



TCN

## FOUNDATION OF FAITH

### Class 5

### PRAISE & WORSHIP

#### Class Objective

To build a lifestyle of Praise & Worship as an expression of our fellowship with God; based on our relationship with Christ.

#### Outline

1. Our Relationship with Christ.
2. Our Priesthood in Christ.
3. What is Praise and Worship?
4. Building a lifestyle of Praise and Worship.

#### 1. Our Relationship with Christ

Offering sacrifices of praise and worship is an expression of our fellowship with God based on our relationship with Christ (the new birth). It is fellowship with God: a heartfelt expression to Him which comes from willingness to acknowledge His person and deeds (1 John 1:3).

Fellowship was at the heart of God's creation of man (Genesis 1:26a; Ephesians 1:4 & 3:9). It means partnership, participation, intimacy, communion. It describes our new relationship with God, without which there is no priesthood.

Fellowshipping with God prompts and helps us to worship Him in spite of external circumstances- what we may be going through or how we are feeling. From our heart, we worship [submit to the sovereignty of] the Father through the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ (John 4:23-24).

#### 2. Our Priesthood in Christ

As New Testament believers, we worship under the new priesthood in Jesus Christ, our High Priest, who is the fulfilment of all foreshadowed in the Old Testament. (Hebrews 8:1,2; Hebrews 4:14 & Hebrews 7:28). *\*Further reading; Hebrews chapters 7 - 10.* Jesus has made us holy and royal priests who, through His blood (Ephesians 2:13; Hebrews 10:19), have access to God to offer sacrifices of praise, worship and thanksgiving (1 Peter 2:5,9).

A priest is one who is trained to perform services or sacrifices. In the Old Testament, sacrifices of animals, grains, etc. were extremely important, but in the new birth, God desires the worship, praise and thanksgiving of His people. (Hebrews 13:15). Every believer has true priesthood in Christ. We all have free access into God's presence to offer sacrifices of praise and worship (Hebrews

10:19-21).

#### 3. What is Praise & Worship?

Praise and Worship are specific yet interwoven.

Praise means adoration and thanksgiving offered to God. We praise God for His ability and what He has done (Psalm 7:17; Psalm 150:1-2; Luke 19:37).

Some of the words used to represent praise in the Bible include:

- (Heb.) *yâdâh/yaw-daw'*: to use (hold out) the hand; to physically throw at; to revere or worship (with extended hands); confess, praise, give thanks, thankful, thanksgiving.
- *zâmar /zaw-mar'*: to play upon strings or parts of a musical instrument; to make music, accompanied by the voice; hence to celebrate in song and music- give praise, sing forth praises, psalms.
- *hâlal /haw-lal'*: to make a show; to boast: - celebrate, commend, glory, [sing, be worthy of] praise.

We praise God to celebrate the power and wisdom with which He did His works. Praise is due God because of His Majesty, Glory, Power, Wisdom, Excellence, Holiness, Righteousness, Goodness, Mercy, Lovingkindness, Truth, Faithfulness, and Wonderful works.

Worship is an expression of reverence and adoration. The Webster Dictionary defines worship thus; "to honour with extravagant love and extreme submission". The first mention of worship in the Bible is found in Genesis 22:5 and it

connotes an act or attitude of obedience and submission.

- (Heb.) shachah/shaw-kaw': to prostrate (especially reflexively in homage to royalty or God): bow (self) {down} {crouch} fall down ({flat}) humbly {beseech} do (make) {obeisance} do {reverence} make to {stoop} worship.
- (Gk.) Proskuneo / pros-koo-neh'-o: (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore): worship.

To worship God is to lavishly and generously express gratitude to Him from your heart for His person and nature (Psalm 29:2; 95:6 & 99:5,9).

#### 4. Building a Lifestyle of Praise & Worship

A lifestyle of praise and worship stems from an understanding that you are a living sacrifice and the only acceptable worship is to offer yourself completely to God in thoughts, words and actions (Romans 12:1; Psalm 103:1).

Through praise, you are proactive and deliberate about expressing thanksgiving/ gratitude or acknowledging God's faithfulness and benefits (Psalm 103:1-2) regardless of your feeling or mood (Psalm 57:7 & 42:11).

In worship, you express a heartfelt (deep, sincere, genuine) response to the overwhelming love - mercy and grace- of God (Hebrews 4:15,16; Psalm 138:2) without any apparent external stimulus, such as music team, instruments or good feelings.

This lifestyle of praise and worship helps us to constantly reinforce and reaffirm who we are in Christ (Colossians 1:12,13). Hence, we must not take praise and worship lightly or merely as an aspect of church service. Building this lifestyle requires that we consciously create an atmosphere of gratitude and reverence to God- privately and publicly (Psalm 149:5; Psalm 111:1).

In summary, a life of praise and worship honours God. For whoever offers praise gives due honour to God (Psalm 50:23).

So;

- a) Form a lifestyle of Praise and Worship through your genuine revelation and experience of God based on His word. Learn to sing your own heartfelt songs (Psalm108:1-3; 119:62, 164; Ephesians 5:19).
- b) Glorify God with His Word (Revelation 4:10-11; Psalm 104:1-3, Psalm 108:3-5)
- c) Stay in a place of joyful expression. Maintain a joyous heart and a joyous countenance, (Psalm 150:3-6; Psalm 33:2-3).

#### NOTES

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### Class Activity

Spend the next 15 minutes to worship and praise God for who He is to you (a Good Loving and Faithful Father)

### CONTACT US

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Foundation of Faith is a refresher course of The Covenant Nation (TCN) Lagos, Nigeria on the fundamentals of our Christian faith.