

WORSHIP SERIES

DEPTHS OF WORSHIP

Turn with me to the gospel of Jn. 4:23 *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.*

At the same time, lets also read I Thes. 5:18 *In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* Paul continues to tell us not to quench the Spirit. God desires worshippers and not just people who seek to be blessed by His presence, or just seeking Him for His works and His power to grant whatever we request of Him.

The late Gordon Lindsay believes that when one third of the angels fell and followed Satan against God in rebellion, God chose to create Adam in order to replace the one third of angels that were gone. Imagine one third of the angels leaving heaven. Suddenly there was a huge vacuum in heaven. Some replacement was needed and God created man for that purpose. I am not sure how theologically accurate Gordon Lindsay's theory is because no one knows until we go over there to heaven. I believe that theological statement may have some truth. I mean if you have a big company that employs ten thousand workers and suddenly one third of your workers resigned en bloc, you would have to start recruiting more workers to replace the ones who resigned. A lot of work can't be done without the replacements. God has the biggest firm in the world, with millions and millions of angels, and for one third of them to leave is a lot. So no doubt, there would have

been a lot of vacancies in heaven for worshippers. There have been tremendous vacancies since Satan fell.

There was a Christian in a local church here who was sent to heaven on a study tour and to report on his findings there. In one particular place, he saw angels worshipping the Lord as in a choir. Then he noticed that there was no worship leader leading the worshipping angels. He turned around and asked the angel accompanying him why there was no worship leader. There was silence for some time. Then very reluctantly the angel told him that there was never any worship leader since the rebellion in heaven and Lucifer was cast down to earth. It was as if the angel wished that the Christian didn't ask that question since the memory of that rebellion was still fresh in the angel's mind. The Christian then went on to ask how long did the battle take place in heaven. The angel told him that the battle between the angels who were loyal to God and the rebelling angels took six days before Lucifer and his fallen angels were cast down to the earth. On the seventh day, heaven rested. This was the time the dinosaurs roamed the earth when Lucifer and his fallen angels were confined to earth. God left the earth untouched for millions of years before He created Adam and Eve.

Now let us come back to our subject. But I also believe that God didn't just want the destiny of mankind to be replacements for the fallen angels. I believe that is one of the possible reasons. But beyond that, perhaps God has in His heart and mind to create something that will bring forth the highest expression of worship possible. And in the story of mankind when man fell into sin, God decided He is going to show forth such love that never shown before. And out of that manifestation of God's love, He is going to draw forth worship that angels have never sung before.

Do you know that the highest worship comes from the deepest experiences? Lets look at the book of Revelation chapter 14 and see the hundred and forty-four thousand. We know that these are men and not angels. There were one hundred and forty-four thousand men who were chosen during the tribulation of seven years period. These are the hundred and forty-four thousand Jews that we see were sealed in Rev. 7, twelve thousand from each tribe. Twelve thousand from twelve tribes gives you a hundred and forty-four thousand. These are the hundred and

forty –four thousand who served God in the Israelite’s period together with the two witnesses against the anti-Christ, one is probably Elijah and the other probably Enoch. Remember multitude of saints have died. They were the tribulation saints. But the cream of these saints are the one hundred and forty-four thousand in Rev. 6. Now these are the tribulations saints. Thousands of them died. In verse 9 to 11. *When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.* In case you didn’t understand this part, it is prophesied in the book of Daniel that the anti-Christ would be given power over the saints for a short time. It is stated in the book of Daniel but after that the saints shall prevail. So these are tribulation saints.

In chapter 7:9 of Revelation, *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb.” Then in verse 13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me. “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made the white in the blood of the Lamb.*

When I was teaching on the Second Coming of Jesus in the book of Thessalonians, there was a sister who came after the meeting and asked me, “Do you believe we will be caught away in the Rapture before the tribulation?” I said, “Yes and I have scriptures for it.” I proved that the tribulation is the wrath of the Lamb from Revelation 6. I proved that the principle behind God’s Rapture is based on Genesis 18 that God will not judge the righteous with the unjust. He always pulls them up beforehand.

Let us look at Rev. 14. The reason I say all those things is to show us the great suffering that takes place in the tribulation. And these hundred and forty-four

thousand had gone through it and they were faithfully preaching the gospel. And when they were taken up into heaven this is the blessing that will be given to them. Rev. 14:1 *Then I look and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand having His Father's name written on their foreheads. And I hear a voice from heaven like the voice of many waters, and the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders, and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.*

Why was it that no one else except the hundred and forty-four thousand could learn that song? Because no one else will go through what those hundred and forty-four thousand would have gone through.

In this message, we want to look at the highest praise possible for us to give onto God and how it comes. See the most important thing for us to do is to worship God. Part of the theological understanding of the redemption of man is that since one third of the angels in heaven have fallen, there are a lot of vacancies up there in heaven for worshippers of God. So, God seeks after worshippers. But beyond that God also decided to manifest a worship that possibly the angels have never heard before. The angels can never sing "Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me" for they have never been lost. But we have and we can sing that song for ten thousand years. So there is a difference between the angels and us. And our worship is different. We can move into a dimension of worship that the angels could not.

In Rev. 19:10, the angel speaking to John was actually a redeemed saint. When John tried to bow down to the angel, the angel said, "Don't bow down to me for I am your fellow servant." So that gives us a clue that some of the men of God who have died and have gone home are serving today as angels. That is why some angels you see are without wings and some are with wings. Some of those with wings are fellow servants of the Lord Jesus Christ who have gone off before and serving God today as angels. Of course, God is more interesting than that if you know God well enough. I mean He is not in the business of replacement. He says, "Well if we are going to do it let's do something great about it." The number of human beings who made it to heaven and replaced the number of fallen angels may have been reached

by now and God wants to do something more, something greater and something mightier. According to one heaven's report to a Christian who went up to heaven, the number of human beings in heaven is about 17 million now. One of God's purposes for the redemption of men is to bring forth a worship that was unattainable by angels.

We exist as a church for praise and worship. Look over to the book of Ephesians 2:21 *in whom the whole building being filled together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.* Our purpose is to become a holy temple to the Lord. We become worshippers of God. Verse 22 *in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.* Chapter 3:21 *to Him be glory in the church,* now the church exists to show forth the glory of God. The church exists to show forth the praises and the majesty of the worship of God. This is why as we come towards the last days we have a revival of praise and worship.

So this morning we want to look at what brings out the highest praise and the depths of worship from our lives. They don't come easily and I hope through that, that it will encourage us to learn to give God worship not just some of the time but all of the time and to know when is the important time to worship God. But the sad thing is that the most important times when we need to worship God are the times when we most easily forget to worship. I repeat, the sad thing is that the most important times when we need to worship God when God can get the purest, highest and deepest worship out of our lives are exactly those times when we forget God easily. And that is when you would have received the fullness of God's presence. And the other side is when you are in the greatest difficulty. All the rest of the times when things are normal we remember to worship God. But when things are difficult and it is so hard to say, "Praise the Lord for He is good and His mercy endures forever," we should continue to worship God. For many Christians, sometimes they sing, "Alleluia," sometimes, "Praise the Lord," but also sometimes, "Why God?" sometimes, "Cannot, Lord." But it should be all the time, "Praise the Lord." Even sometimes, when things are most difficult, tears are rolling down your cheeks, your shield of faith is full of arrows from the enemy, your hands are so tied, you still have to say, "Praise the Lord." Do you know why? Strangely, it is precisely at those times that we release the most beautiful and highest praise tunes during worship.

I am going to share this from the Word. We know what music is like. Music has a tempo. And music has a climax. Do you know that everything in this life flows from a cycle? And everything even in the atom flows in a cycle. Electricity has to flow in a cycle. Even when you turn on the tap the water flows out in a cycle. There is no such thing as a constant flow. I am telling you a scientific fact. And that's where the quantum theory states that matter oscillates. That is why the bible says, "In everything, give praise to the Lord." And that is why in our lives and the praises that come from the creatures that He has created which is man. There are times when He really looks for praise from our lives. There are times when our praise sounds sweetest. Now it doesn't mean that between those times you don't do anything. But in between those times, it is easy to praise the Lord. But the hardest times are when you are down in the valley and when you are having difficulties. You see people forget God on the two extremes. An average middle class Christian slowly becomes blessed and becomes upper middle class and wealthy. Guess what, the temptation is to forget the Lord. Then there are those who are in deep poverty. They are so hungry they cannot think of anything else but food. And it is so easy in the midst of their poverty to forget God. Yet, brethren it is those two times that praise sounds sweetest to the Lord.

Remember how the Lord warned the Israelites in Deuteronomy 8. He says when you have eaten and are full beware lest you forget about Me. The Israelites remembered God to a certain extent when they were suffering in the time of Exodus. They cried out to the Lord. And God told Moses in Exodus 3 I have heard the cry of My people. And then in the times of prosperity when God has set up the entire nation, they forgot the Lord. They didn't fall because of external adversity; they fell because of internal complacency. When they were rich and had plenty they forgot the Lord. They started worshipping idols. They started turning away from the God who redeemed them. There were all the prophecies you read in Ezekiel. He talked about the parable of the woman whom God picked up, washed, cleansed, and yet rejected Him. And that represents Israel.

So it is important to know when our praises are the highest. Let's look at some high point, mountain top experiences. In the book of Luke 1, Mary was carrying Jesus in her womb. It is at her high point since she had the destiny of Israel in her womb.

All that the Israelites had longed for generations to generations was now in her womb. All that Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel had prophesied about the coming Messiah was finally here in Mary's womb. It was a high point in her life. And Mary burst out in a worship and said in verse 46 *My soul magnifies the Lord; And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me. And holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him.* I mean what a powerful worship; what a powerful song she had sung onto the Lord. Her praise is so powerful that it has become as the Word of God. This is high praise. We want our praises, songs and worship that rise from our heart to ascend so high that it is impressed into eternity.

We want to look at some points of what causes it to come forth from our life. In the book of Exodus 1:11 *Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Ramses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel.* In chapter 2:23 *Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out and their cry came up to God because of the bondage.* I mean they must have been in terrible bondage. They underwent such suffering that many of them would have just died. Even today, we see the cry of many malnourished people in Africa, children dying in famine, people going without food for days. This is the cry of many Third World nations. People would just die out without food. That's why God sent a man like Lester Sumrall. You know how he got a vision. God came to him one night and said I want you to do this. I want you to get food and feed My children. I don't want anyone of those children who say Father who are in heaven holy be thy name; thy kingdom come' thy will be done on earth; give us this day our daily bread; to fail to receive our daily bread. And He sent a man there to feed all these people. God hears the cry. How sweeter it would have been if it were worship. And if they would say, "Lord if I die I would yet worship You." Wouldn't that be powerful?

Think about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. When the music started to signal the start of worship to the false idol, they refused to do so. King Nebuchadnezzar was very angry but he gave them one more chance and they still refused. And he said he is going to throw them into the fiery furnace if they refuse. And their reply was, "If we die we die. We are not going to bow and worship an idol." When they

said, "If we die we die," it was almost like saying, "We are going to die worshipping God and not worshipping a false god. It is better to die worshipping a true and living God than to live and worship a false god." And God worked a miracle that you never hear anywhere else. Sometimes you ask why doesn't God work a miracle like that nowadays. You know why. Because there is not enough of people with that kind of commitment and that kind of worship. When they were thrown into the fiery furnace, they were worshipping God and the fire never touched them. The song that these three men sung is found in the Apocrypha, "The Song of the Three Men." God honored their faith. They were not even challenging God. They don't mind even if God doesn't save them. They were not like people who say, "God if you don't do this I am not going to serve You anymore." No, they were committed. They say, "God if you don't want to save us no problem we will still worship You." But God chose to save them.

And Jesus says in Jn. 4 that God is looking for such worshippers. I like to put it stronger God is moved by our worship. You remember when Noah came out from the ark the first thing he did was to build an altar. In the previous message, we talked about building four types of altars. When Noah built an altar God was touched and He pronounced a blessing. He smelt the burnt offering and He was touched. God can be moved. We know God is unchangeable, immoveable, in terms of comparison with our temporal world. Let me tell you that God seldom moves but when He is moved, it is so powerful that the universe rocks. And worship can move God.

In the book, *The Call*, which is a sequel to *The Final Quest*, Rick Joyner had a conversation with Wisdom. Wisdom spoke to him about worship. He said, "*When the Father moves His little finger, the whole universe trembles. To shake the nations with your words does not impress anyone who dwells here. But when even the least of My brethren on earth shows love, it brings joy to My Father's heart. When even the most humble church sings to My Father with true love in their hearts, He silences all of heaven to listen to them. He knows that one cannot help but to worship when they are beholding His glory here, but when those who are living in such darkness and difficulty sing with true hearts to Him, it touches Him more than all of the myriads of heaven can.*"

Many times, the broken notes from earth caused all of heaven to weep with joy as they beheld

*My Father being touched. A few holy ones struggling to express their adoration for Him has many times caused Him to weep. Every time I see My brethren touch Him with true worship, it makes the pain and grief I knew on the cross seem like a small price to pay. Nothing brings Me more joy than when you worship My Father. I went to the cross so that you could worship Him through Me. **It is in this worship that you, the Father and I are all one.***

Rick Joyner continues his reflections. For the first time, I now badly wanted to leave that place, even with all of its glory, just to get into the most dreary little worship service on earth. I was overwhelmed by the fact that we could actually touch the Father. One person who worshiped Him from earth during these dark times meant more to the Father than the millions and millions who worshiped Him in heaven. From earth we could touch His heart at this time like we might never be able to do again! I was so overtaken by this that I did not even realize I had fallen prostrate. I then fell into something like a deep sleep.

Then I was in a different place, beholding a worship service in a little church building. As sometimes happens in a prophetic experience, I just seemed to know everything about everyone in the battered little room. All were experiencing severe trials in their lives, but they were not even thinking of them here. They were not praying about their needs. They were all trying to compose songs of thanksgiving to the Lord. They were happy, and their joy was sincere.

I saw heaven, and all of heaven was weeping. I then saw the Father again and knew why heaven was weeping. They were weeping because of the tears in the eyes of the Father. This little group of seemingly beaten down, struggling people had moved God so deeply that He wept. They were not tears of pain, but of joy. When I saw the love that He felt for these few worshippers, I could not contain my own tears.

Nothing I had experienced gripped me more than this scene. Worshipping the Lord on earth was now more desirable to me than dwelling in all of the glory of heaven. I knew that I had been given a message that could help prepare the saints for the battles that remained on earth, but now this did not mean nearly as much to me as trying to convey how we could touch the Father. Genuine adoration expressed by even the most humble believer on earth

could cause all of heaven to rejoice, but even more than that, it touches the Father. This is why the angels would rather be given charge over a single believer on earth than to be given authority over many galaxies of stars.

I saw Jesus standing next to the Father. Beholding the joy of the Father as He watched the little prayer meeting, He turned to me and said, "This is why I went to the cross. Giving My Father joy for just one moment would have been worth it all. Your worship can cause Him joy every day. Your worship when you are in the midst of difficulties touches Him even more than all of the worship of heaven. Here, where His glory is seen, the angels cannot help but to worship. When you worship without seeing His glory in the midst of your trials, that is worship in Spirit and in truth. The Father seeks such to be His worshippers. Do not waste your trials. Worship the Father, not for what you will receive, but to bring Him joy. You will never be stronger than when you bring Him joy, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

When the Israelites were groaning under the burdens imposed by Pharaoh, they were crying to God. I wished they had worshipped God for they would have seen something else more powerful. But we see that finally God heard their prayers and God sent Moses. We see the story of the ten plagues that God sent. At first, they were not really sure how God would deliver them. Many of them even had doubts and skepticism. In fact when the first confrontation came, they were like young Christians expecting to see God move straight away when God has His time span for working. When we trust God, we cannot limit God to a time. Because if you limit God to a time it is like you are challenging Him. You haven't committed to God a hundred percent. You committed to God the case but you didn't commit to God the time. So when God did all the signs before Pharaoh, instead of Pharaoh yielding, the Israelites saw Pharaoh hardening his heart. When Pharaoh hardened his heart, the people were angry with Moses and angry with God. Exodus 5:21 And they said to them. *"Let the Lord look on you and judge you, because you have made us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh."* You have made life even more difficult for us. Look, they haven't learnt to worship God.

Now I am going to point out that that was the key problem all the time. When you don't learn to worship God in adversity, don't think that you learn how to worship God in prosperity. If you don't worship God in poverty, you can never worship

God in prosperity. Don't deceive God and don't deceive yourself. The proof of whether you are a worshipper of God is now. Now right where you are in your situation. If you prove yourself faithful to God, He will in His mercy continue working upon your life. Even Moses was stunned when there was no result at first. The result came after ten plagues. And after ten plagues, the Israelites started walking out of the land of Egypt. I mean this is the first time for many of them. It took them four generations to finally see and taste freedom. All those who had first come into Egypt died. They carried Joseph's bones with them. And these are all Egyptian born Israelites. You could imagine the excitement as they walked out. Finally they were going. Remember how many false moves they have to make. They prepared themselves and after ten plagues, Pharaoh said, "Alright I will let the people go." They were all ready to go. Then he said, "No they cannot go with this they cannot go with that." There were so many roadblocks to their freedom. And as they were moving suddenly, they discovered Pharaoh was behind them. It doesn't look that real now. Pharaoh didn't want to let them go. But something happened as they crossed the Red Sea. When the Red Sea covered Pharaoh and his army, they realized this is real. You can imagine all the excitement when they saw all the Egyptian armies washed up to the shore. The realization started – we are free. Suddenly they realized like some of us realized in a different way - we are healed. What are you going to do? Are you going to say, "Well my prayers are certainly very powerful."? "Look at me. How great I am. I can do mighty work for God." Watch out; it is at that time that you need to worship God.

I mean now you can really sing with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and thank God in Exodus 15 as they did. For the first time God heard praises coming out from the Israelites. You can imagine how delighted God was. The angels probably would have danced. This bunch finally learned how to sing. Some of them were probably off key but it is alright. And in chapter 15, even Moses was excited. It says *Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord. I will sing to the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously. The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea. And they gave God praise; they gave God worship and in verse 20 Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them: "Sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!"*

Do you notice the emphasis on the sea there? Because that means that's is He is

God He has done with. I mean that excitement the highest praise you can offer God is when God has delivered you out of adversity. Your high points are for the purpose of worshipping God. Think very carefully, if you got healed, it will only last for this earth because after you go to heaven you got a new body. If you got blessed and set free after being a slave to a sin or slave to a free man, it is only for this earth. If you got your needs met its only for this earth. What else that can come up that will be eternal - praises to God. All those events were orchestrated so that it will bring out the best worship in us. It has been said that of all the great books written by men; of all the great speeches spoken by men both Christians and non-Christians; of all the great thinking by men; of all the great music by men; all of it has come from either great adversity or great deliverance. It has always been at that time that men's artistic creative musical, worship and praise and talent have come up with his greatest demonstration in every aspect whether it be art, music or everything. It is tremendous for us to realize that. Of course, we know that for them they didn't understand the full truth because the next moment they start complaining when they had adversity again. Do you know what's wrong with them? They knew how to worship in prosperity but they didn't know how to worship in adversity.

Lets look at another case here in I Samuel chapter one. All these high point came at a time when they reached the mountaintop. Verse 2 *And he had two wives; the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophin and Pinehas, the priests of the Lord, were there. And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make a offering he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the Lord had closed her womb. And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the Lord had closed her womb. So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the Lord, that she provoked her, therefore she wept and did not eat.*

She wept and cried, wept and cried until her husband was very frustrated because he loved her. But one day God answered her prayer. And she brought the little boy to the temple to dedicate the boy to the Lord. You could imagine the feelings that were going on in her inside. The Lord gave this boy whom she loved so much and she promised the Lord that she would give him to Him. And that day she kissed

her son Samuel for the final time. God has a work for you. If not for God you won't be here. You came from God and I must bring you back to God. And that day as mother and son walking to the temple I could see in my spirit tears were running down her eyes. She came knowing God has answered her prayers and she gave the son back to the Lord. And out of her mouth came the most beautiful worship that the angels who never know these sufferings of mankind could come up with. Out of the deepest adversity are songs of praise more beautiful than the sweetest angelic voice. Yes, even the tone of a man with a croaky voice, redeemed by God but touched with the call of his being, when he sing the praises to God all heavens stop because of praise that came through answered prayers. These are the high praises that comes when God delivers us.

Secondly the praises that can come when God answers our prayers. You hear news through the phone or through papers or through your friends that your prayers are answered. If right now you go home and you found that your loved one whom you have prayed for five years had come to know Christ, what must you do? Kneel down, jump, weep and worship God because this is the time when your praises are the sweetest. That's when your praises will touch the heart of God. This is why in my ministry the times when I like to bring people to worship God is when a miracle has taken place. Because I know, that's where the high point is. The purpose of those miracles and something else that can last longer is the praise that can come because of that miracle. It will be written in the books of heaven forever and ever. And yet that is where you find your praise reaches its highest point. You could even feel it in the vibration. I mean if somebody gets up from his wheelchair, runs to the front and you were leading the praise and worship at that time, don't you think that moment would be different? Why does it feel different? Why is the atmosphere different? Because it is the high point that God wanted. It is the high point of a cycle. Praise comes in cycle that we can give to God. Many times, I see it happen in a meeting where people just clap hands and forget to worship God when a miracle happened right before their eyes. Let's make it different. That's the time to worship God. Most of the people's worship is worship to prepare for ministry. After the ministry, they disperse. But it is after the ministry that we can really give high praise and worship to God. So lets not missed out on this.

And she praised God in chapter 2 *And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; my horn is exalted in the Lord. I smile at my enemies because I rejoice in Your*

salvation. No one is holy like the Lord, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God. She worshipped the Lord. She blessed the Lord. She said wonderful things about the Lord. Her praises ascended and it became a powerful prophecy of the thing to come. Men's highest intellectual ability and men's greatest stroke of artistry whether in the painting or in drama comes at those two highest points. I mean when God has done something your mind gets recharged a thousand times. If you continue worshipping God at that point you could see into the future. You see things that God wants you to do.

When I come back from praise and worship God started speaking. Although my physical body was tired, my spirit was still worshipping and as I slept, I could hear worship going on. God began to show me some more things on worship. My mind was active and I started to write down. I received three more new songs to the Lord and some more new things to do. I don't know when we are going to do those things. But that's when we must tap on the flow and let God continue to minister in our life. There are many of them. We cannot look at all of them; there is not enough time but we just pick up here and there.

In the book of Daniel, Daniel has been promoted. He was found together with his friends ten times smarter than all the wise men. Then in chapter 2 something happened. The king had a dream that he could not understand and he also forgot what the dream was. And he wants his wise men to tell the dream and the interpretation of the dream but nobody could. When they could not the king was angry in verse 12 *For this reason the king was angry and very furious and gave the command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions to kill them.*

There you have a death threat hanging over their lives. So when the soldiers came to take Daniel for the slaughter, Daniel asked why is this command so urgent. And when he was told the reason, Daniel said, "Give me one chance to interpret the dream." And so the commander told the king and the king gave Daniel some time to interpret the dream. In verse 17 *Then Daniel went to his house and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, his companions, that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.* They had a prayer meeting that night.

It was one prayer meeting that I would enjoy attending because if you don't pray through you die in the morning. Wouldn't that be a wonderful motivation? He gathered the people and said, "If we pray and we don't hear from God we die in the morning." I tell you everybody will start praying with all their hearts. There will be no talking that night. That is the time that if you don't know how to pray, you will die. And they prayed and prayed and God revealed the dream and wisdom. God gives a revelation to Daniel. When Daniel received it in verse 19 *Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Then Daniel went into high praise. Blessed be the name of God forever and ever. For wisdom and might are His. For He changes the times and the seasons. He removes kings and raises up kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.* High praise, first when He delivers you out of adversity. Second when He answers your prayer. Third when He brings a revelation.

So when God gives you a vision, what do you do? Bow down and worship Him. Many times God reveals many things to come, knowledge, revelations, and I just write them down. After I write them down, I will lift up my hands and worship God. That's when you can worship God even deeper. When He has just revealed something to your life, these are the mountains. When you are on the mountain of deliverance, of healing, on the mountain of revelations, you can give high praises onto God. It would do marvelous things.

We know the story which is familiar to all in Acts 16 how when Paul and Silas were in prison. They prayed and they sang hymns the whole night. And God shook the whole prison and a revival broke out. But for them it was an adversity on their side. Here we are talking about the mountaintops where we can learn to give God praise and worship on the mountaintop. Then on the other side, we need to learn how to give praise to God when we don't see any mountaintop. We only see a deep valley before us. Here is where it's also difficult. But here is where our praises are also extremely sweet to the Lord.

Lets turn to the book of psalms chapter 3. I like king David because he is a man who is a worshipper of God. His title is *a man after God's heart*. And the title of man after God's heart implies that he is a worshipper of God because God's heart can

only be won by those who worship and love Him. Ps. 3:1 *Lord how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me "There is no help for him in God." But You. O Lord are a shield for me. My glory and the One who lifts up my head.* What a tremendous song. But look at the introduction. "A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom his son." Now that's not the time when most people sing. That's the time when most people cry. I mean king David being chased by his own son; lost his throne; lost his wife; lost everything, and he marched sadly. And everyone was reviling him. As he was crossing the river, David didn't lose his ability to worship. Come what may he will choose to worship God. His worship doesn't depend on circumstances. His worship changes the circumstances. I could imagine as David sat there and he wanted to go for war with the mighty men. The mighty men said, "No, you stay. We will go for you. You are too precious." David didn't sit down, mourn, and cry. In fact, the only time he cried was when his son died. But when his son was coming against him and all look like it was lost, it is not written in the book of II Samuel but it is written in the book of Psalms 3 that when he was down and out he picked up his harp and he said "Thou O Lord are a shield for me. My glory and the lifter of my head." And he sang onto God. If the devil can't steal your joy, he can't steal your goods. If the devil can't steal your song, he can't steal your kingdom. He may lose his kingdom, he may lose his son, he may lose everything but he never lost his songs.

You know sometimes it is quite painful to sing. It is hard when you have success because when you are successful, you have many false friends. The book of Proverbs tells you that when you are famous and successful not everybody around you is around you because they really love you. So you must know who to be close with and who not to be close with. You make your choices according to principles. And everyone demand of your time and you can easily forget God. But over here, it can be sometimes too painful even to sing. Your body doesn't feel like singing. Your emotions don't feel like singing. Your voice refuses to co-operate. And it is so painful but yet you worship God.

I could see David strumming his harp "Thou O Lord are a shield to me. My glory and the lifter of my head." God in heaven with His counsel of 24 elders there and all kind of wonderful things, the four creatures and all these angels. God asks, "What's this sound?" Remember heaven is constantly filled with music. In heaven, you could hear sounds that you never heard before. And your voice could reach

pitches that you never reached before. Beautiful music, all kind of music. But in the midst of all these music the Father God asked, "What's that sound?" And God asked the angels, "What has been done for this man so far?" The angels said, "Nothing O Lord." "Why is he singing?" "He loves you, O Lord." If God could cry, He would have wept. "What has happened to this man?" "Judgment, O Lord." "You mean in judgment he still worship Me?" "What's happening to his life now?" "He is reaping what he sow now and yet he is singing." If angels could cry, they would have cried. Don't you think these are the things that move God? So why don't we worship God when we are in adversity? Take the challenge today. When times are bad and the world around you looks difficult, worship God. When the pressure comes worship God. When your pocket is empty and your bank account is overdrawn, worship God; "for thou O Lord is a shield for me; my glory and the lifter of my head." And God is moved; heaven is moved. And God says lets do something about it. And in a few moments, everything was finished. And David has everything back because he didn't lose his joy; he didn't lose his song. He was a worshipper of God. God could work for him.

Brethren you want to make beautiful music. You don't learn it from the world. If you were to go to God, God will teach you melody and tunes that the world never have. The sounds that you never heard before God will teach you. But only one thing remember that your most beautiful music doesn't depend on your talent. It depends on your choice to worship God in your most difficult situation.

Lets turn to another difficult time in David's life in Psalms 34. Some think that these psalms were written at a high point. No. Some were written in the lowest valley even when David repented. You read the psalm of his repentance. Ps. 34:1 *I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the Lord. The humble shall hear of it and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together.* Verse 8 *Oh taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man who trusts in Him. Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints. There is no want to those who fear Him.* Verse 22 *The Lord redeems the soul of His servants. And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.* Look at David here in psalm 34. What a powerful psalm to praise and worship the Lord. But look at the introduction "A Psalm of David when he pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed." This was the low point in David's life in the book of I Samuel. We realize that David was running away from Saul. In I Sam. 21:10 *Then David arose and*

fled that day from before Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. He had reached such a low point that he had to go to the enemy of Israel. I mean how lower can a man sing? How low can you sing when you have to come crawling to your enemy for help? And the servants of Achish recognized him and said, "Is this not David?" And he had to sing even lower because now his life was in danger. He has trusted his life to his enemy and the enemy recognized him and wanted to kill him. And he has to pretend that he is not David. He has to act like a mad man. How mad can you be? He let saliva come out of his mouth. Remember he didn't feign the madman's act a little bit. He had to make it look the craziest possible until they drive him out. How low can you sing?

If you have hit rock bottom remember David has been there too. If you thought that your valley was deep, remember people like David had been there too. But God brought him back to the mountain. If you thought that yours is deeper than David let me tell you Jesus even went deeper than that. He went to the lowest parts of the earth. And you would have thought that when David came out of that, he would be angry with God, angry with the Israelites, angry with the people, angry with everybody but not David. When David went away, he found solitude in his heart and said, "I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise will continually be in my mouth." I mean he blessed the Lord. Now that gives us a clue how David encouraged himself. Everybody wanted to stone him. His own people wanted to stone him. He lost everything. He lost his wife. He lost his houses. When he had no one but the Lord and everybody is picking up stones to throw at him, he picked up his harp and played. David never gave up his songs. And that is when the most beautiful music ascended to God. Isn't it strange that all David's lowest points became his high points? In God, there are no high point and low point. He lifts you up. There are only difficult situations and easy situations. And we only need to learn the secret of worshipping God at all times. Remember the first words in Ps. 34:1 I will bless the Lord at all times. And that *all times* included those times when he was really down. When he did that God in heaven asked, "What's that sound?" Angels came and said, "Lord, its David." "Let's do something for my boy there." After sometime, as long as David was alive whenever God in heaven heard that sound He said, "That must be my boy David." Would you all like to be like that onto the Lord? Would you make sweet music to the Lord? God will bless you; redeem you and establish you even today.

Before I close I want you to turn to Eph. 3:18 *may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge.* When you make sweet music to the Lord whether in the valleys or on the mountains or in the in-between times, when you praise Him at all times remember these four words; width, length, depth and height. What does these mean?

Let me talk about width first. Width is another word that we could call thickness. When you say how wide, you are referring to how thick something is; or how fat something is. Now fat in our days today is different from the fat in the bible. In the bible, the fatness has to do with health or prosperity. When He drops fatness on you that means He drops prosperity on you. Your praise and worship must be constant in poverty and to be constant in prosperity; in adversity or in abundance, we need to take note of this area in Ps. 63:5 *My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.* No. 1 fatness or thickness or width has to do with your personal experience. How much you have experienced God. God is someone to be experienced. By experience, we are talking more that just feelings because it refers to the soul. You cannot say that you know your wife just because you write to her. Or you know your wife or your loved one because you have talked to them through the telephone. For example, do you know President Clinton? You say yes, but he doesn't know you. You haven't shake hand with him. So there are different levels of knowing. But we are talking about an experiential knowing. It depends on how well you know God. How much you have really experienced God for who He is. These fours points are keys to your song composition. How deep your song goes depends on these four. No. 1 the wealth of your personal experience with God. The less experience you have with God you can compose any song but you cannot compose worship song to God unless you experienced Him. It is not a matter of intellectually knowing Him. It is not a matter of knowing about Him. You have to know Him experientially to write songs about Him. So it depends on the richness, the fatness, the width of the experience.

Secondly length. Length has to do with distance. It talks about encompassing different people of every race, of every creed, of every tribe, of every tongue through the praise and the worship that comes from our mouth. When it says length, I always think of relationship. Experience with God may be one thing but the ability to build a relationship with another person takes something else. There

are a lot of people with deep experiences with God but have very little relationship with others. And we need a length of relationship. We need to know how to relate with people difficult and easy, lovable and unlovable, old and young. Some people can only relate to the young. Some can only relate to the old. We must have a full ability to relate to people of every age, of every race, of every tongue, of every nation. If we are not able to do it then we are prejudiced. And your prejudice will affect the extent of your praise and worship to God. There is only one key word in relating to people – humility and forgiveness. There is no way you can relate to another human being when you are proud – you need humility and forgiveness. I Chron. 25 David organized the musicians. And he got the musicians to work with one another. The key word is there. They prophesy according to the order to the tune. There was submission. When you work with musicians, you will find that the more talented they are, the greater the tendency to be proud can also be there. We have to be honest with that. When you are good in something, you are always tempted to be proud about it. And we need to learn how to submit one to another and how to relate so that our music and our worship become enhanced.

Depth has to do with Word base. Is your praise and worship based on the Word? You can have a nice song but if it contradicts sound theology and is against God's Word, I don't think it really ascend to God. Mark 4 the parable of the sower and the seed talks about the Word as a seed thrown into the ground having roots. So for praise and worship to be deep it must be theologically sound. Too much praise and worship today is not based on the Word enough. You cannot sing the whole day "I love You Lord." There has to be more theology involved in our praise and worship for it to reach out onto God. Look at all the high points and the low points of praise and worship. Each one of these that came out from Hannah's mouth, from David's mouth, from all those people of God contained tremendous theological concept of God.

Lastly height. Height in Genesis 14 we talked about how Melchizedek was the priest of the Most High God and said, "Blessed is Abraham of the Most High God." Height talks about the heavenly realm. The fourth area has to do with heavenliness of melody. Let's put it this way. Sometimes people compose songs and they are just not nice to the ear. You can compose song based on an earthly folk song. You can compose songs based on a nice human tune. But when you contact heaven and I have been there in the spirit, everything in there is melody. You can compose a

sermon out of a song but it has nothing to do with praise and worship. It is just preaching through a song. I want you to know the melodies in heaven are all very catchy. You hear it even though you thought you never hear it you will have it repeated somewhere on your inside coming out. There are some songs you hear that straight away catches your ear. Some songs you got to really work hard to learn them. But all the heavenly songs are always melodies in the depth of God.

So there must be all these four qualities that stabilize us in praise and worship in these two realms. Now here is a wonderful thing. You don't have to worry about these four areas, width, length, depth and height. When you really worship God in adversity or in prosperity, strangely enough you would contact all those four realms. Hannah didn't study theology but look at the theological content of her worship in the book of I Sam. 2. Isn't it wonderful that we don't have to worry about those areas? In the end it come out to the fact having been touched by God and have been made a quality decision to be worshippers of God and to learn the secret of the right and the most important times to worship God. We worship God all the time but the times that are most important are the times of prosperity or adversity. That's when you make the most beautiful music to God. When you choose to worship God out of your mouth, God will cause praise and worship to come.