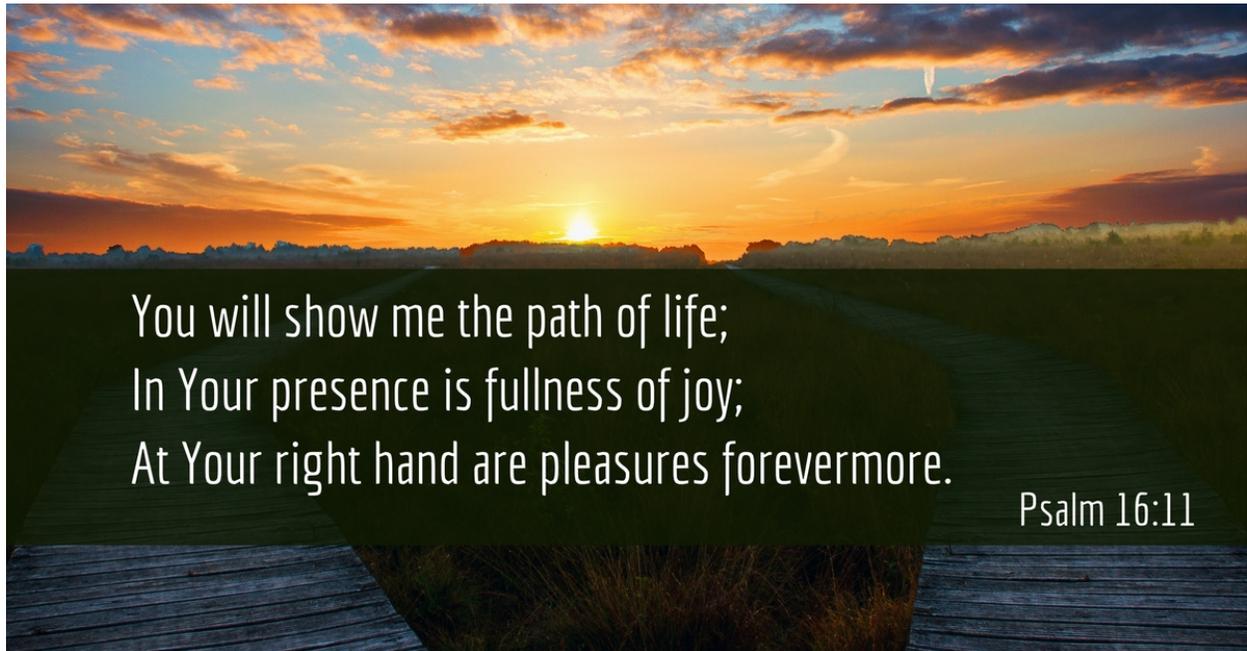


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“Expecting More: By Understanding How To Move Into A Higher Dimension Of Praise and Worship - Praise, Part 1”



By Apostle Jerry Upton

Acknowledgements

I am thankful to God that I have been blessed and highly favored to be in the midst of those who love to praise and worship our Father God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit with all of their spirit, soul, and body. As a leader in the Body of Christ, I have attempted (not always succeeding) to place a high premium on prayer and praise; and not treat either as just an appetizer before the preaching of the Word of God.

The Praise and Worship leaders that lead us into the presence of God are extremely vital to the Body of Christ as the Glory of God is released in an outpouring that has never been witnessed before. I have personally witnessed some of the greatest

demonstrations of God's Power released through Praise and Worship; and I am now EXPECTING MORE than I have ever seen before.

As a preacher of God's Word that has been blessed to preach thousands of sermons, I clearly recognize and understand how vital and important Praise and Worship is in creating the atmosphere for the hearts of the people to be able to receive the Word of God. This is one of the reasons that I believe that God is about to take us into a higher dimension of Praise and Worship in order to open our hearts to secrets and truths that have been concealed that are about to be revealed in our day and time.

I have purposely divided this teaching in two sections, and two different teachings: (1) Thanksgiving and Praise; (2) Worship. I will be utilizing the pattern that God has set forth in His Word to gain a greater understanding of how they work together, and the power of God that is released when we do things His way. I pray that you would read these two sections over and over again, and that you would set your heart to EXPECT MORE from your Praise and Worship than you have ever experienced before.

Expecting More: By Understanding How To Move Into A Higher Dimension Of Praise and Worship - Praise, Part 1 — Thanksgiving

As we move into a higher dimension of praise and worship, we will come to understand that praise and worship is not just about singing 'songs'; but rather, it has everything to do with God and his Presence. Our Father God has created something extremely special and life-changing for us through praise and worship, and that is the honor of having fellowship, communion, relationship, and intimacy with Him.

In our 'Expect More' series, we will be receiving revelation about praise and worship as a lifestyle that releases:

- *** A fresh relationship with God on a daily basis **{Psalms 92nd Chapter}**
- *** Experiencing a higher level of fellowship with God each day **{I Corinthians 1:9}**
- *** A release of God's presence that will fill us with joy **{Psalms 16:11}**
- *** A hunger for God's presence that will increase in our lives each day **{Psalms 42:1-2}**
- *** A deep communion that releases complete fulfillment in our lives **{Psalms 63:1-11}**
- *** Experiencing a strength that causes us to overcome any situation that comes against us **{Psalms 84:1-7}**
- *** Continuously staying filled with the Holy Spirit each day **{Ephesians 5:18-20}**

The Different Vehicles That Release The Power of Thanksgiving & Praise In Our Lives/And Different Kinds Of Songs/Words That We Sing

Prayers — {exp.} "Search Me O God"

Declarations to ourselves and others about who we are in Christ — {Exp.} “A Chosen Generation”

Warfare — Fight the good fight of faith - {Exp.} “Lion of the Tribe of Judah”

Scripture — Psalms and other scriptures - {Exp.} “Bless the Lord, O My Soul”

Hymns, testimonies, encouraging songs, songs with the truth of God’s Word in them — {Exp.} “Amazing Grace”

Spiritual Songs — Words given by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

Praise — {Exp.} “Lift Up A Praise”

Worship — {Exp.} “Thou Art Worthy”

Prophetic Songs — Songs from the Holy Spirit that releases insight, direction, awareness, and an understanding of the heart of God

Thanksgiving and Praise — The Keys To Entering His Gates & Courts

***One of the great dimensions of Praise is released from those who live a life of THANKSGIVING.**

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: Come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord He is God: It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with Thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.” **{Psalms 100th Chapter}**

Through the psalmist David, God gives us His way of approaching Him in order to enter His presence. We go through the gates with thanksgiving, and we enter His courts with praise. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for thanks is ‘**Towdah**’. It essentially means to extend the hands in adoration and thanksgiving expressing our gratefulness for what He has done, and what He has promised to do. **{See Psalm 26:7; 50:14; 69:30; 100:4; 107:22; 116:17; Isaiah 51:3}**

The word in Hebrew often translated as *thanks* or *thanksgiving* in the Old Testament is related to the word for ‘*hand*’; the concept of giving thanks is stretching out or lifting up of the hand to God. We live lifestyles that reflect our thanksgiving for His goodness; His mercy; His kindness and faithfulness. One of the best demonstrations of this is found in **II Chronicles 5:11-14**.

In the New Testament, we clearly find that in order to be in the will of God we must give thanks in the midst of everything, no matter what is happening. When we are not living

thankful lives and giving thanks, we are definitely out of the will of God because we are not responding appropriately to God's goodness. **{See I Thessalonians 5:16-19}**
Scriptures for giving thanks: **{Colossians 1:12-14; Colossians 3:15-17; Ephesians 5:4; Philippians 4:6}**

Thanksgiving unlocks the supernatural miracle power of God as revealed in John 6:11-12, 23 — in the feeding of the 5,000. As Jesus gave thanks for what was in His hand, His thanksgiving released what was in God's hand that resulted in a supernatural demonstration of God's provision. **EXPECT MORE**