

21-Day Fast and Pray

January 20, 2018

As you have seen, the 21-Days of prayer is designed to help us as we pray and teach us how to pray so that we can obtain promises and advance the Kingdom.

Today, our focus is on worship.

When the Tribe of Levi was first set apart and identified for their calling (Levitical worshippers), the Lord gave foundational directions concerning their unique role: *At that time the Lord set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord to stand before the Lord to minister to him and to bless in his name, to this day.* – Deuteronomy 8:10 ESV

Notice how this call to worship ends with the three words: *"to this day."* We are spiritual descendants of the tribe of Levi (through Christ's atonement) people chosen and called to this Levitical worship, *to this day!*

1. We carry in us the glory of God

The ark of the covenant represented God's presence and His glory and the Levites were called to carry the ark. We need to be reminded that He is in us. Wherever we go, the Presence and Glory of God rests on us. As you enter a room, the Presence of God fills the atmosphere. *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.* – 2 Cor 3:18 ESV

Pray that God will help us see that we are called to worship, called to carry His glory and flow with the healing, restoring, transforming Presence of God everywhere we go.

2. We are ministers to the Lord.

Worship is ministry to God. Levitical worshippers were commanded to stand before the Lord and minister to Him. But what does it mean for us to "minister to the Lord?"

It means that we give Him our **undivided attention, our first love, our highest praise, our full passion.**

We hold no part of ourselves from Him.

It means to lavish love upon Him with the best of all we have. Clapping hands, lifting our voices, giving alms and tithes and offerings, playing music, singing songs, exuberant dancing, quiet devotions and deep reverence... *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” - Deuteronomy 6:5 NKJV.* Do you remember the story of the woman with the alabaster box of ointment? (Luke 7:37)

3. We are to bless in His name

God blesses us but how on earth do we bless Him?

In Scripture, when God "blesses" men, they are made better off than they were before, but when men "bless" God he is not. When the OT speaks of blessing God is an "exclamation of gratitude and admiration"

When we bless God, we do not change Him or His state at all, we do not make Him larger or higher.

No, when we bless Him, we recognize his great richness, strength, and gracious bounty and express our gratitude and delight in seeing and experiencing it.

Here are some texts that help us in “Blessing God.” Why not worship your way through them?

***Deuteronomy 8:10** And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.*

***Psalms 100:4** Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!*

***Psalms 145:10** All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!*

***Psalms 103:2** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,*

***Psalms 96:2-3** Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!*

(Here bless means to joyfully announce all these good things about God to all hearers.)

***Psalms 104:1** Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty,*

1 Chronicles 29:10 Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever."

Psalm 34:1 I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 145:1-2,21 I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Psalm 113:1,2 Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord! Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore!

Deuteronomy 10:9 reveals a most powerful truth. True worshippers have a most marvelous inheritance: The Lord is His inheritance. Do you see this? The inheritance of the worshiper is not natural nor temporal. It is supernatural and eternal.

John 4:23

But the hour is coming, **and** now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in **spirit and truth**; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.