

Mirror, Mirror... Part 2b: "Can You See Yourself as a Praiser and Worshipper?"

By Cere Muscarella

"Receive with meekness the implanted word of God which is able *to save your soul*. Be a doer of the word and not a hearer only, which would be to deceive yourself. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who sees his image in the mirror but then goes away and forgets what manner of man he was..." **James 1.21-24**

"Receive with meekness the implanted word of God which is able *to save your soul*. Be a doer of the word and not a hearer only, which would be to deceive yourself. *But if anyone is a hearer and a doer, he is like a man who sees himself in the mirror of God's word and never forgets who he is!*" **-flipside**

Last week asked the question: Can you see yourself as a worshipper of God?

Worshipping Him for who He is! Worshipping because worship is love *expressed* and *demonstrated* to someone..." *and we love Him!* And a Praiser, praising Him for the great things He does?

Expressions of Praise... "I will **SING** to God as long as I live!" **Psalm 9.2, 13.6, 27.6, 47.6, 57.7, 59.16, 75.9, 89.1, 100.4, 5, 101.1, 104.33, 108.1, 144.9 (and plenty more!)** "**CLAP** your hands all you people!" **Psalm 47.1, 98.4-9** "Let all those who put their trust in the Lord rejoice, let them ever **SHOUT** for joy! **Psalm 5.11, 32.11, 35.27 47.5, 6, 84.2, 95.1-3, 98.4, 6, 100.1, 132.9** "Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips will praise You. I will bless you while I am alive! I will **LIFT UP MY HANDS** in Your name!" **Psalm 63.3, 4 134.1, 2** Let them praise His name in the **DANCE**: let them sing praises unto Him with the timbrel and harp." **Psalm 149.3 150.4-6** "O come, let us worship and **BOW DOWN**: let us **KNEEL** before the LORD our maker." **Psalm 95.6** "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness." **Psalm 29.2, 5.7, 66.4, 81.9, 86.9, 10, 96.9, 99.5, 99.9, 138.2**

AND WE PRAISED AND WORSHIPPED! *And many saw themselves as praisers and worshippers!*

Psalm 149 "Praise ye the Lord!" Hallel-jah!

Orders from headquarters! "Be of clear sound; shine the light, make a show of, boast of, be clamorous about, rave over and celebrate the Lord!

Hallel-Jah! Sing: shiy: *song with motion!* **Praise:** tehillah: *to laud!* **Rejoice:** samach: *brighten up, be glad in!* **Be joyful:** giyl: *spin under compassion!* **Dance:** machol: *dancing!* **Play:** zamar: *w/instruments!* **Joy:** alaz: *jump!* **Sing aloud:** ranan: *sing aloud!* **High praises:** romemut: *rising praise!*

Can you see yourself in the word as an engaged praiser and worshipper...?

Why is this so important?

Foremost, it's matter of love! We worship and praise who we love and ascribe value to!

It's an acknowledgement of His greatness... and our place! Come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our God, our Maker!

It's an issue of gratitude for deliverance! Think Israel after the Red Sea...

And, it's a Metric of Maturity!

"And after being beaten, thrust into prison and chained to the wall... at midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God, and everyone heard them! And suddenly there was a great earthquake and the foundations of the prison were shaken and the doors opened and everyone's chains fell off..." **Acts 16.23-26**

How do you see it?

"Hey Paul?"

"Yes Silas..."

"This place stinks! What if we sing a real nice song? Do you think God will hear us and come get us out of here?"

"Maybe. It's worth a try..."

Paul and Silas prayed and it was 'done...' And now all they had to do was act on it! And they sang praises...

"The leg feels not the stocks when the mind is in heaven. Though the body is held fast, all things lie open in the spirit." -Tertullian

A Metric of Maturity! "Out of the abundance of their hearts they spoke and sang!"

Praise and worship, in the midnight hours of life, is evidence of established faith!

And God heard their faith/deliverance! And the others heard them!

Were they astonished? Captivated! **When the doors all opened and chains fell off... they were in place!**

PRAISE, for what God has done... and WORSHIP, for the beauty of who He is... *ARE THE SOUNDS OF FREEDOM!*