

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Pastor Charles McCaul

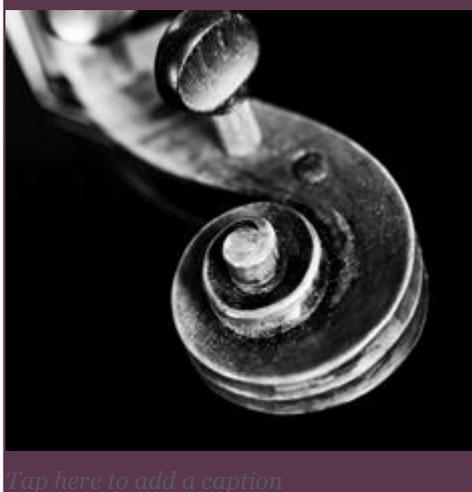
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THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

Jesus said, *“I will build my church and the powers of hell will not overcome it.”*

Matthew 16:18

God’s tool for establishing His Kingdom on this earth is the local church. In the Bible, God Himself gives us a pattern which Jesus will work through to build his church. There is a style of worship that is the characteristic of the church Jesus is building.



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PATTERNS IN THE BIBLE

God does not leave it up to mankind to decide how to worship Him. In the Old Testament God is very strict about how to worship Him and come near to his presence. In the New Testament Jesus said He would build His church and in the Book of Acts and the letters of the apostles we see Jesus speaking through and working through His apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to build His church according to His heart’s desire.

TABERNACLE OF MOSES WORSHIP

Moses led the descendants of Israel out from Egypt into the Wilderness of Sinai. When Moses went up to the Mountain of Sinai the Lord revealed to Moses the pattern for a place for Israel to worship and exactly how they were to worship Him.

“God doesn’t leave it up to mankind about how to worship Him; he shows us worship that is pleasing to Him in the Bible.”

What we call *The Tabernacle of Moses* was a portable building 13.7 meters x 4.5 meters. On the outside of the building was the bronze altar to sacrifice animals to the Lord. Also on the outside is the bronze basin where the priests washed themselves after they offered the sacrifice and before they entered the Tabernacle.

Inside the first room which is called *The Holy Places* is the Table of Bread on the right with 12 loaves of bread that must be replaced with new bread every



morning and on the left side is the Golden Candlestick which

burns continually. After that there is the Golden Altar of Incense that is burning in the morning and evening.

The next room is the *Most Holy Place*. Inside the Most Holy Place is the Golden *Ark of the Covenant* with the lid called *The Mercy Seat* and the golden Cherubim carved on the lid. The High Priest entered the Most Holy Place once per year to offer the blood of the sacrifice which covers the sins of the nation. (Leviticus 16)

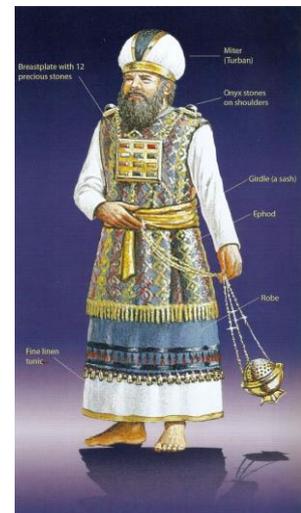
As the descendants of Jacob (Israel) moved from one location to another in the Desert of Sinai for 40 years, the Tabernacle of Moses went with them. When they crossed the Jordan River into Canaan the Tabernacle went with them and finally was set up at a place called *Gilgal* for 14 years (Joshua 4:19 and 5:10). After that it was moved and erected at a place called *Shiloh* for more than 300 years (Joshua 18:1 and Psalm 78:59-60). After that it was moved to *Nob* for 76 years (1 Samuel 21:1-6) and then *Mount Gibeon* for 58 years (1 Chronicles 21:29). It was during the reign of King David the Tabernacle of Moses was moved to the *Mountain of Gibeon* where it stayed for 58 years until the Temple of Solomon was built and all the items in the Tabernacle of Moses were moved into the Temple of Solomon. Eventually about 587 B.C. the King of Babylon attacked Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple of Solomon and took everything inside away (2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles 36) When the descendants of Israel were allowed to leave Babylon after 70 years in captivity about 50,000 of them returned to rebuild the city. Nehemiah rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem (see Book of Nehemiah) and Ezra returned to rebuild the temple and re-establish the Word of God as the foundation for Israel (see The Book of Ezra and the Book of Haggai). **However, there was no Ark of the Covenant in this second temple.** *The temple was destroyed again and rebuilt again in Israel's history but it was an empty building and empty worship.* **There was no Ark of the Covenant and no Presence of God in the temple. The Jews worshipped according to their ritual but their God was not present with them.**

From 587 B.C. to 70 A.D. Israel worshipped daily at their temple but the Ark of the Covenant and Presence of God was not there. They worshipped according to their tradition but with no presence of God. From 70 A.D. until this present-day Israel has no temple at which to worship.

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

The Ark of the Covenant is where the presence of the Lord dwelt. God would speak to Israel from the Mercy Seat on the Ark of the Covenant. (Exodus 25:21-22)

The Ark of the Covenant traveled with the Tabernacle of Moses to every place. In 1094 B.C. Israel was fighting against The Philistines. Israel is losing the battle so they persuaded Eli the Priest to take the Ark of the Covenant to war. They knew the Power of the Presence of God and they hoped the power of God would defeat The Philistines. However, the Ark of the Covenant was captured. The Ark of the Covenant stayed in the land of Philistines for 7 months traveling from one city to another. Every time it went to one city a catastrophe occurred in that city. Finally The Philistines sent it away by two cows



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and a cart until it came to the village of Kirjath-Jearim. The Ark of the Covenant stayed at the house of Abinadab on a hill for 92 years. The Ark was separated from the Tabernacle during all of this time. (1 Samuel 3-6 and 1 Samuel 6:20-7:2)

King David was a man who loved the Presence of God. The first action he did when became king in 1000 B.C. was to send for the Ark of the Covenant to bring it to the Hill of Zion in Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 6) David did not take that Ark of the Covenant to Mount Gibeon to put it in the Tabernacle of Moses, but he took it to



Mount Zion in Jerusalem where he pitched a three-sided tent for the Ark and the Presence of God.

King David did not take the Ark of the Covenant (The Presence of God) to Mount Gibeon to put in the Tabernacle of Moses, but he took it to Jerusalem to Mount Zion and pitched a three-sided tent for the Ark and the Presence of God. By this action God used King David to create a completely new way to worship Him.

DAVIDIC-STYLE WORSHIP

God used King David to create a new style of worship for the people of God. This style is very different from the Mosaic-Style of Worship from the past. See below the new way of worship that God used David to establish for the people of God:

As you already know, David brought the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem and put it in a tent on Mount

Zion in Jerusalem. David appointed musicians and singers to stand in front of the Ark - the presence of God. This was their job - stand in front of the Ark of the Covenant and worship God. **1 Chronicles 6:31-32.**

- 1. David Choose Three Anointed Men.** 1 Chronicles 6:33, 39, 44. These men had skill and were anointed by God to lead music. They trained other men.
- 2. The Musicians Dedicated Themselves to Praise and Worship the Lord.** 1 Chronicles 9:33. These men lived in the temple and they served the Lord day and night by singing, playing instruments and worshiping God. **Psalms 134:1-3.**
- 3. The Music Leaders Appointed and Trained Others.** 1 Chronicles 15:16-29. What kind of songs did they sing? Joyful songs! They played loud music. The men with skill trained the other men and women. They shouted praise to God.
- 4. They Stood in Front of the Ark and Praised the Lord.** 1 Chronicles 16:4-7. These men prayed, gave thanks and praise to the Lord according to each day's schedule.
- 5. They Stood in the Morning and in the Evening.** 1 Chronicles 23:30-31. When the sacrifice was offered



THE OLD AND THE NEW WAY

The Tabernacle of Moses style worship of the past was quiet. There was no singing and no music instruments. The people worshipped in fear and not joy. However, the Tabernacle of David style of worship is full of faith and joy and excitement. This is the style or worship that pleases God. This is the style of worship of the New Testament Church!

- They played music before the presence of God with all their might. 1 Chronicles 13:8
- They worshipped God with singing, with harps, with stringed instruments, with tambourines and cymbals and trumpets. 1 Chronicles 13:8
- They worshipped God by raising their voice with resounding joy, 1 Chronicles 15:16

Notice the persecution that came from Saul's daughter, who is King David's wife. The Old Way despised and rejected the New Way. The churches who like to worship by tradition without the presence of God reject and sometimes persecute the New Way who worship with the presence of God.

We must discover from the Bible what pleases God and what does not please God and conform to His will regardless of our personality or national culture.

each morning and each evening on Mount Gibeon, the Levites praised the Lord.

6. **Some Men Sang and Prophesied.** 1 Chronicles 25:1. These men would stand in front of the Ark of the Covenant and lift their voice in song and the Holy Spirit would come upon them and they would prophesy. They would sing and play their instruments and prophesy while playing their instruments.
7. **David Would Write a Song and Give it to the Singers to Sing.** King David would write a song to the Lord and the singers and musicians would learn the song then stand in front of the presence of the Lord and sing that song. The chapters in the Book of Psalms are the songs that David composed and they sang before the Ark of the Covenant.
8. **They Sang to the Lord with Great Joy.** Psalm 95:1-6; 96:1-2. They would lift their voice and sing to the Lord, bow down and worship Him. They would sing a new song to the Lord. The new song was a song of the Spirit which God would give them. They would create the song in their minds as they rested in the presence of the Lord.

After King David Solomon followed this pattern, too. **2 Chronicles 5:12-14; 8:14-16.** After Solomon there were many wicked kings of Israel and Judah. These kings worshiped false gods, but sometimes a righteous king would arise. These righteous kings would establish David's method of worship again. Jehoshaphat, **2 Chronicles 20:19**; Hezekiah, **2 Chronicles 29:25-30, 35; 31:32**; Josiah, **2 Chronicles 35:2, 15.** After Judah returned from slavery in Babylon Nehemiah established David's method of worship in Jerusalem, too. **Nehemiah 7:1; 10:28; 11:22-23; 12:27-47.**

King David was a musician himself. He had a close relationship with God. In the Old Testament God had one pattern for worship - go to the temple and offer the sacrifice and keep His law exactly. Therefore, many people in Israel obeyed God with their actions, but their heart was far from Him. **Isaiah 29:13.** God wants us to worship Him with all our heart and mind. Even though God had a plan for that time, His real plan was for people to worship Him because they want to, not because they must. God wanted people to offer the animal sacrifice because of their sins, but He really wanted them to offer Him a sacrifice of praise. **Psalm 51:15-17.** Therefore, even though David offered the sacrifice for his sins according to the law of God, he

offered the sacrifice of praise according to the *heart* of God. David understood the principle for praise and worship according to **Psalm 22:6**. He established a method of worship in Israel that was anointed by God. His son Solomon continued this method and the good kings of Judah also established this worship. The New Testament also tells us to use this kind of worship in our churches.

Ephesians 5:17-20 and Colossians 3:16-17

WORSHIP IN THE WAY OF MOSES OR WORSHIP IN THE WAY OF DAVID

God gives us a clear pattern in the Bible about how to worship Him. The Tabernacle of Moses style to worship Him is finished. The Tabernacle of David style to worship God is the way of worship that pleases Him nowadays. Some churches worship according to their tradition. They are quiet. There is no heart in their worship. Their worship is a ritual. There are other churches who worship according to the Tabernacle of David style. These churches worship with excitement. They worship with joy. They shout, dance, and lift their hands according to the pattern we see in the Book of Psalms.

King David was a man who lived during the era of the Old Covenant, but God used him to bring about something new. David created a style of worshipping God with musical instruments, with singing and shouting and dancing that was followed by Righteous Kings of Judah and also now in the New Testament Church.



Sometimes God recommends His people to do something, but most of the time He commands them to do something to obey Him. When it comes to worship, God does not allow mankind

to choose the way they worship Him. Cain's way of worship is rejected. The worshippers of false god's way is rejected. Jesus rejected the style of worship of the religious leaders of their time who worshipped the old-fashioned way according to Moses. God shows us in the Bible the way that is pleasing to Him. We must choose to obey God and worship Him in the way He chooses to be worshipped even if we are uncomfortable with that style or even if that style is against our personality or culture.

KING DAVID ORGANIZES WORSHIP AT THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID

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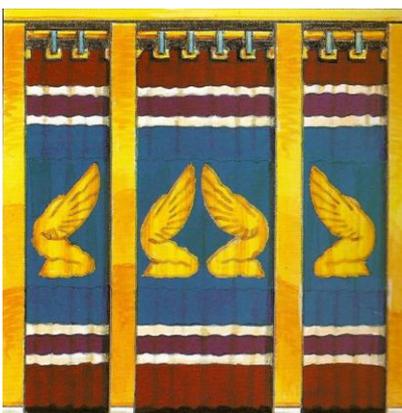
5. **The Stood in the Morning and in the Evening.** 1 Chronicles 23:30-31. When the sacrifice was offered each morning and each evening on Mount Gibeon, the Levites praised the Lord.
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God used King David to create a pattern and style of worship that is also followed in the New Testament. A pastor can choose for his church to be a Tabernacle of Moses Church or a Tabernacle of David Church. A Christian can choose to be a Tabernacle of Moses Christian or a Tabernacle of David Christian. However, the Tabernacle of Moses is the old way and the Tabernacle of David is the new way. The Tabernacle of Moses was for a season in Israel's history, but it was worship by fear and tradition and many rules and regulations. Tabernacle of David Worship is free from fear and free to approach the Presence of God.

THE CURTAIN IN THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES AND THE TEMPLE

Within *The Holy Place* of the tabernacle, there was an inner room called *The Most Holy Place*. We can see that it was a most sacred room, a place no ordinary person could enter. It was God's special dwelling place in the midst of His people. During the Israelites' wanderings in the wilderness, God appeared as a pillar of cloud or fire in and above the Holy of Holies. The Holy of Holies was a perfect cube — its length, width and height were all equal to 4.5 meters.



A thick curtain separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place. This curtain, known as the "veil," was made of fine linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn. There were figures of cherubim (angels) embroidered onto it. Cherubim, spirits who serve God, were in the presence of God to demonstrate His almighty power and majesty. They also guarded the throne of God. These cherubim were also on the innermost layer of covering of the tent.

The word "veil" in Hebrew means a screen, divider or separator that hides. What was this curtain hiding? Essentially, it was shielding a holy God from sinful man. Whoever entered into the Holy of Holies was entering the very

presence of God. In fact, anyone except the high priest who entered the Holy of Holies would die. Even the high priest who was God's chosen mediator with His people, could only pass through the veil and enter this sacred dwelling once a year, on a prescribed day called the Day of Atonement.

The picture of the veil was that of a barrier between man and God, showing man that the holiness of God could not be trifled with. God's eyes are too pure to look on evil and He can tolerate no sin (Habakkuk 1:13). The veil was a barrier to make sure that man could not carelessly and irreverently enter into God's awesome presence. Even as the high priest entered the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement one time per year, he had to make some meticulous preparations: He had to wash himself, put on special clothing, bring burning incense to let the smoke cover his eyes from a direct view of God, and bring blood with him to make atonement for sins.



“But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.” (Hebrews 9:7)

So, the presence of God remained shielded from man behind a thick curtain during the history of Israel. However, Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross changed that. When He died, the curtain in the Jerusalem temple was torn in half, from the top to the bottom. Only God

could have carried out such an incredible feat because the veil was too high for human hands to have reached it, and too thick to have torn it. (The Jerusalem temple, a replica of the wilderness tabernacle, had a curtain that was about 18 meters in height, 9 meters in width and 10 cm thick.) Furthermore, it was torn from top down, meaning this act must have come from above. **Matthew 27:51**

As the veil was torn, the Holy of Holies was exposed. God's presence was now accessible to all. Shocking as this may have been to the priests ministering in the temple that day, it is indeed good news to us as believers, because we know that Jesus' death has atoned for our sins and made us right before God. The torn veil illustrated Jesus' body broken for us, opening the way for us to come to God. As Jesus cried out "It is finished!" on the cross, He was indeed proclaiming that God's redemptive plan was now complete. The age of animal offerings was over. The ultimate offering had been sacrificed.

We can now boldly enter into God's presence, "the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf." (Hebrews 6:19-20)

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body ...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith." (Hebrews 10:19-22)

The Holy of Holies is a representation of heaven itself, God's dwelling place, which we have access now through Christ. In Revelations, John's vision of heaven — the New Jerusalem — also was a perfect square, just as the Holy of Holies was (Revelation 21:16).

"For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. ...But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself." (Hebrews 9:24-26)

EIGHT WAYS OF WORSHIP THAT PLEASES GOD

The Book of Psalms was the songbook for Israel, God's people. Remember that the Hebrew Culture is not just the Hebrew Culture, but the Hebrew Culture reflects Kingdom of God Culture. Kind David being led by the Holy Spirit created a new style of worship. This was not just Hebrew-style worship, but Kingdom of God-style of worship. The Kingdom of God style of worship that should be expressed in the church that Jesus is building should reflect at least these eight styles of worship:

1. By singing.

Psalm 5:11. Psalm 9:11. Psalm 33:1-3. Psalm 96:1-2

2. By shouting.

Psalm 35:27. Psalm 47:1. Psalm 66:1-2. Psalm 98:4.

3. By raising our hands.

Psalm 28:2. Psalm 63:4. Psalm 119:48. Psalm 141:1

4. By kneeling.

Psalm 95:6. 1 Kings 8:54. Ezra 9:5.

5. By bowing.

2 Chronicles 7:3. Psalm 95.6. 2 Kings 17:36. Nehemiah 9:6

6. By dancing.

Psalm 30:11. Psalm 149:3. Psalm 150:4. 1 Chronicles 15:29

TABERNACLE OF MOSES AND TABERNACLE OF DAVID WORSHIP

Tabernacle of Moses worship is worshipping according to tradition. There is the action of worship but God is not involved in it. In some churches they worship and follow their tradition and don't make a place for Jesus to join them to do what He wants to do. Their traditional style of worship is a barrier to Jesus who wants to get in and show His power among them.

Revelation 3:20-22

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

In these verses above Jesus is trying to get into His church but the tradition of the church locks Him out.

The Tabernacle of David Style of church worships with freedom and grace because they know they have 100% access to the Presence of God. This is why the Tabernacle of David Church worships with enthusiasm, shouting, tambourines, cymbals, drums, stringed instruments, shouts, dances and lifts their hands. People who have experienced the freedom of sin and know they have access to the presence of God are excited to show their Lord praise and worship!

7. By laying prostrate.

Numbers 20:6; 1 Kings 18:39. Nehemiah 8:6.

8. By clapping the hands.

Psalm 47:1. Isaiah 55:12. Psalm 98:8.

These are some of the characteristics of Tabernacle of David Worship which is New Testament Worship. These are ways of worship that Christians should enjoy when they are worshipping God by themselves, in a small group or in the church meeting.

THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

*“the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who say, “Give thanks to the LORD of hosts, For the LORD is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting”; and of those who bring a thank offering into the house of the LORD. For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were at first,’ says the LORD. **Jeremiah 33:11***

In the Tabernacle of Moses they offered animal sacrifices. In the Tabernacle of David and the New Testament Church there are no animal sacrifices because Jesus is the final sacrifice for sin. However, there are many more sacrifices that the people of God offer to Him. One of those sacrifices is the *Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving*.

The New Testament Church is a group of believers who not only have a voice of praise, but who will also "bring the sacrifice of praise" into the house of the Lord. This sacrifice of praise is defined as praises offered to God which is devoid of feeling. That which our natural inclination would make us reluctant to do; that which costs something; that which we do not naturally desire to offer: it is a sacrifice. This sacrifice of praise is based upon a desire for God, a longing to obey Him, and a mind centered on Him. We praise God regardless of our feelings, even under most adverse personal situations. God inhabits such praises and there is deliverance in them. Such as Jonah, Paul and Silas who offered such sacrifice and God delivered them from their bondage. Thus, when a congregation gathers to worship, each individual is expected to praise God, regardless of his/her personal feelings. One must only stop and reach out to Him with the sacrifice of praise and He comes to inhabit it. We do not wait for God to bless us -- we bless Him; then He comes down and visits us with His glory. We believe when we lift up our voice in praise whether we have the feelings or not God comes to inhabit our praises.

Psalm 22:3

“Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.”

In the Tabernacle of Moses there were animal sacrifices every morning and every evening. In the life of the New Testament Christian there is a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving continually.

Exodus 29:14, 43-45

Verse 42: It shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the doorway of the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there.

SING A NEW SONG TO THE LORD

Psalm 3:3

Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.

Psalm 40:3

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and fear and will trust in the LORD.

Psalm 42:10

Sing to the LORD a new song, Sing His praise from the end of the earth! You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and those who dwell on them.

Psalm 96:1

Sing to the LORD a new song; Sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Psalm 98:1

O sing to the LORD a new song, For He has done wonderful things, His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him.

If you look in many of the books of the Bible you will see that much of the Bible is given to us in a song. Moses sings a song, Miriam sings a song, David sings a song, Solomon sings a song, Isaiah, Jeremiah and many of the Old Testament prophets sing their prophecies. God is pleased to speak to His people through songs. He will put His songs in our heart and we will sing them. Many of those songs are a prophetic Word from God for that moment, that season, that person or that church and perhaps even that nation. God is pleased when we sing to Him. God is pleased when we allow Him to sing through us.

Psalm 40:3

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and fear and will trust in the LORD.

Song of the Spirit

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:18-19

- **Sing new songs instead of old songs.**

In every new move of God or revival God brings new songs. Those songs help express the truth or prophetic Word of God that He is speaking to His people in that season of history. Old songs are wonderful and bring back memories that can refresh us and remind us of what God has done in the past. However, in the Bible, we are not told to sing an Old Song to the Lord. If we sing old songs again and again we become used to them and they don't have the power they used to have in our life. So we sing old songs from time to time, but we look for the new song God is bringing to His Body, the Church.

Singing a new song means we must use our voice! Praying silent is good, but praying with a voice is better. This is part of the Sacrifice of Praise. We must use our voice. We must force ourselves to sing a new song from the depths of our heart to the Lord. When we do so, there is freedom. There is breakthrough. There are miracles.

Sing a new song also means to sing something that is fresh from your heart. Singing a new song is sometimes singing our prayer and praise rather than saying it. Singing a new song is when we lift our voice and sing in our own language or the language that the Holy Spirit gives us. We sing a free flow of worship and praise to the Lord that we have not sung before. Because we are in His presence we are renewed and we sing a new song about the new things He's doing in our life. It is very refreshing for a small group or church meeting to all sing a new song to the Lord during the worship part of the meeting. This is not confusion even if everyone is singing something different. This is allowing our spirit to communicate with God in a new way.

- **Sing a song led by the Spirit of God.**

God desires to pray through His people. God desires to prophesy through His people. He puts His words in our spirit and mind if we allow Him to do so. Romans 8:26. Ephesians 5:18. In David's Tabernacle some of the priests would stand before the Ark of the Covenant and sing to the Lord according to their work shift. As they were singing the Holy Spirit would come upon them and they would sing their prophecies. 1 Chronicles 25:1. This means the Lord would put His words in their heart and they would use their voice to sing what God wanted to declare. Wow, this is amazing and beautiful when this happens in a church meeting!

Look at this beautiful verse:

Zephaniah 3:17

*The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, **but will rejoice over you with singing.***"

When the Lord is in our midst because we have created a place for His throne through our praise and worship, He desires to speak to us through prophetic singing!

- **Sing "The Song of the Lord".**

The Song of the Lord that we are referring to is a Prophetic Word from God by singing. Sometimes singing by the Holy Spirit which we have explained above is a person singing their love and adoration to the Lord. However, at other times it is God speaking to His servant who then sings the prophecy

rather than speaking it. It is a beautiful way for the Lord to communicate to His people, as we see by the verse above in Zephaniah 3:17.

We Praise God with Our Voice

Romans 15:6. God calls us to lift our voice and praise and worship Him. It is appropriate to lift our voice to God. **Psalm 145:21.** The Bible tells us that when we confess with our mouth we will be saved.

Romans 10:8-10. God calls us to use our voice, our mouth, our lips to praise and worship Him.

God creates things by His Word. When He speaks there is power in His Words. **Psalm 33:6.** God had wonderful ideas to create the world, but He needed to speak those words. Ideas are wonderful, but we must speak our words to create anything. Our tongue, our mouth, our lips, our words, our voice sends power. There is healing in our words and life. The power of death and life are in our tongue:

Proverbs 10:11

Proverbs 12:14

Proverbs 12:18

Proverbs 15:4

Proverbs 18:21

God calls us to use our voice to praise and worship Him. As we read the Book of Psalms we learn words appropriate to use to praise God. We learn from King David's example.

THE RIVER OF GOD

In Ezekiel 47 the Prophet Ezekiel sees a river coming out of the Temple of God. This river starts small but gets deeper and deeper. Water and rivers in the Bible often represent refreshing in the presence of God.

Isaiah 55:1-2

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. ² Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. ³ Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.

When people are thirsty they want water. God uses water to represent His renewed power and working in a person's life or the life of a church or nation.

John 7:37-39

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

God desires to refresh His people. In this life we meet with difficulties that take our strength in spirit, soul and body. When a person or a church worships according to the New Testament Tabernacle of David style, we create an atmosphere for God to come and dwell among us. Psalm 22:6

Psalm 46:4

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

The City of God is the church. The river is the Holy Spirit. God's desire is for His Holy Spirit to flow among His people to give refreshing, new strength and prophetic words, healings and deliverances so they can continue to do the work He has called all of us to do. The Tabernacle of David Church creates a structure in their church meeting and time of worship to create and protect the flow of the Holy Spirit so He can do His work among us. Ever week when the church meets we need the flow of God's Holy Spirit in our midst!

THE RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

- The Church is the Israel of God, **Galatians 6:16**
- The Church is the Judah of God, **Romans 2:28-29**
- The Church is the Temple of God, **1 Corinthians 3:16**
- The Church is the New Circumcision, **Philippians 3:3**
- The Church is the New Jew, **Romans 2:28-29**
- The Church is the place where the God of the Universe has chosen to put His Name, His Presence and His Power, **Matthew 16:18-19**
- The Church is God's Tool to establish His Kingdom on the Earth, **Matthew 16:18**

The church began with power in The Book of Acts, Chapter 2 and increased with power and holiness until about 315 or 325 A.D. At that time the church compromised and was absorbed into the religious and political system of the Roman Empire. For 1,000 years the church was mostly in darkness. The church had lost its power, its passion, its integrity and became a political machine. In about the 1300's A.D. God began to restore His church to its former power and glory.

Acts 3:19-21

¹⁹ Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;²⁰ and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

During those 1,000 years the worship of the church was formal. Hardly any Christians had a Bible and knew the Word of God. The Catholic Church ruled the church world and often controlled nations. But during history from the 1300's A.D. up to our present day, God has been restoring his church.

1. God restored the truth that salvation is by faith.
2. God restored the truth of water baptism by immersion.
3. God restored the truth of holiness and sanctification.
4. God restored the truth of healing for the body.
5. God restored the truth of Baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues.
6. God restored the truth of laying on hands and prophecy.
7. God restored the teaching ministry of the church.
8. God restored the truth of The Tabernacle of David.

9. God restored the truth of the Five-Fold Ministry.
10. God restored the truth of the church being led by Elders and Deacons.
11. God restored the truth that every Christian is the Body of Christ and has spiritual gifts.
12. God restored the truth that the church is the Israel of God.

All of these twelve truths above were not in the church for 1,000 years. At the appointed time in history God began to use men and women and revealed the truth to them. They practiced the truth in their own lives and taught it to others. They started a church that practiced and represented that truth.

This is one reason why there are so many different kinds of churches and denominations in the world! God would reveal a new truth to a man. This is a truth God wants restored to His church to make His church a healthy and holistic church. But the believers from the previous generation rejected the new truth. They loved their old ways more than they loved the Word of God and the new truth and practice God was trying to restore to His church!

Mark 7:6-9

⁶He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁷They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.' ⁸You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions." ⁹And he continued, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!"

WORSHIP FROM THE HEART

Matthew 15:6-9

Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. ⁷You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ⁸"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.'"

There is a cycle that Christians and Churches and Movements of God such as revivals fall into. After we have been a Christian for a few years we become used to The Bible, Prayer, Church and Worship. What we used to be passionate about we become complacent. Our passion turns to ritual and then we are in danger of falling away from the Lord. We worship from habit not from the depths of our heart. We must be aware of this and prepare to overcome this tendency for all Christians and Churches. Also, when God reveals a new truth and wants to restore something new to His church, the Christians from the previous generations often reject it. We must be careful about all of this. In regards to God revealing new truth and restoring truth and ministry to the church, we must know the Word of God well so we can compare everything with

the Word of God. This is why it's so important to know how to read and study the Word of God in the Bible correctly.

Even though we have embraced the restored truth about the Tabernacle of David we are at risk of ourselves falling into the new tradition of worship: We know how to sing the songs. We know how to speak in tongues. We know how to lift our hands, close our eyes and appear to be worshipping with all of our heart, but sometimes our heart is far from the One we're worshipping.

Below are two threats to keeping our passion:

The Tendency to Lose Your First Love

Revelation 2:1-7

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. ² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵ Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. ⁶ But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

The church in Ephesus was a large church of many thousands of members. From them all of Asia heard the Gospel (Acts 19) However after 30 years the church had lost its first love. This is the challenge of all churches. This is the challenge for all Christians. After a few years of being a Christian we start to lose our passion and our First Love (Jesus). We read the Bible, we hold to true doctrine and we worship, but we have lost the first love we had for Jesus and the things of God.

*This is a warning to all of my readers – beware – this **will** happen to you unless you prepare for it.*

The Tendency to Become Lukewarm

Revelation 3:14-22

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. ¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are

lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

¹⁹Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. ²⁰Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

²¹To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²²Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

The church in Laodicea fell into the same trap as the church in Ephesus: They became lukewarm. They had lost their passion for God and the ministry of the Lord and the lost people of their city, region and world. **This is a sad picture of a Tabernacle of Moses Church or a Tabernacle of David Church that had become locked in their tradition.** They had their Sunday Program. They had their Annual Goals already. But they did it without inviting Jesus to be in their midst. Jesus was on the outside of the church wanting in. He wanted to adjust their Sunday Schedule. He wanted to adjust their Annual Goals. He wanted to do great and mighty works among them, but their eyes focused on their tradition rather than him.

This is the threat of all churches. We must make Jesus first and allow Him to be the Lord of the church!

REVIVAL

Revival is for believers. Awakening is for unbelievers. God sends revivals to stir the church to wake up and get new life from Him to continue to finish the work He has called them to do. God sends awakening through the revived church to awaken unbelievers to their sins and His salvation. **Revival is God’s solution to losing our First Love and becoming Lukewarm.**

Many times in the history of Israel up until our own day God will work among His people and draw them back to Him. (Samuel, Hezekiah, Josiah, Nehemiah and Ezra) The same pattern is seen in every instance: People are challenged by the Word of God, repent and return to their First Love. This is the process of true corporate or personal revival:

1. A man or woman of God awakens the church or individual by preaching or teaching the Word of God.
2. The Holy Spirit touches the heart and conscience of the believer and reveals their situation to them
3. The believer chooses to repent and asks God for forgiveness for whatever is hindering his or her relationship with Him. (Three “R’s” of Repentance: 1) Recognition. 2) Remorse. 3) Resolution.
4. God’s spirit starts to work anew in the believers life as he or she returns to their previous thinking and actions with a renewed passion (Revelation 2:5)

HUMAN NATURE

Human nature seems to go like this:

- We believe on the Lord and start to obey Him
- Our heart and relationship with Him becomes lukewarm and we start to drift away from Him
- The Lord prepares the circumstances in our life or church or country to draw us back to Him
- Someone starts praying
- God raises up someone to preach and He uses that person to touch our hearts and turn us back to God
- We return to the Lord with all our heart.

We can see this in the history of Israel in the Old Testament and in the history of the church. **God brings revival and revival leads us to awakening.**

Often when revival comes people cry and cry out to the Lord and God shows His power in some way. Also, when revival comes, God's people return to worshipping Him with their whole heart and they write new songs with a new anointing. These songs are birthed in revival and carry the anointing of that revival with them.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE HUMAN BODY MEETS THE POWERFUL PRESENCE OF GOD?

From time to time God reveals Himself in a powerful way. Different people respond in different ways to the power of God upon them. These are some examples from the Bible:

2 Chronicles 5:11-14	The worshippers could not stand. They fell down.
Revelation 1:17	The worshipper falls down and has no strength.
John 18:6	They fall down.
Daniel 8:17	The worshippers may be afraid and fall down.
Ezekiel 3:23	The worshippers fall down.
Jeremiah 23:9	The worshipper acts like a drunken man.
Habakkuk 3:16	The worshipper trembles, his legs are weak and he may be afraid.
Acts 4:31	The place where they worship and the worshipper trembles and is shaken.
Daniel 10:7	Sometimes people are afraid.
Ephesians 5:18	Being filled with the Holy Spirit is compared to being drunk with wine.
Acts 2:13	The people of Jerusalem thought the 120 disciples were drunk.
Nehemiah 8:9	Sometimes the people cry.
2 Chronicles 34:27	When people repent, sometimes they cry.
Numbers 11:29	Sometimes they prophesy.
Acts 2:17-18	Sometimes they prophesy.
Psalms 126:1-2	They laugh.
Isaiah 51:11	They are filled with great joy.

Here is the point: Allow God to do whatever He wants to do in your life no matter how uncomfortable you feel about it. He is Lord, not you. He wants to bring you into something new in your life!

WHY DO THINGS LIKE THESE HAPPEN?

1. To help us love Jesus more, John 17:26
2. As a sign of God's power, 1 Corinthians 2:4-5
3. The Lord often uses the foolish things to accomplish His purposes, 1 Corinthians 1:27-28
4. To release His people from strongholds in their spirit and soul, 2 Corinthians 10:4
5. To heal their bodies and souls, Luke 4:18-19
6. To help us love others more, John 17:21
7. To give us new power and anointing for His ministry, Luke 4:18-19
8. To reveal a truth to us from the Bible, Acts 2:14
9. We become hungry to pray and read the Bible more.

WHY DO SOME PEOPLE RECEIVE THESE MANIFESTATIONS AND OTHERS DON'T?

1. Some people are more hungry for God.
2. Some people don't believe, so they don't receive.
3. Some people need more from God.
4. God works according to His sovereignty; He does what He wants to whom He wants, when He wants and how He wants.
5. God works in different ways in the lives of different people.
6. Some people open their hearts to receive and others don't.

IS THIS CONFUSION?

1 Corinthians 14:26-33

- It is confusion when one person is falling down and no one else is falling down.
- It is confusion when one person is praying loud and no one else is praying loud.
- If one person is dancing but no one else is dancing it is confusion.
- HOWEVER, if most people are dancing it is not confusion.
- If most people are praying loud, it is not confusion.
- If most people are receiving something from God (crying, laughing, falling down) it is not confusion.

If you are feeling dry. If you are feeling that you are stagnant in your relationship with God. If you are feeling distant from God, I urge you to not allow yourself to stay in that way. Ask God to move on you in a new way and allow Him to do it in the way it pleases Him. Look for the Place of the Anointing. Look for the place where God is pouring out His Spirit and go there so you, too, can receive refreshing from the Lord! Let Him do a new thing in your life and lead you from glory to glory and level to level because no matter

what your age or status in life, He has a plan for you to cooperate with Him in His eternal plan for mankind and the universe.

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