

## Why We WORSHIP Like We Do

- Why are there different styles of Worship
- How should we Worship God?
- What is Worshipping in the Spirit?
- Do I really have to participate?



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*These and similar questions are answered in this topical booklet, specifically designed for those seeking to know more about God and looking for answers to some of the deeper questions of life and eternity.*

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## WHAT IS WORSHIP

Christian worship has been described as, “*The act of attributing reverent honour and homage to God*”. Another way of saying this is that worship is an expression of deepest praise and highest affection towards God. The Westminster Catechism (1646) states:

***“The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever”***

Worship speaks to the intimacy of the relationship we have with Him. In the New Testament Jesus said:

***“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” in (John 4:24)***

## Different Styles of Worship

There are many styles of worship across different churches today, ranging from quiet contemplative hymn singing to the more expressive and exuberant Pentecostal style of worship. Pathway Church is a Pentecostal, church so our worship and music aligns with more with the latter than the former. To many who are unaccustomed to our style of worship it comes as a most pleasant surprise.

We are not ashamed of our exuberance. You will find as you read this document that it is quite biblical to raise your hands in the air, clap and shout, dance, sing and generally have a good time in God's presence.

It makes a lot of sense to choose to use good music, modern Christian songs and musical styles. It has proven an attractive advert for churches in many denominations because it includes a freedom of expression that most people enjoy, and find refreshingly different, and often infectious.

Our view is that praise and worship is not something to be “endured”, but enjoyed! If we can get excited about such worldly pursuits, as football or rock concerts, how much more excited should we be about coming into the presence of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Creator of heaven and earth!

God is moving mightily by His Holy Spirit in the world today and the most obvious expression of this is a modern, exuberant style of church worship. It would seem God approves because He is blessing churches all over the world where free worship and praise is encouraged and practised.

***“You shall worship the Lord your God  
and Him only shall you serve” (Matt 4:10)***

***“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!” (Psalm 150:4)***

## **OUR STYLE OF WORSHIP**

### **Standing and Singing**

*“And the Levites, from the sons of the Kohathites and of the sons of the Korahites, stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel, with a very loud voice” (2 Chron 20:19)*

### **Clapping of Hands and Raising Arms**

*“Clap your hands, all peoples; shout to God with the voice of joy” (Ps 47:1)*

*“So I will bless Thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Thy name” (Psalm 63:4)*

*“Lift up your hands to the sanctuary, and bless the Lord” (Psalm 134:2)*

### **Audible Praise to God**

*“Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name” (Heb 13:15)*

### **Praying Aloud Together**

*“That with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom 15:6)*

### **Modern Christian Songs**

Sometimes we do sing hymns and older songs and choruses, mostly rearranged in a more modern music style. However, there has been a virtual renaissance in Christian music worldwide for several decades resulting in an abundance of wonderful worship material for the church of the 21st Century.

*“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord” (Eph 5:18-19)*

### **Musical Instruments**

*“Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre. Praise Him with timbre and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe. Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with resounding cymbals” (Psalm 150:3-5)*

### **Dancing before the Lord**

*“Let them praise His name with dancing; Let them sing praises to Him with timbrel and lyre. For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the afflicted ones with salvation” (Psalm 149:3)*

*“Praise Him with timbrel and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe” (Psalm 150:4)*

### **Prophetic Words**

*“But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation” (1 Cor 14:3)*

*“Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy” (1 Cor 14:1)*

### **Singing in a Spiritual Language**

*“I shall pray with the spirit, and I shall pray with the mind also; I shall sing with the spirit, and I shall sing with the mind also” (1 Cor 14:15)*

### **Orderly Worship**

*“Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues. But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner” (1 Cor 14:39-40)*

*“Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up” (1 Cor 14:5)*

## **BIBLICAL TERMINOLOGY**

### **Charismatic or Pentecostal**

This word charismatic comes from the Greek word “*charisma*”, meaning “*spiritual gifts*”. These gifts of the Holy Spirit include wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, discerning of spirits, prophecy, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues (1 Cor 12:7-11).

The word Pentecostal is derived from the Acts 2 account on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit fell on the upper room. Today it has a similar meaning to charismatic, but historically the term charismatic came to the fore in the late 60’s early 70’s when the charismatic renewal swept through many countries, especially in the West. Focused primarily on the more traditional denominations, this charismatic renewal blurred the lines between the traditional Pentecostal and denominational churches, who were turning to a more “charismatic” style of worship. Today these terms are virtually interchangeable.

### **The Glory**

Manifestation of God’s presence and splendour to the faculties of man.

*“And it came about when the priests came from the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord” (1 Kings 8:10-11)*

### **The Anointing**

The presence and work of the Holy Spirit in a person’s life.

*“The anointing which you received from Him abides in you” (1 John 2:27)*

### **To Minister**

To serve, help or bless another by the Spirit of Christ.

*“Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as ministers of a new covenant” (2 Cor 3:5-6)*

### **Revelation**

The impartation of a greater understanding will and truths to man. This can often result in a paradigm shift in our thinking.

*“I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him ... that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe” (Eph 1:17-19)*

### **Slain in the Spirit**

While being ministered to in the presence of God through the power of the Holy Spirit, a person may fall to the ground as the power of God surrounds and fills them, sometimes unexpectedly.

*“And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord” (1 Kings 8:10,11)*

