

Guide: Singing and Thanksgiving

Why?

Praise and worship is our expressed response (spirit, soul, & body) to things or people we deem valuable. In this sense, everyone whether they are a Christian or not is worshipping or praising something or someone with their lives. As sons and daughters of God who have tasted and seen the goodness of God through Jesus Christ, we are compelled to worship God (The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) with all we are because our God is infinitely worthy & valuable in every way possible.

This worship response has its mystical side in subjective experience and its practical side in objective obedience to God's revealed truth. We worship God in response to who He is (His unchanging good character), what He has done (His ways & actions throughout history and in our lives), and what He will do (His promises to His people)!

Scriptural Examples:

Psalm 100:4 "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name." (NLT)

Psalm 107:21-22 says, "Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love, and His wonderful deeds to men. Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of His works with songs of joy." (NIV)

Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (NASB)

Inspiring Quotes:

"Many Spirit-filled authors have exhausted the thesaurus in order to describe God with the glory He deserves. His perfect holiness, by definition, assures us that our words can't contain Him. Isn't it a comfort to worship a God we cannot exaggerate?" -- Francis Chan

"I need to worship because without it I lose a sense of wonder and gratitude and plod through life with blinders on." -- John Ortberg

HOW?

The Scriptures are overflowing with encouragement for God's people to sing and give thanks! We are not only encouraged, we are commanded to sing and give thanks! Any command that God gives us is for our good...singing and giving thanks to God is an essential expression of worship, and through it we experience the mystery, beauty, and wonder of relationship with God.

SINGING

Psalm 95:2 says "Make a joyful noise to the Lord...", it does not say "make a beautiful noise", because that would disqualify some of us! Whether you are a trained singer with a beautiful voice, or

you can't carry a tune if your life depended on it, the Scriptures command you to sing! Singing is a powerful way to express our love and adoration and thanks to God.

- **Sing To Known Songs.** There are many songs and hymns of praise and worship that have been written for the church over the centuries. On your smartphone you have access to music, turn on some worship songs and to turn your heart to God in worship and adoration as you sing along. Or, learn a song and sing it to God without accompanying music, just using your voice! If you play an instrument, play and sing to God a song!
- **Sing To God A Spontaneous Song From Your Heart.** Psalm 98:1 says "Sing a new song to the Lord for He has done wonderful deeds." Make up a song or just begin to sing to God out of the overflow of your heart. The Apostle Paul practiced this regularly, he would sing with his mind to songs he knew and sing with his spirit using spontaneous songs (1 Corinthians 14:15-17). Another way to practice this is to sing using the gift of tongues. In your own words tell the Lord who He is, thanking Him for all He has done and expressing your love to Him.
- **Singing To God From The Word/Scriptures.** Colossians 3:16 says "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God." Singing the truths of Scripture produces thankfulness for who God is and prepares the way for Him to do a deeper work in our hearts ("dwell in us richly"). This also helps us memorize the Word which transforms us and renews our mind. While you can attempt to sing any of the Scriptures, here are some Scriptures in the Bible that are intended for worship:
 - **Psalms 1-150**
 - **Doxologies (Liturgy):** Timothy 1:17; 1 Timothy 6:15-16; Colossians 1:15-20; Romans 11:33-36; Jude 24-25; Hebrews 1:10-12; Ephesians 1:3
 - **Hymns in Revelation:** Rev. 1:5-6; Rev. 4:8; 10-11; Rev. 5:5-10; 11-12; 13; Rev. 7:9-10; 11-12; Rev. 15:2-4; Rev. 16:4-5; 7; Rev. 19:1-2; 5-6

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is an essential expression of our worship to God. Giving thanks reminds us of God's goodness in our life, it is how we are to enter into His Presence, and it keeps us humble and in the right frame of mind. The Scriptures tell us that we are to give thanks in all circumstances because God is always at work even when we can't see it. His loving care, presence, and goodness are all around us.

Practicing thanksgiving is not complicated and you could easily start on your own, however, here are a few ways you can practice this in worship.

- **Keep a thankfulness journal.** Each day write down a few things in a journal that you are thankful for as you start your day and/or as you close your day.
- **Thank God for who He is.** Often we only give thanks for what God has done, but we can also give thanks for who He is (His character). This could include giving thanks to God for His promises yet to be fulfilled.
- **Use a Psalm of Thanksgiving.** Psalm 92, Psalm 118, and Isaiah 12.