

The Power of Worship

Sermon Title: The Power of Worship

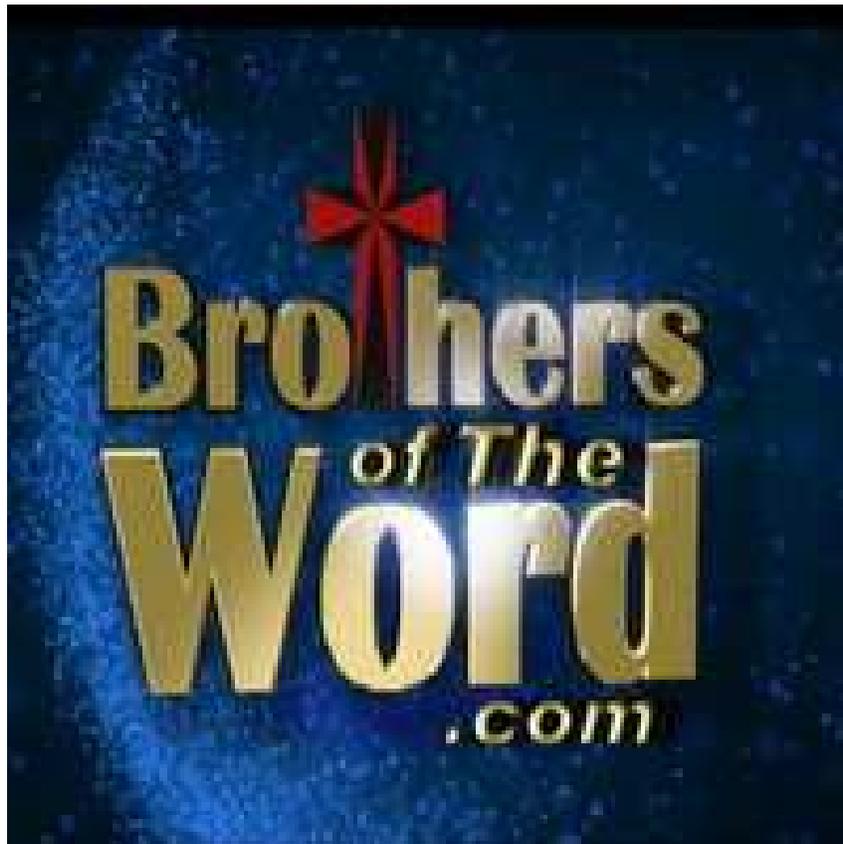
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Speaker: **James Bronner**

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Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the word.

And in my personal life as a Christian, there are two situations where I feel the Spirit of God strongest upon me and His presence strongest with me. The first situation is if I am laying hands on someone, anointing them with oil and praying over them for a purpose and I feel God come in and move on their behalf.

The second situation that I feel Him very strongly is in my private time of worship. And when I'm just worshiping before the Lord, I can feel His presence so strong in the room and upon me. And even at home, in my prayer room, my wife will tell you it's where our cat sleeps. So, out of the whole house, they are drawn there, where the presence of the Lord is felt. And because this is an area of my life that I draw strength and power from, I want to teach you today about that second area of worship. And I speak today from the subject of the power of worship, the power of worship.

Starting off, what is worship? First, I want to define the difference between praise and worship, because most Christians in the church, if I put them on the spot and then ask them to stand up and tell the difference clearly of praise and worship, most of them can't tell you. They might say, "Well, praise, that's a little faster beat song and worship, that's the slow song."

So, I want to first of all define that difference. And I won't give you the Hebrew words for it starting out because for two reasons. First of all, I might mispronounce it. I don't speak Hebrew. The second reason, you're not going to remember the word if I give it to you any way in Hebrew. So, I'll just tell you that from the Strong's Dictionary, it defines praise from the Hebrew as, basically summarizing, to give thanks, honor and adoration with words or song. Whereas worship defined from the Hebrew means to bow down or prostrate one's self showing reverence before God. Worship is an act of submission unto a higher power, so you can praise somebody without submitting to him, but if you worship then you are declaring that they're greater than yourself. And sometimes I worship before the Lord and it's just only heaven. I'll just lie and prostrate before him. And I'm not saying a word, I'm just worshiping Him and I wouldn't call those times necessarily praise because I'm not uttering any sound, but I'm worshiping Him. Praise is a form of worship though. And once we submit, we can't help but to give Him honor and thanksgiving to the one that we are worshiping. And see, you can praise with your mind and body.

But John 4:23 says, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship him in Spirit and in Truth." So you can praise Him with your mind and with your mouth. And what I really even mean in it but to worship Him. You have to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

God, He looketh upon the heart of men and He can tell if you really mean what you're saying or not, or you're just going through the motions. Here's a brother point for you. Since worship is a form of submission to truly worship God, your life must line up with His word. Let me repeat that. Since worship is a form of submission to truly worship God, your life must line up with His word.

And if you aren't doing what somebody in authority over you is asking you to do, then you're not truly submitted to him. And in my marriage with my wife, she can tell me "I love you" ten times a day. But if there's no food prepared, if I'm not feeling any affection or intimacy from her, if she's not -- about the children, no matter how many times she tells me, I'm going to believe it sooner or later because I don't see her lifestyle lining up with her mouth. And that's how God is. He wants to see our actions line up with what we are saying. God can tell if we're just going through the motions of worshiping him.

Worship is more intense, more intimate than praise because it's okay to praise mankind for their character traits or a job well done. We praise our pastor for also being a man of God, but we don't worship him. Worship is designed only for our creator.

I might praise the president for his intelligence, his charisma and his leadership, but I'll never worship him no matter what position he holds upon the earth. Worship is reserved strictly for God.

To show you how serious God is about worship, Exodus 34:14 starting says, "For thou shalt worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" and there in your Bibles, if you were to look at it, that middle of that verse says, "Whose name is Jealous." That Jealous starts with a capital J. It's a proper noun. The first letter is capitalized. It says its very name is Jealous, and what it's saying there is if you look up Jealous in the Webster's Dictionary, you're going to see His name there represents Jealous. He is a jealous God. And I believe that He is so jealous because He loves you so much. And it's like the church is the bride of Christ, and imagine how a loving husband feels when he sees his wife's affection go towards another man.

And I can imagine, if I came home one day and caught another man in my house with my wife, I tell you, I would need one of you members to come bail me out of jail because I would be putting in my case pleading temporary insanity.

And David, he was Israel's most honored king, but he also was the king that honored God, the most with his praise and his worship writing the songs, singing and playing music before the Lord, dancing with all that he had to the embarrassment of his wife. He gave God everything that he had. He honored God

with his words and with every skill that he had. David was a man after God's own heart. He honored God and God honored him.

Here's our second brother point. God will honor you to the extent you honor Him in your life. God will honor you to the extent that you honor Him in your life. The Bible talks about 24 elders in heaven. They've known God longer than anyone on the Earth and have more knowledge and wisdom than anybody on the Earth.

Let's look at how it says they worship and what they do daily. It's found in Revelations 4:8-11. It says, "And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him, and they were full of eyes within and they rest not day and night saying, 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come!' And when those beasts give glory and honor and thanks to Him that sat on the throne, who liveth forever and ever. The four and twenty elders fall down before Him that sat on the throne, and worship Him that liveth forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 'Thou art worthy, O God, to receive glory and honor and power, for thou hast created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created.'" And if you notice that, they had crowns upon their heads, so God honored them as kings, but they constantly honored God.

And I'm not a very emotional person. In the past 15 years, I don't remember crying once for the reason of sadness. Even in the midst of death, tragedy and things going on, I can't recall crying once for that reason in the last 15 years. But because of my love for God and passion and my worship, in this very year, I have cried over 15 times in my moments of worship. There's a power in your worship. If you can just type in to this power, you'll see things in your life changing.

Now, I want to go over some benefits of worship. First thing is you become like what you are around. The president of the country, he has a personal assistant that just announced this past week that he was stepping down from the position and he said that he was moving on and he was going back to school. He is going to the third best business school in the nation. And he was just working, just doing regular day to day secretarial work, just running errands for him and writing messages, and doing just regular thing, making calls back for him. But because he was around this powerful man, he looked at how he led and it raises expectations of what he can do and the greatness began to rub off. He said, "I'm going to business school and I'm not just going to any, I'm going to the third best school in the nation." And it motivated him.

And I tell you, even when you look at society, what you are around begins to affect you. I've noticed that faithful men, they hang together, but players hang together as well. I've noticed that men will curse a lot. They hang together. They're out on a corner. They're slinging curse words back and forth but clean talking guys hang together as well.

When I was in high school, three of my good buddies from high school, they're now ministers preaching the word of God and I don't think it's an accident. We saw something in each other that drew us as friends. And even the girls that I dated in high school, I was voted most intellectual out of the class, and it's no accident that the two girls I've dated in high school, they both hold doctorate degrees today. There was something that drew them.

Here's another brother point. Since we become like what we are around, if we aren't acting godly, we aren't spending enough time with God. Let me repeat that. Since we become like what we are around, if we aren't acting godly, we aren't spending enough time with God. Those who worship idols will become spiritually dead, like the statues that they worship and bow down before. Those who worship money will be filled with greed. Those who worship the opposite sex will be filled with lust. If you hang around somebody smoking, your clothes will begin to smell smoke.

Someone told me this morning as they picked up a jacket, they said, "I don't know why the sleeves smells like smoke?" And the other person in the room said, "You've been around somebody smoking. You might not be a smoker yourself, you might not have lips that are dark, you might not partake of any cigarettes, but you've been in a room with somebody who's smoking. The residue is still on your clothes." And if you hang around the wise, you'll gain wisdom and become wiser.

And even times when I've been in my prayer closet worshiping God, there have been instances where I have come out and gone back to my office to finish some work and my wife would come by in my office door and she said, "What have you been doing?" She said, "Your face is glowing." And I said, "I've been with the Father." The residue of his glory was still upon me.

God, our creator, He's a mission, all-knowing. And if you spend time with the one who knows it all, your knowledge will begin to increase. You'll know ideas, and genius ideas will pop into your mind because you are around the one who's a mission. Our God that we serve, He's -- all powerful.

And I tell you, if you were to spend time with the one who has all power in his hand, you'll notice that you will begin to vibrate differently. People are beginning to feel the anointing off of you even from a distance. Even Peter, as he spent time with God, the Almighty one, even if shadow began to heal the sick because the residue was still upon it.

Our God is holy. So when you spend time in His presence, you'll get repentance. You will begin to weep in His presence and ask forgiveness of your sins. The things that didn't used to bother you doing now began to bother your conscience now and you

will begin like it's not you anymore to do these things. Your taste for bad habits will weaken.

God is a healer. And when you get in the presence of the healer, some things maybe wrong in your body and there have been cases of healing just from people worshipping God. God is love and He is a comforter.

When you get in His presence, that which may have been bothering you outside of His presence, you'll get peace in your spirit. Your mind will become more peaceful. The glory of God will make those things seem less important compared to His glory.

In the old days, only the high priest could enter into the Holy of Holies. Even in the secular world, with our celebrities and our pop stars, to get close to them. To get backstage, you need a backstage pass. You need to be a VIP to get back there to really get to him. But I'm glad to tell you today, to get into the presence of the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, you don't need a pass. All you have to do is give Him your heart, to worship and to bow down, to sing these praises unto Him. You will be in the presence of the one who created everything, the one who has all power in His hand. He allows you into His presence without a pass from man.

Psalms 22:3 says that He inhabits the praises of his people. And I want to now show you three things that happened in the Bible when the people worshiped God. And as the world says, "It's not what you know but it's who you know." And I tell you, there's not anybody will ever knew. I tell you, He can do some things for you that the CEO of your company can't do, because He holds the heart of the king in His hand. So I would rather know the one who holds the heart of the king and even know -- the king because He can stop the king's heart and replace him at will.

The first thing I want to show you is Chronicles 5:13-14, it says, "And it came to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music and praise the Lord saying, 'For he is good; for his mercy endureth forever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord; So that the priest could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.'" And imagine if we worship God in this place so that His glory cloud fill the -- and imagine if the TV cameras couldn't even see the Brothers of the Word because His glory had filled this place and everywhere in the country in the world that I know of that His glory cloud has appeared, the people of God will prostrate it out before Him and they were worshipping Him and praising Him, forgetting about who were watching them, forgetting about what they had on their reputation. They worshiped Him in Spirit and in Truth, and His glory began to fill the temple.

The second case I want to show is Acts 16:25-26. "And at midnight, Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God. And the prisoners heard them. And suddenly, there was a great earthquake -- everybody say suddenly-- so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately -- everybody say immediately -- all the doors will open, and everyone's bonds were loosed." And some of you maybe having some problem that's holding you in bondage and you may need a sudden or immediate delivery from it.

I tell you, you've got to do like Paul and Silas and worship Him and praise Him, and some chains will fall off for you. Some bondage that you're in will fall off if you'll get in His presence and worship Him.

The third example is II Chronicles 20:22. And it says, "And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, which were come against Judah, and they were smitten."

The Bible says the battle is not yours, but God's. For the battle to be God's though, you must be God's. You must give Him your heart, your plans, your desires, your will. You must turn it over to Him and He will fight your battle as He did in II Chronicles there.

For the remainder of my message, I want to incorporate the altar call. And it's one thing that teaches about worship, but there's another to experience it. And I want you all to participate in this part of the service.

For those right now who are led, this is not for salvation, but if you want to worship the Lord and you are not worrying about who's looking, we just ask you to come and bow down before the altar and we want to just invoke the presence of the Lord in this place today. Come if you are willing to lay down your will. He has some tracks He's going to place.

I was going to ask my wife to sing during this part, but the Spirit led me not even to have a singer because we have a tendency to focus upon whoever is singing. But God wants you to focus and become the worshipper yourself. We have an awesome praise team, an awesome minister of music, but God wants to hear your worship, your praise. And some of you have been praying to God to deliver some things in your world. You've been praying over some children, over some financial issues, over some sickness issues. But I tell you, He is able. He is able today.

If you do your part, He's faithful to do His. If you forget about who's watching you today and don't worry about your neighbor, their neighbor has their own problems. They have to work out their own salvation and do their own worship. This is between you and God. It's personal. Turn out the music songs, so I don't even -- so your neighbor can't even hear you. This is your own private time. You've just heard

the word. You've seen how God moved, how He smote enemies as the people worshiped, how His cloud filled the temple. If you'll just worship Him, worship Him right now.

(Music Playing, Speaker praying)

Glory, glory to You. Glory to your name. Glory to your name, O Lord. We bow down before You, O Lord. We glorify Your name, O Lord. You're worthy to be praised. Glory, we give You our will, O Lord, our will -- not our will, O Lord, not -- we want to do, O Lord. We don't want to do things our way, O Lord. We want to follow your will, O Lord, and ask your people to bow before You. I pray Lord that you'll hear their prayers, O Lord, hear their words before you, O Lord -- O Lord. We call, O Lord, come back, glory, cloud in this place, O Lord. We call, O Lord, the miraculous -- O Lord. To break the -- O Lord -- we thank You Lord -- healing, O Lord -- a miraculous one, Father. And your people prays -- we give some glory -- glory, glory. We praise -- we glorify Your name. We glorify You. Have your way, O Lord -- have your way, O Lord. Have your own way, O Lord. Forgive us -- all that we've done, O Lord, against thy word, O Lord. When we've done wrong and knew it was wrong, O Lord. We thank you for the blood, O Lord that have cleansed us, O Father. We ask, O Lord -- to make us clean, O Lord.

Thank you Lord for thou our Holy God, thou art Holy, O Lord. Holy, holy, holy, holy art thou, O God. Holy are thou. Glory, glory, glory. We called our glory on this place, O Lord. Glory come in the Name of Jesus. Glory come and fill this place. Glory come and fill this place. Thank you, O Lord. Thank you, O Lord. We come, O Lord, as we are, O Lord. We come as we are, O Lord. We come, O Lord, and give you everything that we have, O Lord. We give you all our own. We give you all our own. We give you all our own. Glory to thy name, O Lord.

Use us, O Lord, our gifts and powers, with our purposes, O Lord. Use us, O Lord, for thy work, O Lord. We glorify Your name. We glorify You, Lord. We glorify You in this place, O Lord. Have your own way, O Lord. Have your own way, O Lord. Have your own way in your people, O Lord.

Be glorified, O Lord. Be glorified. We bow before you, Lord. We bow before you, O Lord. We don't want the rocks to cry out in our place, O Lord. You've been so good to us, O Lord. You've been too good to us, O Lord. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. Glory to Your name. Glory to Your name, Lord. Glory to your name, Lord. Glory to your name, Lord.

(Music Playing, Speaker praying, Speaking in tongues)

Glory, glory to thy name oh Lord. Have -- way in this place oh Lord. Glory, glory to thy name, oh Lord. Glory, glory, glory, glory, glory, glory, glory. We lay it at the

altar before you oh Lord, those to him that have been too difficult for us to slow down oh, Lord. We -- oh Lord at the foot of the cross oh Lord. We place it before you oh Lord.

(Music Playing, Speaker praying, Speaking in tongues)

Thank you lord. We glorify you Lord, we glorify you Lord. We glorify you Lord. We need you oh Lord. We need you oh, Lord. We need you oh Lord. We need you oh Lord. Lord, we're not proud to offend you, that we ignore you all along oh, Lord. We confess and we need thee oh, Lord. We need you oh Lord. We need you oh Lord. Glory to your name. Glory to your name oh, Lord. Glory to your name oh Lord. Glory to your name oh, Lord. Thank you. Thank you. Glory, glory, glory, glory to your name.

(Music Playing, Speaker praying, Speaking in tongues)

Glory, glory to thy name, O Lord -- all the way to this place, O Lord. Glory, glory to thy name, O Lord, glory. Glory, glory, glory, glory, glory. Glory, we lay it all before You, O Lord, those things that have been too difficult for us to do it on our own, O Lord. We lay it -- O Lord, at the foot of the Cross, O Lord. We're praising before You, O Lord.

(Music Playing, Speaker praying, Speaking in tongues)

Thank you Lord. We glorify You, Lord. We glorify you, Lord. We glorify -- we need You, O Lord. We need you -- we need You, O Lord. We need You, O Lord. We need you, O Lord. Lord, we're not powerful thinking that we can do it all alone, O Lord. We confess it. We need thee, O Lord. We need You, O Lord. We need You, O Lord. Glory to Your Name. Glory to Your Name, O Lord. Glory to Your Name, O Lord. Glory to Your Name, O Lord. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. Thank you. Glory, glory, glory, glory to Your Name. Glory to Your Name. We worship -- O Lord. All -- O Lord before Your presence, O Lord -- Have your own way, O Lord --

(Music Playing, Speaker praying, Speaking in tongues)

For Your people, O Lord. We speak, O Lord, for the -- release it, O Lord -- that the enemy is trying to hold up, O Lord. We -- in the Name of Jesus. We -- released, O Lord. Glory to Your Name. Glory to Your Name, O Lord. Glory to Your Name -- O Lord -- in this place, O Lord.

(Music Playing, Speaker praying, Speaking in tongues)

Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord -- Glory, glory, glory -- Glory to Your Name. Glory, glory --

(Music Playing, Speaker praying, Speaking in tongues)

Glory, glory, glory to Your Name. Glory -- Glory, glory, glory, glory, glory, glory. We step out of tradition, O Lord, and step in with thy Spirit, O Lord. We step out of tradition, O Lord, and step into thy Spirit. Glory, glory, glory, glory, glory, glory. Your Spirit -- Glory, glory, glory, glory, glory -- Glory, glory to your -- glory to Your Name. Glory, glory, glory -- in Spirit and in Truth, O Lord. In Spirit and in Truth, O Lord. We worship you with our spirits, O Lord. We worship you, Lord, in our spirits, O Lord. We thank you, Lord. We thank you. We thank you, Lord. We thank you, Lord. We dedicate our households unto you, Lord, our children unto you, Lord. We dedicate them unto you.

(Music Playing, Speaker praying, Speaking in tongues)

We thank you Lord. Thank you Lord. Thank you Lord for your presence, O Lord. We honor thee, O Lord. We honor thy presence in this place. We honor thy presence in this place. Glory, glory, glory, glory.

(Music Playing, Speaker praying, Speaking in tongues)

Glory, glory to Your Name. Glory to Your Name, Lord. Glory, glory, glory. Glory to Your Name.

(Music Playing)

-- some praise on the way back to the seat. Praise His name on the way back to you seat. Give Him glory. Give Him glory. Give Him glory. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Everyone standing, hallelujah. Everyone standing, hallelujah. Hallelujah. He is worthy of all the praise.

(Music Playing, Speaker praying, Speaking in tongues)

Glory to God. He's above all other names. He's worthy of all the praise, all of the glory -- Hallelujah. Glory. Our God is good.

Amen, you're dismissed. Amen. You can praise Him a little while longer if you want to. You can -- worship if you want to. Amen. But you're free to go home. When you and God finish communing together, you're dismissed. Amen.

(Instruments playing and participants praying, praising and speaking in tongues)

In case you are -- here Dexter, He did say we are dismissed, but just to let you know, too. Pastor, he goes on, there's no talking. He texted me at midnight last

night and he said that he had a message from God for me and you. He said that God told him to tell me that don't depend on my paper today. He said let the Spirit use you today, so I tried to be obedient to Him and His Spirit have done the work in here today. God knew what we needed.

Amen. Amen. So you are dismissed in His presence.