

Confessing and Worship

Jesus said, "My glory – My standing with the Father – I give unto you so you can know that the Father loves you with the same love wherewith He loved Me" (see John 17).

JESUS LOVES You. To discover that truth and receive it is to conquer.

I want to talk to you about combining your private worship with the confession of God's Word. This is what the apostle Paul is talking about in Ephesians 5:19 when he says, *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*

There is life in this teaching that will take you from where you are now - not quite receiving from God yet - to a place in Him where it is already done. But you can only get to that place by ministering to yourself in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody in your heart to the Lord as you give thanks for all things to God the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You see, just because you don't have what you need right now doesn't mean that God didn't provide it for you. He finished His work of redemption two thousand years ago. He can't heal you any more than He already has. He can't give you any more finances or any more peace, nor can He break down any more strongholds than He already has.

When Jesus said, "It is finished," He set a law of the spirit into operation. That law of the spirit of life that was in Christ Jesus trumped the law of sin and death that used to reign out of our spirits. Now the law of the spirit of life, which is the nature that emanated out of Jesus' spirit, emanates out of our spirits as well. It is the law of the new nature, and it replaced and set us free from the law of sin and death.

Why did God call it a "law"? Because it produces the same invariable outcome every single time. For instance, you can apply mathematical equations to electricity because it acts the same way every time. You can work right next to electricity without being harmed as long as you operate according to the law of physics by which it is governed. But if you don't respect that law of physics, electricity will kill you because the law never varies; it always operates the same way.

In the same way, the law of the spirit of life operates the same way today that it did two thousand years ago. The law of the new nature has already provided healing and victory for us and pulled down every stronghold. God isn't trying to decide whether or not He's going to heal us; He has already provided our healing. All that we need is already resident in Him - and He lives in our new nature in the Person of the Holy Spirit!

In God's immutability, He cannot change, nor can He be changed. So if you're not walking in the divine health He has provided you, you are the one who has to change. You have to find a way to go from the place you are now, where you don't have your healing, to that place in Him where you do. How are you going to do that? By ministering to your own soul until it goes from a place of unbelief to that place in Him where the answer is yours by faith.

Have you yet attained to the law of the spirit of life concerning healing? Has the new nature come forward in you sufficiently to enable you to attain to the law of the spirit of life concerning peace? Have you attained to that law of the new nature to the extent that you don't have to leave all the crippled children in wheelchairs or the deaf children in schools for the deaf?

Jesus doesn't intend to leave sick or crippled people as they are. And if He doesn't want to 'Leave there in their broken condition, you shouldn't be satisfied to do so either. You just need to get from where you are now to the immutable, unchanging position where God is. And the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus will set you free to believe for others' complete deliverance as well.

It is amazing to consider all that Jesus provided for us when He set into motion the law of the spirit of life. Just think - every day we deal with our flesh, with the temptations of the world, and with all the traps the devil has set for us along the way. Yet God gave us His nature when we were born again. He made us a part of His extended family. He even entrusted us with a member of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit has actually come and taken up His abode in us!

Now that we are children of God, the Holy Spirit says to each of us, "Look, frail little inheritor of Adam's body, tempted by the devil on both sides, I want you to understand something. You're aging day by day, but you have Me living within you and you have a born-again spirit. Therefore, I dare to say this to you: All things are possible to him who believes, and that includes You!"

God is sovereignly immutable, unchanging, and invariable. No one has enough power to change Him. He ALWAYS has the last say-so. This is the very reason you can have faith in His promises. You know that when you choose to believe something God has said, He has no other recourse but to fulfill that promise. Even if He wanted another recourse (which He doesn't), He wouldn't have one, for He cannot change. Therefore, you can know that He will always be there with the answer when you get there with your faith!

Let's look at Ephesians 5 to find out how you can minister to yourself in such a way that you enable God to bring you forward into His love so you can ride on the high places with Him through every situation of life. In verse 18, Paul says in effect, "Look, you don't have to be drunk on wine, wherein is excess, for you have a much better alternative - to be filled with the Holy Spirit!" Then in the next verse, Paul tells you how to stay filled with the Spirit: by ministering to yourself in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

Personally, I have determined that I will minister to myself until I go from where I am to where God is. Since He can't change, I know that means I already have my answer. So if I'm not enjoying the benefits of His promises, I need to go from where I don't have it to where I do. God can't change, but I can!

God seems to think that private worship is the key to this journey. In Ephesians 5:18 and 19, He's talking about the development and the bringing forward of our new nature - the part of us that has the capacity to pull on the unlimited reservoir within. That's why all things are possible -because the capacity of our new nature is unlimited to both pull on and to hold the compassion and the love of God.

When I first locked myself in my private worship closet, I knew God wanted to teach me something. So I prayed, "Holy Spirit, You're going to have to teach me how to worship Jesus, because the Bible says You receive of His and show it unto me [John 16:14]. The Word also says that You will not speak of Yourself but will glorify Jesus. You are supposed to teach me how to worship, Holy Spirit, because You always glorify Him, and that's what I want to do too. I want to get in Your flow of worship and glorify Jesus. So please teach me, Holy Spirit. I'm abandoning myself to Your mercy."

In the months that followed, the Holy Spirit taught me two ways to enter into worship. The first kind of worship increases us in private, causing us to keep growing and growing as He keeps coming to visit us with His power and manifested presence. This process continues until, finally, God's geographical Presence stays with us and surrounds us all the time. That's what happened in Smith Wigglesworth's walk with God. People would cry out to Wigglesworth, "My God, man, just your presence convicts me!"

You know, there was a time when I hated to go pray for the sick in hospitals because nothing ever seemed to happen. But when that geographical Presence begins to surround us continually, the days of nothing happening when we go to minister to the sick will be over. After all, God wants those who are sick to be healed much more than we do!

The second way the Lord taught me to enter into worship works well when we need to get into His presence quickly. Perhaps we have a prayer request that urgently needs to be answered, and we want to come before God to worship and fellowship with Him for a while before we present Him with the petition.

When the Holy Spirit was teaching me about this kind of worship, He said, "First of all, Son, you're coming into the presence of a King. Therefore, you need to show some protocol."

Historically, whenever ambassadors or other dignitaries visited a king, they didn't make eye contact with the king until he gave them permission. Often it was also expected as a matter of protocol for the dignitaries to bring a gift to present to the king.

Although protocol for approaching royalty varies among various cultures, some kind of respectful behavior is always expected to show honor when entering into the presence of a king. Well, Jesus is our King, our Redeemer, AND our God. Therefore, we need to show great respect when we enter into His presence!

You see, the only gift you have to give God that He wants is YOU. Everything else is a manifestation of His love toward YOU: spiritual gifts, the Holy Spirit, the blood of Jesus, faith, divine benefits, answered prayer, etc. There is only one way you can minister to God - by spending time in worship before Him until your heart locks on to His heart, thus allowing a divine flow to begin between you and Him.

Therefore, show some respect when you enter into God's presence. YOU'RE the gift He wants, so tell Him, "Here I am, Lord. Now what do You want me to do?"

When I asked the Lord that question, He told me, "Have you ever noticed that after you worship Me for a while, your voice starts trailing off and your worship becomes lip service because your mind has wandered down the street somewhere? You're solving some problem from yesterday while your mouth is telling Me that you love Me!"

I answered, "Yes, Sir, I have noticed that."

The Lord replied, "Well, show some respect, Son. I don't want your lip service; I want ALL of you - your soul, your mind, your will, your intellect, and your emotions. You need to practice focusing on Me during these times we spend together. When your mind wanders off down the street, go get it. When your will, your intellect, and your emotions start distracting you, bring them back and empty everything you are before Me. Pour all your love for Me into each statement of adoration."

These divine instructions apply to every one of us. As we enter into God's presence, we are not to waste our time trying to impress Him with long, theological "exposes of exergestic proportions," such as, "God, let me tell You the many ways that I adore You. You are the Celestial Go-Between in the troubled waters of mankind, and I worship the omnipotence of Your Godship. As dew blankets the grass at dawn, so is my love for You, O God."

If you'll just empty yourself out before God, it won't be very long before you're simply saying from the depths of your heart, "I love You, Lord. I love You. I glorify You. I magnify You." Then when you realize that your soul has wandered off down the street, you can just stop for a moment and go get it. Bring your thoughts back to the matter at hand, and start pouring out your heart before God once more. As you do this, I guarantee you that God will come and manifest His love and power to you.

This is what you need to do at the beginning of every corporate worship service you ever attend. Focus in on worshiping the Lord immediately, and help out the worship leaders! Don't wait for them to pull you in. Jump in with them and create an atmosphere in which the Holy Spirit can move in case there are lost people in the crowd whom God wants to reach!

You may ask, "But what do I do about my wandering mind if I start spending long hours in private worship before the Lord?"

That's when the law of confession will take over. You might be saying, "I love You, Lord; I love You" in a hollow voice that keeps trailing off into the distance. But that's all right. Eventually as you keep voicing your love for God over and over again in worship, your thoughts will eventually come back in line with what your spirit is doing. Month after month, your new nature will continue to take more ground away from the flesh and the devil until that day when you emerge from your prayer closet engulfed in His presence and His anointing of healing, power, and grace.

Think back to Ephesians 5 again. What do you think Paul was talking about when, after his tremendous teaching on giving thanks for all things to God the Father, he shifted to the family and said, Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord (Eph. 5:22)? Paul was trying to show us that we are to love Jesus as a woman loves her husband. We are not to approach

Him as spoiled brats with only one thought: "Give me, give me." There is only one way we can truly minister to Jesus: by giving Him right now, in the middle of our natural circumstances, what we will be giving Him for all eternity - THE GIFT OF OURSELVES IN WORSHIP.

We can come before Jesus and say, "Lord, I'm standing here in Your presence, and I just want to tell You how much I love You. I love You with a depth that I can't even comprehend. I'm not coming to You today because I want something. I just want to tell You how much I love You."

Let me tell you something - it is impossible to stay the same when you suspend your spirit in God's presence in this way. So I urge you to spend time each day in private worship alone with God. Whether you kneel, lay down, or walk as you worship, try to keep every part of you poured out before Him - spirit, mind, will, and emotions. If your mind starts to wander, just stop long enough to go get it; then fix your thoughts back on the Lord. Get right back to pouring yourself out before the Lord with statements of love and adoration. No matter what your mind or emotions tell you, DON'T GIVE UP on your private times of worship on your way to the next level in God.

Remember, you already have all that you need because you've been born again. You have a spiritual mind that hungers after the Word and a new nature that has an unlimited capacity to pull on and hold the love of God.

When you were born again and filled with the Holy Spirit, you received everything you needed to bring forth that new nature and trump every clouded and dark area that you're failing in right now. You can invade those areas, move every stronghold out of the way, and win the battle with joy. Now, THAT'S good news!

Jesus said, "My glory - My standing with the Father - I give unto you so you can know that the Father loves you with the same love wherewith He loved Me" (see John 17). JESUS LOVES You. To discover that truth and receive it is to conquer. After all, at that point you join an elite club full of members to whom He has declared, "ALL things are possible"!

God Bless,
Dave Roberson