

Pastor Mark Mikels - August 25, 2019

WORSHIP: THE CROWN JEWEL"

"Worship Abba ... Joyfully"

(Psalm 133:1; Psalm 145:7; Luke 19:37; Luke 15:5; Colossians 1:12; Hebrews 12:22)

Intro ... 'WORSHIP' ... it's the Crown Jewel of the Christian Life!
Are you finding it to be so? I hope so.

Over the past six weeks we have identified **Six Incredibly Helpful Attitudes** that will maximize anyone's **'Worship Experience.'** They all build upon one another.

When we Worship our Heavenly Abba **Reverently**, we, of course, will worship Him **Exclusively**; and when we worship Him exclusively, we will find ourselves naturally worshipping Him **Reflectively** (for we will be forever reminding ourselves of all we know about Him); and when we successfully worship Him reflectively, we will inevitably worship Him **Submissively** (for how can we not bow ourselves before such an awesome heavenly Father?); and as we submissively worship the God we have deeply reflected upon, we will worship Him **Confidently**; and the more confident we are as we worship our wonderful Heavenly Abba, the more we will worship Him **Thankfully**.

We will find ourselves **'Thanking Him in everything and even for everything'** because we trust Him completely!

Now that's how far we got last week.

Today we come to a **seventh** key worship attitude and I trust that at this point, we will say **"Well, of course!"**

TODAY'S KEY WORSHIP ATTITUDE ...

"Worship Abba ... JOYFULLY!"

JOYFULLY ...

With **DELIGHT** ...
With a high degree of **PLEASURE** ...
With **EXUBERANCE** and **PRAISE**

**'With delight ... with a high degree of pleasure ...
with exuberance and praise' ...
What a way to worship!**

Do not the first six worship attitudes just naturally lead us to this one? They certainly do; but this one blesses our Heavenly Father in ways the others don't or can't and so, He has revealed to us in the Scriptures that He desires it.

Joyfulness is a big part of the big picture!
Let's check it out ...

Here are ...

TODAY'S KEY SCRIPTURES ...

Here's the directive given to the People of God ...

*"Sing **JOYFULLY** to the Lord, you righteous.
It is fitting for the upright to **PRAISE** Him." - Psalm 133:1*

Here's David testifying to the Almighty that His People are doing just that ...

*"They **CELEBRATE** your abundant goodness and **JOYFULLY** sing of your righteousness." - Psalm 145:7*

Next we see the Followers of Jesus, the Son of God, doing it ...

*When they came near ... the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began **JOYFULLY** to **PRAISE** God in loud voices for all the **MIRACLES** they had seen. - Luke 19:37*

Here's Jesus telling of the Joyful Shepherd who found his Lost Sheep and how that relates to the Heavenly realm ...

*"And when he finds it, he puts it **JOYFULLY** on his shoulders."
"There is **REJOICING** in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who **REPENTS**." - Luke 15:5,10*

Here's the Apostle Paul combining two of our worship attitudes in one exhortation ...

*"... give **JOYFUL THANKS** to the Father who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of His Holy People in the Kingdom of Light." - Colossians 1:12*

And here in the Book of Hebrews we read this description of one who has entered the Heavenly Realms in worship ...

*"... you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in **JOYFUL** assembly." - Hebrews 12:22*

Here now, based upon those Scriptures is ...

TODAY'S KEY CONCEPT ...

Genuine Worship is evidenced by
A **SPIRIT** of **JOYFUL DELIGHT!**

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION ...

What should **CAUSE** such a spirit of **JOY** to **ARISE?**

THREE SURE-FIRE STIMULATIONS FOR JOYFUL WORSHIP ...

1. JOYFULNESS IN WORSHIP SHOULD ARISE IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S OWN NATURE ...

*"They celebrate Your abundant **GOODNESS** and joyfully sing of your **RIGHTEOUSNESS.**" - Psalm 145:7*

If you or I were writing that Psalm, we would list 31 awesome aspects of our Heavenly Abba's nature that would stimulate Celebration and Joyful Song ... Today's '***Worship Focus***' alone could certainly do it:

*"My Abba Is Inconceivably Gracious"
- I will never comprehend all that He has brought to my life -*

Joyfulness in Worship should certainly arise in Response to (our knowledge of) God's own ***nature***.

And then by way of encouragement, David tells us that ...

*"It is **FITTING** for the upright to **PRAISE** Him." - Psalm 133:1*

"Fitting" indeed ...

It's proper, it's appropriate, it's should be our '***knee jerk reaction***' in every situation ... to joyfully praise our Heavenly Father for simply being who He is!

Here's now another 'sure-fire stimulation for joyful worship' ...

2. JOYFULNESS IN WORSHIP SHOULD ARISE IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S OWN ACTIONS ...

*"... the whole crowd of disciples began **JOYFULLY** to praise God in loud voices for all the **MIRACLES** they had seen." - Luke 19:37*

Some of them had been with Jesus for his entire three-year ministry. They had perhaps seen them all: the water into wine, the healing of the sick, the casting out of demons, the feeding of the 5,000, the restoring of sight to the blind, the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

They had seen it all and it brought them to joyful praise.

Finding and **rescuing** the lost causes joyful worship to arise ...

*"And when He finds it (the lost lamb),
He puts it **JOYFULLY** on His shoulders." - Luke 15:5*

*"There is **REJOICING** in the presence of the angels of God
over one sinner who **REPENTS**." - Luke 15:10*

Is there one '**sinner**' in our midst today who is ready to repent?

Do you know of one sinner who has repented? **Rejoice!**

Now here's a '**Stimulation for Joyful Worship**' that perhaps you have not thought too much about before ...

Not only should '**Joyfulness in worship**' arise in response to God's Own **Nature** and in response to God's Own **Actions** ...

3. JOYFULNESS IN WORSHIP SHOULD ARISE IN RESPONSE TO OUR OWN HEAVENLY IDENTITY

*"... give **JOYFUL THANKS** to the Father who has qualified you to **SHARE** in the inheritance of His Holy People in the Kingdom of Light." - Colossians 1:12*

That, my friends, is an incredible statement! God has not just mercifully decided not to judge us for our sin and graciously opened the door of heaven to us, He has actually **qualified** us to be there.

When we get there, we will **belong** there. We have been made fully qualified! No heavenly being will look upon us as one who is only there **'By Grace'** ... one who is a kind of **'second-class citizen.'** The Father has granted us a **heavenly identity** and that identity will be recognized and valued by all who are there!

And then listen to what the writer of Hebrews tells us ...

*"... you have **COME** to Mount Zion, to the city of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in **JOYFUL** assembly." - Hebrews 12:22*

He writes of these things as an accomplished fact:

"You have come."

Not 'You **will** come' or 'You might **someday** come' but 'You **have** come.' You might question: "**When** have I come."

I would answer: "**Every time you engage in worship.**"

Every time you engage in worship, HOLY SPIRIT - PNEUMA HIMSELF - lifts you (spiritually, of course) into the heavenly realms, into the very presence of your awesome Abba Father and there you **'have come'** to (and, dare I say, have joined with) **'thousands and thousands of angels in joyful assembly.'**

Catch their joy - share it with them. **Joyful Worship** characterizes the place. Let it characterize you. It is your own **Heavenly Identity!**

And now for today's summarizing final that ...

Final Thot ...

A **JOYFUL SPIRIT** warms the Father's **HEART.**

"Worship Abba JOYFULLY!"