

Worship and Upbuilding

Gospel and Grace] GET THE GOSPEL
God's Story/ Your Story]

Reading the Word] GROW IN
Breathing in Jesus]

Worship and Upbuilding] GATHER AROUND
Serving and Calling]

Giving and Family] GO WITH
Going]

Worship

I'm breathing in your grace, and I'm breathing out your praise. – Matt Redman

Jesus pursues, and we respond. Worship is a response to the sacrificial love God has shown us in Christ.

Psalm 134:2

Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

Q – Why is it pleasant and fitting to sing songs of praise to our God?

Terry Virgo says that praising God through song is **declarative, joyful** and **faith building**.

- **Declarative:** Psalm 145:6 – *[We] shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. [We] shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.*

We declare *who* God is, *how* great he is, *what* he has done, and *what* he is doing!

- **Joyful:** Psalm 107:22 – *And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!* In God's presence is the fullness of joy, therefore we are filled with joy as we sing to God!

- **Faith building:** Psalm 145:5 – *On the glorious splendor of your majesty I will meditate.*

It is faith building to call upon the mighty power of God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It stirs in us to trust God during hard times.

John 4:23-24

The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

Q – What is the Father seeking?

Q – How are we to worship the Father?

Worship in the Spirit

Romans 8:14-15

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God. For you did not received the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons and daughters, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

The Holy Spirit compels us to worship God the Father as his adopted children! If you have been saved by Christ through faith, you are filled with the Holy Spirit and compelled to worship God.

When we gather to worship as a church body, the Holy Spirit is working in us to praise the Father and Son!

Terry Virgo – The Spirit Filled Church

*When we gather together to worship it gives us the opportunity to develop our **fascination** with God.*

Worship is giving God the glory that is rightfully his. Due to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we are able to worship God and proclaim his glory. Through Christ we are accepted and welcomed into God's presence!

Q – What do you enjoy about worshipping God (collectively or individually)?

Q – What is God doing amongst us as his children when we worship him?

1 Corinthians 14:1-4

*Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy ... the one who prophesies speaks to people for their **upbuilding** and **encouragement** and **consolation** ... The one who prophesies builds up the church.*

What is Prophecy?

Old Testament “Prophets” wrote the bible; their prophecies were God’s very words. Today that is not the case. The New Testament encourages Christians to prophecy in a different, less formal way. Current Spirit-empowered prophecy is a **divinely influenced** word, truth or encouragement from one believer to another.

Wayne Grudem – Systematic Theology

A fresh examination of the New Testament teaching on this gift will show that prophecy is telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind.

John Piper – Authority

The finality and sufficiency of Scripture is found in the 66 books of the Bible. Today’s prophecies do not have authority over our lives like scripture does. Whatever prophecies are given today do not add to Scripture. They are tested by Scripture. The gift of prophecy is a Spirit-prompted, Spirit-sustained utterance that does not carry intrinsic, divine authority and may be mixed with error.

New Testament prophecies build on the truths already found in scripture! They spread God’s truth.

Acts 2:17 *In the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.*

Prophecy is hearing from God and building up the church through an encouragement, truth or scripture.

Q – Why does God want to build up, encourage and console his church?

All Can Build Up

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Now there are varieties of gifts, services [and] activities, but it is the same God that empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Prophecy is hearing from God and building up *his* church. **All who are filled with the Holy Spirit can ask God to speak to them.** This doesn’t mean that all have to or will prophecy. Prophecy is a prompting of the Spirit. Some are given the gift of prophecy and will operate in the gift more than others.

How Should Prophecy Be Done?

Sift the good from the bad. Paul suggests, in 1 Corinthians 14:29, that they should listen carefully and sift the good from the bad. Not all words of encouragement (or prophecy) will be accurate and can therefore be ignored or discarded completely. If a prophecy doesn’t align with scripture it should be left behind.

Prophecy can be both public and private. In Acts 21:9, Agabus personally prophesies to Paul. Elsewhere in 1 Corinthians 14 prophecy is an encouragement for the entire church. God may prompt a scripture or encouragement for you to bring to an **individual person** or perhaps the **entire church** (if, bring it to the Elders to weigh and confirm).

It is freeing to know we will sometimes make mistakes. All prophecies can be held with an open hand. God wants to encourage his church through his children, yet we can, at times get it wrong. Prophecy, or any encouragement should never be held as divine and should never be in contradiction with ANY scripture.

God wants to speak to his church through his church to build up his church.

Pray – That God would guide us to worship him joyfully and encourage one another.

For further study see: <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-prophecy-today>