

The Power & Quality of Worship

John 4:24

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. Why Study “Worship”?

1. It is a *Bible* subject (Revelation 19:10).
2. It is a *controversial* subject (Acts 18:13).
3. It is a *misunderstood* subject (Acts 17:23).
4. It can be *misdirected* (Romans 1:25)
5. It may cause *division* (John 4:20,21).
6. It determines *fellowship* (Mark 7:7).
7. It is a matter of *faith* (John 9:38).

B. “Power” & “Quality”

1. Power, “a specific capacity, faculty or aptitude ...the capacity to exert an influence...the effective means of influencing ...the strong effect exerted by one person or thing on another.”
2. Quality, “the essential character of something, nature...superiority of kind...degree or grade of excellence...caliber...merit.”

C. What Is Worship?

1. Προσκυνέω - lit. “to kiss the hand toward,” to make obeisance, do reverence to (59x). It may refer to specific acts offered as worship (John 4:20,21), or to a general reverence for God (Matthew 4:10).
2. Λατρεύω - primarily to work for hire, “to worship” or “to serve” (Acts 24:14, 7:42). Used of the tabernacle (Hebrews 9:1) and the living sacrifice of believers (Romans 12:1).
3. Σεβάζομαι - to venerate, to worship, to honor religiously (Romans 1:25).
4. Σέβομαι - to revere, stressing the feeling of awe or devotion, is used of worship to God (Acts 16:14; 18:7).
5. Εὐσεβέω - to act piously or reverently towards God (Acts 17:23) and all to whom dutiful regard is due (1 Timothy 5:4).
6. Θεραπεύω - to serve, do service (Acts 17:25).

D. Is Everything Worship?

1. “When that woman diapers her baby in the cry room she is worshipping God.”
 - a. Is it “an act of reverence, to make obeisance, to pay homage to” (John 9:38)?
 - b. Does it “serve, render religious service, [or express] the continual act of the Christian life” (Acts 24:14; Romans 12:1; cf. John 9:31)?
2. Worship may be a distinct act, or it may be subjecting one’s will & life to Christ in keeping His commands.

II. DISCUSSION:

A. The Power of Worship—

1. The source of the power in worship is “the Truth” (John 4:24) —

- a. Acceptable worship is determined by what is revealed (John 4:22).
 - b. Not knowing the truth, men may worship God in ignorance (Acts 17:23).
 - c. Worship is rendered vain through unauthorized acts (Matthew 15:9).
 - d. It may be offered sincerely but still rejected (Colossians 2:18,23; Genesis 4).
 - e. New Testament worship revealed—
 - (1) Worship occurs in the assemblies of the saints (1 Corinthians 14:25).
 - (2) It is what Disciples were taught to do (Acts 18:13).
 - (3) NT worship consists of :
 - (a) *Teaching* (Acts 2:42; Nehemiah 9:3)
 - (b) *The Lord's Supper* (Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7)
 - (c) *Fellowship* (Acts 2:42; 2 Corinthians 8:4)
 - (d) *Prayers* (Acts 2:42; Acts 12:12)
 - (e) *Praise* (Acts 2:47; 16:25; Ephesians 5:19)
2. Worship Has the Power to Bring Us Before God—
 - a. When we come together (Acts 10:27, 33; cf. Revelation 3:9; Luke 4:7; also: Matthew 18:20)
 - b. When we pray (Hebrews 4:16; Revelation 8:3–4; cf. Psalms 141:2)
 - c. When we sing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16)
 - d. When we give (Acts 10:31)
 - e. When the Gospel is preached (Acts 10:33;
 - f. When eating the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 11:24–25; Matthew 26:29; Mark 10:25; Luke 22:18)
 3. Worship Has the Power to Please God—
 - a. Our worship in assemblies (Hebrews 13:15,16)
 - b. Our giving (Philippians 4:18)
 - c. The sacrifice of our lives (2 Corinthians 2:14-16)
 - d. Our obedient faith (1 John 3:22; Hebrews 11:5,6)
 4. Worship Has the Power to Convert the Erring—
 - a. Edification (1 Corinthians 14:23-26)
 - b. Worship is intended to be instructive—evangelistic.
 5. Worship Has the Power to Strengthen the Inner Man—
 - a. Others strengthen us (2 Corinthians 4:16)
 - b. We strengthen them (Ephesians 3:14-21)
 6. Worship Has the Power to Renew the Mind—
 - a. In our perception of self (Romans 12)
 - b. In our relation to the world (Romans 13)
 - c. In our treatment of the brethren (Romans 14)

B. The Quality of Worship--

1. Worship That Is "in Spirit" Has the Right Quality (John 4:24) —
 - a. w/ the heart (Romans 1:9; Philippians 3:3; cf. Romans 8:1, 6, 14)
 - b. w/ reverence & godly fear (Hebrews 12:28; Deuteronomy 6:5; 30:6;)
 - c. w/ singular devotion (Luke 4:8; Matthew 22:37)
2. Worship Has the Right Quality If It Gives Edification, Exhortation & Comfort—
 - a. Giving understanding (1 Corinthians 14:1-17)
 - b. Done unto edifying (1 Corinthians 14:18-26)

- c. Decent and in order (1 Corinthians 14:27-40)
- 3. The Quality of Worship Is Determined by Its Object—
 - a. *“Worship God”* (Revelation 19:10)
 - b. *“Him only shalt thou worship”* (Matthew 4:10; Luke 4:7; 1 Corinthians 10:20–21)
- 4. The Quality of Worship Is Destroyed—
 - a. When the heart is *“far from”* God (Matthew 15:8)
 - b. When we are *“seen”* rather than *“heard”* (Matthew 6:1-18; Luke 18:9-14)
 - c. When we want to be entertained (Acts 12:21-23)
 - d. When we are irreverent (Hebrews 12:28)

III. CONCLUSION:

A. *Worship in Order to Be Acceptable Must--*

- 1. Have the power that comes only from *“truth.”*
- 2. Have the quality that derives only from being *“in spirit.”*

B. *Are You an Acceptable Worshipper of God?*

- 1. Hear unto salvation (Acts 11:14)
- 2. Believe unto righteousness (Romans 10:9)
- 3. Repent unto life (Acts 11:18)
- 4. Confess unto salvation (Romans 10:10)
- 5. Baptism unto remission of sins (Acts 2:38)

The Power and Quality of Preaching

I Corinthians 14:25

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. *Preaching the Word of God Is Worship*—

1. “When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law.” (Deuteronomy 31:11,12)
2. “And they stood up in their place and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed and worshipped the LORD their God.” (Nehemiah 9:3)
3. “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name... All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth. Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great is the glory of the LORD.” (Psalm 138:2-5)
4. “Stand in the gate of the LORD’S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD.” (Jeremiah 7:2)
5. “Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD’S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD’S house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word.” (Jeremiah 26:2)
6. “Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life.” (2 Corinthians 2:14-16)
7. “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” (Matthew 15:8,9)
8. “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:42)
9. “And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so, falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.” (1 Corinthians 14:25)

B. *How Is Preaching Worship?*

1. Preaching is commanded of God for His people in their assemblies.
 - a. By example (Acts 2:42; 5:42; 11:26; 15:30–32)
 - b. By direct statement (Acts 10:42; 2 Timothy 4:1–5; Romans 12:5–8)
 - c. By necessary inference (1 Corinthians 4:17; 12:27–31; Ephesians 4:11–16)
2. Preaching glorifies God (Acts 11:18; 13:48; 2 Thessalonians 3:1; cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:13).

- a. When God's Word is honored and recognized as a message from Heaven (Galatians 1:23–24).
 - b. When it is received and obeyed as the word of God (*cf.* Acts 2:37–41)
 - c. The expression conveys the idea of praise on account of it and reverence for the message as the Word of God (Acts 11:18; Romans 15:9–12, 16).
3. Preaching causes men to worship God (1 Corinthians 14:22–25).
- a. This is what God is seeking through preaching the Gospel (John 4:23–24).
 - b. The Gospel of the grace of God turns men in praise to God (1 Corinthians 1:18–31).

II. DISCUSSION:

A. *The Power in Preaching...*

1. Is not in the Preacher's Appearance—
 - a. Weak & unimpressive (2 Corinthians 10:10)
 - b. Not eloquent (Exodus 4:10; Acts 18:24)
 - c. Not handsome (Isaiah 53:2; 1 Corinthians 2:3-5)
2. Is not in the Preacher's Character—
 - a. Preachers sin and make mistakes like everybody else (Galatians 2:11)
 - b. Sometimes zeal is not according to knowledge (Acts 18:24–26).
 - c. Preachers have forsaken the truth (Acts 1:16–20; 1 Timothy 1:19–20. 2 Timothy 2:18–20).
 - d. None of which diminishes the truth or changes the truth.
3. Is not in the Local Church—
 - a. A human message is vain (Matthew 15:9).
 - b. We are not to preach what pleases self (2 Corinthians 4:5).
 - c. We must preach Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 1:23).
4. The Power Is in the Source—
 - a. It is from the Father (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18,24).
 - b. It is from the Son (John 6:68; 14:26; 15:26; Galatians 1:12).
 - c. It is from the Spirit (2 Corinthians 2:12-16; John 16:13).
5. The Power Is in the Message—
 - a. It is in the cross (1 Corinthians 1:18).
 - b. It is in God's grace (Acts 20:32).
 - c. It is in the forgiveness of sins (Acts 13:26; Acts 11:14).
6. The Power Is in the Evidence—
 - a. Seen and testified by eyewitnesses (Luke 1:1–4; 1 Corinthians 15:1–8; 1 John 1:1–4)
 - b. Their testimony confirmed by the Spirit (Galatians 3:1-5; Mark 16:17-20; Hebrews 2:3,4; Romans 15:18,19).
 - c. The doctrine infallibly preserved by inspiration (2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 1:18–23)

B. *The Power of Preaching—*

1. The Power to Produce Faith—
 - a. Hearing the word essential (Romans 10:7–17)
 - b. w/o faith cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6)
 - c. w/o preaching men remain lost (2 Corinthians 4:3-5)
2. The Power to Effect Repentance—
 - a. Preaching brings sinners under conviction (Jonah 3:1-10; Matthew 12:41).
 - b. Conviction brings remorse, (2 Corinthians 7:8-12).
 - c. And, godly sorrow leads to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10).

3. The Power to Save Sinners—
 - a. “What must I do?” (James 1:22; Acts 16:30).
 - b. Preaching answers that question (Acts 2:26-38; 9:6; 22:16; 16:30-34; 10:6; 11:14-18).

C. The Quality of Preaching—

1. The Content of the Sermon—
 - a. Is it true to the book? (2 Timothy 4:2; John 8:32)
 - b. Speculation or faith? (1 Timothy 1:4; 2 Timothy 3:15-17)
2. The Character of the Preacher—
 - a. Did he study and prepare? (1 Timothy 4:13-16)
 - b. Is he a wolf in sheep’s clothing? (Matthew 7:15; Jude 4)
3. The Condition of the Heart—
 - a. Was it open to truth? (James 1:22. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4)
 - b. Did it receive truth? (Hebrews 4:12; James 1:21-25)

III. CONCLUSION:

A. Preaching to Be Acceptable Must—

1. Have the power that comes only from “truth” (Luke 4:32; Matthew 7:28-29).
2. Have the quality that is derived from a “honest and good heart” (Luke 8:15)

B. Are You an Acceptable Worshipper of God?

1. Hear unto salvation (Acts 11:14)
2. Believe unto righteousness (Romans 10:9)
3. Repent unto life (Acts 11:18)
4. Confess unto salvation (Romans 10:10)
5. Baptism unto remission of sins (Acts 2:38)

The Power & Quality of Giving

Acts 10:4

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. Giving Is Worship—

1. “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42).
2. “And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, ‘What is it, Lord?’ And he said unto him, ‘Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God’” (Acts 10:4).
3. “For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not” (2 Corinthians 8:12).
4. “For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God” (2 Corinthians 9:12).
5. “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased” (Hebrews 13:16).

B. How Is Giving Worship?

1. Like preaching, giving is appointed in the first day of the week assemblies (1 Corinthians 16:1–4).
 - a. By example (Acts 2:42; 11:29; 2 Corinthians 8:4–5; Romans 15:25–26).
 - b. By direct statement (2 Corinthians 8:11; 9:5–8; cf. 1 Corinthians 16:1–4; Romans 12:8).
 - c. By necessary inference (1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:1–4).
2. Giving glorifies God through thanksgivings (2 Corinthians 9:8, 12–13).
 - a. Our gifts are well-pleasing to God (Philippians 4:18; cf. 2:15; Hebrews 13:16).
 - b. Our gifts produce spiritual fruit (Romans 15:28; Philippians 4:17; 1:11 cf. Titus 3:14; John 15:8).
 - c. God is glorified through our gifts (2 Corinthians 9:13; Matthew 5:16; cf. 1 Peter 2:12).
3. Like all worship, giving transforms the worshipper into the likeness of God (John 4:23–24; Luke 6:38; Romans 1:21–25; 1 Corinthians 10:20–21; 12:2; Jeremiah 51:17).
 - a. Jesus was a giver (Acts 10:38; 1 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:5–7).
 - b. It is the nature of the Father to give (Matthew 7:7–12; Luke 6:30–36).
 - c. Jesus wants His people to become givers (Luke 3:11; Acts 20:35; Ephesians 4:28).

II. DISCUSSION:

A. The Power in Giving

1. The Power is in Our Motives—
 - a. We want to please God (Hebrews 13:16).
 - b. We want to be Christ-like (2 Corinthians 8:8–12).
 - c. We desire lasting treasure in Heaven (Luke 12:33–34).
 - d. We want the blessing Jesus promised (Acts 20:35).
 - e. We seek the glory of God (2 Corinthians 9:11–13).
 - f. We want to set a good example (2 Corinthians 8:1–2).

2. The Power Is in Its Frequency—
 - a. “in store” (1 Corinthians 16:2)
 - b. “no gatherings when I come” (*Ibid.*)
3. The Power Is in Its Freewill Character—
 - a. “they were willing” (2 Corinthians 8:3)
 - b. “gave their ownelves to the Lord” (8:5)
 - c. “a willing mind” (8:12)
 - d. “as he purposeth in his heart” (9:7)
4. The Power to Benefit the Giver—
 - a. There is a blessing in giving (Acts 20:35)
 - b. There is fruit (Philippians 4:17)
 - c. We get our seed back (Proverbs 3:9–10)
 - d. We reap as we sow (2 Corinthians 9:6–10)
 - e. We lay up a good foundation (1 Timothy 6:19)
5. The Power to Show Our Love for God—
 - a. Paul says so (2 Corinthians 8:8).
 - b. What Jesus gave proved His love (8:9; 1 John 3:16).
6. The Power to Get Things Done—
 - a. Substance is from the Lord (1 Samuel 2:7)
 - b. Money is a defense (Ecclesiastes 7:12)
 - c. It is wise to have money (Proverbs 14:24)
 - d. Money is necessary (Ecclesiastes 10:19)
 - e. God has appointed that the Church use money in its work (1 Corinthians 16:1,2; Acts 4:34,35; 5:1ff; 11:29; Romans 15:26,27; 2 Corinthians 11:8; Philippians 4:15,16)

B. The Quality of Giving—

1. Quality Is not Determined by:
 - a. Amount (Mark 12:41-44)
 - b. Sacrifice involved (1 Corinthians 13:3)
 - c. What others give (2 Corinthians 8:11,12)
 - d. What we do not have (Luke 19:20-23)
2. Quality Is Determined by:
 - a. What we have (2 Corinthians 8:11)
 - b. As God prospers (1 Corinthians 16:2; 1 Peter 4:11)
 - c. The principle of equality (2 Corinthians 8:14,15)
3. Quality Is Determined by the Heart:
 - a. Positively:
 - (1) A willing heart (2 Corinthians 8:11,12)
 - (2) A purposeful heart (2 Corinthians 9:7)
 - (3) A cheerful heart (2 Corinthians 9:7)
 - (4) A liberal heart (2 Corinthians 8:2; Romans 12:8)
 - b. Negatively:
 - (1) A covetous heart (Matthew 6:21)
 - (2) A begrudging heart (2 Corinthians 9:7)
 - (3) A hypocritical heart (Matthew 6:2–3)

III. CONCLUSION:

A. Giving to Be Acceptable Must—

1. Have the power that comes only from scriptural giving (1 Corinthians 16:1–4).
2. Have the quality that is derived from a liberal and cheerful heart (2 Corinthians 9:7)

B. Are You an Acceptable Worshipper of God?

1. Hear unto salvation (Acts 11:14)
2. Believe unto righteousness (Romans 10:9)
3. Repent unto life (Acts 11:18)
4. Confess unto salvation (Romans 10:10)
5. Baptism unto remission of sins (Acts 2:38)

The Power & Quality of the Lord's Supper

I Corinthians 11:20–34

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. *The Supper instituted (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-30).*

1. The historical context in which the Supper established (Matthew 26:18–19, Luke 22:20)
2. It is this context that defines the elements of the Lord's Supper (Mark 14:22–23)
3. This context also defines the significance of the Supper (1 Corinthians 5:7–8; Exodus 12:23)

B. *The Supper delivered (Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 11:23).*

1. Jesus said, "I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom" (Matthew 26:29).
2. The Lord's Supper is eaten in the Lord's Church (1 Corinthians 11:23).
3. It has been so from the beginning (Acts 2:42).

C. *The Supper abused (I Corinthians 11:20-34; Jude 12; 2 Peter 2:13).*

1. As with anything spiritual, the Supper can be reduced to the carnal (1 Corinthians 11:20).
2. The Supper was never intended to satisfy hunger (1 Corinthians 11:22, 34).
3. It can be reduced to a meaningless exercise (Jude 12; 2 Peter 2:13).

D. *The Supper discerned (I Corinthians 11:27-32; 10:16,17).*

1. The Lord's Supper is an important aspect of our worship.
2. Those who come to the Lord's table must do so with discernment (1 Corinthians 11:29).

II. DISCUSSION:

A. *The Power of the Lord's Supper—*

1. The Power to Remind—
 - a. *"This do in remembrance of me"* (Luke 22:19; cf. 1 Corinthians 11:24,25; 10:16,17).
 - b. We remember His sinless life in the bread (cf. 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Hebrews 7:26).
 - c. We remember His suffering in the cup (Mark 10:38,39; Matthew 26:39,42; Hebrews 2:10).
 - d. It is the atonement which is memorialized in the Supper (1 Cor 11:26).
 - e. That which is discerned is the "body and the blood of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 11:27, 29).
 - f. What connection has the resurrection to the Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:26; Romans 4:25; 5:10).
2. The Power to Teach—
 - a. *Καταγγέλλω*, to declare, proclaim, to preach (Acts 4:2; 13:5,38; 15:36; 17:3,13; 1 Corinthians 9:14; Colossians 1:28).
 - (1) This verb makes clear that the partaking of the elements at the Lord's Supper is a proclamation of the Lord's death (see: *Vine's Dictionary of NT*).
 - (2) Therefore, it is appointed that the Supper be eaten in an assembly of the saints (1 Corinthians 11:17,18,20, 33,34; Acts 20:7).
 - b. We proclaim:
 - (1) Its necessity (Romans 3:23-26; 1 Corinthians 11:24,25; Luke 22:22).
 - (2) Its benefits (Hebrews 9:14; Matthew 26:28; Colossians 1:14; Ephesians 1:7).

(3) Its effects (1 Corinthians 11:25; Hebrews 10:29; 8:6-13; Luke 22:18,29,30).

(4) Its hope (1 Corinthians 11:26; 15:51-54; John 14:1-3; 19; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

3. The Power to Condemn—

a. It is possible to partake “unworthily” (11:21).

(1) w/o self-examination (11:28)

(2) w/o discernment (11:29)

(3) w/o self-correction (11:31)

b. Those who do are...

(1) Guilty (11:27)

(2) Damned (11:29)

(3) Weak, sick, and sleepy (11:32)

c. The remedy: Chastening (11:32; cf. Matthew 5:23,24; Hebrews 12:5,6; 2 Corinthians 13:5).

B. The Quality of the Supper—

1. Quality Is Determined by Preparation of Yourself (1 Corinthians 11:30).

(a) Study (Hebrews 5:11-12)

(b) Prayer (cf. Luke 18:9-14)

(c) Repentance (Matthew 5:23-24)

2. Quality Is Determined by Preparation of Yourself *for* Others (1 Corinthians 11:33)

(a) “Come together”

(b) “The Lord’s Supper” not your “own supper” (v. 21)

(c) “Tarry one for another”

III. CONCLUSION:

A. For the Lord’s Supper to Be Acceptable We Must—

1. We must participate with discernment.

2. We must participate with preparation.

B. Are You an Acceptable Worshipper of God?

1. Hear unto salvation (Acts 11:14)

2. Believe unto righteousness (Romans 10:9)

3. Repent unto life (Acts 11:18)

4. Confess unto salvation (Romans 10:10)

5. Baptism unto remission of sins (Acts 2:38)

The Power & Quality of Prayer

I Thessalonians 5:17

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. Prayer Is a Neglected Privilege—

1. Prayer is misused—
 - a. Pray amiss (James 4:3)
 - b. Pray to be seen (Matthew 6:5)
 - c. Pray in vain pride (Job 35:12; Proverbs 28:9)
2. Prayer is unused—
 - a. Prayer is an obligation (Luke 18:1; Romans 12:12)
 - b. Prayer should be habitual (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
3. Prayer is abused—
 - a. A substitute for obedience (Proverbs 1:24-28; 28:9; 15:8)
 - b. Pray “covering all the bases” (Ezekiel 20:3, 31)

B. What Is an Acceptable Prayer—

1. The character of our prayers (1 Timothy 2:1) —
 - a. *Supplications*, entreaty which grows out of need, an earnest request (Hebrews 5:7).
 - b. *Prayers*, earnest expression of communion, adoration, reverence (Mark 1:35; Matthew 6:9).
 - c. *Intercessions*, forward, bold, and free requests on behalf of others.
 - d. *Thanksgivings*, expressions of gratitude and praise.
2. The character of the one praying (John 9:29) —
 - a. A Christian (Matthew 6:9)
 - b. Holy (James 4:8; 1 Timothy 2:8)
 - c. Righteous (James 5:16; 1 Peter 3:12)
 - d. Penitent (Acts 8:22; 2 Chronicles 7:14)

C. Prayer Is Worship—

1. Prayer brings into the presence of God (Hebrews 4:16; 1 John 2:1-3; John 16:23; Ephesians. 5:20).
2. Prayer is spoken of figuratively as incense (Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4; Luke 1:10; Psalm 141:2).
3. There was prayer in the assemblies of the saints (Acts 1:13-14, 24-25; 2:42, 46; 3:1; 12:12).
4. Prayer called worship (Genesis 24:26-27; Exodus 34:8-9; Revelation 7:11-12; 11:16-17; 19:4).

II. DISCUSSION:

A. The Power in Prayer—

1. The Power Is in God’s Willingness to Hear—
 - a. God has invited us to pray (Psalm 27:8; 1 Timothy 2:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:13).
 - b. He promises to hear (Psalm 91:5; Zechariah 13:9; James 5:15-16; 1 John 5:15-16).
2. The Power Is in God’s Will—
 - a. God answers the obedient (1 John 3:22).
 - b. God answers according to His Word (1 John 5:14-15).

3. The Power Is in Our Faith—
 - a. According to the power in us (Ephesians 3:20).
 - b. We pray according to our faith (Hebrews 10:19–22).
4. The Power Is in the Assurance We Can Express Ourselves to God—
 - a. God knows the hearts of the spiritual (Romans 8:26–27).
 - b. Jesus understands our needs (Hebrews 4:14–16).
5. The Power of Prayer Is in the Assurance of Forgiveness—
 - a. Full confession accepted in prayer (Acts 8:22).
 - b. Intercession is welcomed on behalf of penitent sinners (James 5:15-20; 1 John 5:15–16).
 - c. God is faithful (1 John 1:7–9).

B. The Power of Prayer—

1. Prayer Has the Power to Demonstrate Our Gratitude—
 - a. Ingratitude a step away from God (Romans 1:21).
 - b. God deserves thanks in all things (Ephesians 5:20).
2. Prayer Has the Power to Make All Our Wants & Wishes Known—
 - a. Make all your requests known (Philippians 4:6).
 - b. Pray with importunity (Hebrews 5:7; Luke 11:1-13).
 - c. Pray with boldness (Hebrews 4:16; 13:6).
3. Prayer Has the Power to Demonstrate Our Faith—
 - a. Go into your closet (Matthew 6:6).
 - b. Pray knowing God knows (Matthew 6:8,11).
 - c. Pray and go to work (1 Thessalonians 3:10).
4. Prayer has the Power to Deliver from Temptation—
 - a. God controls the Devil (Matthew 6:13)
 - b. God makes the escape (1 Corinthians 10:13)

B. The Quality of Prayer—

1. The Quality of Prayer Is Not Determined by:
 - a. Eloquence (Mark 12:40; Luke 20:47)
 - b. Prayer books (Isaiah 1:15; 29:13; Matthew 15:8).
 - c. Ritual (Matthew 23:5)
 - d. Beads, wheels, or incense (Matthew 6:7)
 - e. Posture (Mark 11:25; Luke 22:41; Nehemiah 8:6; cf. 1 Timothy 2:8; Lamentations 2:19; 3:41).
2. The Quality of Prayer Is Determined by Our Hearts (Hebrews 10:22; 2 Timothy 1:3; Romans 1:9; Psalm 119:58, 145; Psalm 32:3-5; 145:18–19; Luke 18:9–14).

III. CONCLUSION:

A. Prayer to Be Acceptable Must—

1. Have the power that comes only from faith (James 5:12–16).
2. Have the quality that is derived from a spiritual mind (2 Corinthians 9:7)

B. Are You an Acceptable Worshipper of God?

1. Hear unto salvation (Acts 11:14)
2. Believe unto righteousness (Romans 10:9)
3. Repent unto life (Acts 11:18)
4. Confess unto salvation (Romans 10:10)
5. Baptism unto remission of sins (Acts 2:38)

The Power & Quality of Singing

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. Authorized to Sing Only—

1. Matthew 26:30
2. Mark 14:26
3. Acts 16:25
4. Romans 15:9
5. 1 Corinthians 14:15,26
6. Ephesians 5:19
7. Colossians 3:16
8. Hebrews 2:12
9. James 5:13

B. What We Are to Sing—

1. *Psalm* – song whose general character is the OT Psalms, although not restricted to them.
2. *Hymn* – a song of praise addressed to God.
3. *Spiritual Song* – a song, whether of praise, or on any other subject.
4. *Praise* – to sing the praise of, sing hymns to.
5. *Thanksgiving* – praise, a thank offering.

C. Singing Is Worship—

1. Singing is appointed for the assemblies (1 Corinthians 14:15, 23, 26; Acts 2:47)
 - a. Command (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:17)
 - b. Example (Acts 2:47)
 - c. Necessary inference (1 Corinthians 14:15, 23, 19, 26; Hebrews 13:15)
2. Obedience glorifies, praises, and gives thanks to Christ (Ephesians 5:19; etc.).
3. Singing allows the Christian to offer up the fruit of the lips as the sacrifice of praise to the name of God and Christ (Hebrews 13:15–16).

II. DISCUSSION:

A. The Power of Singing—

1. Singing Has the Power to Teach:
 - a. Διδάσκειν, to impart instruction, instill doctrine into one, explain or expound a thing.
 - b. To sing properly, the Word must “*dwell in you richly in all wisdom*” (Colossians 3:16). We “*speak*” (λαλέω) when we are “*filled with the Spirit*” (Acts 13:52).
 - c. The purpose of our singing in the assemblies is to give understanding, edification, and teaching to all present (1 Corinthians 14:14–19).
2. Singing Has the Power to Admonish:
 - a. That is, the power to warn and exhort, kind but serious reproof, advice or warning so a fault may be rectified, or a danger avoided.
 - b. The Scriptures are written for our admonition (1 Corinthians 10:11). Only scriptural songs can admonish believers.

c. Effective admonition depends upon our being mature in character & knowledge of the Word (Romans 15:14).

3. Singing Has the Power to Praise God:

a. Αἰνέω means to praise, extol, to sing praises in honour to God (Hebrews 13:15–16).

b. God is praised for His inherent qualities (Romans 1:21; Psalm 150:2), His works (John 9:24; Acts 4:24), His mercies (Ephesians 1:3; Isaiah 49:13).

c. Our praise is to be characterized by rejoicing (Luke 24:52–53), thanksgiving (Hebrews 13:15), reverence (Revelation 14:7), enthusiasm (Acts 3:8–9).

B. The Quality of Singing—

1. Spiritual Songs Determine the Quality of Singing:

a. ψῆδᾱς πνευματικᾱς, "spiritual songs" are songs of which the burden is the things revealed by the Spirit, Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16. In N.T. always in praise of God or Christ; the adjective "spiritual" is added, because the word in itself is generic and might be used of songs anything but spiritual.

b. "He who is permitted to make the hymns of the Church, need care little who preaches or makes the creed." — *Albert Barnes*

2. Our Hearts Determine the Quality of Singing—

a. "I will sing with the spirit ..." (cf. 1 Corinthians 14:14,16; Romans 1:9; John 4:23,24).

b. "Making melody in your heart ..." (Psalm 57:7; 138:1).

c. "With grace in your hearts ..." (Mark 7:6; Proverbs 16:23; 24:2).

d. While singing is a vocal function, it is the condition of our hearts which determines the sincerity, love, praise, genuineness and obedience those words convey. Only then is the fruit of our lips pleasing.

3. Communicating with Understanding Determines Quality of Singing:

a. "with the ... understanding" (1 Corinthians 14:15,17).

b. Ignorance renders worship vain (John 4:22).

4. Singing to the Lord Is what Determines Its Quality:

a. The Lord has not demanded perfect skill from the singer (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 13:15–16).

b. However, we are not the objects of the singing worship—God is (Matthew 6:1-18).

c. Entertainment and display are contrary to the design of the singing worship.

III. CONCLUSION:

A. Singing to Be Acceptable Must—

1. Be sung with the spirit and the understanding.

2. Be sung with grace in our hearts.

3. Be sung unto the Lord.

4. Be sung making melody in our hearts.

B. Are You an Acceptable Worshipper of God?

1. Hear unto salvation (Acts 11:14)

2. Believe unto righteousness (Romans 10:9)

3. Repent unto life (Acts 11:18)

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