

Finding God's Presence
The Ark Church
March 17, 2021

Tonight I want to talk to you about worship because if I can teach you how to find God's Presence and worship Him, you will discover the greatest power available to humans.

I think of Saul and the times when he was oppressed by demons. He called for a musician to sing and David was called. As David worshipped God in song before Saul, the demons left and peace came. Worship brings deliverance. WHY DOES WORSHIP OVERCOME DEMON POWER? BECAUSE SATAN ONCE DREW HIS POWER FROM WORSHIP.... NOW IT ROBS HIM OF ANY POWER HE MAY HAVE AGAINST US...WORSHIP IS POWERFUL!!!

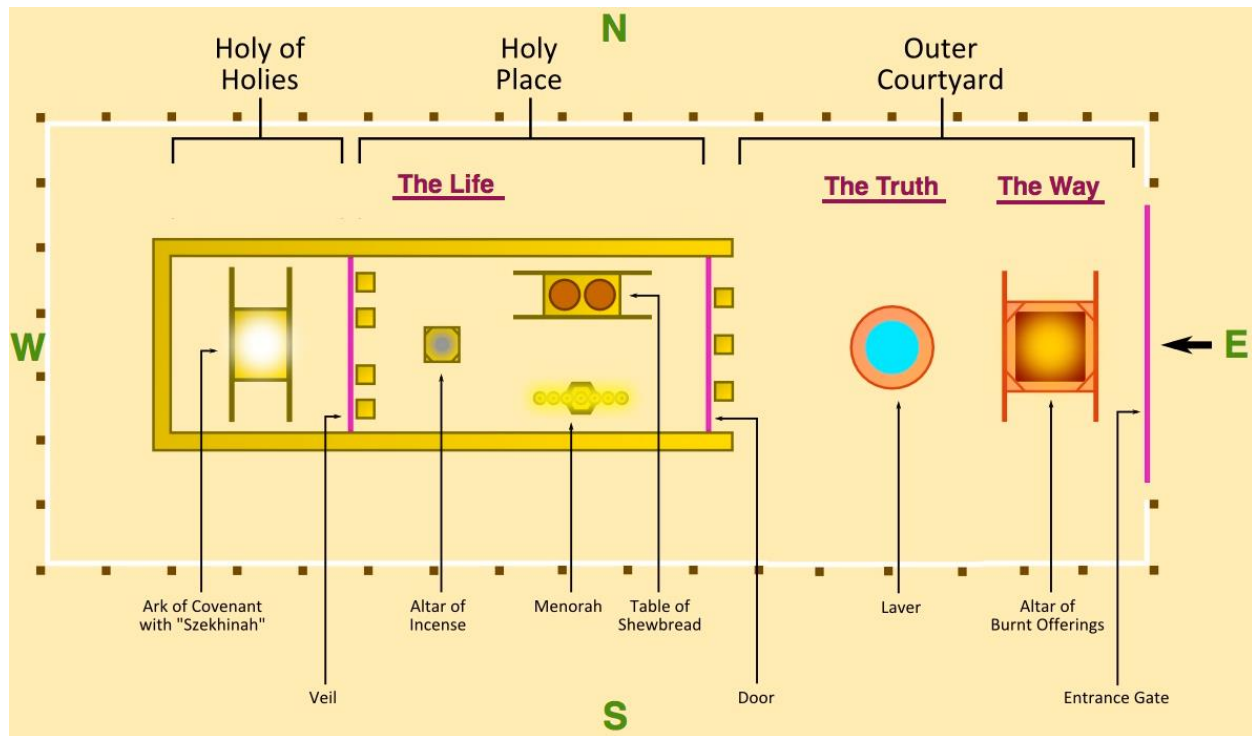
I think of Elisha, when approached by the king and asked for a word of the Lord (2 Kings 3) he requested a musician to play and the hand of the Lord came upon him, as a result of worship.

Entering God's presence in worship brings the anointing. That's why we begin our church services with music.

But how do we find God's presence and how do we worship Him? The people of Israel knew there was a progression into God's presence. Moses was instructed to build the Tabernacle and later Solomon the Temple in a very special way, because that design illustrated the progression into God's presence and worship.

There were four sections to the Tabernacle: The Gates – The Outer Court – The Holy Place and the Holy of Holies.

INSERT #1: NOT SURE YOU CAN GET THIS ON THE SCREEN, BUT IT WOULD REALLY HELP IF YOU COULD.



INSERT #2

Psalm 100:1-4 NKJV Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands.
 Serve the LORD with gladness;
 Come before His presence with singing.
 Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us and not we ourselves.
 We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving
 And into His courts with praise
 Be thankful to Him and bless His name.

Our journey into God's presence and worship must begin with Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is the entry point to God's Presence.

INSERT #3

THANKSGIVING = the expression of gratitude for the things God has done for you.

Why do we begin with Thanksgiving? Because we are all self-centered. Thanksgiving is God's way of turning our total attention away from ourselves to HIM! All day long, every day, we should remain aware of the price paid for our salvation and our hope of the future.

Thanksgiving gets you into the GATES...Once you begin to practice a grateful heart, you will find yourself in the COURTS of the Lord.

We enter the gates with Thanksgiving and into His courts with Praise!

INSERT #4

Psalm 95:2 NKJV Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

INSERT #5

PRAISE = Praise is an expression and celebration of God's mighty Acts.

As thanksgiving turns our hearts and minds toward God, praise celebrates God's mighty acts.

INSERT #6

Psalm 22:3 KJV But thou art holy, O thou that inhabits the praises of Israel.

Let me explain what happens when we praise God. The Glory of God dwells inside us in the person of the Holy Spirit.

INSERT#7

Colossians 1:27 NKJV God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of Glory.

Christ = the Anointed One

Glory = The Manifested Presence of God

Praise creates an atmosphere.

When we open our mouths to praise, we release the wonderful substance called GLORY! It is invisible, but it created a canopy around us in which God makes Himself known.... It is much like a spacesuit. God actually inhabits the praise of His people.

Praise is a weapon against the enemy... (2 Chronicles 20) I think of King Jehoshaphat when surrounded by a host and the unusual battle strategy given to send the singers out first and they were to praise. The result was victory for God fought for them and all they had to do was collect the spoil. Praise is a weapon!

2 Articles of Furniture in Courts:

Altar of sacrifice
Laver for washing

IF PRAISE IS A CELEBRATION OF THE MIGHTY ACTS OF GOD... THEN THE GREATEST ACT OF GOD WAS DYING FOR OUR SINS AND CONQUERING DEATH, HELL AND THE GRAVE.

Old Testament = Altar of burnt Offerings was in the Court and Laver for cleansing ...both of these items of furniture speak of cleansing from sin.

New Testament = Jesus our perfect sacrifice has shed His blood and cleansed us from our sins.

We have every reason to praise the LORD!!!!

Two things happen in the Courts:

- We become aware of any sin in our life and it's the place of repentance....
- But also it is a place where we become more aware of God's presence and His power.

Insert #8

Psalm 139:23-24 NKJV Search me, O God, and know my heart;
try me and know my anxieties;
and see if there is any wicked way in me
and lead me in the way everlasting.

TAKE TIME TO LEAD THEM IN A TIME OF SOUL SEARCHING AND LEAD THOSE WHO ARE NOT SAVED IN "yes ' PRAYER

Now we are ready for the Holy Place, the inner court;

1. Shewbread speaks of communion
2. Lampstand – The Holy Spirit
3. Altar of incense – sacrifice

With our heart cleansed we are ready for God's presence....and He has made the way. The day Jesus died... the moment He died the veil of the temple of torn from top to bottom and the way open for every man to come into God's presence.

Only furniture in Holy of Holies is Ark, which is a picture of God's Throne:

Describe – Three Articles:

Tablets of Law
Bowl of Manna
Aaron's Rod that budded

The blood of Jesus doesn't just cover it removes and total restores us.

INSERT #9:

Hebrews 4:16 NKJV
Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy
and find grace too help in time of need.

INSERT #10:

Two scriptures that define worship:

Mark 12:30 NKJV And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind and with all your strength

Romans 12:1 Amplified Therefore I urge you, [b](#)rothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to
present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-
pleasing to God, *which is* your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.

My Story... what are we waiting for? The fire of God to be ignited inside us.

Closing Worship Song....