son, as a result of God's judgment upon the King's sins of adultery and murder. In the midst of David's great sorrow, the Bible tells us he worshipped God (verse 20). It is very important that we reconfirm our worship even when things go wrong. Regardless of the circumstances, God is still God and worthy of our worship.

He is God with all the majesty and power befitting His Omnipotence, yet He robed Himself in human flesh and offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. Isaiah 9:6 shows us that God became man, to redeem us, because He loved us so much (John 3:16). We should consider it a privilege to worship Him. He is worthy. Let our voices echo the words of the heavenly host as they worship Him who sits upon the throne...

"Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever."

*Revelation 5:12-14*

## II. THANKS-LIVING

No, the word "Thanks-living" is not mis-spelled. Our entire lives should be an expression of gratitude to the One who saved us. It is our knowledge of God and what He has done that enables us to live with continual thanksgiving in our hearts and on our lips. Because we know He cares, this inspires "Thanks-living."

Thousands of years later, Jesus approached a woman at a well in Samaria and explained to her the meaning of true worship:

"...The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

*John 4:23-24*

Because God is a spiritual being, He must be worshipped in reality and sincerity--in a spiritual way. The word, worship, in both Hebrew and Greek means to fall or bow down before God in homage. This can be taken both literally and figuratively, but it speaks of one's attitude more than anything else. If we bowed before Him but did not surrender our will, it would not mean a thing. Worship does not require a special audience or a special place. It is not a respecter of nationalities, languages or cultures. Neither is it dependent upon wealth, age or education. The only thing that matters is the sincerity of the individual offering it, because worship is the way we adore and reverence our God.

In the Lord's prayer, Jesus instructed us to pray in this fashion, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name" (Matthew 6:9). The word, hallowed, means to make holy or purify. We know that we cannot make God holy or purify Him because He is holy. His holiness was established long before man ever existed. His purity is a fact that is unquestioned. How can we make Him holy or purify Him? We cannot--except in our minds or attitudes. When we first came to God, it was our attitude that had to change. What we thought about God changed and we began to recognize Him for what He has always been. We see Him now as the angelic hosts have seen Him through the ages: King of kings and Lord of lords, the First and the Last, the Lord God Almighty, the Rose of Sharon, the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star, the Savior, the Redeemer and the soon coming King. Worship adores and honors God for all that He is to us. All that He is to us depends upon our attitudes. Our attitudes are how we really think. Let us examine three attitudes that our worship depends on.

#### A. Our Attitude Toward God

When we worship there must be an object of worship. The object of our worship is God and Deuteronomy 6:5 tells us to worship or love Him with all of our heart, soul and might. The Bible unmistakably identifies God as a Spirit, so this would preclude the worship of anything visible or made with hands (idols). This is why the Bible tells Christians to keep away from idolatry (I John 5:21). The Word of God clearly instructs us that we should not worship anything but God (Leviticus 26:1).