

God's Church

Throughout history, Christians have agreed that several key concepts should be incorporated, actively followed, when worshiping the Lord our Father:

1) Praise: Giving honor and glory to God with words, songs or art. Giving praise is important for us to remember. If we want the Lord to hear our prayers and comfort us, we need to thank and praise Him for all blessings He bestows on us.

2) Confession: Worship means acknowledging who God is (holy and good) and who we are (not so holy and not so good) in relation to Him. This frank assessment of ourselves includes admitting and confessing our sin and accepting God's forgiveness that spiritually elevates us, positioning us no longer in an unrighteous state vulnerable to God's wrath.

3) Prayer: In worship, we speak directly to God about what's on our minds (our needs and the needs of others) contrasted to what's on God's perfect mind (his desire for love and justice and redemption in the world).

4) Hearing God's Word: This means reading Scripture. It also incorporates listening for what God is saying to you through the music, the sermon and everything that simultaneously surrounds you in worship.

5) Remembering Christ's sacrifice: Thinking about how God (Yah) saved us from sin is the very center of our worship: How the greatest sacrifice that was done for us was Yah sending his only Son to die for our sins.

6) Responding to God's love: Worship doesn't end when the service is over; its passion extends into daily living. For example, worship embodies leaving the service so aware of God's greatness that we find ways to obey and honor and serve him throughout the other six days of the week.

Revelation 5:13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

One day in the future, all things that God created will be honoring Him in praise and glory. Why? Because everything has been created by Him and for Him. The Lord is the Master Builder and the Creator of you and me. Thus He deserves our praise and thanks for all that He gives us. Here in the Book of Revelation, we see into the end of time, how we all will end up praising the Lord, the Creator of everything...**why are we not doing this now!**

Psalm 150:1-6 Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!

As Christians, we should praise God and thank Him for being our great and mighty God who dispenses His blessings, mercy and love. Because He is almighty and powerful and has created us to be in the likeness of himself, we should, at the barest minimum, set aside time to thank and praise Him for all the great works He has done and continues to do for us.

1 John 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Confession of sin is the admission of what we did followed by our agreement with God that our actions or words were wrong and that we now need to ask for His forgiveness. When we confess our sins, we are admitting that we violated God's law: That we chose to do, say, or think something opposed to God's will, and by so doing, we stand guilty before Him. For sure we do not want to remain for any length of time in this state of sinning that opposes our Protector, our Father, our God...for on what moral basis could we ask Him to keep us safe or to bless us if we remain entrenched against his laws living in a sinful state?

Mark 11:20-26 Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away." So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God " For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. "But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

Prayer allows us to worship and praise the Lord. It also allows us to offer confession of sins which should lead to us changing our behavior to emulate the Lord's ways of acceptable behavior. Moreover, prayer grants us the opportunity to present our requests to God. In the verse above, we are shown that we must have faith and forgiveness in our request. Yet if we do not believe (have faith) that God can provide us with this request, such doubt, unbelief, coupled with our request not falling within the purview of His ways, would combine to deny this prayer's request.

1 Kings 19:11-12 Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire [a] still small voice.

The point of God speaking in the still, small voice was to show Elijah that the work of God need not always be accompanied by dramatic revelation or manifestations. It also demonstrates God's endless repertoire of choices available to Him in customizing his messaging to us humans. In the case of contacting Elijah, He began with a violent storm of rock-shattering wind that certainly got the attention of the prophet, but God was not in that storm. But then Yah began to speak in a still, small voice in an incredible contrast that utilized the most effective tonal-volume opportunity of talking to convey instructions that strengthened, inspiring Elijah to go out and share The Way of the Lord to the world.

John 3:16-21 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

God the Father loved humanity enough to designate Jesus (Yahshua) to die for us. We in turn must accept that we are sinners in this life and are in need of repentance that saves us from the penalty of death. The only way out for us not having to die for all the sins that we have committed in our life would be for another to take the guilt of those sins away from us and pay for their accrued penalty which would require our death. Christ came to die for the penalty of our sins so that we might be allowed to be saved... we cannot and must not ever take for granted this divine act of love, the supreme sacrifice of Father and Son on our behalf!

Matthew 23: 8-12 "But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. "And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

In almost all religions there is always a leader that stands in the church to direct its members down the right path. God does tell us that there are many of us who will be followers. But God in contrast, implores us to become leaders, crucial in helping to spread understanding of The Word across the world. We are to emulate the earliest disciples by actively engaging people from all walks of life, not merely becoming someone who as a “know-it-all” teacher merely using the title “Christian teacher” for societal prestige while offering scant application relevant to everyday life. Instead, we should be actively demonstrating how to live life in loving obedience to God’s proclaimed statutes and ordinances as exemplified in scripture. Using the spiritual tools of humility and perseverance will successfully demonstrate how each life can be substantively, positively transformed by adopting God’s Way, who He really is. We can see this point in the above verse where God tells us to not be called rabbi or teacher for, despite such accumulated knowledge, we are to remain humble and practical in effectively sharing the word.

Proverb to be pondered:

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

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