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HOLY ROAR

7 WORDS THAT WILL CHANGE THE WAY YOU WORSHIP

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK
one

THE HANDS
OF PRAISE
One: The Hands of Praise

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

But just as the lifting up of the hands is a symbol of confidence and longing, so in order to show our humility we fall down on our knees.

—JOHN CALVIN

Read the following verses:

Psalm 28:2
Psalm 63:4
Psalm 88:9
Psalm 134:2
Psalm 141:2
Psalm 143:6
Lamentations 3:41
1 Kings 8:22

Personal and group reflection questions:

1. Based on the above verses, how common do you think the practice of lifting hands in worship was in the ancient world?
2. Do you regularly praise God by lifting your hands? If so, think about or describe the first time you remember lifting your hands in worship in a public setting.

3. Read the quote by John Calvin. Do any words or phrases stand out to you? How do these words impact the way you think about praising God?

4. How do you think lifting hands represents confidence and longing?

5. What are we communicating to God when we lift our hands?
two

THE FOOLS
OF PRAISE
FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

The most valuable thing the psalms do for me is to express the same delight in God which made David dance.
—C.S. LEWIS

Read the following verses:

Psalm 150
Luke 15:23–24
Ecclesiastes 3:4
Philippians 4:4
Psalm 30:11
Acts 3:8

Personal and group reflection questions:

1. Based on these verses, what words would you use to describe praising God?

2. If you grew up attending church, think about or describe a typical church service. Was it an outwardly expressive, enthusiastic environment of praising God?
3. Read the quote by C.S. Lewis. Do any words or phrases stand out to you? How do these words impact the way you think about praising God?

4. Why do you think some people are hesitant to express their celebration in a church gathering?

5. When you praise God in a public setting, how conscious are you of others around you?
three

THE MUSIC OF PRAISE
Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.

—MARTIN LUTHER

Read the following verses:

Ephesians 5:19
Colossians 3:16
Psalm 33:1–4
1 Samuel 16:23
Psalm 150:4
Psalm 144:9
Psalm 101:1

Personal and group reflection questions:

1. Based on these verses, how common do you think the practice of music was in the ancient world?
2. Do you play a musical instrument? If so, how does playing music help you to express your heart of praising God?

3. Read the quote by Martin Luther. Do any words or phrases stand out to you? How do these words impact the way you think about praising God?

4. What role has music played in your spiritual journey?

5. How does music impact your heart, thoughts, and emotions?
four

THE EXPECTATION OF PRAISE
Four: The Expectation of Praise

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

True worship that is pleasing to God creates within the human heart a spirit of expectation and insatiable longing.
—A.W. TOZER

Read the following verses:

Psalm 141:2  
Psalm 88:9  
Hebrews 11:6  
1 Corinthians 2:5  
Habakkuk 3:2  
2 Corinthians 5:7  
Psalm 121:1–2  
Psalm 20:7

Personal and group reflection questions:

1. After reading these verses, what impact do you think praising God has on your personal faith in him?
2. Think about or describe a time when you have seen God answer a specific prayer or specific need that you had.

3. Read the quote by A.W. Tozer. Do any words or phrases stand out to you? How do these words impact the way you think about praising God?

4. How is your faith impacted when you are among other believers when they are praising God?

5. Is there something that you are currently asking God for? Have you offered praise (tōwdâh) in faith that he would answer you?
five

THE POSTURE
OF PRAISE
Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night divine
O night divine.
—FROM “O HOLY NIGHT” BY PLACIDE CAPPEAU (1847)

Read the following verses:

Psalm 95:6
Ezekiel 3:23
Ephesians 3:14
Daniel 6:10
Ezra 9:5
Romans 14:11
Acts 20:36
Revelation 7:11
**Personal and group reflection questions:**

1. Based on these verses, how common do you think the worship practice of kneeling down was in the ancient world?

2. The root meaning for the Hebrew word we translate worship is “to prostrate.” The word *bless* literally means “to kneel.” Can you think of a time when you had a meaningful experience kneeling before the Lord?

3. Read the lyrics from “O Holy Night” by Placide Cappeau. Do any words or phrases stand out to you? How do these words impact the way you think about praising God?

4. What does kneeling before God communicate to him?

5. How often do you take time to kneel before God? Is this something you wish to do more?
six

THE SONGS
OF PRAISE
Praise is the rehearsal of our eternal song. By grace we learn to sing, and in glory we continue to sing.
—CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON

Read the following verses:

Psalm 40:3
Psalm 33:3
Psalm 144:9
Revelation 14:3
Revelation 5:9
Ephesians 5:19
Matthew 26:26–30

Personal and group reflection questions:

1. Based on these verses, how important do you think the worship practice of singing was in the ancient world?

2. Do you ever sing new, unrehearsed songs to the Lord? What does this practice do in your heart?
3. Read the quote by Charles Haddon Spurgeon. Do any words or phrases stand out to you? How do these words impact the way you think about praising God?

4. Which worship songs have been most meaningful to you?

5. What environment is your favorite place to praise God?
seven

THE SHOUT
OF PRAISE
Seven: The Shout of Praise
FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Oh, can You hear it?
It’s the song of the redeemed
The pursuit of passion for the One who set us free
Oh, can You hear it?
We’re crying out for more
Listen to our song
It’s turning into a Holy Roar.
—NATHAN AND CHRISTY NOCKELS

Read the following verses:

Psalm 98:4
Psalm 71:23
Psalm 35:27
Psalm 66:1–2
Psalm 95:1
Joshua 6:20
Ezra 3:11
Isaiah 12:6
Personal and group reflection questions:

1. Based on these verses, how common do you think the practice of a “shout of praise” was in the ancient world?

2. Do you regularly worship God with a shout of praise?

3. Read the lyrics from “Holy Roar” by Nathan and Christy Nockels. Do any words or phrases stand out to you? How do these words impact the way you think about praising God?

4. Have you ever been in an environment where you were part of a loud corporate shout of praise?

5. Think about or describe that scene. How did you feel in that moment?
conclusion

THE PRACTICE OF PRAISE
Worship at its best is a social experience with people of all levels of life coming together to realize their oneness and unity under God. Whenever the church, consciously or unconsciously caters to one class it loses the spiritual force of the “whosoever will, let him come” doctrine, and is in danger of becoming little more than a social club with a thin veneer of religiosity.

—MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Read the following verses:

Psalm 133  
Romans 15:6  
Philippians 2:2  
1 Peter 3:8  
Acts 2:1  
Colossians 3:14
Personal and group reflection questions:

1. Based on these verses, how important do you think unity is within the church community?

2. Music style is sometimes a divisive factor in churches. How could you use it to produce unity?

3. Read the quote by Martin Luther King Jr. Do any words or phrases stand out to you? How do these words impact the way you think about praising God?

4. How is your church community doing with “all levels of life” coming together? Is this something you are actively working toward?

5. If praising God in a corporate gathering is a practice of unity, how can you work to cultivate a greater degree of unity in your church?