

Worship in a War-torn World! Part 3: Spiritual Warfare!

We have opened a short series on Worship! Because *worship: bowing down before God, subjugating our will, submitting to serve Him...* is the only way we're going to make it thru this war-torn world! *Yielding to God's guidance* is the only way to navigate life and save as many people as possible!

So far... Looked at worship as singing! Slipping-out of our distractions ASAP... *How did you do? Free 1-2-3? Zeroing-in on His presence/our presence of mind in the lyrical proclamations...* "He is here, I am speaking melodiously to Him, *with emotional integrity!*" *How did you do? In it 1-5? Leaving nothing to take home!* "Brought my gifts of worship and left them!" *How did you do? Empty, one or two?*

Then we looked at a model of worship... (the tithe) to see how everything we need/want is found in worship! Prosperity, health, good marriages, families, fulfillment... all in "worship!" We are not waiting on something big happening to us from the "outside!" We are waiting to bow ourselves before God and His ways...

EVERYTHING WE NEED HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TO US... AND IS FOUND IN WORSHIP!

If that's true then every want, need, freedom, and victory, is found in worship... bowing before God!

Three Bible Models of Worship...

The Model of the Servant! It's the study of greatness! "Whoever wants to be greatest among you will become servant to all..." **Mt23.11 Mk 9.34 Lk22.24** The model of submitted ownership! "Behold... as eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters and as the eyes of a maid unto the hand of her mistress so our eyes wait upon the Lord..." **Ps 123.2**

The epitome of Jesus worship!

The Model of the Prophet! It's the *heart-core* of worship! "He whom God has sent (Jesus) speaks the words of God..." **John 3.34** "I do not speak of myself but what the Father who sent Me gave Me to speak; and I know the words He gave me are life everlasting, so I speak what the Father says to Me..." **John 12.49,50** "If anyone is going to speak, let him speak as an oracle of God. If anyone serves, let him do it in the ability God gives so God is glorified!" **1Pet4.11**

Sixteen OT prophets model people who say what God says and do what He commands! Most times/bad times! Do the hard things required! John the Baptist stands above them all... Every NT believer stands above John! "Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." **Lk 7.28**

The Model of the Soldier! Few models more evident of worship than this... Soldiers give up their lives to serve at the behest of their Commander! All civil-ian rights, self-rule, forfeited! Find out in basic training if they have what it takes! Find out in "boot" who has "more" than "basic" desires to go further! Find those who will become Commanders themselves!

Soldiers... "Endure hard things as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. No one going to war entangles himself: gets himself involved, with the affairs: trades, "negotiations" of this life so that he lives to please the One who has strategically gathered him up to be a warrior..." **2Tim 2.3,4** "Put on the whole armor of God to keep standing against the methods of the devil... "Because we aren't wrestling with flesh and blood..."

But against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world and against spiritual wickedness in high places... But against chief ranks, influential forces, obscured and obscuring rulers of this age and ethereal malice and depravity coming from celestial places... Which is why soldiers put on the whole

armor God provides, so that they can stand against the evil of the day having done everything to stand!
E6

We will never be “worshippers in spirit and truth” until we understand what comes up against our true worship!

The issue of Spiritual Warfare! This is not “spirit behind every bush theology... this is “not going to be ambushed in worship” strategy!

Spirits at work... “There was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit...” **Mk 1.23** A man whom a demon spoke thru... Agitated, irritated, wanting to mock... but feeling the danger... resistant... Answer, “Hold your peace and come out of him...” Result: they were amazed that unclean spirits obeyed Him... *and fame came to His name!*

“There was a man possessed with a devil, blind and dumb and He healed him and the blind and dumb spoke and saw...” **Mt 12.22** Don’t have to be possessed (*and a believer can’t be*) to be blind and mute in worship... but there is healing/freedom! The Gadarene! **Mk 5.1-20** A man filled w/violence, self-destruction. Jesus commanded the spirit to come out and the man was found in his right mind! *Jesus sent him home to testify, 10 cities changed by his worship!*

Mary Magdelene (of Magdala, the tower or castle) out of whom Jesus cast seven demons... **Luke 8.2** Mentioned fourteen times; eight times at the head of the list of other servants! Always depicted as a devoted disciple! And part of the Good News road team! One of the last at the Cross and first at the tomb and resurrection revelation! *Once freed, devoted worshipper!*

A demoniac girl, tearing up her home... **Mt 15.21ff** A demoniac boy, self destructive behavior... **Mt 17.14ff** Other deaf, dumb, blind spirits hindering people from a life of bowing down before God... Sorcerers, Simon, Elymas, (multitudes, **Acts 19**), diviners (**Acts 16**)... All confronted, healed, released and result was worship... bowing down... And following Jesus!

Small scale event application... Ever had the kids get sick before church time? Ever known an argument at the house to stop you from coming? How about in the car to turn you around or at least steal worship focus? Ever been harassed while trying to get into worship? Ever felt deaf to music, mute for expressions, blind to His presence?

Larger scale lifestyle hindrance... Ever fought a sickness with no natural causes? Live with a growing agitation, anger, anxiety, fear, apathy, doubt? Experience a home environment that just won’t ever seem to calm down? Ever felt an unseen wall between you and God and His people? Ever felt condemnation and a distance from God’s love and care?

Spiritual Warfare... “*Submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee! Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*” **Jam4.7,8** Draw near to God when you fear because love has no torment and it casts out all fear! I know He loves me... I am safe in the high tower... under His shadow... Draw near to God and do what He says! He knows the truth that will set you free and the way out!

“With the shield of your faith, quench the fiery darts of the wicked.” E6.16 “I will dispatch you later, right now I am worshipping God alone!” And it’s there you will receive inspiration for your battle! Faith removes anxiety of “urgent!” Or, “I come against you in the power of God’s word... depart from me!” Power of proclamation! **Zech4.6,7** Power of belief! **Mk 11.22-24**

“I cast down vain imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God... and make it the captive!” 2Cor 10.5 “I am putting off the old life corrupted by lusts and being renewed in the spirit

of my mind to put on the new man created in righteousness and holiness!" **E4.22-24** "What is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, proven, virtuous, praiseworthy... that's what I will focus on!" **Phil 4.8** Select the proper antidote and "Worship in a War-torn World!"