



Worship, Flags & Banners

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Introduction

There is a moment in worship when something shifts. The room changes. The air feels different. What began as singing becomes something altogether more — an encounter, a transaction between heaven and earth, a door swinging open. This e-book was born out of years of personal experience in that place — in the overflow of worship, in the fire of intercession, and in the joy of raising a flag in honour of the One who is worthy of it all. It is written for the curious and the hungry, for the seasoned worshipper and the one who has never held a flag in their hands but feels something stirring in them at the thought of it. What follows is not a manual of technique or a catalogue of rules. It is an invitation — to understand worship more deeply, to take your place in it more boldly, and to discover that a simple piece of fabric, raised in faith and surrender, can become a weapon, a declaration, and an act of love all at once. Whether you are a musician, a dancer, a flagger, or simply someone who lifts their hands on a Sunday morning — this is for you. You are already a worshipper.

These pages are simply here to remind you of how powerful that really is.

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Part One: Worship

What Does It Mean to Worship?

To enter into God's presence, we have to change position. God is always present — but we are not. Worship is the intentional act of re-aligning ourselves, choosing to place ourselves at His feet. Think of it like a recalibration, or tuning into a completely different frequency.

Worship is the act of showing deep reverence, honour, adoration, and devotion toward God. It involves recognizing His worth and is often described as "worth-ship.". It can be expressed through religious rituals, prayers, songs, and a lifestyle of dedication.

You do not need to be a musician to be a worshipper. Your hands, your voice, your body, your gifts and talents, your creativity, your imagination, your job — everything you are, everything you do, everything you think — can be worship to the Lord if you choose it to be.

"You court the Lord through worship. The Lord inhales your praise and He exhales His presence. He inhales your worship and He exhales His glory — and in His glory is where miracles happen."

— Dr Renny McLean

"Worship is ascribing highest honour to someone who is worthy of receiving it."

— Ray Badham, Hillsong

"Worship is a governmental activity."

— Ryan LeStrange

One aspect of worship is to gather together in His name, for a time of communion with Him, and fellowshiping with each other. This is a time of singing, dancing, making melody, clapping our hands and in some places, raising flags in His honour. Regardless of the form our worship take, it should always be our response to His holiness, majesty and salvation. This is the kind of worship we'll explore together in this e-book.

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Worship as a Governmental Activity

That last quote deserves some unpacking. A "governmental activity" is a program, function, or service of government — and that's exactly what worship is in the spirit realm. When we worship, we govern and reign over the atmosphere. We shift it. It is during worship that angels are dispatched for service by the Lord.

When the manifest presence of God arrives, the Kingdom of God — with all of its ways, all of its glory, and all of its majesty — begins to unfold. And none of it requires anyone to lay hands on anyone else.

When Worship Breaks Out...

miracles break out
healing breaks out
breakthrough comes

2 Corinthians 3:17 (TPT): *"Now, the 'Lord' I'm referring to is the Holy Spirit, and wherever he is Lord, there is freedom."*

During a two-week long ministry trip to the Philippines a number of years ago, I watched people get set free from demonic oppression, and healed from a range of physical ailments and injuries during times of worship. The Lord restored relationships and revived a dying fellowship. People who were at odds with one another apologised, made amends and reconciled with one another. There was no alter call, no prayer ministry..just a company of people who came together night after night to seek His face.

The Channel Through Which His Presence Travels

Worship is the channel — the conduit, you might say — through which the presence of God travels. The enemy knows this. He knows that worship connects us directly to the Throne Room, and that is precisely why he hates worshippers. If we want to hear the Word of the Lord and reign, we have to worship.

We are not called to worship methodically. Being performance-based, or just going through the motions is not worship. Our worship should be with prophetic intent, in spirit and in truth. It is the part of our Sunday gathering as believers that is for His benefit. Worship is a gift to us, with which we can bring an offering to the Lord through songs, instruments and dancing.

Our worship is our strongest spiritual weapon. We are worshipping to bring the presence of God to our regions, our families, our cities, and the nations.

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Reigning Through Worship: The Example of David

David is one of the greatest scriptural examples of someone who reigned through worship. Rejected by people, overlooked, and sent to the fields — David worshipped. His worship took him from the field to the battlefield, and from the battlefield to the palace. Not even Goliath could stop the young worshipping David.

When you or your family is in trouble or going through a great storm — reign through worship. If you are a flagger or an intercessory worship leader, raise your flags, cry out loud, glorify Jesus, and worship Him from a pure heart. When you lift your heart up to Him, you release a roar that is heard in heaven and that will shift the atmosphere around you.

Even David had a religious critic. His wife Michal despised him for worshipping God with abandon — for worshipping until his garments came off (2 Samuel 6:16). Her critical spirit caused her to become barren. She despised his freedom and it robbed her from bearing fruit herself.

Bound people will always despise the activities of free people. The freedom reminds them of their bondage.

Places and people who worship only methodically — without connecting heart and soul — will become spiritually barren. There will be no fruit and they run the risk of becoming a shell of the promise and the potential of what God has for them.

A Bold Prophetic Generation Is Rising

We are witnessing a bold prophetic generation arise — one that worships God unashamedly, loudly, and with vigour and energy. We will be a generation that becomes fearless about the opinions of man. Our world needs the power and presence of the Lord now more than ever!

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. Psalm 63: 1 – 4 ESV

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The Power of Worship

Daniel Hagen said: "Worship is key for your mission of reaching lost souls for Jesus. Why? Because as we worship through songs, the Bible says we become filled with the Holy Spirit."

Ephesians 5:18-20 (TPT): *"And don't get drunk with wine, which is rebellion; instead, be filled with the fullness of the Holy Spirit. And your hearts will overflow with a joyful song to the Lord Jehovah. Keep speaking to each other with words of Scripture, singing the Psalms with praises and spontaneous songs given by the Spirit! Always give thanks to Father God for every person he brings into your life in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

The more you are filled with the Holy Spirit, the more He stirs fresh boldness in your heart — boldness to speak the Word of God without fear.

What Worship Does In Us

- Transforms us to be more like Jesus (2 Cor. 3:18)
- Allows us to see God more clearly
- Helps us see ourselves and creation more clearly
- Opens us up to the Spirit of God (John 4:23-24)
- Helps us know God — not just His hand, but His face
- Deepens our relationship with the Father
- Searches our hearts (Matt. 5:23)
- Brings our whole life before God (Rom. 12:1)

Part Two: Flags & Banners

What Is Flagging?

Flagging is an extension of a person's heart of worship. It displays the awe and reverence you have for the One you love — the great I AM. Through flagging, you flaunt the truth of who God is to you. Your worship becomes extravagant and conspicuous — clearly visible to everyone — proclaiming the truth.

In a corporate setting our main purpose in using flags and banners is to draw people, not to the flags themselves, but to Jesus, through the use of flags. Flagging is not a performance. It is a prophetic declaration and an extension of worship.

Flags in the Natural and the Spiritual

In the natural, flags are used to declare ownership. They stake claim to ground. They've been raised in wars to declare who soldiers are fighting against — and to remind them who they are fighting for. White flags signal surrender. Naval ships fly flags to identify themselves and their purpose. Flags flown at half mast indicate times of mourning and they are often used for advertising and branding purposes.

In the spiritual realm, we raise flags and banners to declare who we fight with and who we belong to. Our flags are a public declaration of Who we have faith in. Moses built an altar and named it "The LORD Is My Banner" — proclaiming the ultimate Banner. Our flags are our Amen to God's promise to spread out a banner of love over us.

Jesus was lifted onto a cross and displayed for all to see — the ultimate sacrifice. When it seemed like He had lost, He was raised from the grave, declaring that He would draw all men unto Himself. He is the ultimate Banner displayed over the whole world: the Banner of Love.

The Purpose of Flags and Banners

1. They Represent Him

Exodus 17:15 says The Lord is My Banner. His banner over us is love, therefore every flag we raise speaks of Him.

2. They Demonstrate God's Presence

When we raise our flags, we are coming into agreement with Him and with what He wants to do in that moment for His people. The flagger translates in visual language what the Lord is speaking by His Spirit.

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3. They Display and Weaponise God's Character

We showcase who God is and use the flags as a weapon He has given us to rule and reign here on earth.

4. Flags as an Art Form

Flags are an art form and can be paired with other expressions such as music in praise to God. They serve as a powerful visual aid.

5. Flags in Spiritual Warfare

Satan is the prince of the power of the air — the spirit realm is in the air. As worshippers, we can use flags to usher the Kingdom of God into the earthly realm, breaking through the enemy's territory to create an atmosphere of an open heaven. We battle in the heavenlies, and we bring down the things of God. (Psalms 20:5; Jeremiah 50:2-3). The Captain of the Lord's host goes ahead of us. He has an army of angels — and we can call upon them at any time (2 Chronicles 20:15; Isaiah 31:5-9).

6. Extravagant Worship

Because of the Father's love — because He sent His only Son — we owe Him everything. His Son is the greatest gift God could ever give us. He deserves all the honour and all the praise. Using flags is one way we pour out our hearts to Him, showing that expression of love back to Him for what He has done. It is our intimacy with Him. (Psalms 9:1-2; 18:46-50; 40:5)

7. Banners Call Us to Gather and Proclaim the Truth

Scripture tells us that banners were raised to gather and assemble the people. A raised banner announced that something significant was about to happen. In Isaiah 11:10-12 we read that the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the people — and the nations will rally to Him. In Jeremiah 50:2, a banner announces the downfall of Babylon. In Isaiah 62:10, a banner is raised for the nations with a proclamation to the ends of the earth: "See, your Saviour comes!" Banners and flags can serve that same purpose in worship today — calling us to gather and pointing us to Jesus.

8. Banners Announce Our Victory

Psalm 20:5 declares: "We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banners in the name of our God." Throughout history, armies have hoisted flags after conquering territory. According to Romans 8:37, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us — so we hoist our banners in celebration of the victory Christ has already won. We are not fighting for victory. We are fighting from victory.

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9. Banners Keep the Truth Before Us

Like the people of the Old Testament, we need constant reminding. God often directed Israel to make visual aids to remember what was important (Numbers 15:37-40). In the same way, the banners we hang in our churches and the flags we raise in worship serve as powerful reminders of God's presence, His truth, His ways, and His promises. Visual symbols rooted in God's Word appeal both to the mind and the imagination.



Part Three: Colour, Movement & Sound

The Significance of Colour

Colours play a vital role in the making of flags and banners. Every colour carries symbolic meaning. Colours affect the atmosphere, impact our mood, and change our environments. All colour comes from how objects interact with light, specifically their atoms and electrons absorbing and reflecting different wavelengths (colours) of the visible spectrum, which our eyes detect, and our brains interpret. The rainbow is the perfect example of this.

New Age practitioners know the power of colour. They use it in healing practices by draping colours over the sick in the hope of restoration. But here is the truth: God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). As the Creator of all things, colour belongs to the Lord — not to the New Age movement. We simply reclaim what is His.

We use colours as prophetic proclamation and give all the glory to the Healer, the Overcomer — Jesus Christ. The Bible is full of colour reference: from the priests' garments to the specific assignments and directives God gave the Israelites for the temple. Colour matters to God. It should matter to us.

Some examples of the meaning of different colours:

Black: authority

Blue: revelation, Holy Spirit, faith, symbolic of God's deity

Bronze: redemption, righteous judgment

Brown: humility

Gold: victory, faith, God's majesty and His presence

Green: prosperity, the new, blessings

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Pink: first love, healing

Red: passion, redemption, forgiven, royalty, revival, the blood of Jesus

Silver: purified, provision, testing

Turquoise: spiritual warfare, God's dwelling place

White: purity, surrender, innocence, worship

Yellow: God's presence, faith, joy

The Power of Movement

Anything that moves changes the atmosphere. Movement disrupts existing waves and creates new waves and patterns. This is not merely physical — it is spiritual. When we move in worship, we are disrupting the atmosphere of the enemy and releasing the patterns of the Kingdom.

Worship is expressive. In Exodus. 5:1- 3 we read:

*Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a **festival** to me in the wilderness.'" Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go." Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword." (NIV)*

Festival is translated as **feast** in most other versions of the Bible. Let us dive a little deeper into the word "feast"...

Feast – the Hebrew word is hagag, which means to:

- Properly move in a circle
- Specifically march in a sacred procession
- To observe a festival, by implication to be giddy
- To celebrate, keep a feast
- To reel to and fro

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It's from the root word haga, which means to revolve. Some synonyms for revolve is to spin, swing, swirl, turn, twirl, whirl. Isn't this fascinating! Lifting our hands, dancing before Him is us feasting on His presence.

"So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands" (Psalm 63:4)

"O LORD, I call upon you; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to you! Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!" (Psalm 141:1-2).

I would like to share an excerpt from commonly used wedding vows: *"With my body I thee honour. My body will adore you, and your body alone will I cherish. I will with my body, declare your worth."* What a lovely vow to make to our Bridegroom, Jesus.

Romans 12:1 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*

The Sound of Flags

Flags create sound — and that sound affects our environment by changing sound waves and patterns in the air. Certain frequencies carry healing and restorative effects on the body, soul, and spirit. When we flag in worship, we are not just moving fabric through the air; we are releasing a sound that shifts the spiritual atmosphere.

Context

We are both oikos (family) and ecclesia (governmental) - a family at war.

In the context of oikos flags are instruments of personal worship and devotion, used in a corporate setting. They are used times of corporate praise and celebration, and they are for everyone to use.

In the context of ecclesia flags become prophetic declarations of our intent to engage in the fight. They are prophetic, strategic and intentional and they are not for everyone.

Imagine the following scene: a mediaeval banquet hall, filled with people feasting, laughing and enjoying each other's company. Children are running and playing...little girls twirling in colourful skirts, little boys playfighting with wooden swords. Suddenly there's a loud call from the watchmen on the tower. An enemy is approaching, it's time to engage.

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The warriors and soldiers, trained and prepared, take their positions. They are ready to defend the women, children, the ailing and those too old and frail to engage in battle. Mothers round up their children, and they all gather in the centre of the room, with the soldiers surrounding them in a protective circle. No-one is expecting the little boys to defend anyone with their play swords. Once the all clear is given the family goes back to feasting; everyone exhales and the activity is resumed. This is the picture of a family at war. There are times of corporate celebration and there are times for engaging the enemy head-on.

How then do we recognise the difference between oikos and ecclesia?

The "Oikos atmosphere" is light, celebratory and, free, while the

"Ecclesia atmosphere" feels serious, heavy and purposeful. We need to grow in discernment in order to be able to recognise the difference.

Impartation

Flags raised in worship becomes an extension of our hands, therefore they are instruments of impartation. In seasons of warfare, the flags become weapons in the hands of the flagger. The person using the flags is more significant than the flag itself – what is "on" the person is released into the atmosphere

This is why it is so important to take personal responsibility and ask ourselves whether we can or should impart what we carry. If I am compromised, hiding secret sin or have not actively engaged with the heart healing journey, I might not want to release that into the corporate atmosphere.

Because flags are weapons of war, it will provoke a response from the enemy. We have to ask of ourselves whether we are prepared and equipped and ready for the level of warfare flagging will provoke? Am I a trained and equipped warrior, or am I still a "little boy playing with a wooden sword", to use that analogy.

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When it comes to corporate flagging, there are protocols and etiquette to observe:

- Submit to the Lord, Holy Spirit and the leadership of the fellowship or gathering
- Flow with Holy Spirit, follow the lead of the worship leader, flow with the worship team, and the rest of the room
- Check your own heart, lifestyle, purity...personal responsibility is key
- Ask permission before you flag. Do not assume you are free to flag, especially if you are a visitor
- Do not use anyone's personal flags without permission. They are precious and often spiritual weapons forged for a specific person and purpose
- Respect that flags are expensive and often one-offs. If they are damaged they might not be replaceable
- Respect the space you're flagging in...share the corporate worship area
- Discern what Holy Spirit is doing in the room, and while you're learning the skill follow the lead of those who do e.g. when everyone is on their knees in worship, lay your flags down
- Be a worshipper before you are a flagger

Some Key Scriptures on Banners

Psalm 60:4 (TPT)

"You have given miraculous signs to those who love you. As we follow you we fly the flag of truth, and all who love the truth will rally to it."

The Hebrew word for flag here is *nace* — meaning something lifted up: a standard, signal, ensign, banner, sign, sail. Every flag we lift declares the truth. What miraculous signs have you received? Raise that banner. If He is your Healer — raise a banner that declares He is your Healer.

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Psalm 20:5 (KJV)

"We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the LORD fulfil all thy petitions."

The Hebrew word for banners here is daw-gal — meaning to look, behold, carry a banner or standard, to flaunt, raise a flag, to be conspicuous. Note that the Hebrew word for Salvation is Yeshua. When you receive the truth that Jesus has succeeded — you will raise flags, because victory is yours. You are not fighting for victory. You are fighting from victory.

Psalm 20:5 (TPT)

"When you succeed, we will celebrate and shout for joy. Flags will fly when victory is yours! Yes, God will answer your prayers and we will praise Him!"

The church can grow in worship by becoming reacquainted with the meaning and significance of historic Christian symbols — and by exploring meaningful contemporary expressions. Scripture is full of symbolism in visions, parables, and numbers. Artistic flags and banners that draw on symbols, colours, and God's Word can enrich our worship by focusing our attention on what is true, what is holy, and what is eternal.

Epilogue

You have reached the end of these pages, but you are standing at the beginning of something.

Worship is not a subject to be mastered — it is a posture to be inhabited. Flags are not a skill to be perfected — they are a language to be learned, one encounter at a time. What matters is not the size of your flag or the precision of your movement. What matters is the heart behind it: the heart that says, He is worthy. He is my Banner. I will make that known.

The world we live in is noisy, fractured, and in desperate need of the presence of God. You carry that presence. Every time you choose to worship — in your living room, in your car, in the corporate gathering of believers — you are doing something governmental. You are shifting the atmosphere. You are making a declaration in the spirit realm that the Kingdom of God is here, and it is advancing.

David went from the field to the battlefield to the palace through worship. You do not know where your worship will take you — but you can trust the One you are offering it to.

So lift your hands. Raise your flags. Flaunt the truth of who He is and what He has done.

He is our Banner. He is our Victory. Raise your flags and let the world see.