

## UPPER ROOM 80: WORSHIP, THE WORD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

**2 Chronicles 5:11-14** Powerful, incredible, glory-filled praise and worship cannot ever take the place of the Holy Spirit and My Word. Fasting cannot ever take the place of the Holy Spirit and My Word. Many churches can have praise and worship that is unsurpassed in sincerity, commitment and purpose; the kind of worship where My presence is so strong burdens are lifted and even bodies are healed. But in so many of those churches there is such shallowness of My Word that a strong foundation has never been properly laid to support the kind of doctrine that can lead to transformation deeper into the image of My glory. This is why such churches can be so powerful in their worship, yet so confused in their doctrine.

The kind of churches I'm describing can become very, very large, having thousands in attendance. In those church I am looking at so many of My children who love Me as much as they know how, yet are so far from Me in their understanding of truth.

At one time in your history, the most renowned scholars and scientists taught and insisted that the Earth is flat. They ridiculed anyone who disagreed with them, providing what they called scientific proof of their claims. However, they were desperately wrong and their scientific proof was a misinterpretation of physical observations. Even so, those scientists were not purposefully deceiving people; they truly believed they were correct. The basic foundation for their belief was true: the planet Earth and what they could see with their eyes. But they built upon that truth with information that was actually conjecture and supposition. It was their status as leading scientific minds that influenced others to believe their conclusions.

Praise and worship that comes from the heart of a Believer is an open door to My presence. During such times, My presence can become so strong it can have an intoxicating effect on the senses of the worshipers. There can be such a strong feeling of freedom, deliverance and joy that problems can seem totally conquered and unity with Me will seem very intense and real. Those who are truly worshiping during those times will begin to see that nothing of the enemy can stop them from accomplishing My will and that there is no need I cannot supply.

This is one reason why churches with strong worship tend to grow so large. Those who attend are experiencing My presence in a way that refreshes and encourages them for their day-to-day lives. Those on the platform singing and playing their instruments allow Me to touch their talent with My anointing and a divine flow of My presence is established in their services. It is truly a glorious experience, not just for the worship team and those in attendance, but also for Me; for did I not say in My Word that I am looking for those who would worship Me in spirit and in truth and that I inhabit your praises?

However, that kind of worship is not feeding the spirits of those worshiping. Yes, it is ministering to them and it is not in any way in vain, but it is not feeding them. Even so, the truth of My strong and very real presence during the worship leads the worshipers to conclude that the teaching they are about to hear is absolute truth from My Word. They assume the pastor or the person speaking to be just as strong in Me as was their worship.

Yet, this is not always the case as much error is taught and readily accepted in the charged atmosphere of post-worship.

People in such churches conclude that what they are hearing is truth, based on what they have observed. Their observations are established in the truth that My presence has filled the place where they are worshipping. But their conclusions about the teaching are based on conjecture and supposition. The status of the pastor in such a church influences those attending to accept what they hear.

Too many of My children are living on worship instead of My Word. They truly enjoy going to church because they know they will have a genuine, spiritual experience with Me. The effect of their worship is deep and draws them closer to Me. But without feasting on My Word as I have given it - in context - they are not growing and maturing on truth. Instead, they are bloated on teaching that is a mixture of truth and mental reasoning. If someone tries to bring correction to the error they have readily accepted, they reject the correction and rely on the experience they had with Me in worship as being that which confirms what they later heard taught.

Along with My Word, you need the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit. Worship does not teach you. Fasting does not teach you. But My Word and the Holy Spirit minister directly to your spirit to bring truth and growth. As you pray in the supernatural language I gave you through the Holy Spirit, you enter into a supernatural, spiritual mode of communication; one in which the Holy Spirit is able to utilize the Word you have sown into your heart to produce revelation, understanding and comprehension. No human and no human language can speak to you on such a deep, spiritual level.

Yet, many of the people in churches I described earlier declare they read their Bible and pray in tongues; even some of the pastors make such claims. You find it confusing how they can continue to accept, believe and teach error if they are truly feeding on My Word and praying in the Spirit. But this is not confusing to Me.

You see, there is much misunderstanding about what happens when a Christian prays in tongues. Just because you pray in tongues does not mean your will has been subjugated to My will and that you have no more choice. You can read your Bible and pray in tongues, but that does not mean you are submitting yourself to the change My Word and praying in tongues can produce. Reading My Word and praying in tongues will only produce change if you allow the change to take place.

To help you understand this, there is a passive reading of My Word and praying in tongues and there is a focused reading of My Word and praying in tongues. You can read My Word and pray in tongues to say you are doing those things, yet not really change because what you are doing is more of a religious exercise: this is a passive approach. This passive approach is not a waste of time, but those who do it are not fully cooperating with My Word and the Holy Spirit for the change I desire. On the other hand, you can read My Word and pray in tongues for the purpose of change, growth and fulfillment of My will. This is a focused approach and it produces great and quicker results.

There is another aspect to all of this. You can be in a church where truth is being taught, but if you are passive in your worship, you will miss out on much I could do in your life. It is impossible to be a true worshiper and not learn how to cast the burdens of life onto Me. Your family, your job, your finances, your health and everything about your life are not your burdens to bear. You would know and understand this if you would enter into worship with all your heart.

Passive worship is not a waste of time, but it is not as productive as you think. Focused worship produces transformation. When you cast down the distracting imaginations and thoughts during worship to stay focused on Me, My presence and anointing released during your worship will impact your mind. You will begin walking in a peace that supersedes every problem you face. True worshipers will even begin to speak differently: there will be less and less worry in their voice and they will stop exalting problems because My presence in their worship is strengthening them. The more you worship, the less you experience stress. **(Isaiah 26:3-4 <sup>3</sup>Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. <sup>4</sup>Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength)**

There are many of you hearing or reading this who need to break out of your fleshly cocoon and worship Me from the depths of your heart. For too long you have allowed your flesh to be a stronghold that binds your spirit from worshiping Me the way you need to worship Me. The praise team in your church cannot do your worshiping for you; they are there to help facilitate your worship, but the worship must come from your born again spirit. For many of you, the greatest breakthrough in your walk with Me will take place when you release unhindered and uninhibited worship unto Me.

Do you believe it is possible for you to know Me as intimately as the Apostles or Jesus knew Me? If not, you have just discovered a stronghold of unbelief that needs to be corrected. You are no less My child than were the Apostles or Jesus. You can know Me as they knew Me. Are you not birthed of My spirit? Are you not My offspring? Religion and doctrinal error have robbed most of My children of the close fellowship I long to have with them. This is not complicated, but man has made it so.

Remember what you have heard this day and be a doer of My Word. Do not believe that all churches with powerful worship filled with My presence are churches that are equally strong in truth. Go beyond passively reading My Word and praying in the Spirit; become focused and diligent to receive from Me and change those things which need changing. Go beyond being a passive worshiper and stay focused on Me, knowing that great change will be released in your life. If you do these things, your progress in Me will be accelerated. These things are Kingdom keys to becoming everything I have already planned for you.