

WORSHIP DOES NOT TRUMP MISSION NOR DOES MISSION TRUMP WORSHIP

I've been writing long enough, especially in this blog, that people know that I describe myself as a Bapticostal. By that I mean that I like the fundamental convictions of the Baptists but I also like the freedom that comes with Pentecostal mode of worship. I think that melding the two makes for a more meaningful life for Mashiach plus it also keeps with what Yeshua said, as ascribed in John:

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. John 4:23-24

When I think about the two sects above, I imagine two men who are side by side, about to be burned at the stake. The Baptist would be quoting John 3:16-17 while right next to him the Pentecostal would be singing the hymn, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name..." The Baptist would be worshipping Yahweh in Truth, while the Pentecostal would be worshipping Yahweh in Spirit. In the same vein, the Baptist would be worshipping in Spirit because he is being obedient by proclaiming Yahweh's Word (Spiritually Inspired) and the Pentecostal would be worshipping in Truth because he would be obedient by proclaiming Yahweh's praises.

I was going to start out this paragraph by stating that worship in Spirit and Truth is like a circle, but that wouldn't be totally correct. To follow a circle, one has to go in one direction or the other; clockwise or counterclockwise. I think that describing true worship as the movement of a pendulum. A pendulum swings from one direction to the other. The momentum of swinging one way leads to the momentum of swinging to the other. The world is sort of like gravity. Gravity interferes with a pendulum because it wants to pull the bottom of the pendulum toward the center of the earth thus retarding the swing of the pendulum after each cycle. Gravity can be equated as the lusts and desires of worldly living, or the entropy that comes with living in a decaying and dying world. However, where Yahweh is concerned, if we are focused on Him then the force of gravity (the influence of this world) is diminished, and can be overcome if one allows, and the pendulum can become perpetual in motion.

Breaking it down even further, I really don't think that many Christians know that there is a difference between praise and worship. Praise is a more corporate thing, it is outward. In Church we sing:

Praise the name of Yeshua

Praise the name of Yeshua

He's our rock

He's our fortress

He's our deliver, in Him will I trust

Praise the name of Yeshua.

Worship is a more "one on one" communication. I like to refer to it as adoration; my person talk of love toward my Yahweh:

I love you Yahweh,

And I lift my voice,

To Worship You,

Oh my soul rejoice,

Take joy My King, in what You hear,

May I be a sweet, sweet sound, in your ear.

Note that the first one is corporate and uses the word "our" in the body of the song. The second is person and uses the words, "I" and "my" in the body of the song. Another way of looking at it is the way that spouses talk about or to each other. For instance, when I go to work and tell my coworkers that my wife is wonderful, how she loves me and how Yahweh made her just for me; that is singing her praises. However, if we are sitting on the couch and we hold each

other and I tell her how much I love her, how wonderful a wife she is and how I know that Yahweh made her special just for me; we are having a one on one conversation and I'm pouring my heart out to her, that is what worship is like. I don't worship my wife, but use human terms to show what worship is, however I do adore her, and that is what worship is, adoration to and from Yahweh Yeshua.

There are many worship leaders today that I believe don't know the difference between praise and worship. They confuse the two and cause confusion amongst the brethren. Praise is supposed to be performed with musical instruments, we see many instances of this in the Psalms, one being:

Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. 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 psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. Psalm 150

Again, worship is that one on one expression of adoration. There may be more than one person having a one on one with Yahweh, but each one is focusing their attention on personal attributes that they see as important elements of what Yahweh has done for them:

The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Revelation 4:10-11

Praise can be directed from a person toward another, or a group toward another group. Parents praise their child for getting good grades in school or acting socially appropriate. Praise can be directed toward anyone, but worship is to be given only to Yahweh Elohim.

Recently I broke my own code of conduct; let me explain. I have declared for years that before a person makes judgment over something that has been said, written or expressed in any fashion, that whoever is listening, reading or taking in that information should take that form of communication to its extent before making comments, critiques or even praises of what they are taking in. I wouldn't judge a whole meal if I only ate the appetizer. I wouldn't critique an automobile without driving or riding in it, and so on. To correctly judge something or someone the person that is doing the discrimination should hear the whole story or taste all of the fruit, so

to speak. I should know better, seeing that I've had bits and pieces of my own words taken and pasted together to make me look like a heretic or lacking in knowledge about a subject. Me and my ministry partners constantly exhort people to judge the things we say with scripture. We also beg people to not use a scripture out of context with what the scriptures before and after a particular scripture happens to convey.

I'll be the first one to admit that I think that there are ministries out there that are quite blatant in their heresies. For example, there is no doubt that Bethel Church in Redding, California is involved in some bizarre NAR false doctrines. There is no doubt that Todd Bentley is a heretic and a reprobate and there is no doubt that Kenneth Copeland presents a false gospel. We know these things to be true because of the dreck that they present in word both printed and spoken. However, just because a person is associated with a heresy doesn't mean that one hundred percent of something that they present is wrong. This is where I spoke out in error.

Recently an article was presented on Facebook; an article written by a woman that is with the problematic Hillsong Movement. The woman made a remark, saying that "mission doesn't trump worship..." and boy was I fast to pick up on that without reading much more of what she wrote. I jumped right on the bandwagon and said that she was completely wrong. It was the Baptist side of me coming out without letting the information go through the Pentecostal filter. About three days later I felt led by the Ruach Ha Kodesh to read what she wrote in more depth. Having read ALL of her dissertation I realized that the woman was right. The message that she was trying to convey is basically this; before we go out on the mission field, we had better examine whether we are prayed up and right with Yahweh through worship. In other words, we had better make sure that we were putting the horse before the cart before we proceeded to travel.

I'd like to explain why I was so defensive about what I read. There are those who believe that Yahweh can only be reached when he receives praise 24/7 or when people pray 24/7. These people in essence have turned Yahweh into someone that can be manipulated through a prescribed method of doing things. This is akin to witchcraft. It is those in Wicca that use spells and incantations to receive what they want. I happen to believe that asking Yahweh for things is easier than all of that. First, we ask for what we need, not what we want. We ask for what is within His will for us. We ask in a humble and contrite manner, without a manipulation function to the prayer. And finally, after we ask, if we get it then it is what He wanted for us; if not, then it wasn't what he wanted for us, or it wasn't the right time for what we asked. Remember, He's God and we're servants, not visitors to some sort of celestial Vegas where we

place our prayers on some sort of galactic roulette wheel knowing that there's going to be a time when the ball lands on our number because we're picking the same number 24/7. Yahweh answers prayers in His timing for His purpose and for His glory. We Servants of Yahweh, and we're not children that can boss him around, telling him what to do and taking advantage because we think He's getting feeble in his old age. As soon as people start to understand the "servant" relationship we have with Him, the better we will be at understanding it is He that is control of everything. Him God, you servant, got it?

There is a lot of heresy going around where worship is concerned. Some people believe that constant praise will restore the Tabernacle of David, taking out of context (totally I might add) the meaning of that scripture. Look it up for yourselves if you don't believe me. Then there are those who believe that if a church sings praises 24/7 without ceasing they will have a more direct line to Yahweh, and they think with unmitigated gall that they can actually call the Holy Spirit down because "God Inhabits the Praises of His People." Well, yes, he does inhabit praises but it isn't a formula to get Yahweh to act on something. When people start getting into gimmicks, they start to practice witchcraft which is the bedfellow of rebellion. Once a person or group thinks that they can use a formula (or spell or incantation) to summon the Ruach Ha Kodesh they are practicing witchcraft. Yeshua sends His Ruach out to set upon people who are humble and contrite and those thirsting for His righteousness, not a rebellious people who think that they can manipulate Him through words and deeds. Only a moron would think that they could pull one over on Yahweh, who has heard every one of their thoughts and seen every one of their deeds from before the foundation of Creation itself.

I've said many times that in the past all we really had to inform people about were the big heresies that has been around for quite some time; you know, the big cults like Mormonism, JW's and Replacement Theologians. However, as time has marched on more heresies have been put on the plate to the point where if there isn't one new heresy a week I am really surprised. If doing this sort of research paid enough for me to make a living, I could literally quit my job and do this full time. We are currently going through the "great falling away," mentioned in scripture. As people fall away, they twist scripture to justify their wandering from the faith and what supposed "Christians" have been writing recently make me wonder if the government is releasing some sort of hallucinogen in those chemtrails. I mean, if Rod Serling were still alive and writing Twilight Episodes he would even think that some of the stuff coming out of the "Church" was bizarre.

Yes, I did jump the gun, I admit that and confessed to it. I will say however that some behaviors are come from environment. I once had a coworker make the statement that whenever someone approached, I would look out of the corner of my eye. He then told me that one other person did that, a pharmacist that came from Chicago. Well, put it together; both the pharmacist and I came from rough neighborhoods and we always had to be aware of our surroundings, and especially who was coming up to us. When we went to restaurants, my dad would always want to sit where he could observe the main entrance. He knew that when the mob did public hits they would come in through the front door and he knew how they looked; he was just being careful. Well, I've dealt with so many heresies that when I see something funny, I have to investigate. There are certain attributes to heretics; things that they say or actions that they exhibit. They are spiritually unstable, and they all have some sort of tick which allows a discerning person to see who they are.

In ending, let me reiterate, my ministry brother and I always tell people to show us Scripture, Text and Verse when they try to present something that we haven't seen before or something that just doesn't sound right. There is another practice to add to those there, that being Context. If I or anyone else tries to sell you a new line, or what the NAR calls a New Revelation, ask them for scripture, text and verse. After that, ask them how that verse(s) plays into context with what the chapter or the paragraphs above and below that particular verse and how it interacts with them. In addition, the Bible interprets itself by itself. Many people nowadays are presenting scriptures that verify their work. That is fine, but show me another scripture in the Bible that verifies your verification. For example, if I were to tell you to read Isaiah 53 and tell you that it talks about Yeshua's ministry and his atonement for you and me; you would search scripture to verify that what I'm telling you is true. Of course, you'd jump ahead to the Gospels and by reading them you would see that indeed Isaiah 53 is talking about a suffering servant that atoned for our sins. If on the other hand, I was a NAR member and I told you that your Christian faith has made you a substitute for the physical Jewish people, you would indeed go again to scripture and read the prophets and would also read the Gospels and some of the Letters of Paul to the Churches, which would prove me to be dead wrong. Don't take things on face value. In these days of mass heresy, you have to check everything with scripture, no matter where it comes from; even if it is preached from the pulpit by a pastor that you know and love; check it out. Oh, and always remember that every scripture has a literal meaning and a spiritual meaning. If someone tries to tell you to spiritualize a scripture and not take it literally, they are a deceiver.

And finally, before you jump on a bandwagon that is full of people already, read through the works that people have written. Read and try to understand the purpose that the person had for

writing what they did. Look to see if they wrote metaphors and/or analogies. Read through a document two or three times if you must. Print it out so that you can sit and read it when you're not looking at your computer. Write to that person if you don't understand what they said; that clears things up many times. Some people are so flooded with ideas that they have that they don't write it down right and don't see their mistakes. Unless you see a blatant error, lie or heresy, give the benefit of the doubt. Scripture tells us to test the spirits. It also tells to be crafty as serpents but gentle as doves. In other words, be a Bapticostal. (Smile)