

Exploring Presence Worship

This is the word of the Lord... 'Not by might (force, efficiency) nor by power (human ability), but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts. – **Zech. 4: 6**

I. HOW I ENCOUNTERED THE HOLY SPIRIT (His Person and Power)

A. It happened in Buenos Aires, during the winter of 1991, while I was sentenced to my 'bible college bed' (for 2 weeks—fighting extreme fever, not able to move at all). When I asked the Lord why this was happening to me, I heard a voice from within: *“If you give ME room I will completely revolutionize your life”*.

B. During those weeks, Andrea (who later became my wife), gave me a skinny book titled: *Good Morning Holy Spirit*. My soul burned as I read the book—it was the first time I heard about the person of the Holy Spirit in such a direct way—I began engaging HIM as a Person. I was transformed, and so was my worship.

C. Why am I sharing this? Because the ministry and fellowship of the Holy Spirit is the secret to “presence worship”.



Main GOAL of this Teaching: to provide a better understanding of the term “presence worship” and about the ministry of Holy Spirit in worship.

II. THE MEANING, PURPOSE AND IMPACT OF PROPHETIC WORSHIP

A. Before we dive into “Presence Worship” we need to define “Prophetic Worship”. What comes to mind when you think about the term *prophetic worship*? I believe that within the House of Prayer paradigm we have touched certain dimensions of prophetic worship, but there is much more the Lord wants to give us.

B. In the days of Samuel, when Saul approached a company of prophetic worshipers he experienced a life changing encounter with the Holy Spirit.

C. What we read below demonstrates the power of Prophetic Worship and provides clues to the kind of training Samuel gave to his generation (the forerunners of the tabernacle of David).

After that you shall come to the hill of God... and it will happen, when you have come there to the city that **you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place** with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying. **Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.** – **1 Sam. 10:5-6**

D. What Saul found was way more than “sincere worshipers” adoring Yahweh. He came across an irresistible heavenly atmosphere—Saul encountered the authority and power of the Holy Spirit moving in (their) worship. *That’s what changed him.*

E. Based on this biblical event and others we’ll study, as well as drawing from 20 years of experience in worship leading (doing it right and wrong)—in different venues, nations and cultures, here is my definition of prophetic worship:

1. *Prophetic Worship is the ability to carry and release the presence of God.* It is what happens when [prophetic worshipers] usher the tangible testimony of Jesus into the room and impart the power of the Holy Spirit to the congregation.
2. Prophetic worshipers are carriers of God’s presence, like a walking *convergence* between heaven and earth—a connecting link between the Throne Room and the earth realm.

F. Corporate prophetic worship goes beyond having a “song service”. It may start with a devotional or celebration *feel*, turn into warfare and proclamation, but can eventually become PRESENCE WORSHIP (if we take the time to keep ascending *in worship*).

G. It builds into a divine encounter between the Bridegroom God and His Bride—we get to experience God—feel His touch, hear His voice and behold His face. And the Lord also gets what He wants: *intimate fellowship with His people.*

H. At times, PRESENCE WORSHIP can turn into GLORY WORSHIP. (I have witnessed glory worship only a few times in my life—when God comes and no person can remain standing, because the weight and AWE of God’s glory is pushing you down).

I. I’m convinced, however, that we will see increasingly more GLORY WORSHIP as we approach the end of this age.

III. THE ANOINTING TO MOVE ANGELS AND DEMONS

Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him... **whenever the evil spirit from God came to Saul, David would take the harp and play it with his hand; and Saul would be refreshed and be well, and the evil spirit would depart from him. – 1 Sam. 16:14, 23**

A. How can we worship like King David did? How can we change spiritual atmospheres, move demons away and bring in angelic armies by simply playing? What was the secret of David's powerful worship?

B. The Bible reveals a significant event in David's life—it happened the day Samuel visited his house:

Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD **came powerfully** upon David. – **1 Sam. 16:13 (NIV)**

C. The secret to David's worship was the person of the Holy Spirit—the authority, power and presence of the third person of the trinity. David's music (because of the anointing of the Spirit) caused the atmosphere to change—a wind began to blow and brought ONE soaring on its wings:

He opened the heavens and came down... He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind... **Out of the brightness of his presence** bolts of lightning blazed forth – **2 Sam. 22:10-13 (NIV)**

D. These are not just fancy poetic words; it is the reality that David experienced when the Lord came down... he witnessed the power and glory of God bringing freedom and defeating his enemies (2 Sam. 22:14 -20).

E. This is what is like, when the heavens open through prophetic worship—the wind of the Spirit begins to blow and the Lord Himself soars upon His wings—He rides on the wings of the Spirit (*Ps. 104:3*), shines the brightness (light) of His glory and causes our hearts to *burn* with holy passion.

IV. MOVING IN THE SUPERNATURAL REALM OF THE SPIRIT

A. The Holy Spirit taught David to minister worship in an effective way. Thanks to this amazing Teacher, David learned to move in the supernatural—a dimension that (according to Paul) the natural man cannot perceive nor understand:

“But **the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God**, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” - **I Cor. 2:14**

B. The ways of the “anointing” will not make sense to the natural mind. They must be discerned “spiritually”. One of our goals (as prophetic worshipers in development) is **to discern** the person and work of the Holy Spirit in worship. We must learn to follow Him and move in the supernatural. Listen to what Jesus revealed:

“**It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.** The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” - **John 6:63**

C. We can learn all the mechanics of worship, have the latest gear, the best band and sound amazing... **but unless** the Holy Spirit is active and tangible *in* our music and spoken words, it will profit nothing (in terms of bringing *life* to people in the room).

D. Yes, of course, we minister before the audience of ONE. Our worship still counts (God loves and enjoys every expression of worship). Plus, our faithfulness adds up, we can grow in meekness, intercede for others, get eternal rewards, etc. And yes, God is forever worthy to receive all the praise, and even demands excellence in music (Ps. 33:3 “*play skillfully*”), **but** all those relevant subjects are NOT my point here.

E. Here is my point: Jesus deeply loved the disciples—they were his friends, his faithful followers—He taught them about the Kingdom for 3 ½ years, he showed them how to live (according the Sermon of the mount), he promised them eternal rewards, and even breathed the Holy Spirit over them in (John 20:22), nevertheless... right before ascending to heaven He announced: **But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. - **Acts 1:8**

F. In short, you can only become an effective ‘witness’ of the person, work, and presence of Jesus through the power (anointing) of the Holy Spirit.

G. Be it preaching, worship ministry or any other ‘public ministry’ that is done in the name of Jesus. He has to come “upon” you and flow from “within”—that is, power from on high and rivers of living water flowing from within (Acts. 2 / John 7:37).

V. THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE FIRST 24/7 WORSHIP CENTER ON EARTH

A. It’s very likely that the musicians (Samuel trained) end up ministering in the tabernacle of David. And it’s clear that both (David and Samuel’s company of prophetic worshipers) moved in the power of the HOLY SPIRIT.

B. Here at IHOP, we often use the phrase *“night and day prayer and worship in the spirit of the tabernacle of David”*. Let us never forget, how the authority and power of the Holy Spirit moved through the founder and forerunners of “the Tabernacle of David”. Let us always remember, that the same man that wrote “One Thing I Desire” was inspired by his friend the Holy Spirit.

C. So important was the Holy Spirit to David that the day he repented from the worst mistake of his life, he was not worried about losing the kingdom, or his wealth, or his influence over Israel... no... here is what concerned David the most:

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do **not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit** from me. - **Psalm. 51:10-11**

D. The presence of the HOLY SPIRIT was the most valuable asset David had. Without the Holy Spirit he was lifeless. (Plus, he saw what happened to King Saul when the Spirit of God departed).

VI. THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY AND THE TESTIMONY of JESUS

“See that you do not do that! ... Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” - **Rev. 19:10**

1. First, “the testimony of Jesus” as a strong tangible presence of the Son of God in the room. You can feel the Lord is manifest in the room.
2. Second, “the testimony of Jesus” as the declaration of His beauty and majesty through the music and singing of prophetic worshipers.