

III

WORSHIP, PRAISE, AND PRAYER

BLESSED—TO KNOW THE LORD IS TO PRAISE HIM TO LOVE THE LORD IS TO WORSHIP HIM

There is nothing more becoming to us as children of God than to worship and praise our Lord. It is to be the first fruits of our life and works in Christ. Worship and praise of our Lord sets our hearts right before Him. It is the foundation of all the rest of our works. To do so is to be in harmony with His will. There is nothing else we do that draws us closer to our Lord. For it brings us into communion with Him.

O come let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the
Lord our maker. —Psalm 95:6 KJV

We love our Lord because He loves us, and we worship Him because of our love for Him. In worship we behold the glory of God. Our worship is pure adoration of who He is. It is our heart felt love of our Lord. When we lift up our hearts in worship, we bestow upon Him our gift of love. As we bow down before Him, we consecrate our hearts unto Him.

Praise ye the Lord. Praise, O ye servants of the Lord, praise the
name of the Lord. —Psalm 113:1 KJV

We praise our Lord because we love Him. We praise Him for all that He is, and all He has done. We bless God as we lift Him up in praise. Our praise is a thanksgiving unto our Lord, and a celebration of His glory. As we exalt God, we humble ourselves. When we lift up the name of Jesus Christ, we uphold Him as our Lord.

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and
power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure
they are and were created. —Revelation 4:11 KJV

We are created to be worshippers of God. To be in His will we must worship and praise our Lord with sincere hearts. By this do we enter into the presence of the Lord, and His throne of grace, wherein He pours out His Spirit upon us. To be effectual in all of our works for the kingdom of God, we must first worship and praise our Lord.

The blossoming of our life in Christ is in worship and praise of God. For as with the fruit tree, the blossom comes before the fruit. So too, we must worship and praise our Lord, that His works may be manifested in us. Our good works are God's work begotten in Christ, and brought forth by the Holy Spirit, that our lives will be a worship and praise of our Lord.

When we worship, we bow down before His throne glorifying God in admiration of all that He is. As we praise, we humbly exalt our Lord proclaiming His holiness, righteousness, and good works. Within the act of worship and praise, we deny ourselves,

and confirm Christ as our Lord. Wherein, and in that time, we look to God in glorification and honor of our Lord. Our hearts and our minds are then prepared to do His will. For as we worship in the Spirit of God in praise of our Lord, we shall hear His voice, and know His will for us.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. —Psalm 150:6 KJV

Our life is to be a living sacrifice in worship, and an offering of praise to our Lord. When we deny ourselves, and walk in the way of Christ, our life is a worship unto our Lord and Father. As we serve God, our good works shall be an offering of praise unto God, and the glory of His Son Jesus Christ. We are to live to glorify God, and honor our Lord. For thus we were all created.

Therefore, above all things, let us first worship and praise God. May we continually praise the name of our Lord, and worship God with our whole heart. Let our lives be a living sacrifice to God, and His purpose for us, so as to glorify our Lord. May we forever rejoice in Christ with joy and laughter, drawing near to God in His Spirit, and in love as little children.

Whatever you do in word and deed, do in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
—Colossians 3:17 NASV

Worship and praise go hand in hand together. They are the works we do unto God. Prayer is the work we do unto the kingdom of God. We are able to pray according to God's will when our hearts and minds are set right before God through worship and praise, and we are in the Spirit. And God's will is accomplished by the work of His Spirit through the prayers of His children.

When we pray, we are to pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. For He alone is our advocate with the Father, and the atonement for sin. I John 2:1-2. We are able to come to God, and the throne of grace, through the blood of Christ. And He ever lives to intercede for us. Hebrews 7:25.

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. —Romans 8:26-27 NASV

The Spirit intercedes for us as well. The Spirit takes the prayers of our heart and translates our true longings, and desires. He clarifies our prayers, and delivers them before the throne of God. The Spirit empowers our prayers, and is our lifeline to God.

THE FISHERMAN

A man sat in his boat upon the water. He desired to know the mysteries of the deep and to catch the fish therein, but could not see because of the reflection on the water. So he took to himself a bucket with no bottom in it and placed it into the water. He saw clearly into the depths, and discovered where the fish were. So then, he was able to cast a line into the water and receive all the bounty thereof.

It is through Jesus Christ we see the Father, and we are able to come to Him. It is by the Spirit we reach out to God, and receive all He has for us. Christ is our access to the Father, and His Spirit our voice. We must have the Spirit living within us, and be in Christ for our prayers to be heard.

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God and doeth His will, him He heareth.

—John 9:31 KJV

In the NASV, worshipper of God is translated as God-fearing. Worship of God is to bow down in reverence and respect. We must be God-fearing worshippers to come to Him, and be in His will.

When we first come to the Lord, we turn from ourselves and our ways, to Christ. That is the essence of repentance. Afterward, we believe on Him and give Him our heart. He then hears our prayers, and receives us into His fold. That is the essence of salvation.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus. —Hebrews 10:19 KJV

Whereas we are now in Christ, let us come with full assurance before our Lord, and His throne of Grace. For as we are in Him, He is in us, and we are accepted by Him. When we are in Christ, and He is in us, we are in the Father's will.

We are not beggars, and need not plead with God. We have license, by grace, to come before the throne of God, and have favor with the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. We can approach God as friends and fellow heirs to the promise. When we pray, we know our prayers are heard. When we pray according to God's will, our request shall be granted. It is His good pleasure to give to us in abundance all we ask for.

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. —John 15:7 NASV

Pray in faith, believing the promises that God has made you, for our Lord is faithful and true to His word. Come with the faith of a child and you shall be answered. Pray with a pure heart, so that your prayers shall be in accordance with God's will. Pray and do not loose heart. Luke 18:1. Let not your prayers end until the answer comes.

Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief.

—Mark 9:24 KJV

If you lack faith in your prayers, then pray to your Lord for faith, and he will give you

faith to overflowing. If you do not have a heart for prayer, then come before your Lord and entreat Him to give you a passion for prayer.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

—James 5:16 KJV

The Lord desires our prayers to be passionate, and from our heart. God wants us to come to Him repentant, confessing our sins, sincerely seeking Him in truth, and with a pure heart. Our religious liturgy, or ritual prayers do not please God. We are not to strive in our prayers, but allow the Spirit to lift us up, and lead us in worship, praise, and prayer. Our prayers are a work, they need not be a burden.

Come unto Me, all Ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light. —Matthew 11:28,30 KJV

Worship, praise, and prayer are the first works we are to do for the Lord. They are the fountain that the Spirit of God flows through. And it is by the Spirit that all good works are performed! We are lifted up by the Spirit unto worship, praise, and prayer before our Lord. The Spirit gives us the desire to come to Him. He raises us up unto all good works. All our good works are the Lord's work that He does in us, and through us, to the glory of God.

When we rest in the Lord, He shall take away all of our cares, worries, striving, and dead works. As we live in Christ by His Spirit, we no longer have any need of the religion of man. For we who are led by the Spirit, are no longer under the law. Galatians 5:18. Once we are born again, there is nothing for us to do except submit ourselves to our Lord Jesus by His Spirit, and the word of God. That by the working, leading, and power of the Spirit, we may be lifted up to a righteous and holy walk within the will of God.

Worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Jesus Christ, and have no confidence in the flesh. —Philippians 3:3 KJV

We stand in the Lord when we bow down before Him. There is no way to glorify God without His Spirit. Nothing good can come from our efforts apart from the Lord. Our life is in His life by the Spirit of God. Our works shall stand therein. To be in Him, and His will, we must first worship Him, and exalt His name on high.

We who are the beloved of God, shall worship Him. All those who love the Lord will lift Him in praise. As we worship and praise God in the Spirit, we have communion with Him. When we abide in the Spirit we are better able to speak to our Lord, and He to us as well. As we are in Him, and He is in us, we abide in His will. We, therein, are prepared to do His work for the furtherance of His kingdom. For we labor in vain when we labor without the Lord, and the groundwork of all our labor in the fields of the Lord is prayer. Through our prayers all the rest of our works for our Lord are established. When we pursue His will, He shall establish His will within us, and through us. Wherein, God may accomplish His work unto everlasting, and the glory of our Lord of heaven.

Therefore, as we all live within the love of the Lord by His Spirit, let us worship Him in His Spirit. Let all who call upon the Lord rejoice in everlasting praise of His name by His Spirit. May we live to abide in Christ, always in prayer, and consecrate our lives as

servants of our Lord.

Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house: they will be still praising Thee. Blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of Thy countenance. —Psalms 84:4-5, and 89:15 KJV