
WORSHIP JOURNAL

THE FOUR PARTS OF BEING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PREPARATION: Who may enter God's Presence?

As the Ancient Israelites traveled to Jerusalem to worship, they would often go together in groups. As they journeyed they would sing "Songs of Ascent", special songs to prepare them for the gathering at the temple. One such song, Psalm 24 asks the question "Who may go up to the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy temple?" What's the answer? "Only those with clean hands and pure hearts who have not worshipped idols who have not made promises in the name of a false God. They will receive a blessing from the LORD." (Psa 24:3-5 NCV) As we prepare for worship we must ask ourselves the following questions:

- Are my hands clean? Is there any sin I need to confess? Anything I have done that I should not have? Anything I have not done that I should have?
- Is my heart pure? Do I have the right attitude for worship? Am I bearing a grudge against anyone I need to forgive? Am I ready to focus on God and hear his Word?
- Have I worshipped false idols? Are my priorities right? Is God really number one in my life?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, we need to confess these things and ask for God's forgiveness and, if possible, make things right with anyone we have wronged. Only then can we worship God without having other things to distract us and keep us from receiving his blessing.

ADORATION: How do I enter God's presence?

The Psalmist wrote the familiar words "Come into his city with songs of thanksgiving and into his courtyards with songs of praise. Thank him and praise his name. The LORD is good. His love is forever and his loyalty goes on and on." (Psa 100:4-5 NCV) An important part of any worship

service is entering his presence with thanksgiving and praise. As you worship jot down the things in the service that make you grateful and the things for which you praise his name.

INSTRUCTION: What do I learn in God's Presence?

During one of his special times with God, David wrote these words: "LORD I give myself to you; My God, I trust you. Do not let me be disgraced. . . LORD, tell me your ways. Show me how to live. Guide me in your truth, and teach me my God, My Savior." (Psa 25:1, 4-5 NCV) Part of being in God's presence is wanting to learn from him. Our pastors and preachers spend hours each week praying that God would show them the message God wants his people to hear. If we want to be God's people, we need to listen to his teaching. This part of the journal may be used to make notes to help you remember God's special message to you. Maybe you want to make an outline. Maybe you want to write down special quotes. Maybe you need to jot down what God is saying to you through your pastor.

APPLICATION: How do I leave God's Presence?

"Happy are those who live pure lives, who follow the LORD'S teachings. Happy are those who keep his rules, who try to obey him with their whole heart. They don't do what is wrong; they follow his ways. LORD you gave your orders to be obeyed completely. I wish I were more loyal in obeying your commands." (Psa 119: 1-5 NCV) When we come away from worship we must come away changed. God has given us a message, and he intends it to be obeyed. Before you leave the sanctuary take a few moments to apply the message to your life. Ask: What did I discover in worship today? How does God want to change my life? How does this truth apply to my relationship with my family, my friends, and my world? Answer these specifically and honestly.

