

**A follow-on from Simply Worship #22, "What is Worship" Part 1.**

**Previously in Part 1 of Simply Worship #22 Rev 1:9-19**

John, when on the Lord's Day he was in the Spirit, he heard a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

In each of the seven letters Jesus gives a warning about sin and we are exhorted to holiness. Jesus also gives a promise to those that remain firm (an act of worship) in their faith until the end. It is important that we understand that these letters were not only to the seven churches but also to every church in every generation. The seven churches are for us examples and the words written apply to churches everywhere – including our own. Within the seven letters are both warnings and encouragement, both the warnings and encouragement lead us into a picture **of what worship is and how worship should be.**

**WHAT IS WORSHIP? PART 2**

Rev 4:1-11 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads....In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures,....Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, **and worship him** who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Rev 5:6-14 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. ...the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, (Sacrificed) and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to SERVE our God, and they will reign on the earth." Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Rev 7:11-12 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Rev 11:16-17 And the twenty-four elders,....fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: " We give thanks, to you Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

**What do we see in these verses?**

**A Picture Of The Majesty of God**

God almighty, with power and authority to rule and to judge, who is in total control.

Precious stones: Glory and light except the brilliant light as Gods form cannot be seen.

Paul wrote that God lives in unapproachable light whom no one has seen ... (1 Tim 6:16).

Lightning and thunder the frightening power of God.

Always existing God, the beginning of everything and the end of everything.

Sharp Double Edged Sword representing His Word (Eph 6:17) and His word of Judgment

A God with a countenance like the shining Sun in its strength (Rev 1:16).

A God although majestic, walks through His churches and holds them securely in His hand. (Ps 145)

A God who is the first and the last who died and came to life again and has complete authority over death.

A God who in John's vision had hair like white wool and eyes like a flame of fire, with feet like fine brass refined in a furnace and a voice like the sound of many waters.

A God of eternity; wisdom; omniscience; immutability and omnipotence, of commanding authority.

A God of faithfulness and true witness.

1. We see a Holy God.
2. We see an open door to come into the presence of God.
3. We see the elders lay down their crowns (their reward for the victories they achieved by overcoming) Humility.
4. We see elders on thrones surrounding God, they worshipped face down (with reverence).
5. They never stop proclaiming Gods holiness.
6. They proclaim Gods worthiness to receive glory, honour and power.
7. They proclaim the blood of Jesus which purchased men for God.
8. The men purchased by God are a kingdom of priests who are to serve God.
9. The elders bowls of incense the active intercession by the saints in heaven on our behalf.
10. We see every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing and praising God.

**Where does this leave us?**

**What do we get from these passages that would guide us in worship?**

**What is Worship?**

- The continuous proclamation of Gods holiness and goodness through our lifestyle and with our lips no matter our circumstance.
- We need to come back to the heart of worship which is God and nothing else, a type of worship that is face down with every step tread with reverence.
- We lay aside our crowns / achievements in life and recognize Gods hand in all that we have achieved and done.
- We enter into the presence of God on merciful ground with reverence.
- Our humility.
- The continuous proclamation of Gods worthiness, (our testimony of God and what he has done in our lives)
- The blood of Christ ever foremost in our lives, our total recognition and proclamation of the power of Jesus blood to save.
- Our prayer and intercession for everyone. 1 Tim 2:1-2
- Their needs to be thanksgiving and appreciation for and of our God..
- Our service to God, in ministry and as individuals would be second to none - our service is worship.
- Our heart would be reflected in the giving of praise and honour to God verbally, singing and that everything that has breath within us would praise the Lord.

**Our Heart Attitude Manifest In Our Worship**

When all of the above (and more) is our heart attitude, *it will be manifest in our lives*, our lives will show the fruit of it and as musicians and singers it will most certainly be manifest in our instrument playing no matter our skill level, it will be manifest in our worship leading or back up singers or the choir, whatever the case may be, this is what I call worship with anointing.

**We Have A Choice**

That is to be face down worshippers like in Leviticus 9:24 who at the glory of the Lord they fell face down because they could not stand in His presence. Or.....

We can be face down by choice, submitted to God, God fearing loving the Lord God first, non compromising, testifying, prayerful, praising, living sacrifices, Godly lifestyle, transforming not conforming, loving our neighbors as

ourselves, loving works, a people who are prepared to get on our knees or prostrate before God by choice, taking our example from the Word of God.



**Think On This**

**Read 1 Peter 1:13-25 Be Holy.**

We as believers have the opportunity to enter into the holy of holies by the grace of God and as Matt Redman has so well put it in his song "Face Down" **every step is tread with reverence**. I believe as maturing believers, worship leaders and so on, this is an area we need to be aware of and take the opportunity just to spend time with God, face down, on our knees, or prostrate before God. Jesus showed John the twenty four elders bowed down before God. **So why shouldn't we?**

**Psa 63:1-5** *Oh God, you are my God, **earnestly** I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.....*

**IN CLOSING**

**Remember, music is a catalyst for worship- but it in no way denotes worship. If we have the ability and gifting to sing or play an instrument, lets use it, together with a lifestyle that in every way reflects our worship of God.**

**Worship God and No Other**

Rev 22:8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me.

Rev 22:9 But he (the angel) said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. **Worship God!"**

*It is not my intention to provide answers or conclusions but to rather stimulate thought, consideration to our motives and searching of the Word. I would welcome biblical and personal points of interest towards music and the worship of our Lord Jesus.*

*Feedback welcomed!*

Contact me on [spannermech@gmail.com](mailto:spannermech@gmail.com)