

Remnant Life Church
March 9, 2025
Expressions of Worship
Pt 2
2 Sam 6:12-16, 20-22

Last week in the first part of talking about expressions of worship, we utilized what Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus

- **Eph 5:18-19** - *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord*
- We did not talk about the first part of this verse where Paul uses getting filled with wine as an analogy to being filled with the Holy Spirit
 - While this may, at first, appear to be a somewhat strange and even inappropriate way to make a point, Paul is not focusing on the consumption of alcohol
 - The important words are instead, *be filled with the Spirit*
- To be intoxicated is said to be “under the influence” of alcohol
 - In the same way, a Spirit-filled Christian is also said to be under the influence but of the Holy Spirit
 - But that comparison ends with that statement
 - Under the influence of alcohol most often means a loss of control
 - Under the influence of the Holy Spirit is not about loss of control but rather the gaining of freedom set free from the power of the flesh and the world
 - To be filled with the Spirit means that I am now free to choose how I live in the pursuit of righteousness as a new creation
 - And that freedom extends to how I worship of God
 - Paul indicates that we can worship through the Psalms, the singing of hymns, and spiritual songs
 - But it can extend to other expressions as well

READ – 2 Sam 6:12-16, 20-22

David obviously had no difficulty expressing himself when he worshipped God

- But the reaction of his wife is a telling response that many have
- And it is why it is important to understand why we may choose to worship God in various ways

There are several expressions of worship that are available to us today here at RLC

- I think it is interesting that, for some, what is being done can elicit a beautiful sense of emotional expression
- While for others, those very same actions can make them very uncomfortable
 - Why is that?
 - Should not all expressions of worship be embraced, regardless of what form it takes?

- Why is it that many things done in churches, that are biblical by the way, are not practiced, not welcomed, and even forbidden?
- I believe it is for two primary reasons
 - The first is the absence of order
 - The second is ignorance
 - But before I talk about that, let's look at a few of the expressions that go beyond the psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs

Let's start with some of the simplest and most common forms of expression

1. Our Physical Posture

- a. The Scripture clearly shows that standing was and still is a common way to express reverence, honor, and respect
 - i. For example, in **Ex 3**, Moses stood before the presence of God at the burning bush
 - ii. In **Ex 33**, the people always stood when the presence of God came to the Tent of Meeting in the pillar of cloud
 - iii. In Solomon's final writings to the people, he tells them in **Ecc 5:7**, *Much dreaming and many words are meaningless. Therefore, stand in awe of God.*
 - iv. And when the people heard the law read for the first time after returning from their 70 years in exile in **Neh 5:8** we read – *Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up.*
 - v. When we worship God in song, standing is a way to show reverence, honor, and respect

b. Clapping

- i. The Bible, in particular the Psalms, encourages God's people to clap their hands as a sign of worship and praise
 - 1. **Psalms 98:7-8** – *Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy*
 - 2. **Psalms 47:1-2** – *Clap your hands all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. How awesome is the Lord Most High, the great King over all the earth!*
- ii. In addition to worship and praise, clapping hands can also represent agreement or approval.
 - 1. In the book of Job, Job's friends clapped their hands as a sign of affirmation when Job admitted his faults and repented (**Job 27:22**).
 - 2. When we clap, we are coming together in agreement of God's greatness and worthiness of our praise
 - 3. The act of clapping encapsulates a universal language of celebration, making it a powerful tool for expressing collective joy
- iii. But make no mistake, there are a great number of churches who do NOT support clapping in their service, saying it is not under scriptural authority

1. What they will say is that while it is spoken of in the OT, we live and worship under the covenant of the NT where clapping is not spoken of
2. While that statement in and of itself is true, I disagree that it means we should not clap in church
 - a. Because the absence of something does not necessarily mean a disagreement or forbidding
 - b. Clapping is a physical expression of what is being felt inside
3. And it was it not Jesus Himself who said that He did not come to abolish the law of the OT but rather to fulfill it (**Matt 5:17**)
- iv. But what is important to consider is where the clapping is being directed
 1. When a song is completed, we express our appreciation and approval by clapping
 2. But the clapping is first and foremost an act of worship and praise given to God not to a person or people
- v. You can stand during worship and clap during and after the song is sung...

c. Kneeling

- i. Few positions of posture present themselves more clearly as one of worship than that of kneeling and bowing
- ii. **Psalms 95:6** - *Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker*
- iii. To bow is to humble yourself, and often, during the singing of praises to God, you may feel the need to humble yourself before God in a physical way
 1. And a perfect, very appropriate way to do that is to kneel
 2. Or to kneel and bow your face to the floor
- iv. **I Kings 8:54** - *When Solomon had finished all these prayers and supplications to the LORD, he rose from before the altar of the LORD, where he had been kneeling with his hands spread out toward heaven.*
- v. Kneeling and bowing before God reinforces our proper position in His presence

- d. But there are also other ways to express our worship by using implements of worship

2. Banners and Flags

- a. The use of banners and flags in a worship service is not something new that Pentecostal and charismatic churches introduced
 - i. When Jesus taught, He often used symbolism as a method to help the people understand what He wanted them to learn – i.e.
 1. **Matt 13:31** - *The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field...*
 2. **Matt 13:34** - *The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field...*

3. In the same way Jesus taught, the use of flags in worship is a symbolic representation of our worship, giving glory to God
- ii. In the Bible, God has many names to describe His perfect attributes
- iii. For instance, He is called...
 1. Jehovah Jireh: The Lord is our provider ([Gen 22:14](#))
 2. Jehovah Rapha: The Lord is our Healer ([Ex 15:26](#))
 3. Jehovah Shalom: The Lord is our Peace ([Judg 6:24](#))
 4. Jehovah Nissi: The Lord is Our Banner ([Ex 17:15](#))
 - a. That is the only place in the Bible where God is referred to as Jehovah Nissi.
 - b. His banner was the symbol of His presence
 - i. IOL – *Nace* – a rallying point; a standard or signal
 5. Moses identified the Lord as the banner under which Israel defeated the Amalekites.
 - a. This was the battle where Moses stood on a hill overlooking the battle with his hands raised
 - b. Aaron and Hur came and held his arms up to God
 - c. To seal this declaration, Moses built an altar and called it Jehovah-Nissi (the Lord is our Banner).
 6. In battle, opposing nations often flew their flag on a pole on the front line.
 - a. This gave the soldiers a focal point and hope.
 - b. [Psalms 20:5](#) – *We will rejoice in your salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners*
 - c. [Isa 11:10](#) - *In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.*
- iv. The banners had several meanings, but they were all intended to represent God and His presence
 1. However, there is another aspect of the banner that was also very important – the colors
 2. Color was created by God to give beauty to His creation
 3. But the colors also have significance and meaning
 - a. Red – the shed blood of Jesus, atonement, sacrifice
 - b. Emerald/Green – mercy, prosperity and health through God’s hand, new life and new beginnings
 - c. Gold/Yellow – Kingdom glory, refining fire, the Godhead, power and majesty
 - d. Purple – royalty, priesthood, inheritance, kingdom authority
 - e. Blue – restoration, freedom, hope, Holy Spirit, the prophetic
- v. When using a flag it is an extension of the hand and arm
 1. To wave it is to give glory to God

2. It is, once again, a representation of God's presence, His power, His grace, and His love to His people

What is the greatest hindrance to these happening in all churches today?

1. The first is the need to understand how and why these ways are used as an expression of worship
 - a. In **I Corinthians**, the Apostle Paul is giving instructions to the church regarding how the time of corporate worship should be conducted
 - i. He had gotten word that the church services were out of control
 - ii. Many were confused and had become discouraged
 - b. He addresses several aspects of what they are doing in their meetings including prophecy, speaking in tongues, and interpretations
 - c. But he summarizes it all in the very last verse
 - i. **I Cor 14:40** - *But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.*
 - ii. That means that anything that is done that brings confusion or takes the attention off of God and puts it on a person is out of order
 - iii. Example of the man standing up in Milton's service
 - iv. My first experience in a charismatic church
 - d. Nothing of an expression of worship should be done, or will be permitted to be done, if it takes attention off of God
2. The second reason people in churches are often uncomfortable is because of ignorance
 - a. They do not know what the actions mean
 - b. They do not know if the Bible supports what is being done
 - i. That is why I wanted to take the time to teach you these things

I want to invite you to express yourself here at RLC during the time of worship music

- This may, admittedly, push you to a place you have not experienced before
- Be free to worship in an expressive way
 - Stand, clap, kneel
- You are also free to sit and worship, but know that whatever way you choose to express yourself you are in a safe place
 - If there is a need for correction, it will be done, but always in love, never in condemnation
 - Be mindful and courteous of the people around you
 - Feel free to move to an open area
- Worship should not be one of spectating but participation
 - It will enrich the time we worship corporately
 - And it will bless you in ways that may be brand new and even unexpected

Rev 11:15-16 - *The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever." And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped Him...*