

I. UNDERSTANDING GOD'S PRESENCE

- A. The Omnipresence of The LORD – He is everywhere at all times. This is God revealed to all mankind and all creation – Acts 17:24-28.
- B. The Inner Presence of The LORD – His presence within the hearts and lives of His people – 2 Corinthians 6:16.
- C. The Manifest Presence of The LORD – God is in the *praise* of His people. Psalm 22:1-5
 - 1. When we as God's people begin to express our praise, our thanksgiving, and exaltation to God, He responds. He moves! He shares with us a deeper sense of His presence.
 - 2. Jesus explains this spiritual principle in John 3:5-8. When we praise Him, he moves within us like a mighty and powerful wind.

II. DEFINING PRAISE & WORSHIP

- A. Praise is the *willful entrance* into the presence of God by speaking forth thanksgiving to God and by exalting God's name, His character, His mighty deeds, and His glory.
- B. Worship is *willing response* of our spirit to the revelation of the character of God by the moving of His Spirit in our hearts.

III. BIBLICAL MODELS OF WORSHIP

- A. From the book, *Worship That Pleases God* by Dr. Stephen R. Phifer.
- B. Models of worship are simply illustrations that help us understand larger realities that are bigger than us!

IV. THE TABERNACLE/TEMPLE MODEL – Moses' Tabernacle (Exodus 40:34) and Solomon's Temple (2 Chronicles 5:13-14).

- A. Sin separates from God – before the Cross, the only way God could dwell in the earth in His manifest presence was deep within the praise-built walls of the Tabernacle/Temple.
- B. Sin is not an unsolvable problem. As dark as sin is, there was always a way of access. God has always had a redemption plan.
- C. Shows us a way in which God invites us into His manifest presence. *"Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!" (Psalm 100:4)*
 - 1. Praise is the antidote to our challenges and difficulties in life!
 - 2. Through the blood of Jesus we are able to enter the Holy of Holies and draw near to the manifest presence of the Lord – Hebrews 10:19-25.

V. THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID MODEL – David brought the ark to a new tent with an open Holy of Holies with no outer court, no holy place and only an initial animal sacrifice. David operated in New Testament realities directly accessing the manifest presence of God. The Tabernacle of David is fulfilled in the New Testament Church – Acts 15:17-22.

- A. The spiritual, joyful, and personal nature of worship.
- B. The priesthood of the believer in corporate worship.
- C. The importance of music – book of Psalms.
- D. The value of excellence.
- E. There was unity of generations.
- F. The heart of God for souls and worldwide revelation of God's majesty.

VI. THE HOLY-ROYAL PRIESTHOOD MODEL – 1 Peter 2:4-9

- A. We are a spiritual house – not soul-ish or physical.
 - B. We are a holy priesthood – through the blood of Jesus we can stand in the presence of the Most High.
 - C. We are a chosen generation – chosen by the Lord to be close to him.
 - D. We are a royal priesthood – set apart for the king.
 - E. We are a holy nation – He rules over us.
 - F. We are his special people – we belong to Him.
 - G. The primary call is one of relationship – to be with Him – Mark 3:14.
- VII. **THE LIVING SACRIFICE OF PRAISE MODEL** – Romans 12:1
- A. The Living-Sacrifice – the presentation of ourselves to Him through service.
 - B. The Sacrifice of Praise – ministry to God by opening our mouth to acknowledge Him – Hebrews 13:15-16.
 - C. Service to God and ministry to God, or vocal praise, go hand in hand! No amount of service rendered to man can ever take the place of love and devotion expressed to God.
- VIII. **THE THRONE ROOM MODEL** – The Lord desires more than just to visit us with his presence, He wants to establish His Kingdom in us! Psalm 22:3
- A. The Throne Room is a place of majesty – Isaiah 6:1, Revelation 4:3-4.
 - B. The Throne Room is a place for His servants – Isaiah 6:2.
 - C. The Throne Room is the place of His praise – Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8
 - D. The Throne Room is the place of the revelation of His power and glory – Isaiah 6:4, Revelation 4:5,6.
 - E. The Throne Room is the place of the servant’s humility – Isaiah 6:2, 5.
 - F. The Throne Room is the place of worship – Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:9-11.
 - G. The Throne Room is a place of forgiveness, redemption, and change – Isaiah 6:6,7.
 - H. The Throne Room is a place of service and obedience – Isaiah 6:8.
- IX. **THE LORD’S OFFICE-PLACE MODEL** – Acts 13:2-4
- A. Jesus is looking for people who will give Him their lives as His working place. By touching God with our worship and establishing His throne with praise we provide the Lord a place on earth where He can do His work, an office-place.
 - B. The work of the Kingdom that Jesus wants to do through us:
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because he has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that the captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come. Luke 4:18-19.
- X. **THE RIVER OF LIFE MODEL**
- A. The River of Life is the obedience believer’s source of life – Psalm 1:1-3.
 - B. The River of Life is the source of the believer’s satisfaction in life – Psalm 38:8-9.
 - C. The River of Life makes the whole community of believers the city of God, glad – Psalm 46:4,5.
 - D. The River of Life flows from a wellspring in the heart of the believer – John 4:13,14.
 - E. The River of Life is the flow of the Holy Spirit – John 7:38.
 - F. The River of Life brings supernatural strength, endurance, and healing – Psalm 1:3.