

Answers to “Private Worship” Questions

Chapter One

1) The “source” of our worship is love...love for God. When our love is deep, worship will overflow. Worship brings the Agape Love that He put in our hearts the moment we were born again, full circle back to Him in adoration and exultation.

Worship is a two-way communication because it releases blessings in two directions. We come into His presence by loving and adoring and exalting Him. He, then, makes Himself known by communicating His Love back to us through revelation and insights. This results in joy unspeakable. The divine revelation that we receive validates that God is aware of exactly what is going on in our lives and is anxious to make known His will. Experiencing His Love like this, prompts us to worship Him even more.

2) The word “worship” means to bow down, to stoop down, to adore and to show homage to. It means to prostrate ourselves and to kiss. In other words, to show reverence.

Worship is simply acknowledging that God is God. It’s humbling ourselves and exalting only Him. It’s acknowledging that He is Lord and we believe what He says. And, because of this, we want to offer ourselves back to Him as a “love gift.” (Ps.96:8-9) (The Greek word for “worship” is *proskuneo* which means to fall down or bow down before Him).

But the “key” to worshipping Him is that it must be done “in the spirit,” not in the flesh. John 4:23-24 tells us that “the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth.”(in word & deed, genuineness) In other words, our heart attitude is more important than our outward actions. When we worship, our spirit and God’s Spirit become one.

There is also some conditions or stipulations or qualifications for entering God’s presence and worshipping Him. Psalm 24:3-4 and James 4:8 both tell us that we must have clean hands, and a pure heart. Thus, cleanliness and holiness are “key” in order to worship.

Since our heart is what determines our being able to truly worship or not, if our heart is cleansed, then we are able to enter His presence and extol Him in the Spirit. If our heart is not cleansed, our worship will be an empty religious act that won’t impress anyone, least of all, the Lord.

So, our external act of worship (our prostration, raising our hands or lighting a candle) simply denotes our inward attitude of worship. It reflects an inner bowing down and humbling ourselves in reverence, fear and love. Worship *is* an act of the heart!

3) Personal question

(Chapter One Questions continued)

4) One of the definitions of the word “worship” is *to catch fire*. Catching fire with the Love of God simply means becoming entwined with, united with and joined with His Spirit of Love.

This definition is so appropriate because it means being consumed by the Love of God. And, it’s true, when we are consumed with Him, we *do* become one Spirit with Him. Think of fire and how the smoke and the fire rise together and become one. It’s the same thing with God’s Love, it consumes us to where we become one. This results from worshipping the Lord who is the object of our love.

5) “Worshipping God in the Spirit” means “binding ourselves” together with Him so that when we adore, praise and love Him, it will be in the same nature as He—in the Spirit.

David, obviously, communed with the Lord in the Spirit in Psalm 63:1-4. Because He knew that God loved him, he was able to totally surrender himself. Also Mary, in Matthew 26, worshiped the Lord in the Spirit as she knew (by the Spirit) that Jesus was going to die. So, she was instructed to anoint His body with oil.

6) Worship is important because it’s what brings us “intimacy” with the Lord. This daily communion with Him is what allows us to endure difficult circumstances. Knowing He loves us knowing He hears our prayers and knowing He will answer them, girds us to withstand any situation.

Learning to be true worshipers is important because it’s the “key” to joy! Without being worshipers, we’ll not be able to enter God’s presence; and without His presence, we’ll have no joy (Ps. 16:11 “only in His presence is fullness of joy”); and without joy, Nehemiah 8:10 tells us, we’ll have no strength. (The “joy of the Lord is our strength.”) And, without these three things, we won’t be able to withstand the trials that God allows in our lives.

A final reason worship is so critical, is because Scripture tells us we become like what we worship. (Ps.135:18) If we want to become more Christ like, we must learn to worship Him more. And, *these are the reasons why worship is the most important thing we can learn to do.*

The purpose of worship is to magnify and adore Jesus Christ, the true God. Worship fosters intimacy and a personal relationship with Him. Worship is perfected by our committing ourselves to meet with Him daily, not only to read and study His Word, but also to worship Him. This is what shows Him how much we love Him. His response to our worship is what brings our lives further joy and strength. When we really know and love Him, it becomes easy and natural to worship Him. Our true relationship with Him will be shown forth in our worship.

(Chapter One Questions continued)

7) Our ability to worship depends upon the cleansing of our hearts. In other words, we can only worship when our hearts are cleansed— after going through the steps of cleansing. Then, we can enter His presence and worship Him as He desires. When our hearts are open, pure and holy, we can openly and unabashedly worship Him. When the Spirit is quenched, however, He will not hear.

The “beauty of holiness” simply means sin has been dealt with and “self” set aside, so that Jesus’ Life can now come forth and the beauty of “His Holiness” can be seen. The “beauty of holiness” is simply the result of repentance and continued sanctification.

8) Joy means to “brighten up,” “to be happy” and “rejoice.” It also means “to join.” Joy is the result of our intimate encounter with the Lord, our worship of Him. (Psalm 16:11) It’s the result of the union of our spirits. In other words, joy is the result of coming into God’s presence and *being joined together in His Love*. This is what ‘brightens us up’ and this is what causes us to be happy. It’s called the joy of our salvation and this joy can occur every time we enter His presence through worship. It’s what restores the joy of our salvation and gives us the strength to go on (Neh. 8:10).

Joy is tied to worship because only as we are consumed by our love for Him and in return, His Love for us, will we experience overwhelming joy. This joy then gives us the strength to carry on no matter what the circumstances. Joy is a gift from God and comes only as a result of our being before His presence in worship.

9) The basic thing that keeps us from worshiping is “sin” which quenches and defiles our spirit. When our hearts are covered (because of sin), we’ll be unable to enter God’s presence and thus, unable to properly worship Him. We cannot worship Him when we ourselves are *not* holy. We can only worship Him in the “beauty of holiness.”

10) There is a subtle, but huge difference between “praising God” and “worshiping God.” “Praising” God is simply the *gateway* to true worship. It’s thanking Him and esteeming Him and magnifying Him ‘outwardly’ with our words. Unfortunately, our outward actions (our praises) don’t always reflect our true, inward “heart condition.” In other words, praise can be given even when we are still in the flesh.

True worship, however, (where we become one with God) can only be done when we are truly “in the Spirit.” It can only be given when we are in the same nature as He; whereas, praise can sometimes be “soulish” (simply motivated by our own thoughts and emotions).

Also, praise is often ‘one way’—meaning from us to the Lord; whereas, true worship is always ‘two ways’—we love Him and then, He returns that love by communicating His peace, joy, glory, insights and revelations to us. Praise can often be “seen,” whereas worship is usually secret. And, finally, praise is often ‘horizontal’ (meaning others are involved), whereas worship is almost always ‘vertical’ (meaning, because it’s inward, it’s only between the Lord and us, no one else is involved).

This difference is validated in the temple model. In Solomon’s Temple, the priests “praised” the Lord when they first entered the Outer Court. Worshiping the Lord was something they did last and only in the Holy Place. Again, showing that worship has always been contingent upon cleansing.

Chapter Two

1) One becomes Christ-like only by denying themselves, picking up their cross and following Him. Total surrender is the 'key' to being "conformed into Christ's image." Jesus is our role model in that He was totally surrendered to the Lord's will. Nothing can happen to us that didn't happen to Jesus. He experienced rejection, confusion and loneliness and yet, His response was always "not my will, but Thine."

The two evidences that He was totally yielded to the Lord are: 1) He was completely obedient to God's will; and, 2) He experienced God's presence continually.

2) The "cost" of going all the way with the Lord is, again, total surrender—constantly giving all our thoughts, emotions and desires over to Him. At some point in our walk with the Lord, we will experience rejection, confusion and loneliness just as He did. But, these become further opportunities to die a little more to ourselves and grow a little more into His image.

In the end, at the Judgment Seat of Christ, we will be judged on what we did with the gifts that God gave us. What "fruit" was produced? What good works resulted?

3) The term "to love" really means to totally give ourselves over to something. It's not an emotional feeling, but a complete surrender of ourselves to something. This affects our worship because if we don't know how to love God, we will never truly be able to worship Him and become one with Him. Only by loving Him will we be able to enter His presence and worship Him. We worship that which we love. Therefore, the more we love Him, the more we'll be able to worship Him.

Agapao is the Greek for the verb 'to love' in the New Testament. It means to totally give ourselves over to Him—i.e., to become a cleansed and open vessel (clean hands & a pure heart) that He can use to accomplish His will.

Only in this state of "clean hands and a pure heart," can we enter His presence and worship Him in the Spirit. Worship is often called the 'language of love.' It's the language of Love because it's the means by which we give the Love that God originally placed in our hearts when we were first born again, full circle back to Him. We love Him by worshiping Him; He, then, returns that love by giving us His joy, His strength and His glory. First, we surrender; then, we worship.

4) We prove that we love God by doing what Jesus did: By walking in complete obedience to the Father's will, by being a cleansed vessel and by experiencing His presence continually.

5) Surrendered, cleansed and holy.

6) Solomon's Temple was different from the other temples, in that it was the only temple in which the Spirit of God permanently dwelt in the Holy of Holies. In all of the other temples, the Spirit (the Shekinah Glory) came and went as He pleased. It was also the only temple in which God gave King David directions for its construction and its furnishings. And finally, it was the only temple in which the Ark of the Covenant rested.

7) The three pieces of furniture that stood in the Inner Court of the temple were: the Lavers of Bronze, the Brazen Altar and the Molten Sea. God provided these three pieces of furniture in order to cleanse the priests for entrance into the presence of the Lord. They washed their hands and feet at the Lavers of Bronze; they dealt with sin at the Brazen Altar; and finally, they washed themselves bodily in the Molten Sea.

8) It wasn't until the priests cleansed themselves by the three pieces of furniture in the Inner Court that they finally were able to worship the Lord at the Altar of Incense in the Holy Place. This particular altar was unique and special because it was said to be the place where God would 'meet with them.'

9) The Altar of Incense actually stood in the Holy Place, just in front of the Holy of Holies. But, it is often spoken of (in Scripture) as being part of the Holy of Holies. (Hebrews 9:3-5; Leviticus 16:12-13)

10) Personal question.

Chapter Three

1) The preparation we must do in order to enter the Lord's presence, is to "put off" our sin and self and to "put on" Christ. This is what Psalm 24:3-4; James 4:8; Psalm 51:10-12; Hebrews

10:22 all tell us. In order to approach the Lord, we must have ‘clean hands’ and ‘purified hearts.’ In other words, we cannot walk right into God’s presence. Sin and self are a barrier to approaching God. (Numbers 16:9).

Worship is contingent upon cleansing.

A perfect example of this is the worship service of the Priests in Solomon’s Temple: First, they came into the Outer Courts and praised and thanked God. Then, they cleansed themselves in the Inner Court. And, finally, they were able to enter God’s presence and worship Him in the Holy Place. In other words, they worshiped the Lord *only after* they had praised Him, *only after* they had cleansed themselves and *only after* they offered their sacrifices.

2) Holiness simply means one who is set apart for God’s service. It means one who has a constant recognition of his own sin and self. Holiness is determined by clean hands and a pure heart and by continually confessing and repenting of anything that is not of faith.

Psalms 29:2 tells us that we can only worship the Lord in the “beauty of holiness.” The beauty of holiness is something that happens only *after* we have gone through the process of cleansing (confession, repentance and giving our sin and self to God). Because sin has been dealt with and self set aside, the beauty of Christ’s holiness will now be able to come forth. And, we can boldly enter God’s presence and worship Him in the same nature as He—in the Spirit.

3) Hebrews 12:14 validates that unless we are, first of all, believers and then, cleansed of all known sin and self (i.e., holy), we will *not* be able to enter the presence of the Lord and “see” Him (know Him intimately). In other words, we will not be able to have that personal relationship that we so desire. And, without intimacy, there will be no joy.

Personal response to next question.

4) Personal questions.

5) The fear of the Lord means, first of all, to stand in reverential awe of who God is and secondly, to hate sin. These two principles are linked because we can’t stand in awe of who God is until we really know Him and have a personal relationship with Him. And, we can’t know Him unless we hate sin. So knowing Him and walking in the fear of God go “hand in hand.” Fear of God does not mean fearfulness of Him, but walking and speaking in such an intimate

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Chapter Three Questions continued

relationship with Him that we are in continual awe of what He is doing in our lives. It’s caring more about God and what He wants for us, than about us and what we want.

6) The cleansing steps will work only if we have God's Spirit living in our hearts. In other words, we must be 'born again' in order for the cleansing process to work. If we don't have God's Spirit in us, we won't have His authority or His power to go against how "we feel" and what "we think." Also, we won't have God's power to accomplish His will in our lives. Only believers indwelt by the Holy Spirit have this authority and power.

7) The practical steps to "putting off" our sin and self and to "putting on" Christ are as follows:
1) First, we must take every thought captive and ask God to reveal and expose the truth. We must then recognize and acknowledge the sin and self that He shows us. 2) Next, we must confess and repent of anything that is not of faith (a part of this second step is to unconditionally forgive those who have hurt and wronged us).

To confess something means to own our negative thoughts, emotions and actions and to acknowledge that what we have done has quenched God's Spirit in us. 1 John 1:9 tells us this is our *own* responsibility. If we do this, He then promises to forgive us of our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, confession is the first step towards having clean hands and a pure heart so that we *can* enter God's presence and worship Him. Psalm 66:18 reminds us that if we regard iniquity in our heart, He will not hear us. Thus, it's imperative that we see our sin, confess and repent of it before we can give it to God. It's interesting because confession and repentance are the two steps we often leave out when we give things to God and they are probably the most important steps.

At this point, 3) we need to give God all these things. And, 4) finally, we need to jump into His Word and replace the lies with the truth.

In His timing and way, the Lord will align our feelings with our "faith" choices. Faith choices are those non-feeling or contrary choices we make to do God's will. Even if our feelings have not aligned with our "faith choices" yet, we must still step out and 'do' what God has asked. We must continue to trust Him and continue to worship Him, in spite of how we feel. Repentance, worship and praise are what will eventually change our feelings and fill us with joy. If *we* have made the right choice to do His will, then it's *God's* responsibility to change our feelings to match our faith choices in His timing and His way. And, often He lets us go awhile to strengthen our faith. We must simply remain obedient and step out anyway.

Chapter Four

1) The term "sacrifice" means to become so closely involved in a relationship that you give up something for another, like a "gift.". A *living sacrifice* means to "present our bodies" to God as an act of obedience on the Brazen altar which then avails us an entrance to the Holy Place and

the Altar of Incense. Being a living sacrifice means giving up our lives so that God's will can be accomplished through us.

2) We see so very few changed hearts and lives these days because not very many Christians are truly worshiping God. They are praising Him (externally), but not worshiping Him (internally). The bottom line is that they don't really understand what it means to love Him (to totally give ourselves over to Him), thus, their sin remains and they're unable to worship. Consequently, no change of life.

3) Worship is something that is done internally. Worship is the adoration and exaltation of the Lord in the Spirit. Our external act of prostration in worship (bowing down, lighting candles, raising our hands) should simply denote our inward attitude of awe and love—our heart position of humility, submission and reverence.

The worship that God desires is that we 'catch fire' with His Love and, as a result, we are changed more and more into His image.

4) It's not enough to worship the Lord only on Sundays. If we truly love Him, what happens the other six days of the week? Sunday mornings should be the physical expression of what is happening in our own hearts the others days of the week

We live in a self-centered fast food society where we have drive in churches, drive through markets and quickie divorces. We want things handed to us on a silver platter, without any work or any change on our part. Our worship services are no different. The motivation for many of us to worship is so that "we" might enjoy ourselves and be entertained, not necessarily to honor and please God. Our focus is still on self, not on God. Worship has become horizontal, rather than vertical. Worship should not be something just to engage the audience, but something that would change each of us more into His image as a result of being before Him.

There are more worship CDs being sold today than ever before. Yet, there are more Christian's lives falling apart. Something is wrong; something is not computing. We are listening to worship music, but we are not true worshipers.

5) Personal question

6) The Blood of Christ is what gives us the boldness to enter into Christ's presence. But "a pure heart and our bodies washed with water" is what will maintain an intimate relationship with Him over the long term. Again, that "beauty of holiness."

7) Personal question

8) Worship releases blessings in two directions. Not only are we showing our love to God, but He is extending His Love and wisdom back to us. Thus, part of the joy of worship is the divine revelation that results.

Worship is what brings intimacy with the Father. Intimacy means a love-relationship or a union of two spirits, just like a marriage. The two become one. Intimacy is what strips away 'self' and unites our spirits. Intimacy also fosters insight, revelation and then ability to hear God's voice. But, like in a marriage, *love and trust must come before revelation, insight and disclosure.*

God gave us worship so that *we* might not only extol Him, but also that *He* might give us divine revelation for our lives, revealing His plans and purposes for us.

Personal question.

9) The way the Lord desires for us to respond to His love is by submitting ourselves to Him on a moment by moment continuing basis. In other words, each time yielding even more of ourselves to Him, laying all of our burdens at His feet and glorifying (reflecting) Him even more.

10) Experiencing God's presence and His love is what restores the "joy of our salvation." It's what brightens us up and gives us the hope to go on. Experiencing His presence is what proves He cares about us. It's the knowledge that He loves us and will give us the strength we need to carry on, no matter what our circumstances.

Chapter Five

1) The Incense Altar symbolizes the place where God promises "to meet with us." (Lev.16:12) It represents the complete union of our spirit with God's Spirit, our oneness. There is an analogy here: The incense on the altar had to be completely burned before it could be offered to the Lord, just as we must *first* be made humble and small before we are able to commune with Him.

The whole purpose of the sanctification process is to be made clean so that our spirit is free to come forth and commune with God's Spirit.

This oneness is the climax of our relationship with Christ. It's where He reveals Himself to us. This intimacy gives us the strength to carry on no matter what is going on in our lives. This union assures us that He hears our prayers and will answer every one of them.

2) In Scripture, "incense" represents *the fragrance of a life*. That fragrance can either be "sweet smelling" or "a savor unto death." (2 Corinthians 2:16) When we have been sanctified, set apart and made holy, the aroma of *His Life* can be manifested through us. (2 Corinthians 2:14)

In the end times, the Bible tells us incense will be offered to God "in every place." (Malachi 1:11) This means that *all* Christians everywhere and in every place, will offer incense (their life fragrance) unto His Name. To me, this means worship will become more and more important.

3) God met with the Priests in Solomon's Temple in three places: In the Outer court, in the Inner Court and once a year, in the Holy of Holies. He meets with us similarly. He meets with us once in the Holy of Holies of our hearts when we first become born again. He meets with us on a daily basis at the Brazen Altar of our souls as we daily offer our bodies as living sacrifices. And, He meets with us at the Incense Altar of our hearts as we daily worship Him.

4) Our two way communication with the Lord works this way: when we humble ourselves, love and worship Him, He then, hears, answers and reveals Himself to us. As a result, we are changed, encouraged and given the joy and the strength to carry on, no matter what.

As we bear our souls to the Lord, He not only gives us the strength to go on, He also gives us more revelation of His Word and His will for our lives.

5) Personal Questions

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Chapter Five Questions continued

6) Deeper intimacy arises out of the union of our spirit with God's Spirit, out of our worship of Him and out of a growing revelation of who He is. This is why worship is one of the most important things a Christian can learn to do. It's one of the purposes of our calling and the key

to our fulfilment as a Christian. We were created for intimate fellowship with God. (Revelation. 4:11)

7) Personal question

Chapter Six

1) Spiritual warfare and worship are linked. When we begin to worship the Lord on a daily basis, we'll encounter the enemy more than we ever have before. *Thus spiritual warfare and worship must go together.* We can't do one without the other. Therefore, part of our worship time must be concerned with *binding the enemy, loosing his strongholds in us and commanding him to leave.* (Matthew 12:29)

Back in the Old Testament book of Kings, Elijah was the prophet who not only brought the Israelites the message of repentance, but also who taught them about worship. Elijah's arch enemy was a controlling, manipulating and evil woman named Queen Jezebel. (See 1 Kings 18-19) Revelation 2:20 tells us that in the end times, that same Spirit of Jezebel comes back to seduce and control worshipping Christians (especially leaders and those who are totally surrendered). She wants to rob us of our desire to serve the Lord, quench our hope in His faithfulness and undermine our confidence in Him in order to take control of our lives, just like she did with Elijah. Her tactics are to fuel *discouragement, confusion and depression*. She wants us to slip from the fruit of the spirit to the poison of self. And, she'll use our friends, our loved ones and our family as agents for her schemes.

The way we fight back is by surrendering even more to the Lord and learning to confess, repent and develop unshakeable faith. What the enemy fears the most is *repentance, because it's the key to surrender*. Surrender is what gives us the freedom to respond from our hearts, not our emotions. We must learn to rely upon God's power and His strength, not our own. Remember, the battle is the Lord's, not ours. (2 Chronicles 20:15)

2) When we are lukewarm Christians and have only a "form of godliness," the devil doesn't bother with us much. But, when we begin to love and worship the Lord, we become the enemies targets. He wants to thwart God's plans in any way he can.

If we are lukewarm, then our "life witness" and our "living example" is non-existent and, the enemy doesn't have to do anything. However, when we begin to be transformed by worshipping the Lord and our lives become living testimonies, we become an instant threat and something he must deal with. The enemy wants to kill, steal and destroy us anyway he can.

3) Surrendering ourselves *more and more* to the Lord is the "key" to fighting and overcoming the enemy. Like Moses, we withstand the enemy by simply not letting doubt, unbelief, fear, insecurity, bitterness and guilt consume us, but by surrendering these things to the Lord. In the end, the enemy will be defeated because all the "holes" have been sealed.

Give Scriptural examples.

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Chapter Six Questions continued

4) Personal question.

5) God allows difficult times in our lives because trials will ultimately strengthen our faith. Often, they reveal our own lack of faith and unbelief. We need a strong faith in order to fight

the enemy of our souls, refuse the flesh and stand against the world. If our faith is strong, God can work His will through us. If it's not, God is hindered in accomplishing what He desires in our lives. So, God continually tests us, proves us and stretches us in order to strengthen us and help us stand against the above three things. If we are not being stretched, we are not really growing.

God uses our trials, tragedies and sorrows to enhance our relationship with Him. When we respond to these situations as God would have us (by choosing to "put off" our doubt, discouragement and depression and "put on" Christ), it pushes us towards intimacy with Him, and as a result, His presence, joy and strength. Also, in the hard times, as we said before, we'll see how weak our faith is and see the need for change, growth and love. The key to a strong faith is our moment by moment choices. Choices to be cleansed, regardless of our desires; choices to trust God regardless of our circumstances; and choices to rely upon His ability to implement His will, regardless of how we feel.

God also allows the hard times in order that we might surrender more to Him and thus, have a greater capacity for worship, joy, strength, etc. John 16:20-22 promises us that "our sorrow shall be turned into joy."

6) The story of Elijah is appropriate for today because he did what so many of us do. He allowed his negative thinking to stir up his emotions, direct his choices and determine his actions. After he had slain the 750 prophets of Baal, he became extremely depressed and actually feared for his life because Queen Jezebel wanted to kill him.

It's interesting, because this has happened in many of our own lives today. After a great victory, we too, have allowed spiritual depression to overwhelm us. In the same way, spiritual depression is rampant today.

Spiritual depression is one of the enemies ways of attacking us. Proverbs 17:22 says that a broken spirit or a crushed spirit dries the bones. That's just what the enemy is after—a crushed spirit and dried bones. When we are spiritually down, everything is affected.

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Chapter Six Questions continued

One of the definitions of depression is "being dispirited." In other words, our spirit has been quenched by disappointment, confusion or discouragement, and because we haven't dealt with these feelings, hopelessness and lifelessness result.

What we must remember is what the enemy means to use for evil, God will turn around and use for good. He wants us to recognize our doubt, disappointment, confusion and depression

and make the faith choices to confess it, repent of it and give it to God. As we do this, the Lord will then use this period of time to bring us to a new level of understanding in Him. In other words, God often “corners us” to teach us something new.

Elijah represents the “church”, whereas Jezebel represents “a seducing spirit” that’s alive and real in these end times. Her goal is to rob us of our desire to serve the Lord, to quench our hope in God’s faithfulness and to undermine our confidence in the Lord.

7) Elijah fled because he feared for his life.

Personal question.

8) Jezebel’s mission in Elijah’s life was ‘control.’ The spirit of Jezebel’s mission today is the same— control of our lives. She does this through mental and emotional confusion, manipulation, depression, discouragement, despair, etc. When we allow these things into our lives, we leave the door wide open for the enemy to get a foothold.

9) Again the spirit of Jezebel is after ‘control’ in our lives. She wants to send us down the “cycle of defeat”: discouragement leads to confusion; which leads to depression; which brings about loss of vision; then, disorientation; then withdrawal; and finally, despair and defeat. This leaves the door wide open for her to come and go in our lives as she desires.

Personal question.

10) When we respond to other’s sin with bitterness and resentment, it allows Jezebel to entrap us and gain a foothold in our own lives. This, ultimately, can lead us to confusion, depression and etc.

The three elements in us that are necessary for subduing Jezebel are: repentance, worship and warfare.

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Chapter Six Questions continued

11) What the enemy fears the most is “repentance.” Repentance is the basis and the key to a surrendered and “spirit filled” life.

Personal question.

12) Binding and loosing are the “keys to the kingdom” because they are the way we personally exercise God’s power and authority. God wants us to learn how to bind (put into bonds, tie up and dissolve) the enemy and also, how to loose (break up and dislodge) his strongholds. A “stronghold” is a walled defense (or a hideout) of the enemy. This is what God is teaching us to tear down and dissolve.

Another way of looking at the terms “binding and loosing” is to see binding as a way of joining us together with the Lord in His work. Then, the Lord can loose those strongholds in our life.

Personal question.

Chapter Seven

1) When we are in the presence of the Lord, we will be filled with unspeakable joy because it makes us know that He cares for us, that He Loves us and that He is involved in every aspect of our lives. At that moment, we will be overcome by His Love and His personal touch.

2) The joy of our salvation is different from the joy that comes from circumstances in that it (the joy of our salvation) does not come from something outside of us (situations, things, success,

etc.), but is a gift directly from the Lord. It comes from being before Him in worship. This joy will not diminish even if our circumstances deteriorate.

3) Learning to worship does not stop our having to face more and more trials. Trials keeps us at the foot of the Cross and deeper consecration brings with it, the need for more refining. *Our crown is only gained through the Cross.*

Personal question.

4) The pattern that God often works into our lives before we receive our crown is: first, we are “approved of” by God. Next, we are tempted by many trials and tribulations. Finally, we receive our Crown. But, our sorrows will eventually be turned into joy if we know how to enter the Lord’s presence and worship Him in the midst of our suffering.

When we respond to our difficulties as God would have us (by choosing to “put off” our doubt, discouragement and depression and “put on” Christ), it pushes us towards worship and intimacy with Him, and as a result, we will experience His presence, joy and strength. Also, in the hard times we’ll see, for ourselves, how weak our faith is, and we’ll acknowledge our need for change, for growth, for intimacy and for love.

5) To sanctify the Lord in the eyes of others means we are to be a “living example” of Jesus’ Life in all our encounters with them. This means we are to genuinely trust God in the middle of our own trials, help others practically when we ourselves are struggling; and sincerely pray for others when our own hearts are breaking.

Give some personal examples.

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Chapter Seven Questions continued

6) The word “humility” means *not thinking about ourselves at all*. It doesn’t mean putting ourselves down, but the ability to see ourselves as we truly are, which then frees us to focus on others. Humility is the mark of a true worshiper.

The reason God chooses the foolish things of the world is because humility and meekness are often found in these foolish people (because these are the ones who are “empty of self”).

When we are weak (empty of self), then we can be made strong because we are open to be filled with the Lord.

7) In Scripture, the “glory of God” means seeing a true reflection of the Lord in us, a reflection of His image, His character, His Love. Jesus was the glory of God the Father. In like manner, the Lord wants to express His glory through us. He wants us to be His arms and His legs, be a living example of all He is.

God’s glory results from worshiping Him and being in His presence.

Personal question