

## HABITATIONS OF PRAISE “The Use of the Voice: Speak!”

*We are going to begin looking at actual forms of worship, starting with the use of the voice. The three main psalmic uses of the voice in worship are speaking, singing, and shouting. This message will be on speaking. But before we get into it, there are a couple of points that we were unable to cover in the last teaching that we need to go over.*

*It is God who initiates worship:*

John 6:44-45

44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

45 It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. NIV

*“Christian worship depends on God revealing Himself through the Lord Jesus Christ to man. Man simply responds to the revelation. Man cannot initiate suitable worship. He cannot fully comprehend his own inner workings, let alone the wonder of God.”<sup>1</sup> In order to worship in spirit and in truth, we must be aware of the truth and allow the Spirit to lead us in it. It is God who initiates our worship of Him by the revelation Himself in Scripture and “in the Spirit.”*

Ps 51:15 “O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.” NIV

*As in all aspects of the Christian walk, worship is something that we grow into. Simply because God initiates it doesn't mean that we are passive in the process. God sent Jesus. He found and saved us. He initiates, but we **must** respond. If we are not obedient to clear indications in Scripture regarding the ways in which we should worship, then we shouldn't be surprised that we don't grow in our capacity to worship.*

John 4:21-24

21 Jesus replied, "The time is coming, ma'am, when we will no longer be concerned about whether to worship the Father here or in Jerusalem. For it's not where we worship that counts, but how we worship-is our worship spiritual and real? Do we have the Holy Spirit's help? For God is Spirit, and we must have his help to worship as we should. The Father wants this kind of worship from us. But you Samaritans know so little about him, worshipping blindly, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes to the world through the Jews." TLB

John 4:21-24

21 “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you Samaritans will worship the Father neither here at this mountain nor there in Jerusalem. You worship guessing in the dark; we Jews worship in the clear light of day. God’s way of salvation is made available through the Jews. But the time is coming- it has, in fact, come- when what you’re called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter.

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<sup>1</sup> Ernest Gentile, *Worship God*, Bible Temple Publishing, Portland, OR, 1994, p. 125

“It’s who you are and the way you live that count before god. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That’s the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly *themselves* before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself- Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration.” The Message

*We must make the decision to worship. And as we worship, our capacity and ability to worship increases. We can **learn** to worship.*

Ps 89:15

15 Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD. NIV

*King David knew this principle, which is why he had a definite leadership structure in the priestly courses.*

1 Chron 15:16-17, 22

16 David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brothers as singers to sing joyful songs, accompanied by musical instruments: lyres, harps and cymbals.

17 So the Levites appointed Heman son of Joel; from his brothers, Asaph son of Berekiah; and from their brothers the Merarites, Ethan son of Kushaiah;

22 Kenaniah the head Levite was in charge of the singing; that was his responsibility because he was skillful at it. NIV

1 Chron 23:1-5

1 When David was old and full of years, he made his son Solomon king over Israel.

2 He also gathered together all the leaders of Israel, as well as the priests and Levites.

3 The Levites thirty years old or more were counted, and the total number of men was thirty-eight thousand.

4 David said, "Of these, twenty-four thousand are to supervise the work of the temple of the LORD and six thousand are to be officials and judges.

5 Four thousand are to be gatekeepers and four thousand are to praise the LORD with the musical instruments I have provided for that purpose." NIV

1 Chron 25:1-8

1 David, together with the commanders of the army, set apart some of the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun for the ministry of prophesying, accompanied by harps, lyres and cymbals. Here is the list of the men who performed this service:

2 From the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah and Asarelah. The sons of Asaph were under the supervision of Asaph, who prophesied under the king's supervision.

3 As for Jeduthun, from his sons: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah and Mattithiah, six in all, under the supervision of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied, using the harp in thanking and praising the LORD.

4 As for Heman, from his sons: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shubael and Jerimoth; Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti and Romamti-Ezer; Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir and Mahazioth.

- 5 All these were sons of Heman the king's seer. They were given him through the promises of God to exalt him. God gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.
- 6 All these men were under the supervision of their fathers for the music of the temple of the LORD, with cymbals, lyres and harps, for the ministry at the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman were under the supervision of the king.
- 7 Along with their relatives-all of them trained and skilled in music for the LORD-they numbered 288.
- 8 Young and old alike, teacher as well as student, cast lots for their duties. NIV

*Not only do we see a release of praise and worship, but prophecy as well. Those skilled and those learning were working together praising the Lord in the safe environment of supervision and mentoring relationships. We **can** learn how to worship and prophesy more effectively!*

Rev 19:9-10

- 9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."
- 10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." NIV

*True worship and a prophetic anointing go hand-in-hand. Does there have to be worship for there to be prophecy? No, but worship does help establish a prophetic atmosphere. We read that some of the sons of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun were set apart for the ministry of prophesying accompanied by musical instruments.*

2 Kings 3:9-17

- 9 So the king of Israel set out with the king of Judah and the king of Edom. After a roundabout march of seven days, the army had no more water for themselves or for the animals with them.
- 10 "What!" exclaimed the king of Israel. "Has the LORD called us three kings together only to hand us over to Moab?"
- 11 But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there no prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of the LORD through him?" An officer of the king of Israel answered, "Elisha son of Shaphat is here. He used to pour water on the hands of Elijah."
- 12 Jehoshaphat said, "The word of the LORD is with him." So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.
- 13 Elisha said to the king of Israel, "What do we have to do with each other? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother." "No," the king of Israel answered, "because it was the LORD who called us three kings together to hand us over to Moab."
- 14 Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD Almighty lives, whom I serve, if I did not have respect for the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you or even notice you.
- 15 But now bring me a harpist." While the harpist was playing, the hand of the LORD came upon Elisha
- 16 and he said, "This is what the LORD says: Make this valley full of ditches.
- 17 For this is what the LORD says: You will see neither wind nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water, and you, your cattle and your other animals will drink. NIV

*We've seen earlier how David's harp playing drove away the evil spirit afflicting Saul. Here we see the music of the harp inspiring prophecy. And as we well know, prophecy can be spoken (as well as sung or shouted! [or danced, for that matter!]). Spoken words are spiritual implements.*

John 6:63

63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. NIV

Eph 6:17b "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." NIV

Rev 19:15a "Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations." NIV

*Words spoken in faith are powerful. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue," Proverbs 18:21 informs us. It was through the spoken word that the world was created. "And God said . . ." is a continual refrain in the first chapter of Genesis. We need to speak our praises out to God.*

Ps 145:21

My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever. NIV

*Prayer and worship are closely related. One could almost say that all worship is a form of prayer, but not all prayer is worship. Most references to prayer in the Bible show that it should be spoken out loud.*

Luke 11:1-2 NIV

1 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

2 He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.

Matt 26:42-44 NIV

42 He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy.

44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

*Jesus prayed out loud! This shouldn't be a foreign concept to us, but often we get stuck in a rut of quiet reflection or simply mental prayer. Can God hear your prayer if it is spoken only in your heart? Certainly, but praying aloud has great benefit.*

Rom 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. NIV

*When we pray out loud, our ears hear and our faith is increased. When we praise God using the words of Christ, "hallowed by thy name," our faith is increased in a holy God. It is how Jesus taught his disciples and how the first century believers prayed.*

Acts 4:23-31

23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

24 When they heard this, they raised their voices **together**<sup>1</sup> in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

26 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.'

27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.

28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. NIV

*Strong's definition-*

NT:3661 – **homothumadon**<sup>1</sup> (hom-oth-oo-mad-on'); adverb from a compound of the base of NT:3674 and NT:2372; unanimously: KJV - with one accord (mind).

NT:3674 - homou (hom-oo'); genitive case of homos (the same; akin to NT:260) as adverb; at the same place or time: KJV - together.

NT:260 - hama (ham'-ah); a primary particle; **properly, at the "same" time**, but freely used as a preposition or adverb denoting close association: KJV - also, and, together, with (-al).

NT:2372 - thumos (thoo-mos'); from NT:2380; passion (as if breathing hard): KJV - fierceness, indignation, wrath. Compare NT:5590.

NT:2380 - thuo (thoo'-o); a primary verb; properly, to rush (breathe hard, blow, smoke), i.e. (by implication) to sacrifice (properly, by fire, but genitive case); by extension to immolate (slaughter for any purpose): KJV - kill, (do) sacrifice, slay.

Rom 15:5-6 NIV

5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus,

6 so that with **one heart**<sup>1</sup> and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*The idea of "one accord" is unity of purpose and heart. The disciples in Acts 4 were not all saying the same words, they were expressing the same thought. What Scripture records for us is the summery of their unified expression. But what you would have heard had you been there would have been many voices raised at the same time in praise, prayer, and supplication.*

Matt 18:19

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. KJV

Shall agree sumfooneesousin (NT:4856). From sun (NT:4862), "together," and foonee (NT:5456), "sound" or "voice." Transcribed in our word "symphony." It has so far lost its distinctive character as a concord of voices as to be used for agreement in the deeper and more inward sense. (from Vincent's Word Studies of the New Testament, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by Biblesoft)

*This classic verse on prayer literally states in the Greek that if any two “sound out together” on earth regarding anything we ask, the Father in heaven will do it. God puts a premium on declaration. Audible prayer is psalmic prayer.*

Ps 18:6

In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears. NIV

Ps 116:1-2

1 I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

2 Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. NIV

Ps 54:2

Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth. NIV

Ps 66:16-20

16 Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.

17 I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue.

18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

19 but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer.

20 Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me! NIV

*In this Psalm, we see the praise for answered prayer. Both the praise and the prayer were spoken out to the Lord audibly. The Psalms are clear that our mouths should praise the Lord.*

Ps 34:1 “I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.” NIV

Ps 63:3 “Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.” NIV

Ps 105:1 NIV

Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

Ps 119:108, 171

108 Accept, O LORD, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws.

171 May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees. NIV

*Like prayer, praise can be either an individual or a corporate exercise. Both are indispensable in the Christian walk. We must worship, praise and pray on our own to develop an intimate relationship with God. Then we are prepared to enter in corporate worship. As we are to speak our praises to God individually, we are to declare them corporately as well.*

Ps 109:30

30 I will greatly praise the LORD with my mouth; Yes, I will praise Him among the multitude. NKJV

Ps 111:1

Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly. NIV

Ps 35:18

I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among throngs of people I will praise you. NIV

*What are some keys that can help us become more effective in praise, individually and corporately?*

**1) Develop a worship vocabulary-**

By reading and memorizing Psalms, we can express ourselves to God in worship using the very words He inspired for that purpose. One can even read the Psalms out to God in one's private prayer time as a means of worship.

*Some examples of psalmic worship vocabulary:*

Ps 31:14 But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." NIV

Ps 35:10

My whole being will exclaim, "Who is like you, O LORD? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them." NIV

Ps 35:27

May those who delight in my vindication shout for joy and gladness; may they always say, "The LORD be exalted, who delights in the well-being of his servant." NIV

Ps 40:16

Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, "The LORD be magnified!" NKJV

Ps 66:3-4 NIV

3 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you.

4 All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name." Selah

Ps 89:26 He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.' NIV

Ps 106:48

Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD. NIV

**2) Record and remember the blessings of God and declare them back to Him-**

Recounting to God what he has done for us is a great way to praise Him. As we recount His mighty deeds on our behalf, our faith increases in the certainty of Him doing it again.

*One of the offices that David instituted in the Tabernacle of David was that of recorder. The recorder was responsible for writing down what the Lord was saying prophetically and what he had done miraculously.*

1 Chron 16:4, 12

4 And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel:

12 Remember his marvellous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth; KJV

Ps 20:7

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God. NKJV

Ps 42:1-6

1 As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.

2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

3 My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

4 These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.

5 Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and

6 my God. My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon--from Mount Mizar. NIV

Ps 71:16

I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, O Sovereign LORD; I will proclaim your righteousness, yours alone. NIV

Ps 77:11-14

11 I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

12 I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds.

13 Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God?

14 You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. NIV

Ps 103:2 “Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—“ NIV

Ps 105:5 “Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,” NIV

### 3) **Be active in corporate worship-**

During a worship service, be bold to boast of the Lord in the congregation! Other means of corporate speaking in the worship service can take the form of :

- ◆ Reading Scripture – 1 Tim. 4:13 “devote yourself to the public reading of Scriptures.”
- ◆ Short Declarations – “Jesus is Lord!” (1 Cor. 12:3; Rom.10:9), “He is risen!” (Mark 16:6), “Come quickly, Lord Jesus!” or “Maranatha!” (1 Cor. 16:22).
- ◆ Saying, “Amen!” – Ps. 106:48
- ◆ Proclaiming Benedictions – “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with us all. Amen.” (Rev. 22:21).

*Words are spiritual implements. We can speak them, sing them, or shout them. When we declare with our mouths the greatness of God, who He is and what He has done, our ears hear and the faith in our hearts is increased. But this is not all not the most important. When we speak from our hearts His praises on our lips, **His** ears hear, and He is pleased.*

Jude 24-25

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. NAS

[Do a congregational, benedictive declaration out of Jude 24-25.]