

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Numbers 6:24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you! May the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord turn his face upon you and give you peace!"

Before seeing the representation of Christian worship, let's see some examples of worship from the Old Testament and then from the New Testament.

The Levitical Priesthood - The Tabernacle of Moses (Ex 25:2)

The Tabernacle of Moses consisted of a courtyard, a Holy place, and the Most Holy Place separated by a veil. The Levitical priesthood of Aaron had been established by God, of which he was the high priest. The priests entered the Tabernacle every day to be in the presence of God, but all the Israelites were allowed to enter the courtyards; Priests moved through the courtyards to minister to the Lord in the Holy Place and intercede for their own sins and those of the people through animal sacrifices. Once a year, the high priest entered the Most Holy place where the Ark of the Covenant was placed; The Most Holy Place was the earthly substitute for the heavenly throne room of God, the Ark covered by the Mercy Seat was the earthly substitute for the altar of God in heaven; Whoever entered the Most Holy place was in the presence of God.

The Levitical Priesthood—The Tent of David (2 Sa 6:17; 1 Chr 16:1)

The Tent of David was a unique place not separated by veils and the Ark of God was placed in the center and could be seen completely. The priests entered to make burnt offerings and sacrifices of gratitude and praise; This tent lasted for forty years until Solomon's Temple was built and the Ark of the Covenant was transferred to the Temple.

The Leviticus Priesthood - The Temple of Solomon (1 Kings 6:1)

The Temple of Solomon was a stone building lined internally with cedar wood and consisted of an inner courtyard, a Holy Place and the Holy Place. Aaron's Levitical priesthood had been re-established with the teaching of the Torah and the various animal sacrifices offered for the expiation of sins, quite similar to the Tabernacle of Moses.

Jewish Worship - The Synagogues

In Jesus' time, in addition to the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem where Jews of all nations gathered every year, in the various cities as places of worship there were the so-called synagogues, where every day a passage from the (Torah) law of Moses or a book of the prophets was read in turn.

Acts 15:21 "For **Moses** already had people from ancient times who **preached him in every city, being read every sabbath in the synagogues.**

Acts 13:27 "For the inhabitants of Jerusalem and their rulers, not recognizing this Jesus, condemning him, have fulfilled **the words of the prophets that are read every sabbath.**

Acts 13:14-15 and they entered **the synagogue on the Sabbath,** and sat down. After **the reading of the law and the prophets,** the rulers of the synagogue ...

Lk 4:15-21 "And he (**Jesus**) **taught in their synagogues,** being honored by all. Then he came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and, as he was accustomed to do **on the Sabbath,** entered the synagogue and rose to read. And the book of Isaiah the prophet was given into his hand; he opened it and found that passage where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim release to the captives and the recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty the oppressed, and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Then, closing the book and giving it to the attendant, he sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your ears."

Apostolic Worship as the First Church and All the Others

Evangelization in the Temple, in the synagogues and worship in homes

The early Church of Jesus Christ had these two characteristics:

Love of God and Fraternal Love - Fullness and guidance of the Holy Spirit

After the apostle Peter's discourse, three thousand more people were added from just one hundred and twenty who formed the first church or meeting (assembly). Later, two thousand more were added, for a total of five thousand ([Ac 4:4](#)), and finally multitudes. ([Ac 5:14](#))

Let's see in detail what was practiced every day:

Teaching, communion, the Lord's Supper, prayers, sharing of goods, a meal in common, praise to God, witness to the risen Christ.

[Acts 2:41-47](#) "Therefore those who received his word gladly were baptized; on that day about three thousand persons were added. They were persevering in following the teaching of the apostles, in communion, in the breaking of bread and in prayers. And they were all seized with fear; and many signs and miracles were done by the hands of the apostles. Now all who believed were together and had everything in common. And they sold the land and goods and distributed them to all, according to the need of each one. And they endured with one mind all the days in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, partook of food together with joy and singleness of heart, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to the church every day those who were saved.

[Ac 4:32](#) "And the great number of those who believed were of one heart and soul; no one said that what he had was his, but all things were in common with one another." And the apostles bore witness with great power to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all. For there was no needy among them, for all who owned farms or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of the things sold, and laid it at the feet of the apostles, and it was distributed to each one according to his particular need.

[Acts 5:42](#) "And every day in the temple and in the houses they did not cease to teach and to bring the glad tidings that Jesus is the Christ.

In the early church, faith in the guidance of the Holy Spirit was deeply rooted, rejecting any pre-established form of worship. The great

missionary movements of the early church were willed and approved by the Holy Spirit. (Ac 8:29; Ac 10:19)

Acts 13:2 And while they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set aside Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Paul was aware that his entire ministry was inspired by the Holy Spirit; (Rom 15:18)

In all his travels, he recognized the guidance of the Spirit. (Ac 16:6-7)

The message to unbelievers in the synagogues by the power of the Holy Spirit (Ac 18:4) (Ac 17:2) (1 Corinthians 4:20)

1 Corinthians 2:4 "My word and my preaching were not persuasive words of human wisdom, but a demonstration of the Spirit and power.

Evangelization to Jews and Gentile Unbelievers in Synagogues

Ac 9:19-20 (Paul) After he had taken food, his strength returned. He stayed a few days with the disciples who were in Damascus, and immediately began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

Acts 13:14-15 "And they passed through Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia; and they entered the synagogue on the sabbath, and sat down. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent word to them, "Brethren, if you have any words of exhortation to address to the people, say it."

Ac 14:1 "In Iconium also Paul and Barnabas entered the synagogue of the Jews and spoke in such a way that a great crowd of Jews and Greeks¹ believed.

Ac 14:25-28 (Paul and Barnabas) After preaching the Word in Perga, they went down to Attalia;

The Holy Spirit guided the church in its organization by appointing elders and deacons. (Ac 20:28, Acts 6:3)

The Christians of the early church were accustomed to hearing the gospel through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven (1 Peter 1:12; 1 Thess 1:5)

and received it with gladness of the Spirit (1 Thess 1:6).

Witnessing God's Work to Elders and Believers

Ac 21:19 Paul (at the house of James) told them one by one the things which the Lord had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

Acts 14:26-28 (Paul and Barnabas) ... they sailed to Antioch, from where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work they had done. When they came there and gathered the church together, they related all the things that God had done through them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the strangers. And they stayed with the disciples for a long time.

Mk 16:20 "And they went and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word with the signs that accompanied it." Amen.

Heb 2:4 "God himself added his testimony to theirs by signs and wonders, by mighty works of every kind, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his will."

Ac 20:17-21 He sent from Miletus to Ephesus to call the elders of the church. When they came to him, he said to them, "You know how, from the first day I came to Asia, I have always dealt with you, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears, amid the trials that came to me from the snares of the Jews; and as I have not concealed from you any of the things that were useful to you, and have preached them to you and taught them to you in public and in your homes, and I have solemnly warned Jews and Greeks to repent before God and to believe in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Worship and teachings in one's own homes

Acts 8:3 Saul went into the church, going from house to house, and dragging men and women away, he put them in prison.

Acts 12:12 And Peter, knowing the situation, went to the house of Mary, the mother of John, also called Mark, where many brethren were gathered together prayer.

Acts 16:40 "Then Paul and Silas came out of prison, and went into the house of Lydia; and seeing the brothers, they comforted them, and departed.

Ac 20:7-10 On the first day of the week, while we were gathered together to break bread, Paul, having to leave the next day, spoke to the disciples, and prolonged the discourse until midnight. In the upper room, where we were assembled, there were many lamps; a young man named Eutychus, who was sitting on the window-sill, was seized with a deep sleep, for Paul dragged his words at length; he, overcome with sleep, fell down from the third story, and was picked up dead. But Paul came down and fell upon him, and embraced him and said, "Do not be troubled, for he is still alive."

Acts 21:3-4,8-9 ... we landed in Tyre, because here we had to unload the ship. When we found the disciples, we stayed there seven days. Leaving again the next day, we arrived at Caesarea; and when we entered the house of Philip the Evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him. He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.

Ac 21:15-16 "After those days, when we had made our preparations, we went up to Jerusalem. Some disciples from Caesarea also came with us, and took us to the house of a certain Mnason of Cyprus, a long-time disciple, with whom we were to lodge.

Ac 28:30-31 "And Paul stayed two whole years in a house which he rented, and he received all those who came to see him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things pertaining to the Lord Jesus Christ, with all boldness and without hindrance.

Rom 16:3-5,10-11,14-15,23 "Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their lives for me; to them not only am I grateful, but also all the churches of the nations. Greet also the church that meets in their home. Greet Apelles, who gave good proof in Christ. Say hello to those of the Aristobulo house. Greet those of the Narcissus house who are in the Lord. Greet Asyncritus, Phlegontes, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brethren who are with them. Greet Philologist and Julia, Nereus and his sister, Olympus and all the saints who are with them. Gaius, who hosts me and the whole church, greets you.

1 Corinthians 16:19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca, with the church in their house, greet you very much in the Lord.

Phil 4:22 "The brethren who are with me greet you." All the saints greet you and especially those of the house of Caesar.

Cl 4:15 Greet the brethren that are in Laodicea, and Nympha, and the church that is in her house.

Phil 1:1-2 Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus, and his brother Timothy, to dear Philemon our fellow worker, and to his sister Apphias, to Archippus our comrade-in-arms, and to the church that meets in your house.

2 Joh 1:10 "If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house or greet him.

Acts 18:8 But Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the LORD with all his household.

Although Crispus was the head of the synagogue, it is not written that in that place there was they never held cults.

Today's False Christian Worship

The form of worship that has taken over today in several denominational churches, has a hierarchical pyramidal management or with a single apostle or a single pastor at the head of the church who preaches from a pulpit, but also acts as an evangelist and teacher, and is responsible for everything, even the financial part, with some elders and deacons to support him, a choir and brothers considered at a lower level who, sitting in front of the pulpit, act as spectators who listen and pray, with the various phases programmed. In these churches the five ministries no longer exist, and the word preached is not confirmed by signs and wonders. And unfortunately in some of these false doctrines are preached that mislead in faith the souls who have just approached the Lord; moreover, it is not taught how to really apply God's Word every day and in every circumstance of life, and how to fight spiritual enemies. The place of worship is usually a single room for a defined number of people.

True Christian worship

- The day

The conduct of worship (in freedom every day but by commandment especially on Saturdays and on the feasts established by God)

Ex 20:8,10-11 Remember the Sabbath day, that you may keep it holy... but the seventh day is the sabbath, holy to the Lord thy God; ...the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and sanctified it.

- The Place of Christian Worship - The Body of Christ gathered in one's own homes or when a very large group is reached in a room

We were created for a great purpose and function, to love, praise, worship, and serve God! That should be our greatest wish. Christian worship is no longer based on an earthly sanctuary according to the Levitical priesthood which was a shadow of the future one, but is based exclusively on a heavenly sanctuary according to the priesthood of Melchizedek of which Jesus Christ is the high priest.

Heb 8:5 "They worship which is a representation and a shadow of heavenly things, as God said to Moses when Moses was about to build the tabernacle, 'See that,' he said, 'you do all things according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.'

Heb 9:8,11-12 "The Holy Spirit meant by this that the way to the sanctuary was not yet manifested as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. But when Christ, the high priest of future goods, came, he, through a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is, not of this creation, entered once for all into the most holy place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood. Thus he has purchased for us an eternal redemption.

Heb 8:1-2 ... we have a high priest so great, that he has sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, that he has set up the Lord and not a man.

Heb 9:24 For Christ did not enter into a sanctuary made with hands, a picture of true things, but into heaven itself, that He might now appear before the presence of God for us.

Rev 21:2,22 "And I, John, saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Heb 5:10 "Being proclaimed high priest by God, according to the order of

Melchizedek.

Eph 2:4-6 "But God, who is rich in mercy because of his great love for the who loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, gave us life with Christ (you are saved by grace), and raised us up with him and **made us sit in heavenly places with him in Christ Jesus.**

We can now consider that the place of worship is no longer a tent, a tabernacle or a temple built of stone, but this tabernacle or temple is represented by God and the living Body of Christ of which Jesus is the Supreme Head.

Rev 21:22 "I saw no temple in the city, for **the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.**"

Eph 1:22-23 "He has put all things under his feet, and has given him as supreme head to the church, which is his body." (Jesus Christ)

Cl 1:18 He (Jesus Christ) himself is the head of the body, that is, of the church.

As with the individual body of the person, God formed the Body of Christ, that is, the Church, united in spirit, soul and body to Him as if he were one man. (Eph 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit)

Spirit: 1 Corinthians 6:17 "But he who cleaves to the Lord is one spirit with him."

Soul: Acts 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were one heart and one soul alone;

Body: 1 Corinthians 12:13 For we were all baptized into one Spirit into one body.

Although it might sound strange but God is also Spirit, Soul and (Body for a time):

Spirit: Jn 4:24 "God is Spirit; and those who worship him, must let them worship him in spirit and truth."

Soul: Mt 12:18 "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen; my delight, in which the my soul She was pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him,

and he will proclaim righteousness to the nations.

Heb 10:38 And the righteous shall live by faith: but if he shrinks back the my soul He doesn't like it.

Body: 1 Tim 3:16 Surely great is the mystery of godliness. God that has been manifested in the flesh, has been justified in the Spirit, has appeared to angels, has been preached among the nations, has been believed in the world, he was raised up in glory.

The Body of Christ - Temple of God - House of God

1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now you are the body of Christ, and members of it, each one for for his part.

1Co 3:16 "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Peter 2:5 You also, as living stones, are built up to be a house a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices, pleasing to God through Jesus Christ.

With reference to the Temple of Solomon which included the three physical places, namely the inner courtyard, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place, we can define the Body of Christ in this way:

The inner courtyard of the temple can be represented by our physical body offered as a living sacrifice to God.

Rom 12:1 "I exhort you, therefore, brethren, by the compassions of God, to present your bodies, which is your reasonable service, as a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God.

The Holy Place can be represented by our soul where the purification of our sins and the renewal of our mind through prayer and repentance take place.

1 Jn 1:9,7 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ... if we walk in the light, as

he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

1 Corinthians 14:15 ... I will pray with the spirit, but I will also pray with the mind;

Rom 12:2 ... be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may know by experience what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

The Most Holy Place can be represented by our spirit, where intimate communion with God takes place, through thanksgiving, praise and adoration.

Heb 10:19-22 "Therefore, brethren, having liberty to enter the sanctuary, by virtue of the blood of Jesus, which is the recent and living way which he has opened for us through the veil, that is, his flesh, and having a high priest over the house of God, let us approach with a sincere heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse them from a bad conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Eph 2:13 "But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off are been brought together by the blood of Christ.

Eph 2:18-22 "For through him we both have access to the Father in the same Spirit. You are therefore no longer strangers or sojourners, but fellow-citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone, upon which the whole well-connected edifice grows to be a holy temple in the Lord, in which you also are built together to be a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:15 ... I will sing with the spirit, but I will also sing with the mind.

Ps 34:1 I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise will always be in my mouth.

Ps 146:2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live, and I will sing praises to my God, as long as I exist.

Jn 4:23-24 ... true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father seeks such worshippers. God is Spirit; and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.

- The Five Ministries and Spiritual Gifts

Scripture gives us some explanations regarding the constitution and conduct of Christian worship. Ministries are conferred by Jesus himself, gifts of the Spirit by the Holy Spirit, and works to be done by God the Father.

Eph 4:11-13 "And he himself (Jesus) gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as shepherds and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the building up of the body of Christ, until we all come to the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

1 Corinthians 12:5 "There are also diversities of ministries, but there is but one Lord.

1 Cor 12:4 "Now there are diversities of gifts, but there is only one Spirit.

1 Cor 12:8-11 "For to one is given the word of wisdom by the Spirit; to another, according to the same Spirit, the word of knowledge; to another, faith, by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another power to perform mighty works; (miracles) to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another diversity of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. Now all these things are done by the one and the same Spirit, who distributes his gifts to each one in particular as he wishes.

1 Corinthians 12:6 "There are also diversities of operations, but there is only one the same God, who works all things in all.

God's anointing and confirmation is evidence of a divine calling in the life of the disciple chosen by God for ministry.

Rom 12:4-8 For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, we are one body in Christ, and each one is a member of one another. Now since we have different gifts according to the grace that has been given to us, if we have prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; if we have a ministry, let us attend to the ministry; likewise let the teacher attend to the teaching; and he who exhorts let him attend to exhort; he

who distributes, let him do it with simplicity; he who presides, presides diligently; he who does works of piety, let him do them with joy.

- Elders and deacons

Elders are requested by the apostles, chosen by believers, and confirmed by the Holy Spirit.

1:5-9 "For this reason I have left you in Crete, that you may put in order the things that remain to be done, and appoint elders in every city, according to my instructions, when there is anyone who is blameless, the husband of one wife, who has faithful children, who are not accused of debauchery or insubordinate. For the bishop must be blameless as a steward of God, not arrogant, not wrathful, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for dishonest gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, sensible, just, holy, temperate, attached to the sure word, as it has been taught, in order to be able to exhort according to sound doctrine and to convince those who contradict.

Ac 14:23 "After he had appointed elders for them in each church, and prayed and fasted, commended them to the Lord, in whom they had believed.

Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore to yourselves and to all the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you bishops, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood.

Both the office of elder and deacon are put to the test

1 Tim 3:1-13 This word is sure: If anyone desires the office of bishop, he desires a good job. It is necessary, therefore, that the bishop should be blameless, the husband of one wife, sober, sensible, prudent, hospitable, able to teach, not given to wine, not violent, not avaricious, but he should be meek, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money; one who governs his family well and keeps his children in subjection with all decorum; (but if one does not know how to govern his family, how can he take care of the church of God?). Moreover, he should not be a new convert, lest he be blinded by pride and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Now he must also have a good testimony from those on the outside, so that he does not fall into the injury and snare of the devil. In like manner, deacons are to be dignified, not double in speech, not given to much wine, not greedy for illicit gains,

and to hold the mystery of faith to a pure conscience. Now let them also be tried first, and then let them carry out their service if they are blameless. Let their wives also be dignified, not slanderous, but sober and faithful in all things. Deacons are to be husbands of one wife and are to govern their children and their families well. For those who have done well in the service acquire a good reputation and great boldness in faith in Christ Jesus.

The Leadership of the Elders for the Building Up of the Body of Christ:

Why did the Holy Spirit appoint elders in the church?

Because the apostles have the task of going on missions to other countries to spread the gospel of the Kingdom of God, while the elders have the task of maintaining sound doctrine and removing those who propose false teachings. The evangelists have the task, like the apostles, of bringing the message of the gospel but limited to the same city where the church is present to bring new believers. Prophets and teachers, on the other hand, together with the elders, have the task of edifying believers and strengthening them in faith to maintain unity and brotherly love. Deacons, on the other hand, support the elderly in practical works.

Acts 11:25-26 "Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to seek Saul, and when he found him, he led him to Antioch. They attended church meetings for a whole year, and instructed a large number of people; in Antioch, for the first time, the disciples were called Christians.

1 Peter 5:1-4 "I exhort the elders who are among you, I who am an elder with them and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and who also share in the glory that is to be revealed: feed the flock of God that is among you, watching over them, not under compulsion, but willingly, not out of greed for gain but of good will, and not as lording it over those entrusted to you, but being the models of the flock.

Ac 20:17 And from Miletus (Paul) sent to Ephesus to summon the elders of the church.

Heb 13:17,24 "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch over your souls, as one who has an account, so that they may do this with joy and not with sighing, for it would be of no advantage to you. Greet all your leaders and all the saints.

Heb 13:7 "Remember your leaders, who have preached the word of God to you, and when you consider the result of their conduct, imitate their faith."

1 Tim 4:14 "Do not neglect the charism that is in you, which was given to you by the prophetic word together with the laying on of hands from the college of elders."

1 Tim 5:17 "Let the elders who hold the presidency well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching."

Gal 5:14-15 "Is there anyone who is sick? Let him call the elders of the church and they pray for him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: the prayer of faith will save the sick and the Lord will restore him; if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him."

From these Scriptures we can see that in each church (assembly or family) a college of elders was formed to collaborate with the five ministries and deacons, making all believers sharers in the freedom of the Holy Spirit. Deacons are requested by the apostles, chosen by other believers and confirmed by the apostles through prayer.

Acts 6:2-6 The twelve called together the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not fitting for us to leave the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, try to find seven men among you, of whom there is good witness, full of the Spirit and wisdom, to whom we will entrust this task. As for us, we will continue to dedicate ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word." This proposal pleased the whole multitude; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmena and Nicholas, a proselyte of Antioch. They presented them to the apostles, who, after praying, imposed on them the mani-

The believers

Participation in the worship of all believers

Heb 10:24-25 "Let us look out for one another to incite to love and good works, not forsaking the gathering of ourselves together as some are wont to do, but exhorting one another; all the more so as you see the day drawing near."

1 Corinthians 14:26-31 "What, then, brethren? When you come together, each of you having a psalm, or a teaching, or a revelation, or a speech in another tongue, or an interpretation, let all things be done for edification. If there are those who speak in another language, let two or three at most do so, and one after the other, and someone interpret. If there is no one to interpret, let them be silent in the assembly and speak to themselves and to God. Let the prophets also speak in two or three, and let the others judge; if a revelation is given to one of those who are sitting, let the previous one be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

Col 3:16-17 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you abundantly, in all wisdom, instructing you and exhorting one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing graciously in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Eph 5:17-20 "Do not be disprudent, but understand what the will is of the Lord. And do not be drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and praising the Lord with your hearts, giving thanks continually for all things to God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:10-11 "Let each one put the gift he has received at the service of others, as good stewards of God's manifold grace. Whoever speaks, let him do so as if he were announcing the oracles of God; whoever does a service, let him do it in the power that is given him by God, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen

1 Thess 5:11-13 "Therefore, comfort one another and build one another up, as you are already doing. Brethren, we pray that you will have regard for those who labor among you, who are in charge of you in the Lord and who instruct you, and that you will hold them in high esteem and love them because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

The sign of authority of the woman praying or prophesying in the assembly

1 Corinthians 11:5-6,10,13 ... but every woman who prays or prophesies without having the covered head dishonors his boss. Because if the woman does not have her head covered ... put on a veil. The woman must have a sign of authority on her head, because of the angels. Judge for yourself: Is it decent for a woman to pray to God without having her head covered?

The veil or outward sign of authority of the woman who wears it is nothing more than a visible testimony and demonstration that that woman is obedient and submissive to the word of God, to her husband and to the man. An example is found in these two Scriptures where respect for God's presence and holiness is demonstrated:

Ex 3:5 And God said (unto Moses) Thou shalt not come near; take off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you stand is sacred ground."

Jos 5:15 And the captain of the army of the LORD said unto Joshua, Take off thy shoes from thy feet. because the place where you are is holy." And Joshua did so.

Many preachers unfortunately see this God-ordained condition as a tradition that may well be tolerated and not considered important for the purposes of faith, justifying the fact that the veil does not actually demonstrate the conduct of the wearer.

Premise for offering worship acceptable to God:

In offering worship to God, let us remember some commandments, in order to remain and maintain true fraternal communion:

Ex 20:8 Remember the Sabbath day, that you may keep it holy. (fourth of the 10 commandments) (Heb 4:9)

Gal 5:16 "And I say, Walk by the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

Jn 15:17 "This I command you, that you love one another."

Cl 4:2 Persevere in prayer.

Eph 4:32 But be kind and merciful to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ

Gala 5:13 "For you, brethren, have been called to freedom; only do not use this freedom to give the flesh an opportunity, but serve one another through love.

Jom 5:16 "Confess your sins to one another, pray for one another, that you may be healed; the prayer of the righteous has great effect."

Gal 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens, and thus you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Eph 5:21 Submit to one another in the fear of Christ.

1 Thess 5:11,14-15 ... comfort one another and build one another, as you already do. Now, brethren, we exhort you to admonish the disorderly, to comfort the discouraged, to support the weak, and to be patient with all. See that no one returns evil for evil to anyone; on the contrary, always seek good towards one another and towards all.

Phil 2:2 "Make my joy perfect, having the same way of thinking, the same love, one agreement, and one mind."

1 Peter 4:9 "Be hospitable to one another without murmuring."

1 Corinthians 5:11 ... I wrote to you not to mix with whom, calling yourself Brother, be it a fornicator, or a miser, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a thief; with such a man you must not even eat.

Cl 3:9-10 "Do not lie to one another, for you have put off the old man by his deeds, and have put on the new man, who is being renewed in knowledge in the image of him who created him.

Jom 4:11 "Do not speak against one another, brethren;

Jom 5:9 "Do not complain of one another, brethren, lest you be judged;

Rom 14:13 ... Let us no longer judge one another, but rather judge this: not to hinder or scandalize our brother.

Eph 6:11 "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may stand, and Against the snares of the devil

Eph 4:3 "Striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

The Way of the Sanctuary - The Cult of Spiritual Worship

By following the description in Hebrews we can offer worship pleasing to God by preparing our hearts for purification and sanctification to be in His presence.

Heb 9:8,11-12 "The Holy Spirit meant by this that **the way to the sanctuary** was not yet manifested as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. ... When **Christ**, the high priest of the good things to come, came through a larger and more perfect tabernacle, not made by human hands, that is, not of this creation, **he entered once for all into the most holy place**, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood. Thus he has purchased for us an eternal redemption.

Heb 10:19-23 "**Therefore, brethren, having liberty to enter the most holy place through the blood of Jesus**, by that new and living way which he has opened for us through the veil, that is, his flesh, and having a great priest over the house of God, **let us approach with a sincere heart and with full assurance of faith**, having their hearts sprinkled with that sprinkling that purifies them from a bad conscience and their bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope, without wavering; for faithful is he who made the promises.

Heb 12:28 "Therefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, **let us be thankful, and offer God acceptable worship, with reverence and fear!**

Let's see the 7 steps of faith that we must implement to be in the presence of God:

1 - Purification of consciousness

As soon as we meet, we must leave out all impurity and sin, then prepare ourselves to confess to God our sins, shortcomings, weaknesses, etc.

Rom 12:1 "**I exhort you, therefore, brethren, by the mercy of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice living, holy, acceptable to God; this is your spiritual worship.**

Phil 3:3 ... **we offer our worship through the Spirit of God...**

1 Jn 1:7,9 ... **if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous from**

forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all iniquity.

1 Corinthians 6:11 ... you have been washed, you have been sanctified, you have been justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

In this context, we participate in the Lord's Supper to confirm the blood covenant of our Lord Jesus Christ with which he forgave our sins and reconciled us to God.

Cl 1:22-23 "God reconciled you in his body of flesh through his death, that you might appear before him holy, without blemish and blameless, if you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and not moved by the hope of the gospel which you have heard.

2 - Praise and Thanksgiving

One can praise with songs or psalms, or by speaking or singing in languages with thanksgiving.

Ps 150:1-2 Praise God in his sanctuary, praise him in the expanse where his power shines. Praise him for his deeds, praise him according to his supreme greatness.

Ps 95:1-2 "Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord, let us hail to the rock of our salvation. Let us present ourselves to him with praises, let us celebrate him with psalms!

Ps 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, into his courts with praise; praise him, bless his name.

Heb 13:15 "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, namely, the fruit of lips confessing his name.

3 - Listening to the Word of God revealed by the Holy Spirit

We arrive purified and renewed in mind at the Holy Place and prepare ourselves to receive the Word revealed by the Holy Spirit. In this context, all those who are moved by the Holy Spirit, not just the elderly, can bring a message.

Rom 12:6-8 ... we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another. Therefore, having different charisms according to the grace that has been granted to us, if we have the charism

of prophecy, we prophesy in accordance with faith; if of the ministry, we attend to the ministry; if of teaching, to teach; if of exhortation, to exhort; he who gives, let him give with simplicity; he who presides, let him do so diligently; he who does works of mercy, let him do them with joy.

1 Peter 4:10-11 "Let each one put the gift he has received at the service of others, as good stewards of God's manifold grace. Whoever speaks, let him do so as if he were announcing the oracles of God; whoever does a service, let him do it in the power that is given him by God, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

4 - Revelation of the Word and prophecies

One may speak in tongues or prophesy in order, while receiving new revelation.

1 Corinthians 14:26-31 "What, then, brethren? When you come together, each of you having a psalm, or a teaching, or a revelation, or a speech in another tongue, or an interpretation, let all things be done for edification. If there are those who speak in another language, let two or three at most do so, and one after the other, and someone interpret. If there is no one to interpret, let them be silent in the assembly and speak to themselves and to God. Let the prophets also speak in two or three, and let the others judge; if a revelation is given to one of those who are sitting, let the previous one be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

5 - Prayers and Adoration

Slowly you reach the Most Holy Place to remain in His presence in adoration with prayers, thanksgiving or in silence.

Ne 9:6 Thou art the LORD alone. You have made the heavens, the heavens of the heavens and all their hosts, the earth and all that is above it, the seas and all that is in them, and you make all these things live, and the army of heavens worships you.

Ps 66:4 And the whole earth shall bow down before thee, and sing unto thee, and sing unto thee, and sing unto thee.

Rev 4:8,11 "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, the God Almighty, who was, and who is, and who is coming." You are worthy, O Lord and our God, to receive glory, honor and power: because you created all things, and by your will they were created and exist.

Rev 5:12-13 "The Lamb who was slain is worthy to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and praise." To him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be praise, honor, glory, and power, forever and ever.

Rev 7:12 Amen! To our God be praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and strength, forever and ever! Amen

1 Chr 16:36 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. And all the people said, "Amen"

6 - Testimonials

Finally, we can give testimonies of what the Lord has done in the assembly to both believers and non-believers, or of what the Lord has done recently in our lives, to give Him all the glory.

Mk 5:19 "Tell them in your house with your own people, the great things that the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."

7 - Thanksgiving for all that God has done in our lives

Lk 17:15-16 "One of them, seeing that he was cleansed (from leprosy), came back, glorifying God with a loud voice; and he fell at Jesus' feet with his face to the ground, thanking him.

Rev 11:17-18 "We thank you, O Lord, God Almighty, who are and who were, because you have taken your great power in your hand, and have established your kingdom. The nations were angry, but your wrath has come, and the time has come to judge the dead, to give their reward to your servants, to the prophets, to the saints, to those who fear your name, small and great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.

Phil 4:20 To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

In addition to ordinary worship, it is also necessary to participate in the Feasts established by God by offering spiritual worship on this occasion

(see the meditation Biblical Feasts in the New Testament in the link at the bottom of the page)

2 Corinthians 13:13 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen.