

***Frequently Asked Questions
About Our Worship***

Why Do You Do That?

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Worship

Why do you worship?



Worship is the adoration and glorifying of God. It is derived from "Worth-ship". When we worship God we acknowledge that He is "Worthy" and that He deserves all honour and praise. So we worship God firstly because He (and He alone) deserves our worship, and secondly, because we love Him and appreciate all He has done for us. Worshipping God is not something we only do at church on Sundays - it is a lifestyle that we live seven days a week.

Give honour to the Lord for the glory of His name.

Worship the Lord in the splendour of His holiness. (Ps. 29:2)

Why do you sing, clap, kneel etc. when you worship?

Our worship towards God can be expressed in many different ways. Notice the various ways people praised God in the bible.

Kneeling - Standing - Shouting:

*Then King Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground.
And all the people of Judah and Jerusalem did the same,
worshipping the Lord. Then the Levites from the clans of Kohath*

and Korah stood to praise the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud shout. (2Ch. 20:18-19)

Singing

*For this, O Lord, I will praise you among the nations;
I will sing joyfully to Your name. (Ps. 18:49)*

Clapping - Shouting - Joyful Praise

*Come, everyone, and clap your hands for joy!
Shout to God with joyful praise! (Ps. 47:1)*

Lifting Hands - Joyful Singing

*I will honour you as long as I live,
lifting up my hands to you in prayer
You satisfy me more than the the richest of foods.
I will praise You with songs of joy. (Ps. 63:4-5)*

Standing - Shouting

After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a mighty shout, "Salvation comes from our God on the throne and from the Lamb!" (Rev. 7:9-10)

Singing - Rejoicing - Dancing - Instruments

*Praise the Lord!
Sing to the Lord a new song
Sing His praises in the assembly of the faithful.
O Israel, rejoice in your Maker.
O people of Jerusalem, exult in your King.
Praise His name with dancing,
Accompanied by tambourine and harp. (Ps. 149:1-3)*



Shouting

*After this, I heard the sound of a vast crowd in heaven shouting,
"Hallelujah! Salvation is from our God. Glory and power belong
to Him alone. (Rev. 19:1)*

Lifting Hands

*Lift you hands in holiness,
and bless the Lord. (Ps. 134:2)*

Instruments - Dancing

*Praise Him with the tambourine and dancing;
praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes. (Ps. 150:4)*

Tambourine - Dancing - Singing

Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine and led all the women in rhythm and dance. And Miriam sang this song:

*"I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously;
He has thrown both horse and rider into the sea." (Exo. 15:20-21)*

Why don't you sing hymns?

In fact we do sing hymns, but we also sing other types of songs to the Lord. Sometimes we sing *choruses* which are shorter than hymns. Instead of singing it once through (as you do for a hymn) a chorus is intended to be repeated a number of times. Also, there are times when someone from the congregation will lead out in a "new" (ie. spontaneous) song to the Lord and then the rest of the assembly will join in singing it with them. Some of the words of the songs we sing are taken directly from the bible. This is what the apostle Paul encouraged the Ephesian church to do.

*..let the Holy Spirit fill and control you. Then you will sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, making music to the Lord in your hearts.
(Eph. 5:18-19)*

Why do you use so many different musical instruments?

The bible encourages us to use a variety of instruments when we praise Him. In fact in Psalm 150 written by King David, eight different instruments are mentioned.



*Praise Him with a blast of the trumpet;
Praise Him with the lyre and harp!
Praise Him with the tambourine and dancing;
Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!
Praise Him with a clash of cymbals;
Praise Him with loud clanging cymbals. (Ps. 150:3-5)*

Prayer

Why do you pray?

Jesus instructed us that God's house was to be a "house of prayer" (Mat. 21:13) so when we gather as a church it is good for us to join in prayer. Jesus said that when His people agree together in prayer it has powerful results.



Jesus said "I also tell you this: If two of you agree down here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together because they are mine, I am there among them." (Matt. 18:19-20)

Why do you put your hands on someone's head when praying for them?

We lay hands on people to release the anointing of God into their lives as well as a point of contact for the person to release their faith.

And while the sun was setting, all who had any sick with various diseases brought them to Jesus; and laying His hands on every one of them, He was healing them. (Luke 4:40)

"And these signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it shall not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. " (Mark 16:17-18)



Why do you put oil on someone's forehead when praying for their healing?

We believe that we can pray for the sick and God will heal them. When Jesus died on the cross He not only took our sins upon Himself, He also took our sicknesses.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. (Isaiah 53:4-5)

and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. (1Peter 2:24)

One of the things we do when we pray for people is *anoint* them with oil (we do this by placing a small amount of oil on a person's forehead). Oil is a sign of the Holy Spirit, so by placing oil on a person we are releasing the work of the Spirit to bring healing to their body.

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. (Jam. 5:14-15)

And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them. (Mark 6:13)

Why do you sometimes pray for a small cloth?

In the bible, when people were not able to come to the Apostle Paul for prayer, he sent out pieces of cloth which would be laid on the sick person and miracles would occur.



The usual practice of our church is for a prayer cloth/handkerchief to be given to the Pastor before the service. He will place it in his pocket while he preaches etc. At the end of the service we will pray over the cloth and anoint it with oil. We encourage the person taking the cloth to pray over the sick person and then leave the cloth on the them (eg. One father pinned a cloth onto his daughter's singlet when she had a fever, others have put them on their pillow slip etc.)

And God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out. (Acts 19:11-12)

Here are two testimonies of how prayer cloths have been used to heal the sick:

...I had been quite ill for some days. My daughter brought an anointed handkerchief from the Sunday evening service and put it under my pillow. I testify that I had a beneficial sleep that night and by 6:30am on the Monday I was up and totally well. I did a

*car pick-up of children for school followed by a day of activity.
(Testimony of one of a church member)*

Demonstrating the truths in Acts 19:11-12, thousands upon thousands were healed as Smith Wigglesworth prayed and sent handkerchiefs to those he couldn't visit. An intimate friend spoke of the sincerity and compassion portrayed by Smith, saying, "When...the time for the opening of the letters came, we all had to stop whatever we were doing and get under the burden. There was nothing rushed or slipshod about his methods... Everybody in the house must join in the prayers and lay hands on the handkerchiefs sent out to the suffering ones. They were treated as though the writers were present in person." (From the book: God's Generals by Roberts Liardon)

Why do some people fall down when they are prayed for?

When people are prayed for they often feel God's presence and this causes them to fall over. They are not being *pushed* as some think, but are simply overcome by God's glory. Some that fall could stand if they determined to but instead they allow themselves to yield to God's presence. Others are so overcome they couldn't stand even if they wanted to.



When therefore He said to them, "I am He," they drew back, and fell to the ground. (John 18:6)

We encourage people not to try and get up straight away but to lie on the floor and allow God to minister to them.

If there is a particular reason why someone does not want to fall over we will pray for them whilst they are seated in a chair.

Sometimes people don't fall over when they are prayed for. There is no difficulty in this. God is primarily interested in ministering to you - not in getting you to fall over. Some people receive marvelous answers to prayer without having fallen over. If though, you believe you do not fall over because you have difficulty in yielding to God - you may want to discuss this with one of the Pastors.

If there is any time that you are concerned about falling – please kneel or sit down. If you have received prayer and your catcher has moved on to catch others and you begin to feel as if you may fall, please kneel or

sit. The main thing is to allow your focus to remain on the Lord and what He is doing in your life.

Why do you sometimes hold banners up when you pray?

In bible times a banner was used as a rallying point in times of battle or during a parade. In our church a banner is raised to unite the people in prayer or celebration.

We will sing for joy over your victory, And in the name of our God we will set up our banners. May the LORD fulfil all your petitions. (Ps. 20:5)

Set up a banner in the land, Blow the trumpet among the nations! Prepare the nations against her, Call the kingdoms together against her: Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz.

Appoint a general against her; Cause the horses to come up like the bristling locusts. (Jer. 51:27)



The banners formerly so much used were part of military equipage, borne in times of war to assemble, direct, distinguish, and encourage the troops. They might possibly be used for other

purposes also. Occasions of joy, splendid processions, and especially a royal habitation, might severally be distinguished in this way. (Samuel Burder's Oriental Customs 1812 - as quoted in The Treasury of David by Charles Spurgeon)

A banner was usually a flag, streamer, or wrought emblem affixed to the end of a standard. It was common in the ancient world for banners to be used for military, national, or religious purposes in much the way they are today. The purpose of the banner was to indicate the rallying point for any group holding a common cause (eg. Jer. 50:2 – Jer. 51:27) (The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia)

Receiving an Offering

Isn't money evil?

Some people believe that "money is evil" and has no place in a church. In fact the bible never says that money is evil. It says, "the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil". The way that we handle



our finances is an important part of our walk with God. The bible has a great deal to say about money. We are instructed to bring our tithes and offerings into the house of God.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. (Mal. 3:10)

What are tithes?

The word tithe means “tenth”. God instructed His people to bring the first tenth of their earnings to Him. In doing so you honour the Lord. Tithing teaches us to reverence and obey the Lord.

Honour the LORD from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce (Prov. 3:9)

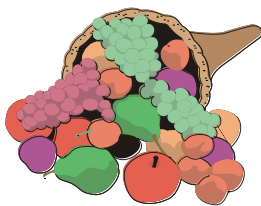
"And you shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God, at the place where He chooses to establish His name, the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the first-born of your herd and your flock, in order that you may learn to fear (reverence) the LORD your God always. (Deut. 14:23)

What's the difference between tithes and offerings?

An offering is any amount given to God over and above the tithe. We encourage people to bring a tithe and an offering. The offering is often referred to as “seed” because God says that the process of “giving and receiving” is actually the same as “sowing and reaping”. We are told to never give grudgingly or under compulsion, but to bring our offering with gladness and joy.

Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. (2Cor. 9:7)

Why do you pray for the people who give to prosper?



Contrary to what some people think God does not want His people poor. In fact He declares that He loves it when His people prosper. God encourages us to give generously, because that opens the door for Him to give back to us generously. No farmer plants his seed without expecting a harvest. So too, when we give as directed by the Holy Spirit,

we expect that as we water and care for our seed (through prayer and obedience) we will receive a harvest.

And let them say continually, "The LORD be magnified, Who delights in the prosperity of His servant." (Ps. 35:27)

Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. (2Cor. 9:6)

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:38)

Сомніиіиіи

What is communion?

Also known as “The Lord’s Supper”, communion is the time that we fellowship together (hence the name “communion”) and share the broken bread (representing the Lord’s body) and cup of wine (which represents the Lord’s blood). Jesus instigated this meal on the night that he was betrayed to be crucified. He commanded the church to do it in remembrance of Him whenever they gather together.



For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (1Cor. 11:23-26)

Who is allowed to partake of communion?

The Lord’s Supper is not restricted to people who belong to our church. Anyone who names Jesus as the Lord of their life and is following Him is welcome to share with us. We generally serve everyone who is partaking a piece of broken biscuit and a small cup of grape juice. When everyone has been served we eat and drink together.

Preaching

Why do you preach?

Preaching is a vital part of our church life. When the bible is preached under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the will of God is revealed and faith is born. People grow and mature when they listen to bible based preaching and put what they hear into action.



*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
(Rom 10:17)*

What do you preach about?



The bible is the foundation for all our preaching. Our preaching trains, corrects, encourages and strengthens people in their walk of faith.

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3;16-17)

What does “Hallelujah” mean?

Sometimes in church you may hear words and phrases that you are not familiar with. Some of these terms are:

Hallelujah = A Hebrew word which means, “Praise the Lord”

Scripture = The bible (also called “the word” or “the word of God”)

Amen = So be it! Often used at the end of prayer.

Shalom = Peace. The word means total wholeness or completeness – nothing missing, nothing lacking.

Speaking in Tongues

What is speaking in tongues?

When a believer is Baptised in the Holy Spirit an extraordinary thing happens: they are able to speak in another language.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. (Acts 2:4)

The Holy Spirit gives the ability, but the believer does the speaking. When someone is praying in tongues, they are praying “in the spirit”. Just as English is the voice of your mind, praying in tongues is the voice of your spirit.

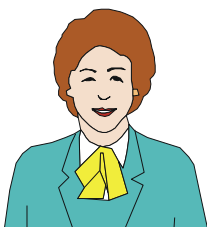
There are times during the worship service when the congregation will sing a “spiritual song” to the Lord. This is when everyone will sing in tongues together.

If you desire to be Baptised in the Holy Spirit and speak in other tongues, we suggest you read some material on the subject (eg. The booklet “God’s Will is the Holy Spirit” by Gloria Copeland) and ask one of the church leaders to pray for you.



What is tongues and interpretation?

Usually during the service when people are praying in tongues they are speaking to the Lord. Their spirit is praying. Occasionally during the service, someone will “speak out” a message in tongues. This is when the Holy Spirit impresses someone to share a special word of encouragement or instruction to the whole congregation. After the message in tongues is given someone will always receive the interpretation of that message which is then shared with the congregation.



Sometimes the message in tongues and the interpretation are sung to the congregation as a spiritual song.

At other times a message of instruction and encouragement is given to the congregation directly in English – ie. Without a message in tongues first. This is called a “word of prophecy”.

Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. What is the outcome then? I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind also; I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the mind also. (1Co 14:13)

A Challenge to You!

Even though some of the things that people are doing might not be familiar to you, don't allow them to stop you from entering into the meeting yourself. This booklet aims answer some your questions and to show you the scriptural basis for our actions. But really the most important question for you is - how are *you* responding to God at this time? Don't be a spectator – be a participator. Don't allow the surroundings rob you of an encounter with the living God.

"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers". (John 4:23)

Breakthrough Christian Church

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