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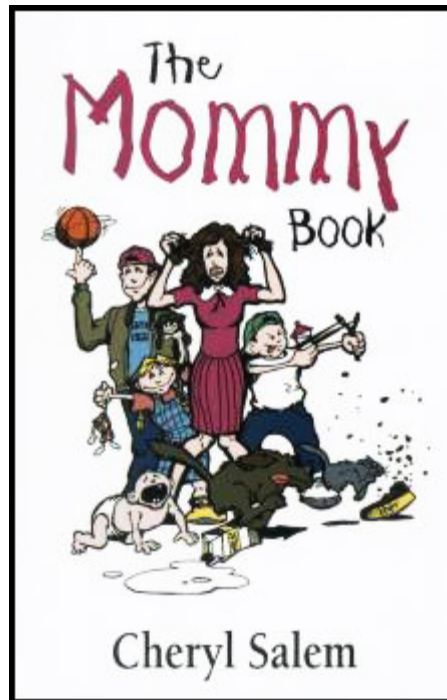


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Dear Friends,

Here is Chapter Two from our book, *We Who Worship*. This book is designed to cut through the "routine" and the "performance" aspects of worship - down to its pure heart.

It is our prayer that this book can help pare us, the Body of Christ, the church, His people, down to the pure, honest, open and intimate freedom of true, unabashed, unashamed, unhindered love-expression ... worship.

Love for the Father, from His children. Is there anything more beautiful?

We love you! Be blessed!

Harry, Cheryl & the boys

Chapter Two Worship in Spirit

Exodus 35:21, 22, *"Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the Lord's offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments. They came, both men and women, as many as had a willing heart, and brought earrings and nose rings, rings and necklaces, all jewelry of gold, that is, every man who made an offering of gold to the Lord."*

The word, "spirit" is in the *Strong's Concordance* and catalogued as #7307. It is translated as the word, "ruach," pronunciation (roo-ach); It is defined as "spirit, wind, breath." This word occurs nearly 400 times. In Job 37:21, *"Even now men cannot look at the light when it is bright in the skies, when the wind has passed and cleared them."*

In Psalm 148:8, *"Fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind, fulfilling His word;"* Both of these passages of scripture speak about "winds" related to storms.

In Genesis 6:17, *"And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die."* Here we see "the ruach of life" is translated "the breath of life." Generally ruach is translated "spirit," whether concerning the human spirit or a distressing spirit, as in I Samuel 16:23, *"And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him."* Ruach could also translate as "the Spirit of God."

The Holy Spirit is especially presented in Isaiah as God puts His Spirit upon the Messiah. Isaiah 42:1, *"Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles."*

He will pour out His Spirit upon Israel's descendants in Isaiah 44:3, *"For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring;"* Yahweh and His Spirit both send the Anointed One which is Jesus in Isaiah 48:16, *"Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord God and His Spirit have sent Me."* This is a reference to the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of God commissions and empowers the Messiah in Isaiah 61:1-3, *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."* Much of this information comes from the Word Wealth section in the Spirit-Filled Life Bible concerning the actual word, "spirit."

In Philippians 3:3,4, *"For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:*

Then in verse 10-11, "...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."

In the Spirit-Filled Life Bible, the following paragraph is from notes written concerning Philippians 3:3.

"The true sign of a right relation to God is not the observance of an external rite but a manifestation of the three characteristics mentioned. **Worship God in the Spirit** not only refers to one's being alive in the spirit (John 4:24) and thereby qualified for living worship, but also includes the Holy Spirit's enablement in expanded worship expressions: in song (Ephesians 5:18-19), in prayer and singing (I Corinthians 14:15), and in communion with God (I Corinthians 14:1-2)."

John 4:24, *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

Ephesians 5:18-19, *"And do not be drunk with wine in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing, and making melody in your heart to the Lord..."*

I Corinthians 14:15, *"What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also, sing with the understanding."*

I Corinthians 14:1-2, *"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries."*

These are outward manifestations that can be seen and heard in worship to God; but true worship is not even heard in the realm of the earth but more in the higher levels that human ears cannot hear. These are the sounds of the heart of a true worshiper to the heart of God on His throne. Without these worship sounds pouring forth from a worshiper who is willing to obey God and worship Him in spirit and truth, which are too high for human ears to hear with mental understanding, then there is only an observance, a ritual or religious 'sound' of worship.

There are times when worship will not even be about audible sounds but the sounds of the reverberating spiritual heart making the movement of a broken reed coming up out of flesh, transcending the heavenlies, then coming to rest in the throne room of God, at the feet of Jesus. These sounds may not be accessible to the human ear. They may be groanings which cannot be uttered, or sighs of an exhausted worshiper, whose battle to worship God is laid bare at His feet. Romans 8:26, 27, *"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."*

I heard the Lord say to me when I was searching for an explanation of how the Lord could call the death of those we love, precious, as in our case our six year old daughter. He said to my heart this explanation:

"The earth is the womb of heaven. You are here to develop into who you will be for eternity. Once you are fully developed you are then birthed through the birthing canal that you call death, but I call life, into the realm of eternity. Here with Me in Heaven, we all stand around the birth canal and once you enter in, all of heaven proclaims, "Oh, how precious!" That is why the scripture says in Psalm 116: 15, *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."*

As I have meditated on this verse and this revelation by the Spirit of God to my spirit, I now understand this passage of scripture out of the Message Bible in Romans 8:18-26, *"That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens.*

"All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

"Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good."

The Lord is longing for those who will worship Him without the constraints of human sound waves that are understood by other humans. He is asking us to worship Him higher, ever calling us upward, kissing toward the King of Kings, and Lover of our very souls. As we approach Him we are ever blowing kisses toward Him. I am my beloved's and my beloved is Mine! Anything lower and less than this is done only for consumption of human pride, to elevate ones' own self, for the worshiper through his or her giftings to receive accolades from other mere humans. This is not worship at all, but performance. For what does it matter what other humans would think about your worship, if the King of Kings and Lord of Lords accepts it and longs for it! Worship God only!!

Performance is gone, over, and dead. When you look for it, you are only searching the cemetery for the old dead things of human existence. Look for the living God. There you will find living and alive worship unto Him.

Will you say it with me?

*"Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!"*

In Revelation 4:8 we find, *"The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying,*

*"Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!"*

All at the same time, God is... past, present and future! God is past. God is present. God is future. Worship Him!

Spirit worship cannot be heard, or seen by humanity, therefore it cannot be praised either. True spirit worship is too high for human ears to hear, or human minds to understand. Spirit worship is heart to Heart. The heart of man cries out to the Heart of God, and He hears us! My heart is longing and

searching for His Heart. No longer do we look for those to lead worship and we realize the ridiculousness of that, for where has leading worship taken us? Certainly not to His feet too often!

We do not need those who lead us to worship! We need those who will worship Him in spirit and truth. These worshipers we can follow, not where they lead, but rather, we follow where they go. We go to His feet. Worship is individual purpose and personal choice. Even when worship happens within the ranks of multiple human beings it never stops being a personal choice, or an individual purpose.

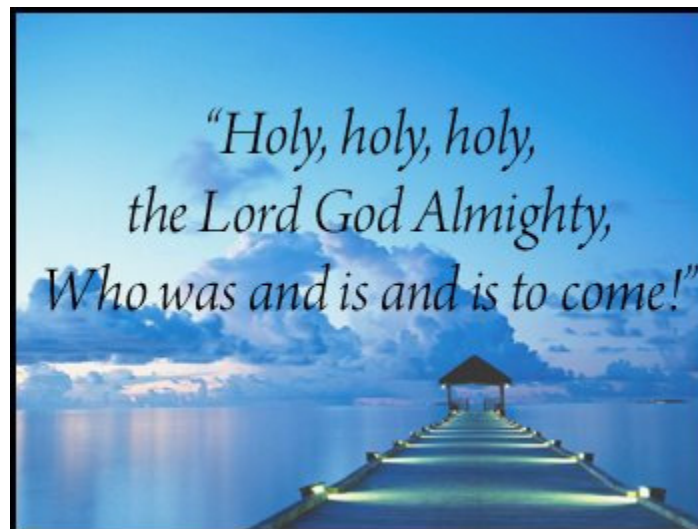
The last two verses in the book of Ecclesiastes sums up humanity's purpose so beautifully. It states it without guile and it is completely to the point.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:
Fear God and keep His commandments,
for this is man's all.
For God will bring every work into judgment,
including every secret thing,
whether good or evil."*

Yes, I think that about sums it up.

1. Fear God.
2. Keep His commandments.

If we can spend our lives living by these two rules, I truly believe we will approach His throne with our hearts all about Him, and not about us. God knows me; He knows my heart, the motive of my heart in everything I have ever done, even those secret things. For this reason I continue to fear God and keep His commandments. This will help me keep my worship of Him as pure as possible.





*“We Who Worship”
Conference*

*July 17-18, 2009
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*“And he said unto them,
Come ye yourselves apart into
a desert place, and rest a while...”*

Mark 6:31

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come away to a desert place and rest a while?*

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