

Worship 2019 Pt. 2

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, October 13, 2019

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

WORSHIP & PRAYER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Regular Events**
 - Potluck Supper – Taking Place the Final Sunday of the Month

- **Special Events**
 - Church Membership – Interested Parties Must See the Pastor ASAP

MORNING OFFERING

I want to call forth our ushers. TWO offerings will be collected:

- 1) The 1st offering goes to support this local work and community outreach
- 2) The 2nd offering goes to support our regular missionaries (foreign/domestic)

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

OCC PRESENTATION

As the offerings are being collected (one after the other) I would like to play a **VIDEO** for you.

POST – You see herein the IMPACT that something as simple as packing a shoebox can have! Would you consider participating in OCC 2019? Whether you are a first-time or a recurring participant, would you pray about what God would have you do? Make it an opportunity for family ministry and more!

KEY – God WILL bless those who participate!

- 1) See Me Following Service for Shoeboxes, etc.
- 2) National Collection Week – November 18–23

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- **CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN’S CHURCH**
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Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, October 13, 2019

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 weekly 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.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 1

Last Sunday we launched into an EXTENDED series that will touch upon an array of interrelated topics in the days ahead (some familiar v. unfamiliar). The MAJORITY of last week's sermon—posted online with accompanying notes—was dedicated to the oft-explored theme of WORSHIP.

KEY – Since worship is an integral part of Christian faith/practice—and since a passion for worship is a hallmark of a genuine move of the Holy Spirit—worship is a topic WORTHY of ongoing address.

Q. What is worship (biblically-speaking)?

A. Worship is DEFINED as the EXPRESSION of our devotion, reverence and adoration to a God who is most WORTHY. The most common term for worship in the NT (Greek) literally means “to prostrate oneself; to kneel before as an act of reverence”—stemming from a root word that refers to the act of a dog licking the hand of its master.

Q. WHY do we worship (biblically-speaking)? SLIDE

A. WE WORSHIP GOD FOR...

1) Who He Is (NATURE) SLIDE – When we consider the unrivaled PERFECTIONS of His nature (e.g., His love, goodness, mercy and grace, compassion, power, holiness, etc.) how can we NOT properly respond with the expression of our love, reverence and devotion!

2) What He Has Done/Is Doing (WORK) SLIDE – When we consider what God has done for us in seasons PAST and what He is doing for us in the PRESENT (PLUS His work in countless lives throughout space and time), how can we NOT respond with the expression of love, reverence and devotion!

3) What He Promises to Do (PURPOSE) SLIDE – When we consider ALL that God has in store for those who belong to Him by faith (for both TIME and ETERNITY), how can we NOT respond with the expression of our love, reverence and devotion!

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

NOTE – Biblical writers expressed these realities using vivid **IMAGERY (SLIDE)**. The ancients came to understand God (i.e., His nature, work and purpose) by **LIKENING** Him to the **NATURAL** elements of their world and experience. Such imagery was **UTILIZED** powerfully in their worship. Allow me to illustrate—picking up where we left off last Sunday.

Psalm 23 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

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) David Understood the Nature of God through the Image of an Earthly Shepherd

LIKE a shepherd, the Lord is faithful, kind/gracious, nurturing, watchful, protective, capable, etc.

2) David Understood the Labor/Work of God through the Image of an Earthly Shepherd

LIKE a shepherd, the Lord works to provide, lead, refresh, restore, protect, comfort, nurture, etc.

3) David Understood the Ultimate Purpose of God through the Image of an Earthly Shepherd

LIKE a shepherd, God would work to secure/provide a glorious destiny for David (cf. Psalm 23:6b)

KEY – David—considering the nature, work and purpose of God **THROUGH** the image of the shepherd—was **MOVED** to worship. **Q.** How many have been **MOVED** to worship through these many centuries because of this **IMAGERY** and what it means for **ALL** who belong to **GOD!**

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 3

Of course, Scripture—the Book of Psalms in particular—utilizes a lot of IMAGERY to CONVEY and CELEBRATE the nature, work and purpose of God. MANY images of God are presented. In fact, your HW assignment was to spend time in the psalms looking for examples! I hope that you did, and that your time was profitable!

KEY – Today I want to take some time to IDENTIFY and EXPLORE the images of God in the psalms.

Q. Why?

SO THAT...

A1) You Will Come to Understand the Nature, Work and Purpose of God in Greater Detail

A2) You Will Be Moved to Greater Degrees of Meaningful/Effective Worship (Vocabulary)

Q. How is God portrayed in the Book of Psalms? What IMAGES are associated with Him?

IMAGE #1 SLIDE

IMAGE #1 – Throughout the Book of Psalms, God is pictured as a SHIELD

Psalm 3:1–3

- 1 Lord, how many are my foes!
How many rise up against me!
- 2 Many are saying of me,
“God will not deliver him.”
- 3 But you, Lord, are a **shield** around me,
my glory, the One who lifts my head high.

Psalm 28:6–7

- 6 Praise be to the Lord,
for he has heard my cry for mercy.
- 7 The Lord is my strength and my **shield**;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.

KEY – IF we are going to understand God as our SHIELD, we MUST understand shields in the natural. Imagery is all about TRANSFERRING meaning from one level (natural) to another (spiritual).

Q. What is a shield and what is its function?

A. A broad piece of metal (carried on the arm) used as protection in warfare; a cover or barrier.

Q. How is this applicable to God? How is shield reflective of God's nature, work and purpose?

A. Like a shield, the Lord serves to effectively protect His people (i.e., functions as cover/barrier).

THEREFORE – The SHIELD is an image of divine PROTECTION.

Consider how this theme is presented—once again—in the selected PSALM (shared beforehand):

Psalm 3:1–3

- 1 Lord, how many are my foes!
How many rise up against me!
- 2 Many are saying of me,
“God will not deliver him.”
- 3 But you, Lord, are a **shield** around me,
my glory, the One who lifts my head high.

Consider how this theme is presented in texts BEYOND the Book of Psalms (abiding biblical truth):

Deuteronomy 31:6

6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Isaiah 41:10

10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Revelation 22:1–4

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

APP – The ancients understood...

- 1) The nature of God as Protector
- 2) The past/ongoing work of God to protect
- 3) The reality that He will ult. deliver us from all harm

Q. To what degree do we? Do you?

Q. To what degree do you view God as your Shield?

KEY – Get hold of this truth regarding the nature, work and purpose of God and you WILL worship.

IMAGE #2 SLIDE

IMAGE #2 – Throughout the Book of Psalms, God is pictured as a REFUGE/FORTRESS.

Psalm 31:1–4

- 1 In you, Lord, I have taken **refuge**;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Turn your ear to me,
come quickly to my rescue;
be my rock of **refuge**,
a strong **fortress** to save me.
- 3 Since you are my rock and my **fortress**,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.
- 4 Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,
for you are my **refuge**.
- 5 Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.

Psalm 46:1–3

- 1 God is our **refuge** and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
- 3 though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.

KEY – IF we are going to understand God as our REFUGE, we MUST understand refuges in the natural. Imagery is all about TRANSFERRING meaning from one level (natural) to another (spiritual).

Q. What is a refuge/fortress and what is its function?

A. A large and permanent fortification; a fortified shelter and place of safety; a safe haven.

Q. How is this applicable to God? How are they reflective of God's nature, work and purpose?

A. Like a refuge/fortress, the Lord serves to effectively protect His people; He is our safety/haven.

THEREFORE – The FORTRESS/REFUGE is an image of divine PROTECTION.

Consider how this theme is presented—once again—in the selected PSALM (noted beforehand):

Psalm 46:1–3

- 1 God is our **refuge** and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
- 3 though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.

Consider how this theme is presented in texts BEYOND the Book of Psalms (abiding biblical truth):

Matthew 11:28–30

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

APP – The ancients understood...

- 1) The nature of God as Protector
- 2) The past/ongoing work of God to protect
- 3) The reality that He will ult. deliver us from all harm

Q. To what degree do we? Do you?

Q. To what degree do you view God as your Refuge/Fortress?

KEY – Get hold of this truth regarding the nature, work and purpose of God and you WILL worship.

IMAGE #3 SLIDE

IMAGE #3 – Throughout the Book of Psalms, God is pictured as a ROCK.

Psalm 31:1–4

- 1 In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Turn your ear to me,
come quickly to my rescue;
be my **rock** of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me.
- 3 Since you are my **rock** and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

Psalm 95:1–2

- 1 Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the **Rock** of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

KEY – IF we are going to understand God as our ROCK, we MUST understand ROCK(S) in the natural. Imagery is all about TRANSFERRING meaning from one level (natural) to another (spiritual).

Q. What is a rock and how was rock used by the ancients?

A. High cliffs and crags abound in biblical lands, and the Israelites often found themselves hiding in rocky caves and mountain crevices from the enemy. Moreover, rocky ground also provided suitable terrain for structures/buildings, proving trustworthy and unchanging.

Q. How is this applicable to God? How is this reflective of God’s nature, work and purpose?

A1 – Like a rock, the Lord serves to effectively protect His people (employed yet again)

A2 – Like a rock, the Lord is firm, fixed and immovable (suitable foundation for life/living)

THEREFORE – The ROCK is an image of divine PROTECTION and STABILITY.

Consider how this theme is presented—once again—in the selected PSALM (noted beforehand):

Psalm 31:1–4

- 1 In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Turn your ear to me,
come quickly to my rescue;
be my **rock** of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me.
- 3 Since you are my **rock** and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

Consider how this theme is presented in texts BEYOND the Book of Psalms (abiding biblical truth):

Malachi 3:6 (Immutability)

6 “I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

James 1:17 (Immutability)

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

APP – The ancients understood...

- 1) The nature of God as Protector and Unchanging Foundation
- 2) The past/ongoing work of God to protect and provide a firm foundation
- 3) The reality that He will ult. deliver us from all harm and establish us in Him forever

Q. To what degree do we? Do you?

Q. To what degree do you view God as your Rock?

KEY – Get hold of this truth regarding the nature, work and purpose of God and you WILL worship.

IMAGE #4 SLIDE

IMAGE #4 – Throughout the Book of Psalms, God is pictured as a SUN.

Psalm 84:10–12

- 10 Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 11 For the Lord God is a **sun** and shield;
the Lord bestows favor and honor;
no good thing does he withhold
from those whose walk is blameless.
- 12 Lord Almighty,
blessed is the one who trusts in you.

KEY – IF we are going to understand God as our SUN, we MUST understand some things about the sun in the natural. Imagery is all about TRANSFERRING meaning from one level (natural) to another (spiritual).

NOTE – To the ancients, the image of the sun was connected with PROVISION. The sun provided warmth, light (by which they could see and function) and fostered the conditions necessary for agriculture, etc. The sun was deemed a sustaining LIFE-SOURCE for humanity.

Q. How is this applicable to God? How is this reflective of God's nature, work and purpose?

A. Like the sun, the Lord perfectly provides for our needs (all the conditions for life and living).

THEREFORE – The ROCK is an image of divine PROVISION

Consider how this theme is presented—once again—in the selected PSALM (noted beforehand):

Psalm 84:10–12

10 Better is one day in your courts
 than a thousand elsewhere;
 I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
 than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
 11 For the Lord God is a **sun** and shield;
 the Lord bestows favor and honor;
 no good thing does he withhold
 from those whose walk is blameless.
 12 Lord Almighty,
 blessed is the one who trusts in you.

Consider how this theme is presented in texts BEYOND the Book of Psalms (abiding biblical truth):

Philippians 4:19

19 . . . My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

2 Peter 1:3

3 His divine power has given us **everything** we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Luke 12:22–32

22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life[b]? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

27 “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

APP – The ancients understood...

- 1) The nature of God as Provider
- 2) The past/ongoing work of God to provide
- 3) The reality that He will ult. Provide for us in His glory

Q. To what degree do we? Do you?

Q. To what degree do you view God as your Sun?

KEY – Get hold of this truth regarding the nature, work and purpose of God and you WILL worship.

IMAGE #5 SLIDE

IMAGE #5 – Throughout the Book of Psalms, God is pictured as a FATHER

Psalm 68:4–5

- 4 Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,
extol him who rides on the clouds;
rejoice before him—his name is the Lord.
- 5 A **father** to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.

Psalm 103:13–18

- 13 As a **father** has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;
- 14 for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
- 15 The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
- 17 But from everlasting to everlasting
the Lord's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children—
- 18 with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.

KEY – IF we are going to understand God as our Father, we MUST understand fathers in the natural. Imagery is all about TRANSFERRING meaning from one level (natural) to another (spiritual).

Q. In what way is an earthly father a suitable image of God?

A. Like an earthly father, the Lord loves, shows compassion to, favors and knows His children. Of course, there is MUCH more that could be said regarding the fatherhood of God, but these are the dominant themes presented in the SELECTED psalms.

THEREFORE – The SHIELD is an image of divine LOVE, COMPASSION, FAVOR and INTIMACY.

Consider how this theme is presented—once again—in the selected PSALM (shared beforehand):

Psalm 103:13–18

13 As a **father** has compassion on his children,
 so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;
 14 for he knows how we are formed,
 he remembers that we are dust.
 15 The life of mortals is like grass,
 they flourish like a flower of the field;
 16 the wind blows over it and it is gone,
 and its place remembers it no more.
 17 But from everlasting to everlasting
 the Lord’s love is with those who fear him,
 and his righteousness with their children’s children—
 18 with those who keep his covenant
 and remember to obey his precepts.

Consider how this theme is presented in texts BEYOND the Book of Psalms (abiding biblical truth):

9 “This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 10 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 11 Give us today our daily bread.
 12 And forgive us our debts,
 as we also have forgiven our debtors.
 13 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from the evil one.’

KEY – We have the CAPACITY to access the benefits of His love, favor, compassion, etc., BECAUSE we are connected to God in the SAME WAY children are connected to their parents (i.e., tender intimacy).

APP – The ancients understood...

- 1) The nature of God as Father
- 2) The past/ongoing work of God to function as our Father
- 3) The reality that He will one day usher us into the fulness of Divine Intimacy/Sonship

1 John 3:1–3

1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Q. To what degree do we? Do you?

Q. To what degree do you view God as your Father?

KEY – Get hold of this truth regarding the nature, work and purpose of God and you WILL worship.

CONCLUSIONS

NOTE – Scripture presents the Lord to us AS...

- 1) Shield
- 2a) Refuge
- 2b) Fortress
- 3) Rock of Salvation
- 4) Sun
- 5) Father

EACH touches upon the nature, work and purpose of God in a unique & meaningful way.

KEY 1 – Allow each to INFORM your understanding of the nature, work and purpose of the Lord.

KEY 2 – Allow each to MOTIVATE you to deeper levels of heartfelt & sincere worship (expression).