

Fruitfulness Bible Study Week 3: Passionate Worship!

A Bible Study Series of The Mt. Zion Church

Pastor Ken Patterson, Ph.D.



Book: *Cultivating Fruitfulness*

By

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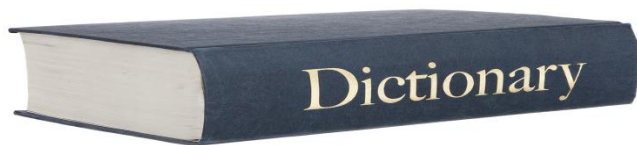


We Have the Vision to be a LEARNING Church!
We are Rooted in Christ and Reaching the One!

Group Check: How did you hold yourself accountable to what you committed to in Radical Hospitality?

Passionate Worship is the next characteristic of a church which is fruitful. As we seek to cultivate fruitfulness and internalize who Christ has called us to be, this often discussed but rarely explained issue will transform us into individuals who connect with God and help others connect as well. Most importantly, understanding radical worship will allow the church to be a place where lives are saved, changed, and healed.

Worship Defined



A few words in the Bible describe the idea of worship.

(The original text of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the original text of the New Testament was written in Greek)

- **Old Testament Hebrew words** such as *shachah* meaning to bow down in Genesis 18:2 or *minchah* – to the Lord. Meaning bring a gift, offering, or to present something as in Genesis 4:3-4

or

- We also see the idea in **Greek words from the New Testament** such as *proskyneō* which means to bow down and worship as in Matthew 2:2

In each instance the idea of worship is an active verb where the worshipper does something.

PASSIONATE WORSHIP then is an above normal lowering of self (sometimes physically to bow, mostly lowering of self-importance) which connects to the worshipper's heart and elevates God by the presenting of gifts to Him as expression of my love, honor, and thankfulness.

DISCUSS: Why is it true that you cannot and will not worship (lower yourself) God if you do not understand that He is King and you are a servant depending on him for everything (Everything? Yes! Everything!)

Keys to Worship

➤ Key # 1. Passionate Worship is not an accident

Passionate worship is not something that happens randomly. It is an outpouring expression and longing for Jesus' presence which grows as we come to know Him more. In other words, you will have difficulty connecting with Christ if you are not seeking to connect with Christ regularly....like every day!

Read Psalms 84: 1-4

How does the writer describe the presence of God?

Why is it important that we have on-going interactions with God? Do you regularly seek those interactions? If not, what gets in the way?

Notice the phrase related to making a home with the Lord. Does this happen accidentally? When the writer describes that he wants to make a home with the Lord, he is suggesting a level of closeness that exceeds the normal. What are the relationships like in a home vs. a house (Think the old Luther Vandross song)?

When you come to church do you come and worship God and make it a home with Him or do you show up and it is simply a house? **How does this impact your expression of worship as you are in service?**

➤ **Key # 2. Passionate Worship considers the needs of people**

In what ways can your church become more customer friendly towards the people of God so that passionate worship can occur? **Create a list and have someone email this to Pastor Ken!**

Answer 1: Have Children's Church (Pastor Ken's answer)

How will these actions help to facilitate passionate worship?

➤ **Key # 3. Passionate Worship creates change**

Read Ezekiel 11: 19 and Psalms 73:4-17

What is happening in these two texts that show what passionate worship can do?
How can we help others to experience worship as in the Psalms 73 passage?

Conclusion: In this lesson you have seen how worship is an active way of meeting God. We did not talk about locations of worship because worship can happen in any place. However, we are admonished by Paul to gather together for worship Hebrews 10:25 so that we can gain strength from one another. When you come to worship next Sunday, how should this lesson impact that moment in your week?

Prayer