

About our way of Worship

Hello

Whether you have been in our meetings or not, you will probably find some aspects of our worship perplexing. Please allow us to offer scriptural explanation and justification.

Historically, we realize that the original first church was founded in the New Testament on the day of Pentecost, a Jewish "Holy Day". It was at this time that the promised Holy Spirit was first outpoured upon mankind (See Acts chapter 2). The Pentecostal phenomenon traces its roots here. Notice that the church at Ephesus (Acts 19:1-6) was based upon a similar truth and experience. Likewise were all the original Apostolic churches.

We understand that these original churches which are noted in the scriptures are to set the true example that we should follow ... not - instead - the accumulated paraphernalia of religious tradition acquired over the centuries.

SALVATION ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURES

Consequently, we accept the definite scriptural teaching that the means by which one becomes a part of the body of Christ, that is, the true believers or church (gr., ecclesia), is by a simple route of faith in God; and acceptance of Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior with consequent repentance, or asking forgiveness for sin; water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of those sins; and the seal of the witness of God; the baptism in the Holy Spirit, as evidenced by speaking with other tongues as God's spirit gives you the utterance. (See Heb. 11:6, Rom. 10:9, Acts 2:4, 37-39)

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (Romans 10:9)

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. (Acts 2:4, 37-39)

The' scriptures then, are our textbook. From them we determine our manner of "Worshipping God in Spirit and in Truth" (John 4:24)

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)

You will observe, that ...

WE PRAY ALOUD TOGETHER

And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: (Acts 4,24)

And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. (Luke 1,10)

Naturally, we also have our private times of secret and silent devotion.

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. (Matthew 6,6)

Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. (1.Samuel 1,13)

Another very obvious part of our worship is when we ...

LIFT OUR HANDS WHILE HONORING OR PRAISING THE LORD

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD. (Psalm 134,2)

Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens. (Lamentation 3,41)

I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. (1.Timothy 2,8)

Worship and prayer may be according to any posture: standing, sitting, kneeling, bowing – e.g.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. (Psalm 95:6)

And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. (1.Kings 8:54)

Also characteristic is the fact that ...

WE ENJOY CLAPPING OUR HANDS WHILE SINGING. AND MAY USE A VARIETY OF INSTRUMENTS

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. (Psalm 47,1)

The singers went before, the players on instruments followed after; among them were the damsels playing with timbrels. (Psalm 68,25)

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

5 Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

6 With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King. (Psalm 98, 4-6)

When gathered together, often ...

WE SHARE EXPERIENCES IN TESTIMONY

I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD:

7 That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works. (Psalm 26,6-7)

Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul. (Psalm 66,16)

O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy; (Psalm 107, 1-2)

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. (Hebrews 13,15)

In addition to the modes of worship previously mentioned, many are unfamiliar with the ...

PRACTICE OF LAYING ON OF HANDS IN PRAYER FOR VARIOUS NEEDS

*Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,
2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. (Hebrews 6,1-2)*

This may be performed during prayer for healing for example.

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. (Mark 16,18)

Or to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit as in Acts 19,6.

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. (Acts 19,6)

These are the two most common expressions of this practice apart from laying on of hands for blessing or consecration.

Along with laying on of hands in praying for those who are ill, we may anoint with oil as James 5,14 mentions.

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: (James 5,14)

Again one may be anointed with oil for other reasons also.

Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance? (1.Samuel 10,1)

We realize that the charisma are to be in evidence in the church and therefore ...

WE BELIEVE IN THE OPERATION OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. (1.Corinthians 12,11)

And finally, because our prime interest is to preach, teach and publish the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we generally ...

SET ASIDE A TIME FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD

BECAUSE:

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10,17)

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (2.Timothy 3,15-16)

We understand the scriptures to declare that Jesus is soon to return again for His people. Prophecy fulfilled indicates this. Israel, God's scriptural time-table, proclaims the nearness of Christ's return.

We are anticipating Him, - **Are you?**

Please feel at ease to come and regular fellowship with us, study the Word of the Lord, and freely worship "in Spirit and in Truth."

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