

# Where God Lives

## I. The Lesson

There has been much discussion and variance of theological positions regarding the presence and manifestations of God. Some will say that we should not ask God to show up because, "He's already here. We should not go to other states or nations to be where God is 'breaking out' because he already broke out." We say things like: "God showed up at the meeting;" "God was there;" "His presence was thick;" or however else you would describe the tangible reality of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in a worship service.

So let's clarify a couple things: God is everywhere all the time! That's what makes Him omnipresent. God (and God alone) possesses that particular attribute. Yet in His omnipresence, He has chosen to "dwell" or "live" or "reveal" a fuller revelation of Himself through the manifestation of His presence. That is the level of God's presence that we want to discuss in this lesson.

If God "lives" in some places more tangibly or frequently or powerfully than others, then we want to find and live in those places as well! When it comes to satisfying the soul, once you've tasted of the presence and power of God you are ruined for any other experience! This is what perpetuates passionate worship - not theology that promotes behavior, but theology that comes from experience that affects behavior (*selah*). So where does God live? Or, in the Biblical version of the question, "Where will My resting place be?"

**Acts 7:44-49** "Our forefathers had the tabernacle of the Testimony with them in the desert. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen. <sup>45</sup> Having received the tabernacle, our fathers under Joshua brought it with them when they took the land from the nations God drove out before them. It remained in the land until the time of David, <sup>46</sup> who enjoyed God's favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. <sup>47</sup> But it was Solomon who built the house for Him. <sup>48</sup> However, the Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says: <sup>49</sup> 'Heaven is My throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for Me? Says the Lord. Or where will My resting place be?'"

1. In moving from the Old Covenant (testament) to the New, we find a transition of the abiding presence of God from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ structures. A brief study of the following scriptures clearly shows that God is building a structure where He will dwell, and that building is us: His Bride!  
(Exodus 25:8-9, Ephesians 2:19-22, 2 Corinthians 3:3)
2. **God lives in an atmosphere of true \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Isaiah 57:15** “For this is what the high and lofty One says - He who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

**James 4:6** “But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives **grace** to the humble.”

**Psalms 25:9** “He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.”

No matter how talented, gifted, charismatic or experienced our team is, there remains an ongoing priority to maintain an attitude and spirit of humility. The more God pours out on us the more we must learn to exalt Him and humble ourselves. This quality is evident in several great leaders and songwriters in the body of Christ. The more God exalts them, the more you can recognize true humility coming from them! To give or defer glory to God involves refusing to take glory for ourselves. That is true worship and the road to true humility.

### 3. **God lives in an atmosphere of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!**

If you and I were able to drop in on heaven for a few minutes right now, we would immediately be overwhelmed by the Glory of God, the visual splendor of heaven, and the singing around the throne. God, by very nature of His being, provokes pure and continual worship from those who behold him. The “guest appearances” of heaven on earth or earthlings in heaven included a revelation of the proclamation and singing that surround God.

**Isaiah 6:1-3** “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above Him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling (crying out) to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory.’”

**Luke 2:13-14** “Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

**Rev. 14:3** “And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. And they sang as it were a new song before the throne...”

**Psalms 28:3** “The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.” (the mighty waters = the sound of the worshiping multitude, the sound of heaven)

### 4. **Biblical forms of singing**

It is worth noting that twice in the New Testament God tells us what kind of songs we are to use during our worship times (Eph. 5:19 & Col. 3:16). Perhaps we limit both the work of the Holy Spirit and the level of God's presence that we experience when we eliminate any facets of these three major types of biblical singing. They are not to be options for the church to choose from but they are all to be operative in the private and corporate life of the Church.

**Psalm 100** "Come before His presence with singing".

The forms of the verbs in Psalm 100 are in the imperative mode, which basically means it is a command upon which to act, not a suggestion to be considered.

**1 Chr. 25:1** "...singers were appointed."

Here are the three major forms of Biblical singing, a definition of why they are unique, and how we are to use them to glorify God when we come together for worship.

**A.** \_\_\_\_\_

- Definition:  
Songs of praise from the Scripture. Not only the book of Psalms, but any scripture accompanied by music for the purpose of devotion to and adoration of God. The Greek word, *Psalmos*, means the touching of an instrument.

When we sing psalms, we can either use scripture songs that have already been written or encourage the writers on our team to come up with some new stuff. The beauty of this is you can plagiarize from Asaph, Moses, or King David any time you like and never pay royalties!

- Function of Psalms:  
Primarily directed to God. This would also include songs of prayer, supplication and "pouring out one's soul" to the Lord.

**B.** \_\_\_\_\_

- Definition:  
Songs of praise of human composition on Christian themes. Hymns often speak of God's character, His grace, His faithfulness, His holiness, etc.
- Function of Song:  
Directed to man and to God.
  1. To man as a testimonial or laudation of God. To challenge us

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- to further response to God.
2. To God in reflection of His greatness - in praise and adoration.

C. \_\_\_\_\_

- Definition:  
Songs of praise of a spontaneous or unpremeditated nature with unrehearsed melodies and lyrics, sung under the leading and influence of the Holy Spirit.
- Function of Song:  
Directed to both God and man. Spiritual songs express the heart of God toward His people and express the heart of worship from us back to God. This expression of singing is historically known, in some circles, as “the song of the Lord” or “prophetic song.”

*Psalm 33:3; 40:3; 47:6; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; 147:1; 149:1; Isaiah 42:10; Revelation.5:9; 14:3; 2 Chronicles 31:2; Romans 15:11, “sing new songs and sing praises.”*

## II. Discussion

1. How would you define the tangible or “felt” presence of God in a worship service? Do we go up or does He come down?
2. Why is humility such a vital ingredient to being a team that consistently experiences the presence and power of God?
3. How can we help one another to develop and maintain an attitude of humility?
4. What do we sing the most in our church: Psalms, hymns, or spiritual songs?
5. How could we grow in the other areas of singing that we are weak in?
6. Why do only some churches express worship through “spiritual songs?”
7. What are some healthy boundaries and guidelines for spontaneous worship and song?

## III. Prayer Points

1. Pray for the tangible or manifest presence to be a consistent factor in the worship times.
2. Pray that the church would have a strong desire for the nearness of God! (- become presence junkies)
3. Ask for the full Biblical expression of singing to be released through the worship team.
4. Repent of pride and ask for a spirit of humility to cover everyone on the team.
5. Pray that your local church would be known as a place where people meet with God in the place of true worship!

