

INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Photo

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Entry 9 - 6

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The Gates Of Worship

Worshipping God is a physical act. It is an expression of adoration, devotion and love. Good singers and musicians have an advantage, for music helps lubricate one's worship. Payer and proclamation can also be a powerful expression of worship, as can dance, mime, drama or any personal expression of the arts. But what if a person was blind, deaf, dumb, and a paralytic; could that person worship? Worship comes from the heart. Helen Keller was blind, deaf and dumb. she couldn't communicate with anyone until a lady invented a language using touch. By moving her hand on Helen's hand she communicated and, in time, they were able to have amazing conversations. One day, the lady told Helen about Jesus. Helen communicated, 'I have always known Him, I just did not know His name.'

God gives expression, if worship is in your heart. It is surrendering your spirit, soul and body in exultation to the Lord. That is how we enter the gates of God.

"I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart. I will enter his courts with praise." Ps. 100:4

Without delving into the differences between praise and worship, notice that there are gates to go through. You go through them when you worship the Lord; He, in turn comes through the same worship gates and allows you to feel His presence. He meets with you.

"Lift up your heads, oh you gates ... and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory. The Lord God, mighty in battle, He is the King of Glory." Ps. 24:7

I want to show you five different worship gates that you can go through. Each will release God's provision.

Here are the names I have given to the worship gates:

1. The Dedication Gate
2. The Appreciation Gate
3. The Adoration Gate
4. The Supplication Gate
5. The Warfare Gate

The Dedication Gate

God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac in dedication to Him. Abraham and Isaac travelled to Mt. Moriah. It is the same as Mt. Zion, where the temple mount stands in Jerusalem today. In Abraham's time, there was no Jerusalem, only uninhabited mountains encircling a smaller one called Moriah. It was a bare rock that rose sharply out of the ground. They saw it from a distance and Abraham said to his men, "Stay here ... while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and ... return to you." Gen. 22:5

As you see, worship is not just singing; it is giving something precious to God. Giving and dedicating everything is an act of worship and it opens one of the worship gates. Just before Abraham sacrificed his son, an angel stopped him and told him that God had provided a sheep that was caught in a thicket nearby. When we worship, by dedicating everything to God, then He supplies the provisions we need and leads us to our destiny.

The Appreciation Gate

In Luke 7:36-47 we read of Jesus in the home of a Pharisee. His host was religious, but a sinful woman came and began to worship Jesus by pouring perfume from an alabaster jar on His feet. She wept as she wiped His feet with her hair. Her worship and her extraordinary appreciation of Jesus allowed her to enter through one of the gates of worship. While she washed Jesus' feet, her own heart was washed and she was cleansed of sin and shame.

The Adoration Gate

Nathan the prophet told David that his son, Solomon would build the house of the Lord. After Solomon built the temple, he began to praise and worship the Lord. He lifted his voice in prayer and extravagant adoration to God.

“When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven

and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.” 2 Chr. 7: 1

Solomon's adoration was so extensive. He sacrificed thousands upon thousands of animals unto the Lord. (It should be noted that with certain sacrifices, most of the animal's meat was given to the people to eat.) He also offered huge grain offerings and extensive heartfelt prayers of worship, praise and petition. Solomon's adoration unto the Lord opened a worship gate and released the power and presence of God upon the nation. Fire fell and the shekinah glory of the Lord filled the temple. Then God manifested Himself personally and visited Solomon in the night. He promised that He would extend His covering, blessings and protection over Israel as long as they would walk uprightly before Him.

The Supplication Gate

Supplication is a cry to God for help when we are facing a crisis. A time of crisis is also a time for worship because we need to open a worship gate. Paul and Silas were whipped, chained and left in a dungeon because they delivered a girl from a demon. They were in pain but, **“Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake ... At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. The jailer ... saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword ... to kill himself**

... Paul shouted, ‘Don't harm yourself! We are all here!’ The jailer ... asked, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’” Acts 16:25-30

Even after being beaten, Paul and Silas worshipped the Lord and a gate opened. Their chains broke and the jailer and his family were saved.

The Warfare Gate

Israel was being attacked by vast armies of Moabites and Ammonites. King Jehoshaphat cried out to God and God told him not to worry for the battle belonged to the Lord.

“Jehoshaphat bowed ... his face to the ground ... all the people fell down and worshipped before the Lord ... Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him ... As they began to sing ... the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab ... to destroy one another.” 2Chr. 20:18-23

The battle belongs to the Lord! If God's people walk in faith and righteousness they always have the victory as they exercise heartfelt prayer and extravagant worship.

The gates of worship open to us as we worship the Lord. Worship cannot replace obedience and righteous living, but when worship is given in spirit and truth, then the power and provision of the Lord is made available and we become unbeatable. AΩ



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