

Rom. 14:19
"So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another."

John 8:32
"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

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WORSHIP, THE EMOTIONAL COMPONENT

By Warren Berkley

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth," (John 4:24).

Every element of true worship involves some emotional component. The emotional component is not driven by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit (as in Calvinism) or "getting the Holy Spirit" (as in Charismatic practice). The emotional component of true worship is the result of one's informed relationship with Deity.

The faithful disciple will go into every assembly with the emotion of joy, reverence for Deity and the anticipated interests in praising Deity and being edified. The true worshipper will leave the assembly with the emotional satisfaction of participating in all that God has directed, unto His glory. The proper emotional component is not contrived and forced or coerced. It is the result of one's informed relationship with God.

One should not perform some emotional display, because it is perceived it is expected by others. One should not imitate the emotional display of another. The faithful one's emotional response (seen or unseen by men) is the result of one's informed relationship with God.

When **the Word is faithfully preached**, there should be a range of emotions in the hearts of faithful listeners (remorse, assurance, joy, the satisfaction of knowledge gained). In partaking of **the Lord's Supper**, remembering His death, the emotions of both sorrow and gratitude should combine in our reflection.

Singing has a strong emotional component. But this emotional result is directly tied to lyrical content. What do the lyrics mean to the worshipper? Some love music and are moved by what they believe is good music, but

without any self-examination or thought to lyrical content. The emotional connection derives from content (the words in the songs), not from (harmony, meter, structure). Likewise, **praying** is not simply a formal, mechanical exercise. It has great emotional potential, but not due to voice or poetic structure, but content and direction (praying to Deity). **Giving** should also have an emotional component (a cheerful giver, **II Corinthians 9:7**).

In a lecture about this I told the audience: Ignorance of what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit, combined with the popularly promoted Charismatic concepts can combine with the passion for the contemporary, and reduce our worship to events designed toward the pleasure of men instead of God! In this process (that may extend slowly into another generation), biblical knowledge can be set aside to pursue the emotional needs perceived by humans in their cultural context. True worship is not about competing with the modern marketplace. Our focus cannot be on drawing crowds or showing our affinity with the modern Charismatic style of worship. God is the object of worship, not the changing emotional needs of man. We must, from baptism until death, listen to the call of the gospel, not the call of the culture or religious world.

Regarding the influence of the Charismatic movement on worship, I want to recommend that we carefully consider the danger of engineering assemblies and meetings for emotional outcome. What's at stake here is the very definition of worship! In the New Testament, worship is not presented to us as something humans set up, so that other humans can find some "spiritual high" or emotional fix. The object is to respond to God with reverence and obedience: *"God is greatly to be*

feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him," (Psalm 89:7).

Worship is not depicted as a resurrection; conversion is! When people who are terminally unspiritual, willfully ignorant of the Scriptures and religious only in some systematic or institutional way, come to the building to be raised from the dead – we cannot cater to their wants. What these people need is conversion, not “worship” designed to meet their felt needs. When we engineer worship to answer the emotional needs of people who are not concerned with the Scriptures, we fail to serve the Lord; we give people something that can never be ultimately satisfying, and we set ourselves on the road of apostasy. Worship is the avenue God has given for converted people to show their respect for Him and honor His Son. These purposes cannot be served in any sense until we decide to follow His instructions. The Charismatic format is motivated primarily by the aim to hit a human emotional target. God’s people cannot go there!

Wilson Adams... on Spirituality

Q: Has positivity replaced spirituality? Do people leave a First Day assembly with a smile only to go home and cry? Are we allowed to grieve and weep in churches? God is holy -sometimes we need His holy hush. In fact, conscience convicting is good with Him and gets to the core of the Spirit's work. When broken hearts meet His healing balm, tears happen. What is wrong with people coming to the front for prayer because they are overcome with grief over their hurts? Nothing.

Jesus is the Great Physician; the Great Healer. He invited the hurting to come just as they were, but He didn't leave them there. He reached out with compassion and encourages us to do the same.

"Weep with those who weep..." -not deny the real and raw because it makes us uncomfortable.

Church should be the best and safest place to go for help. Sometimes, it's the last. We are conditioned to put our stuff aside, leave it in the parking lot, and enter the sterile world of spirituality. The problem: spirituality isn't sterile. *"Come to Me all who are weary and heavy-laden..."* *"Come to the throne of grace to find help in time of need..."*

Are the weak and weary welcome to come?

I am encouraged to see many getting it -preparing their hearts to love the hurting- like Jesus. It's time to open our eyes not only to the harvest, but also to the wreckage. And... give them the hope of Jesus.

We Will Not Forget

Rick Duggin

On September 1, 1923, Japan suffered a devastating earthquake that killed 143,000 people. In a matter of hours the United States sent a convoy of ships with medical supplies and more than ten million dollars in aid. The Emperor sent a famous five word cablegram to the White House: “America, we will never forget.” Eighteen years later, on December 7, 1941, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, killing 2800 Americans. Japan forgot.

There are some things that we should forget. *“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead...” (Philippians 3:13).* Paul would not let past victories distract him from present duties.

The team that wins the Super Bowl this year will have a hard time repeating its success next year. Satisfaction often prevents us from doing our best. There are other things that we must never forget. We must remember acts of kindness that we have received. Joseph was forgotten twice. The chief butler forgot his kindness in the Egyptian prison (**Genesis 40:23**). A Pharaoh later forgot his acts of kindness to Egypt (**Exodus 1:8**). Belshazzar, king of Babylon, forgot that God had made his nation great (**Daniel 5**).

Many Americans have forgotten the Biblical principles that made this nation great and strong. *“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (Psalm 9:17).* *“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34).* The worst forgetfulness of all occurs when a child of God forgets his Creator and all the blessings that He has bestowed. People can drive 100 miles to watch a ball game, or jump out of bed at 4:00 a.m. for a fishing trip, but then let earthly cares prevent them from assembling with the saints to worship God (**Hebrews 10:25**). People can read the paper or watch TV for hours at a time, but they just can't find time to study the Bible. Have you forgotten God?

~via Westvue Messenger; Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

‘Wounded at the Theater’

“If you see a shameless woman in the theater, who treads the stage with uncovered head and bold attitudes dressed in garments adorned with gold, flaunting her soft sensuality, singing immoral songs,

throwing her limbs about in the dance, and making shameless speeches...do you still dare to say nothing human happens to you then? Long after the theater is closed and everyone is gone away, those images still float before your soul—their words, their conduct, their glances, their walk, their positions, their excitation, their unchaste limbs---and as for you, you go home covered with a thousand wounds!

But not alone---the shameless woman goes with you--- although not openly and visible but in your heart, and in your conscience, and there within you she kindles the Babylonian furnace in which the peace of your home, the purity of your heart, and the happiness of your marriage will be burnt up!"

- **by John Chrysostom (349-407 A.D.)**

WE DRANK (bible.org)

A member of Alcoholics Anonymous once sent columnist Ann Landers the following:

We drank for happiness and became unhappy.
We drank for joy and became miserable.
We drank for sociability and became argumentative.
We drank for sophistication and became obnoxious.
We drank for friendship and made enemies.
We drank for sleep and awakened without rest.
We drank for strength and felt weak.
We drank for relaxation and got the shakes.
We drank for bravery and became afraid.
We drank for confidence and became doubtful.
We drank to ease our speech and slurred our words.
We drank to feel heavenly and ended up feeling like hell.
We drank to forget and were forever haunted.
We drank for freedom and became slaves.
We drank to erase problems and saw them multiply.
We drank to cope with life and invited death.

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WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

Jim Stauffer

What does God teach concerning the necessity and the actual nature of repentance? The first thing Peter told his audience on the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2** in response to the question of, *Brethren, what shall we do*, was to tell them to repent. Paul later explains to us a couple of details about this subject. First, it must be an action guided by a change of heart. To the Corinthians he said he made them sorrowful *according to the will of God*. Other translations call this Godly sorrow. It simply means their actions were led by a change of heart brought about by their understanding of the will of God.

Later Paul speaks of repentance as *doing works appropriate to repentance*. What we see here is when one decides to serve the Lord there must be a change of heart toward our previous life and a commitment to conduct that is *appropriate to repentance*.

This is not only true of those who change from living worldly lives to obedience to the gospel of Christ, but also to those who are serving the Lord following their conversion. Listen to what Peter told Simon the sorcerer. *"Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you."* (**Acts 8:22**) Undoubtedly Christians will from time to time sin in word or deed and need the forgiveness of the Father in heaven. Repentance is the first step in the process. We must become genuinely sorry for what we have done. We have displeased the One Who saved us from sin in the first place and must, as a result, make peace with Him by repenting of our sins and confessing them to Him in prayer (**1 John 1:7-10**).

There is another aspect of repentance. It involves making right the wrongs we have done. This is part of the *works appropriate to repentance*. Jesus teaches in the Sermon on the Mount one is to make things right with a brother before he brings his worship to God (**Matthew 5:23,24**). On another occasion He teaches the disciples when one person has sinned against another it is to be reconciled, even if it demands bringing witnesses to the discussion. And if that person does not make right the wrong he has done, he is to be put away from the number of the congregation (**Matthew 18:15-17**).

Only pride can prevent us from humbling ourselves and admitting our sins. That very same pride may exalt us in the eyes of men, but will bring us to the depths of hell if we are unwilling to shed it and repent of our sins and do works *appropriate to repentance*.

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

- Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study
- Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship
- Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship
- Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

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1,2,3 JOHN - BILL MILLER

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS
EXODUS TO SINAI - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON: THE JOY OF THE COVENANT



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10