

HONOR, PRAISE, GLORY, AND WORSHIP OF GOD

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!"

HONORING GOD

Mal 1:6 A son honoreth his father, and a servant his master; If, then, I am a father, where is the honor that is due to me? If I am master, where is the fear that is due to me?

How can we honor God better than we honored our parents?

Rom 15:9 ... Foreigners honour God for his mercy, as it is written: "For this I will praise you among the nations and sing praises to your name".

Ps 66:2-4 "Sing the glory of his name, honor him with your praise." Say to God, "How terrible are your works! By the greatness of your power your enemies will flatter you. The whole earth will bow down before you and sing to you, and sing to your name."

Pr 3:9-10 "Honor the LORD with your good things, and with the firstfruits of all your income; your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with wine.

Pr 14:31 "He who oppresses the poor offends him who has done it: but he who has pity on the needy honors him."

PRAISING GOD

At the moment when Jesus died on the cross the veil that separated man from God was torn, in a supernatural way, from top to bottom, man was no longer obliged to be separated from God because of sin, man's sins could be forgiven, from this moment, men and women could, frankly, enter the presence of God. The more time we spend in his presence, in intimacy with him, the more our spirits and our lives will be changed in the image of his Son Jesus. The cry of our hearts should be in accord with David's cry when he wrote:

Ps 42:1-2 "As the deer longs for the streams of the waters, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God...

It was King David who brought the ark back to Jerusalem after it was taken, David was a man who had a heart according to God and who continually sought his presence. For forty years, until Solomon's temple was built, the ark, representing God's presence, dwelt in David's tabernacle. There was no veil separating man from God, all worshippers could see the ark completely, the only sacrifices in David's tabernacle were the continual sacrifices of praise to God. The tabernacle of David has become the model of worship for the Church today. James quoted (Am 9:11-12) when he said:

Acts 15:16-17 "After these things, I will return and rebuild the tabernacle of David that has fallen, and I will restore its ruins and set it on its feet, so that the rest of men and all the nations upon whom my name is called may seek the Lord, says the Lord who does all these things.

Today, we are experiencing the fulfillment of these prophecies as God is restoring true praise and worship in His Church. We were created for a great purpose and function, to praise and worship God! The greatest desire of our lives should be to praise and worship God.

Eph 3:21 "To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all ages, forever and ever." Amen.

Angelic creatures continually give praise to God.

Rev 4:8-11 "And the four living creatures each had six wings, and they were covered with eyes all around and within, and they never ceased to repeat day and night, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, the God Almighty, who was, and who is, and who is coming.' Whenever these living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to him who sits on the throne, and who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders bow down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, "You are worthy, O our Lord and God, to receive glory, honour and power: for you created all things, and by your will they were created and exist."

Rev 5:11-14 "And I saw, and I heard the voices of many angels about the throne, about the living creatures, and about the elders; and their number was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands. They said with a loud

voice, "The Lamb who was slain is worthy to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and praise." And all the creatures that are in heaven, and on earth, and under earth, and in sea, and all things that are in them, I heard them say, "To him that sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be praise, and honor, and glory, and power, forever and ever." The four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders bowed down and worshipped.

Moses, the Israelites, David, the Levitical priests praised the Lord even with instruments, Jesus and the disciples sang hymns, the apostle Paul taught the church to sing with anointing.

1 Corinthians 14:15 What then? I will pray with the spirit, but I will also pray with the intelligence; I will sing with the Spirit, but I will also sing with the Intelligence.

Eph 5:19 Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and praising the Lord with your hearts.

To praise the Lord we must follow the way of the sanctuary and enter the most holy place every day, this is possible thanks to the sacrifice of Christ Jesus. Each one must prepare his heart by purifying it from all carnal impurity and be in the attitude of praise and worship before arriving in the assembly of believers. Following the worship leader and the direction of the Holy Spirit, there are times when praise will move into a musical expression of praise in "tongues." At this moment we can realize that the angels are singing before us as we sing "in the spirit." The songs must be arranged in such a way that they follow the pattern of "entering": songs of thanksgiving that will induce ever higher levels of physical and vocal participation, songs of worship that will bring believers closer to the presence of God.

As David teaches us:

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

Praise is an expression of sincere gratitude and thanksgiving to God for what He has done for us, it is a physical and vocal expression of our sincere appreciation to God for all the wonderful blessings He has provided for us. There must be a succession of stages in entering into his presence, in the

courtyards we are charged with praise, here, we merrily enter into singing, music, clapping and raising our hands, and often dancing before the Lord as we express our praise.

Ps 150:1-6 Hallelujah. 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. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet, praise him with the psalterium and the zither. Praise him with the timpani and dances, praise him with the stringed instruments and the flute. Praise him with resounding cymbals, praise him with ringing cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Hallelujah.

When should we commend?

Ps 113:1-3 Hallelujah. Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and always! From sunrise until sunset, praise be to the name of the Lord.

Ps 71:8 Let my mouth be full of thy praise, and exalt thy glory daily.

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.

Where are we to commend?

In the sanctuary

Ps 150:1 Hallelujah. Praise God in his sanctuary, praise him in the expanse where his power shines.

In the community

Ps 22:22,25 "I will preach your name to my brethren, and I will praise you in the midst of the assembly. You are the subject of my praise in the great assembly; I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who fear you.

Ps 149:1 Hallelujah. Sing a new song to the Lord, sing his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

In the midst of the great crowd

Psalms 109:30 I will greatly praise the LORD with my mouth, and praise him in the midst of the great crowd.

Among the nations

Psalms 57:9 I will praise thee among the peoples, O LORD, and I will praise thee among the nations.

As we send praises to God, He transforms it into a shower of blessings upon us, bringing peace, health, victory, and transformation into His image from glory to glory. Praising God is not simply a means of rejoicing, it must be offered as an expression of reverence and thanksgiving to God. Standing or kneeling during commendation is a sign of reverence and respect, but an attitude of the heart can also be expressed, even if the person's body is not prostrate, by clapping or raising hands, or dancing.

Psalms 149:3 Let them praise his name with dancing, and sing to him with the tambourine and the harp.

GLORIFYING GOD

To give glory to God is to raise His Majesty, His Power, His Holiness, not only for what He does, but for what He is.

Psalms 50:23 "He that offers me thanksgiving for a sacrifice glorifies me, and to him that regulates his conduct well, I will show the salvation of God."

Luke 17:15-16 "One of them, seeing that he was cleansed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice; and he threw himself at Jesus' feet with his face to the ground, thanking him; and he was a Samaritan.

John 17:4 "I (Jesus Christ) glorified you on earth, having done the work that you gave me to do.

John 15:8 "In this is glorified my Father, that you bear much fruit, so that you will be my disciples."

1 Peter 4:10-11 "As good stewards of the varied grace of God, each one, according to the charism he has received, should put it at the service of others. If anyone speaks, let him do so as the oracles of God are proclaimed; if anyone performs a service, let him do it as one performs a service by the power that God provides, so that in all things God may be

glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

2 Corinthians 9:12-13 "For the performance of this sacred service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but even more produces an abundance of thanksgiving to God; for the practical evidence furnished by this grant leads them to glorify God for the obedience with which you profess the gospel of Christ, and for the generosity of your fellowship with them and with all.

WORSHIP GOD

Angels continually worship God with praise and service:

Ne 9:6 You, you alone are the Lord! 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.

Rev 7:11-12 "And all the angels were standing around the throne, and the elders, and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying, 'Amen! To our God be praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and strength, forever and ever! Amen».

Heb 1:13-14 "And to which of the angels did He say, 'Sit at my right hand until I have set your enemies as your footstool'? Are they not all spirits in the service of God, sent forth to serve in behalf of those who are to inherit salvation?

We can worship God by offering worship, by offering service, but especially when we put his Word into practice by submitting to his will, the best form of worship is obedience to his Word and teaching the truth, in theory and in practice.

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.

Jn 4:23 ... true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father seeks such worshippers.

Mt 22:37 Jesus said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. The second, similar to this, is: Love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Rom 12:11-18 "As for zeal, do not be lazy; be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord; be cheerful in hope, patient in tribulation, persevering in prayer, providing for the needs of the saints, eagerly exercising hospitality. Bless those who persecute you. Bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who are rejoicing; Weep with those who weep. Have the same feeling among yourselves. Do not aspire to high things, but let yourself be attracted by the humble. You do not think yourselves wise of yourselves. Do not return evil for evil to anyone. Commit yourselves to doing good before all men. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live in peace with all men.

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.