



Sermon Series Notes

“Expressive Worship” (Selected Scriptures)

Danny Hodges – TS2490

Intro: I began expressing myself in worship during my first years of pastoring here at CCSP. It was motivated by simply reading Scripture and noticing the various ways people in the Scriptures expressed themselves in worship, as well as the many Scriptures that encouraged expression in worship, especially the Psalms. I believe expression in worship and communion with the Lord are connected. Our expression should reflect the attitude of our hearts. A lack of expression reflects either a wrong attitude, or simply ignorance regarding God’s Word and the variety of ways it encourages us to express our worship to the Lord. So what I felt led to do tonight is look at some Scriptures that have to do with expressive worship, and give some suggestions as to the motivation behind the expression.

LOOKING TOWARD HEAVEN

Psalm 121:1-2 (Indicates where help comes from)

John 11:41-42 (Displays confident faith)

John 17:1-2 (Indicates intimate fellowship)

CLAPPING

II Kings 11: 12 Jehoiada brought out the king's son (Joash) and put the crown on him; he presented him with a copy of the covenant and proclaimed him king. They anointed him, and the people clapped their hands and shouted, "Long live the king!"

Psalm 47:1...Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

Motivation/Meaning: Express approval or praise (applaud).

We got this one down, because we do it pretty much after every song we sing here at Calvary Chapel! I’m not complaining, but I will say that sometimes I like it after a more mellow song that we do not clap.

Sometimes silence is the correct worship expression.

SILENCE

Rev. 8:1 When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

This is of course a prophecy related to the most solemn, reverent moment in all of history, when God unleashes his wrath upon the world just prior to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Motivation/Meaning; Reverence

SHOUTING

Psalm 47:1-2 For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm. Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth!

Psalm 20: 4-5 May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. We will shout for joy when you are victorious...

Psalm 33: 3-4 Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

Psalm 66:1-2 For the director of music. A song. A psalm. Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!

Psalm 71:23 My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you – I whom you have delivered.

Psalm 81:1 Sing for joy to God our strength; shout aloud to the God of Jacob!

Psalm 95:1 Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Psalm 98:4,6; 100:1; Isa.12:6; 24:14; 26:19; 35:2; Zech.2:10; 9:9.

Motivation/Meaning: An expression of joy, triumph, or exaltation (shout).

Illus: Sports team victory, military victory, etc.

THE LIFTING OF HANDS

I Timothy 2:8; Psalm 141:2; Ex.9:27-29

Psalm 63:4 I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.

Psalm 134:2 lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord.

Psalm 143:6 I spread out my hands to you; I thirst for you like a parched land.

Psalm 106:26 So he swore to them with uplifted hand...

See Rev.10:5-6a

Illus: Court, "I solemnly swear to tell the truth..."

Motivation/Meaning: Expression of need/dependency, surrender; Need the Lord to carry you; Illustration: A child reaching out his hands to be lifted up and carried; Illus: When an enemy surrenders they hold up their hands; Vow/Promise; to bless the Lord.

BOWING

There are lots of examples in the Scripture for this expression of worship.

Abraham's chief servant after finding Rebekah as a bride for Isaac (Gen.24:12-19, 26-27, 50-52).

The Israelites after Moses and Aaron communicated the Lord's concern for their misery (Ex.4:29-31)

Passover (Ex.12:26-27)

Moses from the cleft of the rock (Ex.34:5-8)

David and the Israelites at the dedication of the Temple (I Chron.29: 20 Then David said to the whole assembly, "Praise the LORD your God." So they all praised the LORD, the God of their fathers; they bowed low and fell prostrate before the LORD and the king.

Ezra at the rebuilding of the Temple (Neh.8: 5 Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. 6 Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

The Magi (truth seekers) before the baby Jesus (Matt.2: 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.)

Psalm 95:6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

Neh.8:6; Rev.4:11; 5:14; 11:16;

Motivation/Meaning: Bowing is the most common universal sign of respect and submission in the presence of a king or powerful ruler (Gen.41:42-43; II Sam.14:22). Bowing before a king is saying with your body that he is more powerful than you and your life is in his hands and under his power.

I Kings 8:54 When Solomon had finished all these prayers and supplications to the Lord, he rose from before the altar of the Lord, where he had been kneeling with his hands spread out toward heaven.

Solomon was a great king bowing before a greater king (See Matt.12:42). No matter how great someone is in this life, God/Jesus is greater. So everyone should bow before Him. One day everyone will (Phil.2:9-10; Rom.14:11).

PROSTRATING OURSELVES

See Rev.4:9-11; Rev.11: 16 And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God...

Motivation/Meaning:

- Worship

- Joyous faith response
 - Gen.17:17 Abraham fell facedown...(after God told him he and Sarah would have a son; he's 99 years old!).
- Need for mercy
 - Luke 5:12...a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell facedown and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."
- Desperate prayer
 - Num.20:6 Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the tent of meeting and fell facedown (in response to the grumbling Israelites).
- Tragedy or crisis
 - Joshua 7:1-6 (in response to the men killed at Ai)
 - Job after the initial tragedies struck his life (Job 1:20-21).

DANCING

Exodus 15:20; I Sam.18:6-7; Psalm 30:11; 149:3; 150:4; Eccl.3:4; Jer.31:13; Luke 15:25.

CONCLUSION

Age and physical ability may limit how we express ourselves in worship, and when that is the case, be thankful that God evaluates our worship based on the attitude of our heart.

Heb.11:21 By faith Jacob, *when he was a dying*, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.

You can worship holding on to a walker, in a wheelchair, from a sickbed, etc.