

**GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MAN**  
Part XXXIII  
*Psalm 104:24-35*

Introduction: A quintessential, sincere, heartfelt, biblical worship is the lifeline of the church. A church breathes through its worship system. Worship emanates naturally from us because of the awesomeness and transcending wonder of God's grace and salvation that follows. The cogent health and vitality of a local church is linked to its devotion. God's people thrive on meaningful worship, and it in turn produces spiritual people. That is why we should make every effort to become a people who praise and worship God. Vivifying praise will produce a plethora of blessings from God.

- I. Worship takes theology (the study of religious doctrines and matters of divinity) and structures it into a worthwhile and practical human experience.
  - A. Worship is an action taken by a believer. Philippians 3:3; Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16.
  - B. Meaningful and dynamic worship is an integral part of the *life-force* that is alive in healthy church bodies. John 4:23-24. Reformed theologian J.J. Von Allmen says, "*It is by its worship that the church lives.*" Someone else said, "*Worship is the metabolism of the Christian life.*" We then can say that worship provides the spiritual energy needed to conduct God's work.
- II. A church service will come alive when the Holy Spirit is invited to be our special guest. Each service should be like a spiritual barbecue. David Duplessis, called *the apostle of Pentecost*, once likened the truth of the Bible to a frozen steak. "*It cannot be eaten unthawed, but everyone knows when the steak is on the fire because they can smell the aroma from the broiling meat. The cook doesn't talk incessantly about its contents and its history. The people want to experience the steak by eating it.*"
  - A. The Holy Spirit thaws out people's innate ideas about God and makes Bible truth come alive in their hearts.
    1. John 3:6-8 shows the Holy Spirit in motion.
    2. Ezekiel 37:5, 14. Like sealed tombs, religious gatherings can become heavy with the dead air of institutionalized religion. It is time to allow the Spirit to blow through our churches, allowing people's respiratory systems to breathe and worship fully. Let's allow the Spirit to do what He did with Ezekiel's bone yard. Ezekiel 37:9-10.
    3. The breath of God, the holy wind, makes us alive. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:3, 14:15; Ephesians 2:18; Jude 20. True dynamic worship will be in, by, and of the Holy Spirit, and will not be just an emotional expression.
    4. The Holy Spirit is absolutely essential in individual and corporate worship.
  - B. We need to respond to the call to worship!
    1. Joseph C. Aldrich, in his book *Life Style Evangelism*, said, "*When spiritual life of a congregation is weak, it is most evident at the level of worship. In a positive sense, the vitality of the church is best indicated by the nature of its worship.*"
    2. Andrew Blackwood, in his book *The Fine Art of Public Worship*, said, "*The time has come for a revival of public worship as the finest of the fine arts ... While there is a call for strong preaching there is even greater need for uplifting worship.*"
  - C. A church renewal will come when there is a worship renewal.
    1. People flourish spiritually in a worship environment that is vibrant in nature. While we are not promoting foolish fanaticism, there must be a free flow of Davidic worship in a spirit of freedom.

Conclusion: It is fitting to conclude this message by quoting the words of an old song: "O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us, revive Thy church with life and power; O Breath of Life, come cleanse, renew us, and fit Thy church to meet this hour. O Wind of God, come bend us break us, till humbly we confess our need; then in Thy tenderness remake us, revive, restore, for this we plead. O Breath of Love, come breathe within us, renewing thought and will and heart: come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us, revive Thy church in every part."