

## I. Closet Worship: By Myself in the Presence of the Lord

### A. Value of private worship:

- Christ's Example: Mark 1:35
 

**35** Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He got up, went out, and made His way to a deserted place. And He was praying there.
- Christ's Command and Reward: Matthew 6
  1. **3** But when you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
  2. **6** But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
  3. **17** But when you fast, put oil on your head, and wash your face, **18** so that you don't show your fasting to people but to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
  4. **20** But collect for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. (*Doxology and Theology*. 100)
  5. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.
- Christ's Handiwork: Psalm 139:13
 

**13** For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb.

### B. Ceasing to be Religion to Becoming a Journey of Faith:

- Charles Spurgeon's "Before Daybreak with Christ" Sermon #1769
 

"He rose up that weekday morning early, and retired to a solitary place to pray, to teach us not to keep our religiousness for Sabbath days, or retain our prayerfulness for one day of the week. Many Jews in Christ's day said, "We have been to synagogue," and when going to synagogue was over their religion was over too. At this day we are surrounded by persons whose godliness is circumscribed within the four walls of their synagogue, their church, their tabernacle, or whatever else they like to call it. Religion means to many, the observance of certain ceremonies at stated times. They put on different clothes, and tread another floor, and then their religion begins. Do they put on different garments on the Sabbath because they are different men, or because they wish to be thought so? There is such a thing as a Sunday religion, and he that has it will be lost. The religion which only lives in our religious assemblies, how can it serve our turn? Shall we be in the meeting all the week? Shall we die in the place of worship? In all probability we shall die in our beds at home, and therefore we need a household godliness. Prayer on Sunday is well enough, but far better is the supplication which continually waits upon God. Our Sabbath prayer should abound, but the weekdays equally need prayer, and should be saturated with it. Grace is for streets and shops as well as for sanctuaries. It is well when God rules our thoughts as much in the shop as in the prayer meeting—when we are as much under the governance of our Lord Jesus Christ when we are busy in the family as when we are sitting in the church of God. Oh, let us see to this! Our Master gives us a good example here. It was not upon the Sabbath morning that He woke so early, it was on the first day of the week, not yet rendered sacred by His resurrection, that our Lord left His bed, and wended His way through the shadows to find a place for fellowship with the Father." (Spurgeon)
- Notice the flow of events: Mark 1:35-39
 

**35** Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He got up, went out, and made His way to a deserted place. And He was praying there. **36** Simon and his companions went searching for Him. **37** They found Him (*in solitude*) and said, "Everyone's looking for You!" (*Transitions from private to public*) **38** And He said to them, "Let's go on to the neighboring villages so that I may preach there too. This is why I have come." **39** So He went into all of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues (*closet worship serves corporate worship*) and driving out demons.

## II. Corporate Worship: Together in the Presence of God

### A. Exaltation of the Lord

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

**4** Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. **5** There are different ministries, but the same Lord. **6** And there are different activities, but the same God activates each gift in each person. **7** A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person to produce what is beneficial:

**8** to one is given a message of wisdom

through the Spirit,

to another, a message of knowledge

by the same Spirit,

**9** to another, faith by the same Spirit,

to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

**10** to another, the performing of miracles,

to another, prophecy,

to another, distinguishing between spirits,

to another, different kinds of languages,

to another, interpretation of languages.

**11** But one and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as He wills.

**12** For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is

Christ. **13** For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

- David Peterson:

“Such text suggest that, when Christians meet together to minister to one another, there is a corporate, spiritual, engagement with God, in the Holy Spirit, through his words.” (Peterson. 198)

- Words as an intersection:

God’s words reveal: Romans 10:17 - this is why what is preached is so important

**17** So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.

Man’s words respond: Colossians 3:16 - this is why what we sing is so important

**16** Let the message about the Messiah dwell richly among you, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, and singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God.

- The result:

“We meet with God when we meet with one another” (Peterson. 198)

### B. Edification of the Church

- 1 Corinthians 14:26 - Orderly worship

**26** What then is the conclusion, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, another language, or an interpretation. All things must be done for edification.

- Ephesians 4:11-16 - Strengthening the body of church

**11** And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, **12** for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, **13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness. **14** Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. **15** But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into

- Him who is the head—Christ. **16** From Him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part.
- Ephesians 5:19 - Communicating the truth to one another
    - 19** speaking to one another
    - in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs,
    - singing and making music
    - from your heart to the Lord,
  - Hebrews 10:24-25 - Not forsaking one another
    - 24** And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, **25** not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

### **C. Real World Example: Honduras, 2016**

- "And while we can't orchestrate the activity of God's Spirit, we can yearn for it, expect it, and be ready for it." (Kauflin. 136)
- Order: singing and testimony
- Spontaneity: added worship elements of speaking in tongues and interpretation
- Result: exaltation of the Lord and edification of the church in elements of worship for the mission ahead the following morning

**Works Cited**

Boswell, Matt. *Doxology & Theology*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing, 2013

Peterson, David. *Engaging with God a Biblical Theology of Worship*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004

Spurgeon, C.H. "Before Daybreak with Christ." Sermon, Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit. Accessed October 20, 2017. <https://www.spurgeongems.org/vols28-30/chs1769.pdf>.