



I. Corporate Worship and Prayer

(Rev. 5:8,9), "8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song..."

Worship is the response of all that we are as we express our agreement with all that God is. Intercession is the response of all that we are as we express our agreement and partnership with all that God desires and has promised to do.

Both worship and intercession are about agreement - they are about **unity**. When we gather together in corporate prayer and praise we are actually declaring to God, to each other, and to the world around us that we are in agreement with God's character, His nature, His plans, and His perfect leadership.

The prayer room is one of the primary places where we corporately express this agreement. Although worship and prayer are certainly personal expressions from our lives to God, they are also corporate expression of a body of believers.

3 Corporate Values

There are a plethora of ways that we, as a corporate body, express worship and prayer. We can fast, sing, intercede, dance, kneel in repentance, serve together, clap to the Lord, shout to God, respond to His Word, etc...

We value all biblical expressions of worship and prayer. Three of these expressions that we value related to corporate worship and prayer are: **1) mixing music and scriptural prayers, 2) mixing music spiritual proclamation, and 3) mixing music with sacred passages.**

II. Mixing Music With Scriptural Prayer

Prayer is as easy as repeating God's words back to Him. God speaks to us and it moves our hearts. Then we speak that same words back to Him and it moves His heart.

God loves to hear His word spoken to Him. He intensely enjoys hearing the prayers of the saints ascend before His throne. God is also moved by the songs, singing, and the music of man when our hearts are actively engaged in offering the gift adoration. God loves music.

A Harp and Golden Bowls

Partnering With God Through Corporate Worship and Prayer



Prayer is powerful, and music is powerful. Both are enjoyed by the Lord. However, combining prayers and music touches the Lord's heart so much that He covers His entire throne with this aromatic concoction forever.

(Rev. 5:8,9), *"8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song..."*

Music and song help sustain us in the place of prayer by awakening our hearts to beauty and stirring our affections. Music helps lead the true self into an experience with the true God. Singing prayers is one of God's ways to help us enjoy prayer more.

Interestingly enough, Jesus, the Worthy Lamb, the One of whom they sing in Revelation 5 is the One who teaches us to pray that the reality of heaven would be made a reality on the earth.

(Matt. 6:10), *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*

Music? Why Music?

Music awakens the heart to beauty, stirs emotions, and breaks down walls. Martin Luther once wrote concerning music, *"The riches of music are so excellent and so precious that words fail me whenever I attempt to discuss and describe them...next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits..."*

Jewish philosopher, Abraham Joshua Heschel, says it this way, *"The primary purpose of prayer is not to make requests. The primary purpose is to praise, to sing... Because the essence of prayer is a song, and man cannot live without a song."*

Music *"resonates and illuminates the mind. It lights shadowy places so that the thoughts and meditations of our heart are welcomed to come out of hiding."* (Ray Hughes)

III. Mixing Music with Spiritual Proclamations

Another way to say musical scriptural proclamations is, "prophetic singing." Prophetic Singing is when the gift of prophecy is expressed through song and music. Prophetic singing gives expression to the unction of the Holy Spirit, revealing what's on God's heart. As one writer once said, *"Prophetic singing is what happens when we let 'Christ in you, the hope of glory' get into our music."*



Corporate prophetic worship and prayer is about a unified congregation responding to the leading of the Holy Spirit as He reveals the truth of God's heart, His nature, and His plans.

(Rev. 19:10), "...For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

(I Cor. 14:3), "But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men."

In other words, **prophetic singing is the melodious testimony of Jesus that encourages, edifies, and comforts the body of Christ**

Prophetic Singing also can declare "in the now" that which has not yet happened. It picks up on the breakthrough before it breaks through and releases it in the spirit.

1. Num. 21:16-17, Spring Up Oh Well
2. II Chron. 5:13-14, Worship, Prayer, and Glory
3. II Chron. 20, The Lord's Ambush
4. Psalm 149, This Honor have ALL the saints
5. Is. 42:10-13, Global Prophetic Songs
6. Zech. 2:10, Sing, Rejoice, for I am Coming
7. Rev. 5 and 6, Take the Scroll, Open its Seals

IV. Mixing Music with Sacred Passages

Scientists have discovered that music, and particularly singing, engages and exercises more parts of our brain at once than anything else. Singing engages the both thought and feelings.

Physiologically, singing boosts our immune system, stimulates circulation, releases endorphins (becoming a natural anti-depressant), lowers stress, and even boosts memory.

Singing the Scripture brings head and heart together in a dynamic way. Singing the Word escorts truth from the place of collected facts to the place of experienced reality. **We sing through the written Word in order to encounter and experience the living Word.**

Singing the word deepens our roots and strengthens our inner man.

(Col. 3:16), *let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace...*

If we are going to be a people in whom the Word abides, we must be a people from whom worship arises.

A Harp and Golden Bowls

Partnering With God Through Corporate Worship and Prayer



Jesus even strengthened Himself in the Lord by singing the Word – specifically the Psalms.

At the Passover meal in Mark 14 we see Jesus singing the Psalms with His disciples.

(Mk. 14:26), *And when they had hymned, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

During Passover it was custom to sing the Great Hallel – Psalm 113-118. Imagine Jesus singing these Psalms with His disciples. Knowing that He was about to go embrace the cross, imagine Jesus singing Psalm 116 verses 14 and 15.

(Ps. 116:14.15), *14 I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people*

Consider the joy in the heart of Jesus that night when He sang Psalm 117, looking through the corridors of time to see the fullness of the Gentiles being grafted in to the Father's family.

(Ps. 117:1), *Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!*

What encouragement Jesus must have received from singing Psalm 118:6 that night!

(Ps. 118:6,7), *6 The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to Me?*

Jesus was singing psalms that had been written thousands of years before – psalms written about Himself (even by Himself 😊). Wow!

(Ps. 118:22-24), *22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. 23 This was the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. 24 This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

What was the look on Jesus' face when He sang verse 24 after the Passover dinner?

From the first-century house churches to the 21st century megachurches, the Scriptures have been sung as an expression of worship.

V. Practical Expression and Application

Let's practice this corporately.

Here's what we're going to do.

In fact, here's what we do every week in our prayer room.

A Harp and Golden Bowls

Partnering With God Through Corporate Worship and Prayer



1. The worship team is going to start with a corporate worship song.
2. Then there will be a short time of spontaneous singing.
 - a. We encourage everyone to begin singing from the heart or from the Word.
 - b. Engaging our minds, bodies, and spirits with the Lord through song.
3. Then we will have a couple of people come up and pray Biblical prayers.
4. Finally, the worship team will create a corporate chorus for the purpose of helping everyone in the room come into agreement with the prayer. This is a way that we all can add our “yes and amen” to the prayer. Again, the goal is corporate agreement as we partner with Jesus in the ministry of intercession.