



GATEWAYS

WORSHIP

# Gateways: Worship

## Journey & Destination Issues

- Sabbath
  - Rhythm of Rest
  - Learning from Jesus
- Normative Discussion
  - the gathering significant
  - key elements





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## 1. Key Elements

### a) Word of God

#### i. Read to the people publicly

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.



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<sup>13</sup> Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." Heb.4:12-13



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## ii. Preaching

- expounded on and taught
- 2 Tim 3:2–4

<sup>2</sup>Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

<sup>3</sup>For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires,





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they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”



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## b) Prayer

- commanded to pray
- 1 Thess. 5:16–18 “Be joyful always; <sup>17</sup> pray continually; <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
- taught by Jesus to pray
- Matthew 6



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## c) Offering

- from earliest times, giving and offering to God a practice
- Gen 4 – Cain & Abel
- clearly taught and commanded in the law for the people of God
- designed to recognize God's ownership, provision and our trust in him.
- act of obedience





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d) testimony Col. 3:15–16

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”



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## e) Praise

- Heb. 13:15–16 “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name.  
<sup>16</sup> And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”





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## 2. Corporate Worship

- a sacrifice of praise

### a) Heart 1<sup>st</sup> Issue

- huge issue in offering anything to God – our hearts.

- Micah 6:6–8 “With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?





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Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

<sup>8</sup> He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”



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– Amos 5:21–24 “I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them.

Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”





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– Psalm 51:15–17 “O Lord, open my lips and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”





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b) God Deserves Your Praise

Psalm 100

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.



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Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise  
his name.

<sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good and his love  
endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues  
through all generations.”



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- i. praise the God of Creation
  - Psalm 95:1–7
  - Psalm 147:1–5
- ii. praise the God of Salvation
  - Psalm 27:1–3
  - Acts 3:19 “<sup>19</sup> Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord”





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iii. praise the God who Loves you

Psalm 27:4-6

– Psalm 105:1-5

iv. praise the God who empowers  
you

– Phil 3:21

\*Under the Faucet

– posturing and petitioning



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## 3. Barriers

a) no personal holiness

- unrepentant sin
- unwilling hearts
- psalm 51:16–17

b) Complacency or Indifference

- busy with own stuff
- not critical right now
- unwilling to work at it
- Proverbs 1:32–33



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## c) Pride

- all about me, what I like
- what it makes me feel
- if I am comfortable, happy
- 1 Peter 5:5–6
- James 4:6–10

\*pride will not allow a right view of God, and us – repentance and the opportunity to give a sacrifice of praise in response





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## So What

### 1. Preparation

- Biblical view on Sabbath
- aligning my heart
  - God who created and is able
  - God who saves and redeems
  - God who loves and meets
  - God who does in us



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## 2. Participation

- power in meeting together
- God has set out what He desires
- surrender of preferences
- intentional act of sacrificing
  - my time
  - my attention
  - the words of my mouth
  - my emotions

