

# Understanding the Signs of the Times – Week 6

## Prayer

Prayer is a Kingdom principle. It is us communicating with God and it is how God communicates with us. It connects us with God the Father.

## The Challenge of Successful Prayer

- Create the right atmosphere for quality time with the Lord
- Settle your soul – it takes time to arrest the activity in your soul. You may have to wait a while so that you can connect with God spirit to spirit – without distractions
- When you are aware of His presence talk, fellowship, commune – pour your heart out to God - and don't forget to listen
- Fear may cause hesitation
- Remember that just as developing intimacy with another person takes time, so it is with relationship with God. **BE PATIENT** but **PERSISTENT** As you grow to trust Him and believe what He says in His Word more and more, your love affair with Him will become increasingly fulfilling and the abundance of *life* will grow inside your spirit and soul.

## Praying in the Spirit a/k/a personal/private prayer language

- **1 Corinthians 14:2** The man (one or person) who speaks in an unknown language (special sounds) speaks to God. He is not speaking to men. No one understands. He is speaking secret things through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- **1 Corinthians 14:18** I'm grateful to God for the gift of praying in tongues that he gives us for praising him, which leads to wonderful intimacies we enjoy with him. I enter into this as much or more than any of you.
- The Holy Spirit directs the praying through the vessel (us)

## **Intercession**

**1 Timothy 2:1 (Paul writing to Timothy)** I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, **intercession** and thanksgiving be made for all people

- Praying on behalf of another individual. Praying for multiple people, countries and nations.
- An intercessor focuses on the needs of other people and not their own. This is selfless focus, selfless prayer.

## **Praise and Worship**

**Praise** is the joyful recounting of all God has done for us. It is closely intertwined with thanksgiving as we offer back to God appreciation for His mighty works on our behalf. Praise is universal and can be applied to other relationships as well. We can praise our family, friends, boss, or anyone who has done a good job. Praise does not require anything of us. It is merely the truthful acknowledgment of the righteous acts of another. Since God has done many wonderful deeds, He is worthy of praise (**Psalms 18:3**).

- By Him therefore let us offer the **sacrifice of praise** to God continually, this is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. - Hebrews 13:15
- **Sing to him, sing praise to him**; tell of all his wonderful acts. - 1 Chronicles 16:8-10

- Then David said to the whole assembly, "Praise the LORD your God." So they all praised the LORD, the God of their fathers -1 Chronicles 29:19-20
- The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud. 2 Chronicles: 5:12-14

**Worship**, however, comes from a different place within our spirits. Worship should be reserved for God alone (Luke 4:8). Worship is the art of losing self in the adoration of another. Praise can be a part of worship, but worship goes beyond praise. Worship gets to the heart of who we are. We must be willing to humble ourselves before God, surrender every part of our lives to His control, and adore Him for who He is, not just what He has done.

**Worship is a lifestyle, not just an occasional activity.** Jesus said the Father is seeking those who will worship Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23).

In Scripture, praise is usually presented as loud, joyful, and uninhibited. God invites praise of all kinds from His creation. Jesus said that if people don't praise God, even the "stones will cry out" (Luke 19:40). When the Bible mentions worship, however, the tone changes. We read verses like, "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (Psalms 96:9). And, "Come let us worship and bow down" (Psalms 95:6). Often, worship is coupled with the act of bowing or kneeling, which shows humility and contrition (2 Chronicles

[29:28](#); [Hebrews 11:21](#); [Revelation 19:10](#) It is through true worship that we invite the Holy Spirit to speak to us, convict us, and comfort us. Through worship, we realign our priorities with God's and acknowledge Him once more as the rightful Lord of our lives.

Just as praise is intertwined with thanksgiving, worship is intertwined with surrender. It is impossible to worship God and anything else at the same time ([Luke 4:8](#)). The physical acts often associated with worship—bowing, kneeling, lifting hands—help to create the necessary attitude of humility required for real worship. We praise God for what He has done, we praise God for what He is doing, we praise God for what He will still do But we Worship Him because He is the Alpha and Omega, worship Him because He is the creator of the Universe, Worship Him because He is “I am That I am” that changes not, worship Him because He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

- Worship is an attitude of the heart. A person can go through the outward motions and not be worshipping ([Psalm 51:16-17](#); [Matthew 6:5-6](#)). God sees the heart, and He desires and deserves sincere, heartfelt praise *and* worship.
- The tone or expression of Praise is more an outward showing of jubilation and thanksgiving with hands raising, clapping, dancing, singing, celebrating.
- Whereas worship is something much, much deeper. Worship also has physical expression. But it is more about offering our bodies, and our lives, giving them to God to have his way, it is a total lifestyle.