



*Salem Family  
Ministries*

Memorial Day  
Weekend

*May 23, 2009*

God bless our Military!

Enjoy these items from Salem Family Ministries!

Lord,  
You're  
Holy  
Cheryl Salem

"Just Be" & "Be Still" Audios,  
"Lord, You're Holy" CD,  
"Be Still" Bracelet  
PLUS  
new Entering Rest Book!

ENTERING  
REST  
Be Still  
A 30-Day Journey into the Presence of God  
Cheryl & Harry Salem

Shhhh...  
Be Still!  
A Practical Pursuit of His Presence  
by Cheryl Salem

Be still, and know

For your  
\$50 gift!

Be Still

Here is a special offer just for you! We pray that these items bless you!  
You'll receive all of the items shown above, for your gift to SFM of \$50!

We'll cover the shipping!

**[CLICK HERE TO ORDER!](#)**

Have you registered yet?  
Reserve your place today!

*Salem Family Ministries*

*“We Who Worship”*

*Conference*

*July 17-18, 2009*

*Palm Desert, CA*

*“Let my people go,  
so that they may worship me in the desert.”*

*Exodus 7:16*

This conference will be an intimate time of peeling away layers of preconceived ideas and long-time thought processes regarding worship.

Together, we will uncover the deep truths of purity in worship, and we will learn to honestly and sincerely worship the Father, in spirit and in truth.

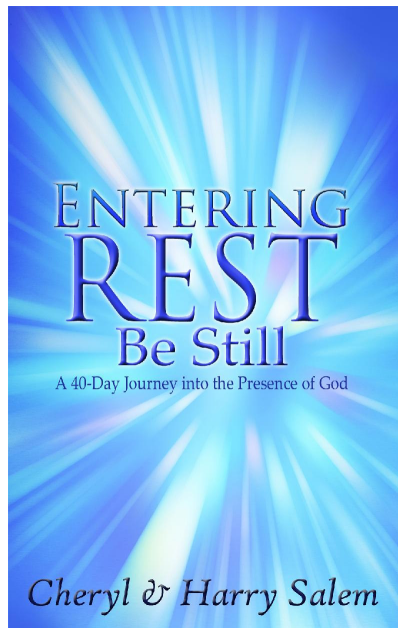
If you are planning to come, please let us hear from you now so that we can prepare for your attendance. We have special plans for you, but we need an accurate count!

We want you to join us, we who worship, in this personal, intimate setting, as we humble ourselves before our Lord, seeking only Him, and get back to the pureness and simplicity of worship.

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE!](#)**

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*Entering Rest - Be Still ...  
A 40-Day Journey into the Presence of God*



*The true rest that we are all longing for, is found inside of HIM.*

*Join us on this journey - discovering God's ordained rest for His people!*

*Yours for your \$15 gift to Salem Family Ministries.*

*We'll cover the shipping!*

Dear Friends,

Here is Chapter Three from our book, *We Who Worship*. We received several comments from you regarding the previous chapter ... thank you! We value your feedback - that's why we asked!

This book is intended to be a transparent, cut to the chase, down to the nitty-gritty expose' that we pray can re-train the thinking and auto-pilot "routines" that so many Christians have fallen into in "praise and worship" in the church.

We are responding to a deep call for purity. It is the Father calling us, all of us, to deeper levels inside of Him, but those levels cannot be entered into casually. These intimate levels to which He is calling us require commitment.

Will you be one who will stand apart from the rest and learn to truly worship the Lord God, in spirit and in truth?

We love you! Be blessed!

*Harry, Cheryl & the boys*

## Chapter Three Worship in Truth

*John 4:23 (Message Bible), "It's who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly themselves before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself-Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration."*

When the Bible says He seeks those who worship Him in spirit and in truth then we must discover what truth really is. How can we worship the Lord in truth if we define truth only by our modern day society? In the *Message Bible* translation of John 4:23, we easily see that God is looking for people who are not pretending before Him. He is looking for people who are

worshiping in reality of truth, nothing fake, or pretentious, or hidden.

*Truth.* In our English language this word has many perceived definitions. One could say that for some, truth is relative, not completely black and white. But from God's perspective truth is truth, and only truth. Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." So truth is Jesus. To truly worship the Lord is truth, then we must worship the Lord in Jesus Christ! Jesus is truth, therefore we approach the throne of God in worship through Christ!

In the Greek language, truth is the word, "aletheia," which is pronounced (al-ay-thi-ah). In the *Strong's Concordance* it is #225. Aletheia is "the opposite of fictitious, feigned, or false." It denotes "veracity, reality, sincerity, accuracy, integrity, truthfulness, dependability, and propriety."

*Truth.* This word is used in a great quote from a famous movie. "You want the truth? You can't handle the truth!" As said by Jack Nicholson in the movie, "A Few Good Men." God's truth and humanity's perception of truth may be quite different.

With God, truth is not merely a statement given to prove guilt or innocence, or to proclaim right or wrong. With God, truth is truth. God is truth. There is nothing in God that is not truth. **God is truth.** Wrap your mind around that statement and maybe we can grasp together what the Spirit of God is imparting to us through His Word. God's Word is truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. In our legal society we are asked to put our hand upon a Bible and swear in the courtroom to "Tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." Truth is supposed to be able to determine the outcome and set apart the emotional thoughts from reality.

In our society, we are filled with perceived ideas, concepts, and mental images of what truth really is. In the realm of the spirit may I introduce to you the very persona of truth. Truth held in flesh. Truth is not a "what." Truth is Who. I Am, God said to Moses when he asked God who should he say had sent him, when the people, and even Pharaoh, would ask. God said to Moses, "*Tell them, I AM sent you.*" What a powerful truth. I AM is truth.

In the ancient Hebrew language the word "truth" is made up of three symbols. The first two of these symbols spell the word, "mother." The three symbols for "truth" are positioned in the ancient language as the first symbol, the middle symbol, and the last symbol in the Hebrew alphabet. Even without seeing the symbols or even knowing the actual ancient Hebrew definition of this all-powerful ancient word, we can get the picture. Truth is the beginning, the middle, and the end of all things.

Jesus declared that He is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. The spelling of the word truth is just that, the beginning letter and the end letter, plus the middle letter positioned in the middle of the word. So TRUTH is all in all, beginning, middle and end; truth does not leave anything out. Truth covers the spectrum of all things, all colors, all meanings, nothing missing nothing broken. Truth.

Here is the actual ancient definition for the word, "truth." "That which nurtures a covenant." Try to grasp this magnificent definition! Truth is that which nurtures (or mothers) the

covenant. All else falls vastly short of anything worth pursuing. Truth will always nurture, watch over, take care of and mother a covenant.

What does that mean "to mother, or to nurture?? Can you see a mother hovering over a young child, or a newborn baby? Mothering God's way dispels all fear. Mothering God's way removes doubt, brings peace and rest. Mothering God's way causes the one who is being mothered to blossom and grow to full maturity. In this case, when truth is mothered God's way, it grows in our lives to full maturity. When truth is ever present in our lives, fear is pushed aside.

The word "fear" means "without mothering." "Mother" is defined as "strong water." So fear is in the life of the one who does not have strong water in their life. Since the Word of God is called the Water of life, it is safe to say when one's life is filled with the Word of God daily, then fear cannot stay in that life. When the Bible is not a daily routine in one's life it is quite easy to see how fear can get in and stay in!

Our worship must be so vital to us, so important to our daily lives that as a mother watches over and protects her child, so we protect and watch over our worship toward God. We will not take it for granted that we have the honor to worship the King. We protect it, in truth.

This is what our worship should be to God. He commands us to worship Him in truth, fully matured, God's way, which develops and births truth in our lives, our hearts and minds, our souls and spirits. When we walk in truth, then we can worship in truth. Let's say it this way. When we walk in Jesus, then we can worship the Father in Jesus!

Worshiping God in truth means that we are willing to apply the Word of God to our lives daily and expect the outcome of strong water to covenant our souls with Him. We want the truth; we receive the truth; we give back the truth through our worship at His feet.

Our world has many training places. We have schools, colleges and performing arts centers. We have dedicated, higher learning specialized universities to teach and train many professions. We have highly qualified people to impart to others the arts that have been attained. Even as I was growing up in Mississippi specializing in piano and voice in my higher education, my greatest aspiration was to be accepted into the prestigious school of the arts in New York City, Julliard. The path was set and all went according to my human plans, but then God had other plans. I eventually won Miss America 1980 and the path shifted slightly. No matter how many different roads our lives take, I believe God is pleased with those of us who are willing to dream, have visions, make plans, but in the end we are most willing to give all our dreams and plans to Him and go where He tells us to go.

These types of specialty schools are prestigious, teaching and training in the realm of the arts, honing the gifts, and talents of performers to perform at their highest levels. But performance in itself is not the same as worship. Worship is not about gifts or talents. Worship is about the One who is being worshiped. Talents and gifts are given to humanity to use as instruments for the Spirit of God to move through us causing the sounds of His presence to fill us, captivate us, and escape from every opening of our humanity, filling the world in which we live with

the very essence and sound of I AM! These sounds create within and without us the movement of a type of spirit and truth, a river, ever moving and flowing from the very depths of our soul, toward the throne of God. We can ride the waves of the supernatural sounds of God coming through us, ever beckoning us upward, all the way to His feet!

We are like great big woodwind instruments set in the midst of humanity. We are to have the ability to make sounds, music, and worship, then with our yielded lives to the Spirit of God we give ourselves to God. We ask by our obedience for the Holy Spirit to blow through us making the eternal sounds of pure worship coming from within our being ever spiraling upward to the throne of grace. We yield our instruments to the breath of the Spirit of God. We become worship for His pleasure. We do not "do" worship. *We are worship!*

All the expressions, talents, and gifts given to humanity are to be given back to our Creator in pure worship. And yet, we don't teach those gifted with the ability how to give it back to God in purity of worship. We have not taught the responsibility and awesome privilege it is to be called to worship the King of Kings. We have allowed the gifted and talented at times to pervert their gifts, whether it is singing, or playing an instrument, dancing, or drama. Most of this perversion of talent is not a conscious decision, but more of a subtle shift in focus, ever so slowly until one day we awaken, realizing our focus is skewed and completely off-center.

All these wonderful and most precious talents have been given to humanity for one purpose, to give back to the Lord of Lords! But even in the church world we have subtly taught those with giftings to perform for the applause and accolades of humanity, receiving the pride of accomplishment into the very soul of the performer until the gift is so perverted that it can no longer be perceived from above as worship. It only looks like the Tree of Knowledge, who was wrapped and entwined with the fallen worshiper himself, Lucifer.

From the view of heaven looking down upon created mankind, when our worship is more about the worshiper than about the One being worshiped, then there is not even the slightest resemblance to truth. In the Garden of Eden the only real truth was in the center of the garden, the Tree of Life. Who is the Tree of Life given to the center of the garden of God?

Just a slight shift in focus and ones' eyes could move from the Tree of Life to the Tree of Knowledge. Just a slight move to the head and our eyes can shift from one tree to the other, as they were both in the center of the garden. So if the Tree of Knowledge housed the fallen worshiper, Lucifer, now called Satan, then Who stood right beside the Tree of Knowledge, housed and encased in the trunk and branches of the Tree of Life? Who was standing right in front of Adam and Eve every day, day in and day out, but never seen by either of them?

The Lord told us through His Word in Deuteronomy 30:19, *"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."*

God set life and death before all of us, the blessing and the curse; and then He told us which

one to choose. Choose LIFE!" Of course, in the Garden of Eden, God would not set Lucifer as a choice before Adam and Eve and not also put the Lamb of God, the chosen One, Jesus Himself, Truth, Life, the Way, Blessing, also before them!

Eve stood right there and carried on conversations with the serpent wrapped up in the Tree of Knowledge, as Life in the form of a tree stood by watching. She never even saw Him. Who was there? Who was waiting to be chosen? Life was there; Truth was there; the Way was there. But neither Eve, nor Adam saw Him standing there. Jesus stood ready and waiting in the midst of the garden of God. They didn't see Him. They didn't recognize Him. We have no time line as to how long these conversations went on between Lucifer and Eve. It could have been weeks, months, even years. She never even noticed Jesus standing right beside her, trying to help her make the right choice.

When we begin to look upon our own needs, even those needs that seem so innocent, we are in grave danger of missing the truth. When we focus more on ourselves than the Lord God, our gifts, talents, and even callings can become our focus. We can easily get the truth mixed up with our own desires and this can cause us to become deceived, causing perversion within our own God-given talents. This perversion of gifts which were given to the earth for the worship of God, can be so misused and misunderstood that the spirit of pride and perversion can take over. This yielding to soul/mind/will/emotional pride can so permeate the soul of the gifted that many times when I pray I can hear the Lord say, "I would rather have no worship than to have prideful worship." This must have been His words the moment Lucifer and one-third of the angels were kicked out of heaven. Can you hear the Father say, "I would rather have no worship as have prideful worship." For a period of time, we do not know how long, heaven was silent.

When my heart hears the heart of God say these words I immediately repent, for I know that I have grieved His heart so many times with my preconceived ideas of what worship really is. My heart breaks for my God who will do without His due worship because of the pride of humanity that is so desperate to fill the void of self-worth in our own existence. Instead of finally being completed while fulfilling the created purpose within each one of us to worship Him in spirit and in truth, we have allocated our deepest places of calling to worship Him to a few lines in a song, a few twirls of a dance, and a few thrill-seeking applause patterns of a drama.

To seek out the emotional thrill of making the spectator have chills or goose bumps has become the ultimate goal of every song, whether sung, played or danced. We must return to the fire of God and allow His presence to purify us once again and make us fit for the honor of worshiping Him.

There is no hiding who we are. There is no hiding our hearts from the One who knows us. As I said before, we may fool the entire world around us, but we can never fool our God! He knows us; He knows what I am thinking in my conscious mind, and He even knows the deepest thoughts of my subconscious mind!

Proverbs 16:2 states, "*All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the*

*spirits."*

There is no place to hide from the eyes of the Lord. There are not enough places of my own pride to hide me from His sight. My own overdeveloped need for the approval of man cannot cast a big enough shadow for me to hide from the yearning pull of my Creator. He is calling me to "die to myself" and live to worship Him.

Matt. 5: 8 says, *"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."*

Pure in heart is a powerful position to be in with God. The more pure our hearts are, the more open our eyes become to be able to see HIM! The more pure we are with the Lord the closer we can get to His actual being. As His fire consumes the "flesh of us," we are left with more and more spirit. This is quite the spiritual equation; more spirit = less flesh. This is equality and balance God's way! Then as we approach Him in spirit and truth, we can come closer to Him. The closer we come in spirit and truth, the more we can worship Him. In our worship, to kiss toward Him, drawing nearer and nearer, blowing kisses toward Him, we continually and progressively position ourselves in His presence.

With God, the condition of our heart is much more important than the circumstances and situations surrounding our natural lives. Even our actions are not judged by the Lord without God first examining our hearts and motives that perpetuated such actions. So with God it is not as much about what we do, or what we don't do, but with what motive we do certain things, or even the motive of why we do not do certain things!

I ask you to examine your own heart before the Lord. I come before Him daily and I ask Him to allow me to see myself as I truly am, with all my faults and pride revealed. Why do I want to see myself this way? Because in His presence there is no guilt or condemnation. There is no fooling myself either. In His presence I can truly repent and ask Him without shame to help me be all about Him. He longs for us to repent, and believe Him. He longs for us to operate in the fullness of forgiveness. With a humble and broken heart we can pour forth His glorious praise without any thoughts of ourselves!

Psalm 19:12-14 states, *"Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, o Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."*

I continually pray this Psalm before the Lord. It helps me to understand that I cannot "arrive" until I cross over from this earth into the heavens; but I can stay pure in the journey if I keep my eyes on Him, seeing God in all His glory!

Psalm 25:14 is another wonderful prayer to pray. *"The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him. And He will show them His covenant. My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He shall pluck my feet out of the net."*

What net is that? The net of pride will try and hold you from moving further into His presence. But the Lord Himself, will pluck my feet out of that prideful net when I fear Him and keep my heart ever before Him. He will continue to show me His covenant, as I worship Him in spirit and in truth.



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*Join us at these Events in May & June*

**May 29th - 31st: Praise Center Church, Visalia, CA**

559-733-2744 [praisecenterchurch.org](http://praisecenterchurch.org)

**June 5th - 7th: Gateway Church, Martinez, CA**

925-864-2369 [gatewaychurch.us](http://gatewaychurch.us)

**June 12th: City of Hope International, San Diego, CA**

619-287-0200 [cityofhopesd.com](http://cityofhopesd.com)

**June 21st & 28th: Oak Valley Family Church, Calimesa, CA**

909-795-6476 [ovfc.com](http://ovfc.com)

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