

WHY WORSHIP?

Today we turn our attention to the subject of worship: Have you ever asked yourself, why do we worship the way we do?

The first thing I want you to know about worship is

IT'S ABOUT PRESENCE

Psalm 47:1 – O clap your hands, all you people; Shout to God with the voice of triumph and songs of joy. (AMP)

Psalm 134:2 – Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the Lord! (NLT)

Psalm 100:4 – Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. (NIV)

Psalm 122:1 – I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. (KJV)

We are talking about His **manifest and corporate** presence when we worship... His presence that is almost tangible... the atmosphere of His presence.

1 Kings 8:11 – The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple of the Lord. (NLT)

Worship its first and foremost about His presence among us

Psalm 22:3 – I live in the middle of the praises of my people...

In the Old Testament there was a time when the presence of God on the earth was relegated to one place literally a box... called the **Ark of the Covenant**

2 Samuel 6:14-22 – David, wearing a linen ephod, **danced before the LORD with all his might, 15** while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets... **21** David said "**It was before the LORD ... — I will celebrate before the LORD. 22 I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. (NIV)**

For David ... it was all about His presence. So let me ask you, does His presence really motivate us?

The second point I want you to know about is:

IT'S ABOUT PRESENCE

God's presence... our presence as well

- *I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my Heart...*
- *I will enter His courts with praise...*
- *I will be thankful unto Him and I will bless His holy name...*
- *I will lift my hands ...*
- *I will shout unto God using my voice in triumph....*

This is more than church attendance... it's about our whole being anticipating... the moment we enter His gates

The last thing I want you to know about worship is:

IT'S ABOUT PRESENCE

His presence ... our presence... together

2 Samuel 6:17 – 17 They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place **inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings** before the Lord. (NIV)

Psalm 24:3-4 – Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? **4**He who has clean hands and a pure heart (NIV)