

Praise and Worship Lesson 1A Notes

Preparing the Heart for His Presence

A companion handout for the Praise and Worship Teaching Series

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Scripture Version	King James Version (KJV)

Resource Purpose: Use these notes while watching Lesson 1A. They summarize the teaching theme, key scriptures, reflection questions, and application steps connected to preparing the heart for the presence of God.

Lesson Summary

Before praise and worship become music, they must become surrender. Lesson 1A begins with the inward preparation of the heart. Music can support an atmosphere, but true worship requires reverence, cleansing, humility, thanksgiving, and a yielded spirit before God. This lesson establishes that praise, worship, and music are connected, but they are not the same thing.

Key KJV Scriptures

- **Psalm 24:3-4:** Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.
- **Psalm 100:4:** Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
- **John 4:23-24:** But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth... God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
- **Romans 12:1:** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God...
- **James 4:8:** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.
- **Psalm 139:23-24:** Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me...

Main Teaching Points

1. **Worship begins before the song.**

- The heart must be prepared before the mouth sings.
 - The question is not only, “Am I ready to sing?” but, “Am I ready to stand before God?”
 - This is not preparation for a performance; this is preparation for His presence.
- 2. Praise, worship, and music are connected, but they are not identical.**
 - Music can help create atmosphere.
 - Praise declares the goodness and works of God.
 - Worship is the surrender, reverence, and yielded posture of the heart before God.
 - 3. The heart must be cleansed, settled, and surrendered.**
 - Before asking, singing, teaching, or ministering, the heart should come before God in humility.
 - Holy Spirit must be welcomed to search, cleanse, and prepare the inner man.
 - A distracted heart can sing words without truly entering worship.
 - 4. Atmosphere matters, but heart posture matters more.**
 - Soft music can quiet a room, but only surrender can quiet the soul.
 - A beautiful sound does not replace obedience, reverence, repentance, or thanksgiving.
 - The goal is not emotionalism; the goal is the presence of God.
 - 5. True worship points attention back to God.**
 - Worship is not entertainment.
 - Worship is not performance-driven.
 - Worship brings the believer into reverence, thanksgiving, surrender, and obedience before the Lord.

Reflection Questions

- Am I preparing my heart, or am I only preparing my sound?
- What distractions need to be quieted before I enter praise and worship?
- When I say “praise and worship,” do I only mean music?
- What does it mean for me to worship God in spirit and in truth?
- What area of my heart needs to be cleansed, surrendered, or settled before God?
- How can I begin worship with reverence instead of routine?

Prayer Focus

Father, before I ask, cleanse me. Before I sing, settle me. Before I pray, prepare me. Search my heart, remove what does not please You, and teach me to come before You with clean hands, a pure heart, thanksgiving, reverence, and surrender. Let my praise be more than sound, and let my worship be in spirit and in truth. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Application Steps

1. Pause for a few minutes before worship and ask Holy Spirit to search your heart.
2. Read Psalm 24:3-4 before beginning personal worship or prayer.

