WORD OF FAITH BIBLE INSTITUTE

UNDERSTANDING THE POWER OF PRAISE

(UPP)

LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE COURSE

‘‘Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him...” Psalm 67:5-7 (KJV)

REFERENCES

Understanding The Power Of Praise Dr. David O. Oyedepo

Wonders of Praise Dr. David O. Oyedepo

Praise Classics Merlin Carothers

Exploring Worship (A Practical Guide To Praise & Worship) - Judson Gomwal

Lifting Him Up (How To Enter Into Spirit Led Praise Worship) - Ron Kenoly & Dick Bernal

The Untapped Power Of Praise Kenneth Hagin (Jnr)

The Believer's Guide To Worship Chris Bowater

Praise Works Merlin Carothers

Power In Praise Merlin R. Carothers

Come And Worship Michael Coleman & Ed Lindquist

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the course are to:

- To enrich the knowledge and deepen the understanding of the students on the subject of thanksgiving, praise, and worship.

- To inculcate the culture of thanksgiving, praise, and worship into the students as a way of life.

- To expose the students to the wonders of praise and how to appropriate these benefits into their life.

- To show the students how to engage praise as a spiritual instrument of developing and deploying strong faith for exploits.

UNDERSTANDING THE POWER OF PRAISE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REFERENCES 2
COURSE OBJECTIVES 2

LECTURE ONE

Lesson One Introduction 4
Lesson Two Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship 8
Lesson Three Why Thanksgiving And Attributes of God's Faithfulness 10
Lesson Four Praise 13

LECTURE TWO

Lesson One Why We Praise 15
Lesson Two Disqualification For Acceptable Praise 18
Lesson Three How To Render Acceptable Praise 22

LECTURE THREE

Lesson One The Role Of The Holy Spirit In Praise 24
Lesson Two Worship 25
Lesson Three The Place of Music In Thanksgiving, Praise And Worship 28
Lesson Four Instructions For Praise And Worship Ministers 30

LECTURE ONE

LESSON ONE

INTRODUCTION

The subject of praise can best be understood by understanding the purpose for which man was created.

Man was basically created to praise God and bring pleasure to God in everything he does in life. Is. 43:21, Rev. 4:11
Of all the things man does to please God, nothing pleases Him like thanksgiving, praise and worship. Ps. 69:30-31, Ps. 149:1-4

Man was created to live in God's presence.
It was for that reason that God placed man in the Garden of Eden which signifies His presence.

This is because only in His presence can man function properly and effectively. Outside the environment of God's presence, man can only live a distorted and dissatisfying imitation of life.

But when man sinned against God, he lost the purpose for which he was created and as a result, was driven out of God's presence where he can live life to its fullest. Gen. 3:23-24

By reason of redemption, there was a restoration of the purpose of creation and divine presence to the redeemed – 1Peter 2:9

God called us out of darkness into His marvellous light for the purpose of praising Him and by living a life of praise, we create a conducive habitation for God to inhabit.

DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

To understand the subject of consideration which is, understanding the power of praise, it is important to define the words involved in this course.

UNDERSTANDING: Encarta English Dictionary defines understanding as the ability to perceive and explain the meaning or nature of something or somebody.

It means to have the knowledge of a particular subject, area or situation.

OXFORD Advanced Leaner's Dictionary defines UNDERSTANDING as the knowledge of the meaning of something, importance or cause of something.

In the words of Bishop David Oyedepo, "It is understanding that makes anything outstanding".

Prov. 4:7. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting, get UNDERSTANDING.

POWER:

Power is defined as the ability, strength and capacity to do something.
It is also defined as the Skill, physical ability, opportunity or authority to do something.

PRAISE:
Praise is the expression of admiration and appreciation to God for who He is and what He has done. It is celebration of the uniqueness and awesomeness of God's personality.

Webster's Dictionary defines PRAISE to mean commending, expressing approval or a favourable judgment of; and glorifying especially by crediting with perfection.

PRAISE therefore, is the celebration of God in appreciation and admiration of His person and His acts in our lives.

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR PRAISE
One of the major reasons for praise is to glorify God – Ps.50:23.
To GLORIFY means to make something or somebody pleasant, important or desirable.
We are created to glorify God. Ps.89:9-10

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAISE TO GOD
Praise is the Spiritual environment in which God lives. It is the habitat that God inhabits. In other words, Praise, is the condition and environment in which God lives. Ps. 22:3
Everything God created was for His praise. Ps. 148:1-5
Even angels were created to praise Him. The multitudes of Angels seem to have been divided under the leadership of three major Archangels:

1. Archangel Michael was placed in charge of the large warrior angels.
2. Archangel Gabriel was given the leadership of the messenger angels.

3. Lucifer was the leader of the angels created specifically for praise and worship as a covering for the throne of God.

Archangel Lucifer was specially designed and created with all kinds of praise instruments fitted into his being. Ezekiel 28:12-16

This special arch angel created with music instruments of praise that was cast out of God's mountain because of the sin of pride was Lucifer. This can be seen in Isaiah 14:12-15
It was his revolt against God that removed him from the presence of God.

THE MEANING OF THE NAME 'LUCIFER'.
Lucifer, the anointed cherub was designed and created with instruments of praise fitted in his system for the purpose of praising God.
Even his name; Lucifer, was given in line with his purpose, which was to praise God.

LUCIFER; in Hebrew, Lucifer is "Heylel'. It came from the root word "Halal" from which we get "Hallelujah". Hallelujah means to praise, be bright, shine, be splendid, celebrate, glorify and be famous.

So his name Lucifer is a good indication of his primary function, which was praise and worship.
He was the original praiser who celebrated and shone with the reflected, radiant glory of the LORD.

He was created for music. Lucifer did not just play an instrument to praise God; he was an instrument of praise. His voice was an orchestra with percussion instruments, flutes, horns and pipes released in perfect harmony and symphony.

Lucifer was also adorned with so many gems that when he moved or breathed, it was a never ending and always changing spectacle of glory in light and heavenly sound.

Lucifer must have led the great angelic orchestra and choir in praise and worship before the throne of God. Job 38:7.

But when Lucifer rebelled against God, he was removed from the presence of God alongside with 'his angels'; a third part of the angels that rebelled with him. Rev. 12:7-9, Rev. 12:4.
The fall of Lucifer left a huge void in heaven.

GOD'S PLAN TO FILL THE VOID
God created man to fill the void left by Lucifer and 'his angels' and to take dominion on earth. Gen. 1:26:28

Even when the first Adam was lured by the serpent into sinning against God by disobedience, God still devised another plan to restore man through the second Adam. 1Cor.15:45-49

God made the second Adam; the Lord Jesus Christ, better than the first Adam. Isaiah 13:12

Jesus came as the express image of God, carrying the brightness of the glory of God. Heb 1:3.

So every redeemed child of God is carrying the express image of God and is adorned with the glory of God to show forth the praise of God. 1Peter 2:9

We have replaced Lucifer to render praises unto God. Lucifer was designed and created with music instrument to praise God but God has put in us something better to praise Him. He has given us the Holy Spirit. 2Corin. 1:21-22.

The void left by Lucifer the anointed cherub and the angels under his leadership in the praise department of heaven are now filled by the church; the body of Christ. Eph. 1:23

The church is now next to the throne of God for the major purpose of praising God. Is. 35:10. Is.51:3,11. Jer. 31:11-14

LESSON TWO

THANKSGIVING, PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Thanksgiving, praise and worship are related to each other and are often used interchangeable.

Let us look at them one after the other specifically.

THANKSGIVING:
THANKSGIVING is relating to God's goodness. Ps. 136:1. James 1:17, Ps. 92:1
THANKSGIVING is an attitude of appreciation and gratitude to God for something received from Him or for what He has done.

THANKSGIVING is the response of appreciation that God expects for His manifestation in a man's life. Luke 17:12-19.
The thanksgiving of the one Leper that returned to glorify God led to wholeness (perfection) of what God started in his life.

It was Bishop David Oyedepo that said "when you pray God performs, but when you praise, He perfects".

It is also very instructive to note that when Jesus asked about the where about of the other Lepers that were cleansed, He expected all of them to show appreciation.

This shows that God keeps records of goodness in your life. Every act of His that is not acknowledged disqualifies you from receiving further blessings.

THANKSGIVING is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning every believer. 1Thess. 5:18.

It is only after the will of God is done that the promise of God is received. Heb. 10:36

Thanksgiving is an expression of thankfulness. It is viewed as a direct response to God's grace.
THANKSGIVING is the protocol of heaven that must be observed for the gate of heaven to open. Ps. 100:4, Ps. 95:2

THANKSGIVING flows from a thankful heart.

ATTRIBUTES OF THANKSGIVING

1. Thanksgiving is a direct command of scripture. Mal. 2:1-3, Col.3:15-17

   Thanksgiving is not a suggestion, it is a divine instruction. Therefore, its obedience is not to be contemplated it is to be implemented. Thanksgiving must be offered as an act of obedience to divine instruction.

2. Thanksgiving is the will of God for every believer. 1Thess. 5:16-19

   Thanksgiving is the will of God that must be done for the promise of God to be received. Heb. 10:36

   When you don't give thanks, you are not in the will of God.

3. Thanksgiving is an expression of the fullness of God. Eph. 5:17-20.

   The will of God is for every believer to be filled with the spirit expressed by:

- Speaking. V 18
- Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. V19
- Giving thanks always. V20.

LESSON THREE

WHY THANKSGIVING?

Thanksgiving is the acknowledgement of God as the one behind the good things around us. It is the celebration of the acts of God in our lives.

We thank Him for the following:

1. For His benefits: Ps. 103:1-5, Ps. 89:1
   We are beneficiaries of His benefits. His benefits are the reasons why we are fit. Without His benefits, we will be unfit. We are fit everyday because of His daily benefits. Ps. 68:19.
   His benefits;
   ➲ He forgiveth all thine iniquities.
   ➲ He healeth all thy diseases.
   ➲ He redeemeth thy life from destruction.

- ➲ He crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies.
- ➲ He satisfieth thy mouth with good things
- ➲ He reneweth thy youth like the eagles

God expects us to render praises in response for His benefits. Ps. 116:12,17.

2. For His faithfulness in our lives. Ps. 92:1-2
   God is too faithful to fail. Ps. 89:33

   Faithfulness connotes adherence firmly to a person or a cause. Faithfulness also means to be dependable, reliable and trustworthy.
   All these and more are what God is to us.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

- ➲ New every morning. The faithfulness of God, like His mercy and compassion are new every morning. Lam. 3:22-23.
- ➲ His faithfulness is generational: Ps. 119:90, Deut. 7:9
- ➲ Our prayers are answered because of His faithfulness. Ps. 143:1
- ➲ His faithfulness is the reason why His promises will never fail. Heb. 10:23

God expects us to be thankful to Him because He is faithful to us. Those who are not grateful to God will end up as great fools in life. Rom.1:21-22.

3. For His Goodness: Ps. 136:1, Ps. 107:1,8
   We serve a good God. God is good all the time. His goodness towards us is a product of His good nature.

   God has not left Himself without a witness of His goodness in our lives. Acts 14:17

God's goodness is the reason for our fruitful season. Therefore, we must respond with thanksgiving.

The goodness of God is continuous. Ps. 52:1

God is abundant in goodness. Ex. 34:6
God who is abundant in goodness has made His goodness to abound towards us. It was Bishop David Oyedepo that said; "His goodness must never be taken for granted if you don't want to be grounded". Ps. 145:7

- Thanksgiving is a requirement for us to enter God's presence. Ps. 100:4
  - The Lepers stood afar off. Luke 17:12-19
  - But the one who returned to give glory had access to His presence. Luke 17:16 …"he fell upon his face at His feet…"

- Thanksgiving is the seal for answered prayers. Phil. 4:6
  - Thanksgiving validates all other forms of prayer. Rom. 1:8-10
  - It is the basis for intercession and supplication. Eph. 1:15-16. Phil. 1:3-4, Col. 1:3, 1Thess. 1:2, 2Tim. 1:.3.

- Thanksgiving unlocks the miraculous. John 6:11-13. John 11:41-44.
  - Jesus gave thanks and the miracle of multiplication took place. Five loaves and two fishes produced twelve baskets of loaves of bread and fishes.
  - On another occasion, Jesus gave thanks and the miracle of resurrection took place. Lazarus that was dead for four days and had began to decay, came back to life.

- Thanksgiving is an expression of our Faith in God. Rom 4:20

- Abraham gave thanks to God because he counted Him faithful who has promised and obtained the promise.
- Jesus defined the thanksgiving of the one Leper that was made whole as faith "… thy faith hath made thee whole…" Luke 17:19.
- His faith was expressed by thanksgiving.

➲ Thanksgiving sets a seal on already received blessings. Ps. 103:1-2. Mal. 3:1-2

- Continuous appreciation of God keeps the blessings of God. Thanksgiving preserves the blessings of God from decadence. Mal. 3:1-3

Thanksgiving is a preservative of blessings.

LESSON FOUR

PRAISE:
Praise relates to God's greatness.
Praise is the expression of admiration and appreciation to God for who He is and for what He has done.

Praise is commending, expressing approval or a favourable judgment of; and glorifying, especially by crediting with perfection (Webster's Dictionary).

Praise therefore can be defined as the Celebration of God in admiration of His person and appreciation of His deeds. Ps. 150:1-2.

The instruction to praise God is directly from the throne of God in heaven. Rev. 19:1,5.

Praise is the ceaseless occupation of all glorious eternal beings, enjoying a glorious and uninterrupted access to God. 1Peter 2:9.

ATTRIBUTES OR CHARACTERISTICS OF PRAISE

1. Praise is the purpose for which God sanctifies and blesses us. Praise therefore is our appropriate response to God's blessings.

2. Praise must be from the whole of your heart before it can be acceptable to God. Ps. 138:1

3. Praise is an act of obedience arising from the will, not from feelings or circumstances. That makes praise a sacrifice. Heb. 13:15.

The sacrifice of praise is the praise we give God from obedience despite how we feel. Habakkuk. 3:17-19.

4. Praise is a weapon of spiritual warfare. Ps. 149:6-9.
   It is ordained to:
   i. Execute vengeance upon the heathen.
   ii. To execute punishment upon the people.
   iii. To bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron.
   iv. To execute upon them the judgment written.

5. Praise secures access into God's presence. Ps. 100:4.
   It is the protocol of heaven that must be kept to gain access into God's presence. Ps. 100:2

6. Praise is the purpose for which God has given us the breath of life. Ps. 150:6. Is. 38:18-20.
   Praise is the purpose for which we are living.

7. Praise is the spiritual environment in which God lives. Ps.22:3.
   Praising God is making your life a habitation for God to inhabit. Ex. 15:2.
   When God inhabits your life, nothing can inhibit your life.

8. Praise is an expression of faith in God. Ps. 106:12. Rom. 4:20-22
   This is praise in appreciation of God as an expression of expectation in God.

9. Praise flows out of intimacy of relationship with God. Ps. 43:4. Ps. 71:5-6

10. Praise must be our lifestyle. Ps. 34:1.

Praise as a lifestyle means responding with praise to every situation of life. It is praising God at all times and in all things as a way of life.
Those who make praise a lifestyle will live their lives in style.

11. Praise is comely and pleasant to God. Ps. 147:1

LECTURE 2

(LESSON ONE)

WHY WE PRAISE GOD

The application of every spiritual principle releases miracles to those who apply the principle.

Engaging in the praises of God carries enormous benefits to the praiser.

These benefits include the following:

1. Praise secures supernatural favour. Acts 2:47
   Favour is one of the benefits derived from praising God, and the importance of favour to life and destiny cannot be over emphasized.

   What God's favour for one day can do in a man's life, his labour for a life time cannot accomplish. Ps. 44:3.

   The children of Israel got in one day of God's favour what their labour in Egypt for 430 year could not deliver to them. Ex. 12:36

As a result, they came out of Egypt with so much silver and gold. Ps. 105:37

2. Praise attracts God's presence. Ps. 22:3
   With God's presence, you become unstoppable in the journey of life and destiny. No barrier or obstacle can stop the way to a man that carries God's presence. Ps. 114:1-8.

3. Praise is a spiritual weapon. Matt. 21:16. Ps. 8:3
   With the weapon of praise, you can silence every opposition.
   Every time you offer praise in spiritual warfare, you are invoking divine vengeance and judgment upon the enemy. Ps. 149:6-9

4. Praise is the way to God's presence. Ps. 100:4
   Until you approach God with praise, you cannot access God's presence.

5. Praise is an instrument of honour. Ps. 71:8. Ps. 66:2
   Praise is the way to honouring God in your life, and when you honour Him, He reciprocates. 1Sam. 2:30.

6. God loves praise. Ps. 147:1
   Our praise of God should be expression of love for God. We prove our love for God by loving what He loves, which is praise. Ps. 33:1.

7. Praise releases harvest of blessings. Ps. 67:5-7
   It is by praise that every spiritual seed sown is watered to produce harvest.
   It is only after your praise is offered that your harvest is released.

8. Praise makes you to hear the voice of God. 2Kings 3:15

Praise secures the hand of God for access to the voice of God. Is. 30:29-30.
When the voice of God is accessed, victory over the opposition is secured. Is. 30:31

9. Praise leads to the discovery of the path of life. Ps. 16:11
   The path of life can only be discovered in God's presence and it takes praise to access His presence. Ps. 100:4

   The path of life connotes the path that is ordained for one's life. It means the destiny ordained for a man.

10. Praise guarantees victory and liberty. Acts 16:25-26
    Their prayer and high praises secured the presence of God and the foundation of the prison was shaken to secure their liberty.

IMPORTANT HEBREW PRAISE WORDS

There are seven Hebrew words used to describe the various dimensions or portrait of praise.

(1). Halal. (2) Shabach. (3). Zamar (4). Todah (5). Yadah (6). Barak (7). Tehillah

Let us examine these Hebrew praise words one after another.

1. **HALAL**: Halal means to praise. The word Halal is derived from a primitive root word that means among other things to be clear, to shine, to make a show, to boast etc.
   The word Hallelujah is from the same root word with Halal.
   Halal also means to commend. Halal praise flows from a wellspring of love for God.

2. **SHABACH**: Shabach means to address in a loud voice particularly with a sense of triumph.

   The words used to translate Shabach include; glory, glorify, commend and extol.

   Shabach therefore means to praise the Lord with a loud voice of triumph and commend Him for His character and nature which informs His commitment to fulfil His word in our lives.

3. **ZAMAR:** Zamar, is the Hebrew word to touch the strings or parts of a musical instrument with the sense of playing it or of making music that is accompanied by the voice.

   Zamar therefore has the connotation of celebration of God in praise with a song and music.

4. **TOWDAH OR TODAH:** Todah means to praise. This is totally an act of the will. It literally means an extension of the hand in thanksgiving as a sacrifice to God.

5. **YADAH:** Yadah means to praise or give thanks with hands extended to God in reverence or worship.

   Yadah is the celebration of God with uplifted hands in total dependence on God for help.

6. **BARAK:** Barak means to bless, or kneel before God in adoration.

   Barak is also used to refer to God's blessings on human beings.

7. **TEHILLAH:** Tehillah is based on the root word that means Laudation.

   It speaks of the praise-worthy quality of God.

   Tehillah is praising God in loud songs of praise. It is singing spiritual songs inspired by the Holy Spirit.

LESSON TWO

DISQUALIFICATION FOR ACCEPTABLE PRAISE

There are some certain factors that disqualify and make praise unacceptable to God. They are enemies of praise which must be destroyed for praise to be acceptable. They are:

1. **MURMURING AND COMPLAINING**: **Num. 11:1**

   Just as nothing pleases God like praise, nothing displeases God like murmuring and complaining.

   Every time you murmur, you invite the destroyer. 1Cor.10:10
   The things that happened are written for our example. They are not mere stories, they are lessons. 1Cor.10:11

   Everything you murmur about never grows, rather it diminishes. In the same way, everything you complain about gets complicated.

   Everyone who lives in complain, lives in defeat. But everyone who lives in praise lives in victory.

2. **SORROW: Is. 35:10, Is. 51:11**

   Sorrow is an enemy of praise. It takes away praise from a man. Whatever stops your praise is an enemy.

   Sorrow took away Hannah's praise and as a result, her prayer was ineffective. 1Sam. 1:10,15

   But when she changed her attitude from sadness to gladness, God visited her and answered her prayer. 1sam 1:18-20,27

   Sorrow does not only break the spirit, it also blocks your access to God. Prov. 15:13

Give no place to sorrow in your life, if you do, it will break your spirit and lead to dryness in the bones. Prov. 17:22
Sorrow of the heart is synonymous to heaviness in the heart. Prov. 12:25
Heaviness is a spirit; it is called the spirit of heaviness. Is.61:3
The spirit of heaviness is an enemy of praise. It is responsible for depression, and depression is the atmosphere the devil uses to oppress people.
The devil cannot oppress you until he can depress you. He depresses people so that he can oppress them. And oppression is affliction of the devil. Acts 10:38

3. DISCONTENTMENT: 1Tim. 6:6

Discontentment means a state of dissatisfaction in life regardless of everything. Satisfaction comes with Jesus.

Discontentment is a product of covetousness. Heb. 13:5
Covetousness is the crave for material things instead of a crave for God. Luke 12:15.

Contentment is the cure to covetousness. Phil 4:11.
A man that is not contented will never be satisfied with what he has, he will always be looking for more and as a result, fail to appreciate God for what he has and where he is in life.

Appreciation and celebration of God comes from contentment. 1Tim.6:8
You may not be where you want to be but you have left where you use to be. And where you are now is better than where you use to be.

Until you praise Him for where you are, you may never get to where you want to be.

4. OFFENCES: Matt. 11:6

What is offence? Offence is the negative reaction to unpleasant conditions.
Offence is the natural tendency in the hour of difficulty and pressure.
The offended questions God for his situation or condition. He ask questions like “God where are you?” “Can God still do it?” “Why me?” etc.

A classical example of a man who asked such question because he was offended was John the Baptist. Matt. 11:3
Jesus identified and defined John’s problem as offence in Him. Matt. 11:4-6
And because he was offended in Jesus, he was eventually beheaded. Matt. 14:10.
He never came out of prison because of offence.

Paul the Apostle, just like John was thrown in prison for preaching about Jesus but he was not offended because of that. Instead of taking offence, he chose to offer praise. Acts 16:25-26

Paul came out of prison when he praised God, but John died in prison when he took offence.

Refuse to be offended if you do not want to die in captivity.
Don’t allow the devil to make you take offence in God to the point where you begin to question God; it will not end well for you. Is. 45:9.

No one ever hardens his heart against God and not pay dearly for it. Job 9:4

When Pharaoh hardened his heart against God, God demonstrated His power in His life. Ex. 8:32, Rom. 9:17
The same thing happened to Belshazzar. Daniel 5:20-28

5. HOLDING ON TO PAST NEGATIVE EVENTS:

By God’s divine ordination, every new day is better than the previous one. Rom. 14:5

God has also ordained that your path shines more and more in life. Prov. 4:18

It is not wisdom to think that yesterday is better than today and tomorrow. This will lead to ingratitude. Eccl. 7:10

The habit of looking back at past failure is an enemy of praise. You can’t live a life of praise until you let go of the negative past.

6. HIGH MINDEDNESS. Ps. 131:1-2

High mindedness which is synonymous to pride is a condition where an individual sees himself as too much for where he is and hardly appreciates the acts of God in his life.

High mindedness makes men to celebrate their qualification and expertise at the expense of their relationship with God.

High mindedness is one of the spirit working against the destinies of men in the end times. 2Tim.3:2-5

High mindedness is the reason why men trust in uncertain riches instead of on God who gives all things. 1Tim. 6:17

Those who focus on God who gives all things will always praise God for the things in their lives.

LESSON THREE

HOW TO RENDER ACCEPTABLE PRAISE

Until your praise is acceptable to God, it will not be profitable to you.

Let’s look at how to render acceptable praise.

1. **WITH THE WHOLE OF YOUR HEART. Ps. 111:1**
   “Until your praise is from the depth of your heart, it will never leave the earth”. – Bishop David Oyedepo.

   Our relationship with God is a heart to heart relationship not a head to heart relationship.
   It is with the heart that we connect with God.

So until your praise emanates from your heart that is truly connected to God, it will not resonate with God. Ps. 138:1

2. **WITH YOUR UNDERSTANDING. Ps. 47:7**
   Whatever is not done with understanding cannot be outstanding.

   The understanding of praise and its import to God, the greatness, goodness and loving kindness of God and the benefits to be derived in praising God will inspire you to render quality praise to God.

3. **WITH YOUR LIPS AND YOUR MOUTH. Ps. 63:3,5. Ps. 40:3**
   Praising God with your lips and mouth connotes that your praise should not be silent but audible. Acts 16:25

4. **WITH UPLIFTED HANDS.**
   Ps. 63:4, Ps. 134:2
   Praising God with hands lifted is a sign of total surrender and acknowledgement of the supremacy of God from whom all blessings flow.

5. **WITH A DANCE**
   Ps. 150:4, Ps. 149:3
   Dancing to the Lord is an integral part of praise. God takes delight in our praise dance.

   In praise dance, the totality of your being; spirit, soul and body is involved in praising God. 2Sam. 6:14
   It is important to mention that your praise dance must be before the Lord and unto the Lord, not in the flesh. 2Sam. 6:21.

Praise dance to the Lord leads to the turning of captivity and satisfaction with God's goodness. Jer. 31:12-14

6. **WITH MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**
   Ps. 144:9, Ps. 150:5, 2Chro. 5:12-13
   Singing with instruments of music can be used o praise God. 1Chro.15:16, 2Chro. 7:6

LECTURE 3

LESSON ONE

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN PRAISE

One of the major ministries of the Holy Spirit is to glorify God. John 16:13-14

The Holy Spirit sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts, which causes endless flow of praise to Him. Rom. 5:5

The Holy Spirit moves on men to glorify God.

He exchanges heaviness with the garment of praise. He becomes the oil of joy in place of mourning. Is. 61:3.

SINGING IN THE SPIRIT

1Cor. 14:15

The Holy Spirit enables the believer to sing, praise and worship God in the spirit.

Giving thanks, praise and worship in the spirit is a unique asset in making your thanksgiving praise and worship acceptable to God. Eph. 5:19. Col. 3:16.

The Holy Spirit also enables us to sing and rejoice in the Spirit which transports us to the spiritual realm with ease and enables a constant flow of praise towards God. This fulfils two purposes:

1. It glorifies God in heavenly language. This eradicates mistakes and focuses the thought completely on God. 1Cor. 14:15,17.

2. It comforts us and gives peace afterwards. Is. 28:11-12.

LESSON TWO

WORSHIP

Worship relates to God's holiness. It is an attitude of reverence in God's presence.

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Worship is giving back to God the glory due unto Him with a grateful heart. Ps. 96:7-9

Worship is not a performance before an audience but unity before God. It is the total submission of everything one has; spirit, soul and body, to God. Worship is the translation of the body, soul and spirit to the place where nothing else matters and time ceases to exist. Worship is the point where the spirit prevails over the flesh and all rules are broken.

Worship is like a love affair between the spirit of man and the Spirit of God. It is an intimate relationship beyond human comprehension.

Worship is the complete negligence of self as man connects in total submission to God.

Worship is the very essence of creation. It is the highest expectation of the creator to the creature. It is the reason why God created us. Is. 43:21, Rev. 4:11

Worship is the highest pleasure that the creator receives from the creature that is why He constantly seeks it. John 4:23.

Worship is the recognition of the awesomeness of God, the celebration of His beauty and the appreciation of His might. Worship is our appropriate response to God's loving-kindness and tender mercies towards us. Ps. 138:2.

Worship originates and flows from the human spirit into God's own Spirit. Your spirit must be in union with the Holy Spirit for your worship to be effective. Gal. 5:16, Phil. 3:3.

HOW TO WORSHIP GOD

➲ **In Spirit – John 4:20-24**

Man is a three dimensional being; spirit, soul and body. God is a Spirit and it is only with the spirit that man can connect with God in worship, not with the body or the soul. Phil. 3:3.

➲ **In Truth – John 4:23**

Until your worship is done in truth and sincerity of heart, it cannot be acceptable to God.

Our relationship with God and our worship of God must be based on truth not in deceit and lies. Ps. 15:1-2, Ps. 101:7.

Our worship of God must be in sincerity, absolute openness and honesty before God; holding nothing back and exposing our whole life to Him.

➲ **In the Beauty of Holiness – Ps. 29:2, Ps. 96:9.**

God is Holy, those that worship Him must worship Him in the beauty of Holiness. Ps. 99:9

God cannot behold iniquity – Hab.1:13
Sin will separate you from God. Is. 59:2

➲ **In the Fear of the Lord. – Ps. 5:7**

To fear God does not mean to be afraid of God but to show respect and reverence to God.

Our worship of God must be born out of heart-seated respect and reverence to God.

➲ **By Kneeling before His Majesty – Ps. 95:6**

Kneeling before God in worship is an act of showing respect and obeisance to God and acknowledging His authority and superiority.

RESULT OF WORSHIP – Ps. 95:6-7

1. Worship grants you access to God's voice. There is an inseparable connection between Worship and the voice of God. Those that have a song of worship will not struggle to hear from God. Is. 30:29-30

2. Worship opens God's bowels of compassion. Matt. 18:26-27
   When your worship is acceptable to God, you move Him to the point of compassion in your favour.

3. Worship secures express answers to prayers. John 9:31

4. Worship opens the heaven for the release of showers of blessings on the worshipper. Zech. 14:16-17.

STEPS TO WORSHIP

Thanksgiving and praise are prelude to worship.

Thanksgiving and praise helps us to focus on God instead on ourselves. In this way, flesh is relegated for God to take pre-eminence. Col 1:18.

LESSON THREE

THE PLACE OF MUSIC IN THANKSGIVING, PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Music is an important and integral part of thanksgiving praise and worship. Music was created for the purpose of praising and worshipping God and not the devil.

Music is an important part of the relationship between God and His people in connection to thanksgiving praise and worship. 2Sam. 6:5, Ps. 150:3-5

WHAT IS MUSIC?

Music is the art of arranging or making sound usually those of musical instruments or with voices or both in a pleasing sequence to produce an effect.

In the Old Testament, Priests and Levites were set in the house of God primarily for the purpose of providing music. 1Chron. 6:31-32, 1Chron. 15:16

But in this dispensation, God has made us kings and priests (royal priesthood) to praise Him. Rev. 5:10, 1Pet. 2:9.

IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC

1. Music has the ability to mould and shape thought. Music and songs can change one's emotions and attitude.

2. Music brings inspiration and enhances the flow of the anointing for the manifestation of the prophetic and the supernatural. 2Kings 3:14-16
   When Elisha needed to hear from God for Jehoshaphat, he called for a minstrel to play music. This enhanced his connection to God spiritually for divine direction.

3. Music brings refreshing and victory over satanic oppression. 1Sam. 16:23.
4. Praising God with instruments of music attracts the glory of God which represents the presence of God. 2Chron. 5:13-14

5. Singing with musical instruments help to bring the heart of the people together in unity and prepare them for the worship of God. It brings the scattered thoughts of the people together and focuses them on God in worship.

TYPES OF MUSIC

For the purpose of this teaching, we will look at three types of music mentioned in the scripture in the New Testament. They

are; Psalms Hymns and Spiritual Songs. Eph 5:17-20. Col. 3:16.

PSALMS: Psalms are sacred songs or poems of praise written and composed by the inspiration of God for the worship of God.

Psalms can be used in thanksgiving praise and worship to the Almighty and in spiritual warfare to secure the intervention of God in the time of adversity and victory over the adversaries of life.

HYMNS: Hymns are religious lyric poems or religious odes that impart lasting blessings from one generation unto other generations. Deut. 32.

Hymns declare the goodness, judgments, grace and faithfulness of God.

Hymns can be used in prayers, as instruction and for rebuking.

SPIRITUAL SONGS: Spiritual songs come from the influence of the Holy Spirit. They include the choruses we sing today. They relate more to the subjective kind of singing we do today. 1Cor. 14:15

LESSON FOUR

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRAISE AND WORSHIP MINISTERS

1. SONG LEADERS (Lead songs and therefore prepare the people to receive):

i) Pray and prepare like going to preach (diligence)

ii) Make a list of songs

iii) Do not ask for favourite songs

iv) Start with fast songs and end with worship

v) Do not stop between songs and talk

vi) Be time conscious.

vii) Do not put on a show

viii) Endeavour to do what the pastor wants.

ix) Flow with the Holy Spirit

x) Don't abuse the congregation when their response is not what you want.

xi)Redundancy, singing the same songs week after week

xii) Don't have your own agenda.

2) SOLOISTS (Do minister to the congregation as Psalmists)

i) You have been asked to sing and not to preach, and that you should do.

ii) Dress properly (moderately). You are a walking message - system

iii) Prepare before the service (not during)

iv) Do not put on a show

v) Pray and prepare like going to preach.

vi) Be time conscious.

3) MUSICIANS (Do help to produce and maintain the flow)

i) Get to service early.

ii) Instruments tuned before the service

iii) Do not put on a show.

iv) Pray and prepare like going to preach.

v) Be conscious of the song leader’s implies.

REVISION, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS