

Worship 2019 Pt. 1

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, October 6, 2019

Main Theme – Delving into an extended series on the function/operation of a Pentecostal people.

WORSHIP & PRAYER COMMUNION

Q. Why should Christ be worshipped?

A. Communion provides some A's to this Q.

1) Because of the Wonder(s) of Who He Is

-Communion reveals a Christ who was _____ to give Himself for us!

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2) Because of What He Has Done/Accomplished for Us

-Communion reminds us that Christ's work is the means by which we are forgiven/restored

Ephesians 1:3–8

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us.

3) Because of What He Will Do for Us

-Communion reminds us that Jesus—though dead—lives and shall one day Return to Save/Renew

1 Corinthians 11:26

26 Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Regular Events**
 - Women's Ministry – Tuesday, October 8, from 6:30–8pm
 - Men's Breakfast – Saturday, October 12, starting at 9am
- **Special Events**
 - Church Membership – Packet distribution following this Service
 - OCC National Collection Week – The week of November 18–25

MORNING OFFERING

At this time, I want to call forth our ushers.

-Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the Lord/His work

-Your giving fuels the work of Christ in and through this church

May the Lord bless you as you give! May you experience His faithfulness in kind!

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- **CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH**
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Main Theme – Delving into an extended series on the function/operation of a Pentecostal people.

INTRODUCTION

As always it is wonderful to see you. I look forward to these moments of worship and instruction. I pray that you are ready to receive what the Lord has for you today. Please have your Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes. We have much to cover in a relatively short amount of time.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 1

This morning it is my desire to begin an EXTENDED teaching on an array of interrelated topics that I have wanted to address for quite some time. Some topics will be extremely FAMILIAR, as you will certainly note. Other topics may be a bit UNFAMILIAR (i.e., seemingly unexplored territory)—but biblical nonetheless.

FYI – In light of what the Lord has been speaking/doing as of late, the time seems right to begin.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

NOTE – I want to open with a rather simple, straightforward PREMISE. In many regards this premise will provide the necessary foundation for the weeks (likely months) ahead. Please consider the following:

There are certain hallmarks and/or characterizing elements to a genuine move of the Spirit of God. i.e., When the Lord begins to stir in the hearts of His people—individually and collectively—the following will become EVIDENT (non-exhaustive but sufficient listing):

- 1) There Will Be a Passion for Worship
- 2) There Will Be a Hunger for the Word of God
- 3) There Will Be a Commitment to Fellowship (Comm)
- 4) There Will Be a Dedication to Outreach and Ch. Evangelism

Q. Don't believe me? Let's take a moment to consider (briefly) some biblical EVIDENCE.

TO THE WORD (EVIDENCE)

Q. How many of us would agree that the Early Church experienced a move of God (Pentecost)?

Acts 2:1–4 (NIV)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Q. And what were the outflows of this event? Consider the following summation from Scripture:

Acts 2:42–47 [Post Peter’s Sermon and the Salvation of 3,000, etc.]

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

1) There Will Be a Passion for Worship

Acts 2:46

46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts [place of worship].

2) There Will Be a Hunger for the Word of God

Acts 2:42a

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching . . .

3) There Will Be a Commitment to Christian Fellowship/Connection

Acts 2:42, 44–45, 46a

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship . . . 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 . . . They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, . . .

4) There Will Be a Dedication to Outreach and Christ-Centered Evangelism

Acts 2:47b

47 . . . And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

CHRIST-CENTERIC RENEWAL

KEY – It would seem that my opening premise stands. i.e., When the Spirit of the Lord begins to stir in the hearts of God’s people—both individually and collectively—the following WILL become evident:

- 1)** There Will Be a Passion for Worship
- 2)** There Will Be a Hunger for the Word of God
- 3)** There Will Be a Commitment to Fellowship (Comm)
- 4)** There Will Be a Dedication to Outreach and Ch. Evangelism

NOTE 1 – Please consider that these hallmarks of spiritual renewal are ALL Christ-centric. i.e., True revival is NOT about men or the purposes of men, but about the elevation of Jesus Christ and the advancement of His kingdom. It IS about **(a)** the glorification of Christ (Worship); **(b)** the consideration of His teaching (Word); **(c)** the health/vitality of His Body (Fellowship); and **(d)** the execution of His Commission (Outreach & Evangelism)!

NOTE 2 – Of course, it should be NO surprise that the operation of the Holy Spirit GLORIFIES Christ. That is the FUNCTION of the Holy Spirit in this age! As the Son sought to glorify the Father in His ministry, the Spirit seeks to glorify the Son in His ministry!

This is just as Jesus said it would be. Consider the following:

John 14:26

26 . . . the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 15:26

26 “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.

John 16:12–14

12 I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

KEY – When the Holy Spirit of God works, Christ is glorified and His kingdom advanced through worship, teaching, Christian community, and outreach to the community! These are vital principles that MUST BE believed, pursued and experienced!

TRANSITIONS

Having established a suitable foundation, I would like to begin exploring a topic that will occupy our time for the next week or two. It is a familiar topic that we have touched upon in times past. We will touch upon it again, asking the Spirit to OPEN our hearts to biblical truth afresh and anew.

KEY – I want to begin to talk about WORSHIP...

WORSHIP PT. 1

Let's begin with the BASICS (which is where we Christians often stumble).

FYI – Many hear the term worship and automatically think about music/the singing of Christian songs, etc. In one sense this is fine, as worship and music are deeply connected in Scripture (as we will note in the days ahead). In another sense this is potentially misleading, because worship TRANSCENDS a sing-along. Consider the following:

- It is possible to have music with NO worship
- It is possible to have worship with NO music

Q. So what exactly is this thing called worship? Great question—I'm SO glad you asked!

A. The most common NT Greek word for WORSHIP is the term 'proskuneo' (pronounced prawe-skew-neow). This word literally means "to prostrate oneself; to kneel before as an act of reverence." The probable root word for this term comes from the act of a dog kissing/licking the hand of its master—indicating "love, adoration and submission."

THUS, worship is "the humbling of ourselves before God; it is the EXPRESSION of our devotion, reverence and love to a God who is most worthy." Please keep this in mind as we move forward.

WORSHIP PT. 2

FYI – Along these lines, two of my favorite Christian authors DESCRIBE worship as the following:

- 1)** "What is worship? Worship is to feel in your heart and express in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder and overpowering love in the presence of that most ancient Mystery, that Majesty which philosophers call the First Cause, but which we call Our Father Which Are in Heaven." **—A. W. Tozer**
- 2)** "To worship God is to recognize his worth or worthiness; to look God-ward, and to acknowledge in all appropriate ways the value of what we see. The Bible calls this activity "glorifying God" or "giving glory to God," and views it as the ultimate end, and from one point of view, the whole duty of man (Ps. 29:2; 96:6; 1 Cor. 10:31)." **—J. I. Packer**

WORSHIP PT. 3

Delving deeper, biblical worship connects to/is motivated by THREE essential elements:

FYI – If you were here for the Communion Service much of this should sound VERY familiar!

1) The Nature of God

The reality of God's character/nature—i.e., the perfections thereof—should move us to worship.

Let's play a little game (fill in the blank). God is _____ (e.g., loving, generous, kind, merciful, just, holy, good, compassionate, righteous, omnipotent, omniscient, eternal, sovereign, etc.). As we consider these realities of His essence, we should be MOVED to a place of humility and the expression of our love, adoration and submission.

2) The Working of God (Past & Present Tense)

KEY – Much of worship centers upon what God has done (past) and what He is doing (present).

God is a God who has intervened in human history time and again (consider the biblical record)! Moreover, God is a God who is at work in our present affairs and circumstances (e.g., our lives, families, our church, nation and beyond). As we consider the reality of His past and present operation, we should be MOVED to a place of humility and the expression of our love, adoration and submission.

3) The Working of God (Future Tense)

This refers to what the Lord purposes to do in the future. Scripture records hundreds of specific promises that speak to God's future work and the hope for those who belong to Him (cf. Book of Revelation). As we consider the reality of His future operation, we should be MOVED to a place of humility and the expression of our love, adoration and submission.

WORSHIP PT. 4

Q. So why do we worship God?

A. Because of who He is, what He has done, is doing and ultimately purposes to do!

NOTE – Again, I think that Scripture will support these premises. You can read through the Book of Psalms—a glorious compilation of worshipful writings—and see these three elements in operation. For the sake of example, let's turn to Psalm 23 (classic/beloved OT selection).

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
 he leads me beside quiet waters,
 3 he refreshes my soul.
 He guides me along the right paths
 for his name's sake.
 4 Even though I walk
 through the darkest valley,
 I will fear no evil,
 for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff,
 they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies.
 You anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.
 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me
 all the days of my life,
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
 forever.

1) The Nature of God (Moved to Worship in Light of Who God Is)**Q. What attributes of God are touched upon herein?****A.** Sovereignty, Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Faithfulness, Goodness, Grace, etc.**2) The Working of God (Past/Present) (Moved to Worship in Light of What God Has Done/Does)****Q. What past/ongoing works of God is David, the author, celebrating?****A.** God's provision, leadership, refreshing, protection, preservation, comfort, etc.**3) The Working of God (Future Tense) (Moved to Worship in Light of What God Shall Do)****Q. What future work of God is David, the author, celebrating?****Psalm 23:6**

6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me
 all the days of my life,
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
 forever.

HW – Practice finding these elements for yourself (cf. Ps. 8, 76, 91, 103, 106, 146, 150). ENJOY!

WORSHIP PT. 5

NOTE – As I move to a close, Psalm 23 offers an interesting INSIGHT into meaningful, passionate worship. David recognized the nature and work of God through the lens of particularly VIVID IMAGERY: i.e., The Lord is my shepherd.

Now, David COULD have said: “I celebrate the Lord because He sovereignly superintends and orchestrates every facet of my life and living according to His good purposes” and he would have been correct in so doing. BUT David considered the Lord using more tender, impacting imagery: i.e., the Lord is my shepherd.

KEY – David’s perception/understanding of God fueled heartfelt and sincere worship!

Q. How do you see the Lord?

Q. How do you understand His nature/work in your life?

Q. How do you imagine the Lord and what is your sincere conception of Him?

KEY – Perhaps your worship is dry because you don’t really perceive the VALUE of what you see in God or in His dealings with you. Again, to “worship God is to recognize his worth or worthiness; to look God-ward, and to acknowledge in all appropriate ways the value of what we see. (J. I. Packer)

Q. When you look to/consider the Lord – how do you see Him?

Q. David saw a shepherd—and much more. What precisely do you see?

HW – Search through Psalms and discover the imagery used to describe God’s nature/work.

CONCLUSION PT. 1

Next Sunday morning we will pick up right where we are leaving off. I want to explore some of the IMAGERY utilized in the Psalms, etc. to describe the Lord—imagery that helped to FUEL meaningful worship.

FYI – My GOAL in this will be two-fold:

- 1)** To help you understand how biblical figures viewed and/or recognized God
- 2)** To help expand/build your vocabulary in worship—there’s a language to worship

KEY – The goal in teaching you about worship is to cultivate a church FULL of genuine worshipers!

CONCLUSION PT. 2

1) Next Sunday Morning:

- Show Up
- Show Up Expectantly
- Show Up Reverently (Changeable)

2) In the Meantime:

-Practice Your Worship. Humble yourself before a worthy God and express your devotion, reverence and love. Use music as an aide. Practice worshipping WITHOUT music and provided lyrics! Sometimes it is beneficial to express YOUR heart and NOT that of another!

-Practice Your Worship w/ the Spirit's Empowerment. Let the Lord—by His Spirit—move you to ever-increasing degrees of spiritual fervor/passion in your worship! It's what you were made to do and why Christ gave Him to you! Worship in the Spirit!