

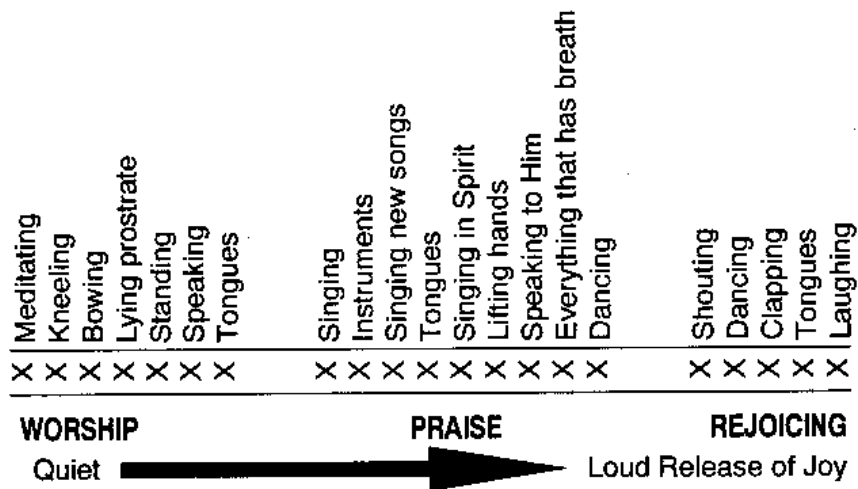
Part 5: How do we worship?

The apostle John gives us actual glimpses of the throne room of God. In these scenes we see the heavenly throng as they freely worship the Lord God and the Lamb. The three passages from the book of Revelation reveal the "heavenly pattern" of worship which the church is to model and enter into. The Scriptures declare to us, "our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."

The heavenly pattern: Revelation 5.6-14, 7.9-12, 19.1-7. Four general characteristics stand out:

1. Addressed to God; He is every before them.
2. First concerned with His person (who He is).
3. Then concerned with His works (what He's done).
4. Expressive/clothed with humility (Isaiah 57.15).

There is a wide spectrum of worship/praise/rejoicing that God wants His people individually and His congregations collectively to experience. The Spirit guides us into a full rounded experience of God. We must let the Scriptures ministered by the Holy Spirit conquer our fears, inhibitions or traditions concerning our worship of God.



Earthy expressions by God's saints

Musical worship/praise (zamar, zar-mar)

- Singing to Him (Psalm 147.1,7 Colossians 3.16)
- Choruses, hymns, psalms.
- Instrumental praise/worship
- Types: brass, stringed, percussions, wind/reed (Psalm 150.3-5g)
- Effects:
 1. Banishes darkness (1 Samuel 16:14-16; 22-23)
 2. Invites God's ministering presence (2 Kings 3.1-16, 2 Chronicles 29.25). "Everything that has breath" (Psalm 150.6).
 3. Musical: non-verbal, melodies or harmonies.
- Singing new songs (Psalm 144.9)
 1. Most intimate expression.
 2. Personal, first person, intimate adoration.
 3. Spirit-inspired songs from our hearts.
 4. Direct (not memorized or learned) expressions of faith.
 5. Can be done with our minds and spirits (1 Corinthians 14.15).
- Vocal worship/praise/rejoicing
 1. Speaking of His greatness and goodness
 2. Eagerly utter, bubble over with (Psalm 145.6-7, 11-13, 21).
 3. Speaking with other tongues (languages)
 4. Holy Spirit – our Spirit – God.
 5. Analogous to a river of worship/praise/rejoicing.
 6. Speaking of God's mighty deeds (Acts 2.11)
 7. Glorifying God (Acts 2.11)
 8. Giving thanks (1 Corinthians 14.17)
 9. Shouting joyfully to Him (Psalm 47.1, Ezra 3.10-13)
 10. Not noises or screams; loudly spoken praises.
 11. Purpose: expresses His triumph (1 Thessalonians 4.16)
 12. Effects of joyful shouting:
 13. Breaks down barriers, puts us into contact with Him (Joshua 6.5).
 14. Psalm 89.15: A blessing for those who know the joyful shout.
 15. Banishes clouds of oppression, that we might receive from the Son!

Next time: Presenting our bodies, Renewing our minds, What happens when we worship, Hindrances to our ministry to Him. Wrap up.