

## The Drumbeat Of Heaven – Part 3

### Developing The Heart Of A Worshipper

#### Introduction

As drummers who love and serve God, we need to keep focused on Him and allow Him to play His rhythms both in us and through us.

Whether this is in the church context or as session musicians in a secular environment, whether on the mission fields of Africa or on the streets of London, we need to position ourselves before God in an attitude of worship and allow Him to play through us and in so doing, pray that others would hear and respond to “the drumbeat of heaven”.

In this lesson, I will share with you some of what the Lord has taught me over the years regarding the development of a heart of worship.

*"A God chaser is an individual whose hunger exceeds his reach."  
Tommy Tenney*

*"One of the greatest mistakes made by the Church has been to introduce people more to Church programs, plans and projects than to God Himself."  
Steve Lincoln*

*Ephesians 5: 18-21* tells us that we should be continually giving thanks to God for all things. As we live a lifestyle of praise and worship to God, then nothing that life or the demonic realm throws against us will cast us down. As we live a life of praise and worship to God, which is in spirit and truth, we will experience Christ's victory at all times, even when the going is rough, because it is His victory that we are walking in.

Let us just consider how wonderful God is, and how He delights in our worship. Consider all that He has done for us, and this should lead us into ever deeper expressions of our love and adoration of God through our worship and praise.

We need to remember that worship is a spiritual positioning or relationship with God. It is placing Him on the throne instead of us. The heart of worship is recognising Jesus as Lord and Master and living our lives accordingly.

## **Intimacy with God**

The Oxford Modern English Dictionary defines the word “intimate” as: “*closely acquainted, familiar, close; private and personal; detailed, thorough; friendly; promoting close personal relationships; a very close friend.*”

Although our “*quiet times*” are absolutely essential for the development of our intimate relationship with God (a picture of purposeful, intimate moments between husband and wife), if our relationship with God ends here then we are missing out on God's best for our lives.

As we put aside these times of quiet – or sometimes noise, depending on how we spend that time – so we are purposefully asking God to draw us into His close embrace and we are positioning ourselves to hear from Him and to share our deepest thoughts with Him, as He shares His with us.

Of course, we first need to understand that our “*quiet times*” are not simply going through our prayer lists or reading Scripture in a religious manner. Our “*quiet times*” with God can of course include petitionary prayer and Scripture reading, but the purpose of these times should simply be to connect with God and as we connect with Him, we then do what He is leading us to do. This may be reading Scripture, listening to Christian music and worshipping God as we do so, prayer of various kinds (petitionary, intercessory, warfare and so on) or simply positioning ourselves before God in silence.

It is important to say that our “*quiet times*” need to include times of silence before God as an essential aspect, as this is when we learn to hear God's voice, listen to His voice and feel His heartbeat. It is also when we learn to pray according to what is on His heart, and not simply what we feel we should be praying.

Remember that we are called to be the Bride of Christ, and He desires to have times of intimacy with us, such as can be seen by the romantic and intimate prose contained in the *Song of Solomon*.

*"Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth  
- for Your love is better than wine." Song of Solomon 1:2*

Probably the main source of teaching on intimacy in the Bible is contained in this book, which is a beautiful picture of not only King Solomon and a Shulamite woman, but also of Christ and His Bride, the Church.

As we come closer to the Lord in our relationship with Him and during times of worship, so this book will become more alive to us in our understanding and in our expression of worship.

As we see in the *Song of Solomon*, Jesus is passionately and completely in love with His Bride, the Church, and very often during our quiet times or

during times of high worship He will express His love and passion for us through prophetic utterance.

As with the Shulamite woman in the *Song of Solomon*, we should be so taken up with our love for God that our words of love, passion, adoration and worship will rise to His throne room as sweet smelling incense.

We know that Jesus is returning for His Bride, and we understand from the signs taking place around us and from the season that we live in, that His return is approaching quickly.

However, do we really have experiential knowledge of our calling as the Bride of Christ and His courtship, or is it simply head knowledge?

Our ultimate reason for being here at all is to worship God and to have a loving, intimate and genuine relationship with Him. When we finally get to heaven, we will be continually worshipping God and will have intimacy with Him that goes beyond anything that we have ever experienced, but we are capable of experiencing a true depth of intimacy with God here and now.

It is God's heart for us that we enter further and deeper into the Glory realm of God, both in our times of worship and intercession and also in our daily lives.

God's desire is for us to draw close to Him in our daily lives. *James 4: 8* says, "*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you*". *1 Corinthians 6: 19* tells us that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, which means God's presence by the Holy Spirit dwells within us. We draw near to God by opening ourselves to Him in worship, prayer and by simply spending time with Him, remembering that a lifestyle of worship by its simplest definition is positioning ourselves before God in acknowledgement of His sovereignty. We should seek to worship God continually, acknowledging His sovereignty through our words and actions, and keep our focus on Him whilst maintaining fellowship with Him in our daily lives.

We need to spend regular time with God in intimacy, where all that we are doing is focusing on Him, but it *is* possible to live a life of experiencing God's presence with us wherever we go and whatever we do. As we live in this place, so we will find ourselves wanting to go deeper and develop our relationship with Him.

As *Ephesians 6:18* says, "*...praying always with all types of prayer and supplication in the Spirit...*" We can see from this verse of Scripture that it is possible for us to live our lives in communion with God, as when we pray we are simply communicating with God as to our best friend and the Lover of our souls (which of course He is).

Let me share with you some words from Madame Jeanne Guyon (who lived in France during the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century), from her book, "*Experiencing The Depths of Jesus Christ*", in which she says:

*"All of the Lord's children have been called to the enjoyment of God – an enjoyment that can be known both in this life as well as in the life to come. Our state in that day will be one of eternal happiness in union with God.*

*Our call in this life is the same...*

*Your spirit is so noble and so great that the most exalted gifts God has to give cannot bring happiness to the spirit...not unless God also gives Himself... the whole desire of the Divine Being can be described in one sentence:*

*God wishes to give Himself utterly to everyone that names His name. And He will do this, giving Himself to each of us according to our individual capacity".*

However, it is vitally important for us to realise that God desires to speak with us, and so as we ask Him to speak He will and we will become accustomed to hearing His voice clearly, distinctly and accurately.

As *Proverbs 20:12* teaches us, God has created our physical ears and eyes, and in the same way He has also created us with the ability to hear and see spiritually - our spiritual ears and eyes.

It is important to realise that although we were created to hear His voice and to walk in communion with Him, it does take practise and experience to accurately discern the voice of God prophetically, both for ourselves and for others.

God has created us to have an intimate and meaningful relationship with Him. He longs to share His heart with us, to let us know His thoughts and His feelings. He is always available to us, and is always ready to act on our behalf.

Becoming the Bride that Jesus is looking forward to marrying only comes by us being transformed into His image. Jesus is the Bridegroom – the Lamb without blemish, and only by becoming like Him will we also be made perfect, and be ready as a Bride prepared for her Bridegroom.

*"And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you." Isaiah 62:5b*

*"And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say,  
"Come!"*

*And let him who thirsts come.*

*And whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17*

### **Character Development And Confidence In God**

To understand worship correctly, it is necessary to understand that true worship is about a life given over to God and not what we do in church on a Sunday. It is important for us to realise that we have become perfect new creations in Christ, through salvation, but this is true only of our spirits, not of our souls (minds), which are in the process of being sanctified.

It is also vital to understand that our spirit man is our true self. We are perfect in Christ, totally pure and totally righteous - but only in our spirit man.

Our spirit is always in deep and wonderful communion with God, but our spirit must work through the soul in order to effect our bodies and our outward life.

As Scripture teaches us in *1 Samuel 16:7*, God looks on the heart of man and not on the outward appearance, but we tend to look at the outward, as we are looking with physical eyes. God always sees us in our perfect, holy and righteous state as He sees us with spiritual eyes, and looks at us through Christ's work on the cross – His death is what makes us holy in our spirit.

*"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41)*

Mind renewal is a process, unlike our spirit which becomes perfect and 100% Christlike at the moment of our salvation:

*"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new." (2 Cor. 5:17)*

*"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."  
(2 Cor. 3:18)*

*"But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness." (Ephesians 4:20-24)*

Our historical and present emotions need to be healed in order for mind renewal to occur and truth needs to come from Jesus to our areas of deception. Only God's truth can bring healing to our historical and present areas of deception.

In any area of ministry it is vitally important that we develop our character in line with God's nature, and that we emphasise this as a priority in the development of our prophetic gifting.

It is essential to be motivated by our love and compassion for others and also by our love for God and our desire to serve Him from our position before Him as His friends and children.

Character development is essential with the development of any ministry, and especially those ministries that are *"up front"*, including worship ministries. People can have a tendency to focus on the vessel of the ministry and so if we have unhealed areas within us (*which we all do*), such as a need for attention or issues of insecurity, the focus that we receive will hinder us from being as effective as we can be.

Of course we always want the focus to be upon God and Him alone, but the sad fact of ministry is that often people are focussing on us and not on Him. I find that the best way to deal with this is to pause the meeting and request that people focus on God and not on what is happening around them or on the minister (namely me) and once I feel that the focus is back on God I will continue.

## **Holiness**

Collins Dictionary defines the word *"holy"* as *"belonging, devoted to God; free from sin; divine; consecrated"*.

There are three main ways that we become holy in our souls, and these are:

1. By spending time with God, developing an intimate relationship with Him and allowing Him to change us in the areas that we need to change. This may include the receiving of Christian counselling and prayer ministry.
2. By receiving truth into our areas of deception, such as through reading the Bible, listening to anointed sermons or God speaking directly to us.
3. By the appropriation of what Jesus did for us on the cross of Calvary.

As God shows us our areas of weakness and sinful behaviour and as we allow God to bring us healing, we need to repent of those things that He has pointed out to us, which means that we change our way of thinking in those areas and instead attune our minds to God's thinking in those areas and live our lives accordingly. We also need to appropriate Jesus' victory on the cross and use the keys that He has given to us in order to overcome.

## **Accountability to others**

*"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commands the blessing, life forevermore." (Psalm 133)*

*"As iron sharpens iron, a man sharpens the countenance of his friend."  
(Proverbs 27:17)*

*"A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity."  
(Proverbs 17:17)*

Any successful team needs to be in unity, and as such we need to build relationships with each other that have a level of accountability to them.

To be accountable is to be responsible to each other for our actions, in other words we have relationships with each other that are along the lines of *"The 3 Musketeers"* - all for one and one for all. We do not act on our own, but keep in mind our responsibility to those we are in relationship with, and God first.

In our relationships of accountability, we must have openness, honesty, unconditional love, respect, brotherhood and loyalty. Having these relationships in a Christian context will help us to become holy and refined.

## **Confidence in God**

The word *"confidence"* means (among other things) *"trust and assurance"*.

When we put our trust in God we will not be disappointed. He has our best interests at heart at all times, and He is constantly working on our behalf.

We need to remind ourselves that it is in our weakness that He is made strong. When we become open and honest before God, realising that outside of Him we can do nothing, we will begin to rely more and more on His strength, His power and His anointing.

## **Meditation: The Listening Stance**

*Collin's Dictionary* defines the word meditation as *"cogitation, contemplation, musing, pondering, reflection, ruminating, study, thought"*.

From this definition we can see that meditation is not only spiritual in nature, but is also cognitive, in that it can apply as much to our minds as to our spirits.

In the Bible, the word "*Selah*" is used, both in the Psalms and in the book of Habakkuk. Although "*Selah*" is understood to have been a musical term, possibly to announce the point at which an instrumental interlude comes in or a particular doxology is sung, the generally accepted meaning is "*pause and meditate on this*".

In the Bible, the word "*wait*" indicates patience, endurance, and eager anticipation of God's continuing presence and promise. Meditation is a form of waiting on the Lord.

Waiting and hoping in the Lord are closely connected. Hope connotes anticipation of a sure and certain fact: God's promised redemption. To wait for the Lord can also be translated to "set hope on" the Lord (for example, *Jeremiah 14:22*). Those who wait for the Lord keep themselves faithfully on his path, hold fast to justice and love, and renew their strength. They will rejoice in God's promised salvation.

Every religion has a form of meditation, from Buddhism to Islam, from Hinduism to Judaism and from the New Age to Sikhism, and the reason for the meditation is basically the same in each one, which is to connect the person with their perceived higher source - whether this is an external source, as with Judaism or an internal source, as with Buddhism.

Possibly the best definition of Christian meditation that I have come across is from the World Institute for Christian Meditation:

*"Christian meditation is simple and practical. It is about experience rather than theory: a way of being rather than merely a way of thinking. Indeed, because of the profound change meditation can work in one's life it is even more than a way of prayer; it is a way of life, a way of living from the deep centre of one's being.*

*The focus of meditation is Christocentric. This means that it is centred on the prayer of Christ, which is continuously poured forth in the Holy Spirit. Deeper than all ideas of God is God Himself. Deeper than imagination is the reality of God. Thus, in this way of pure prayer we leave all (secular) thoughts, words and images behind in order to set our minds on the Kingdom of God before all else. In this way we leave our egotistical self behind to die and rise to our true self in Christ.*

*Meditation is the missing contemplative dimension of much Christian life today.*

*Let us remember to "Be still and know that I am God".*

*Meditation involves coming to a stillness of spirit and a stillness of body. The real work of meditation is to attain harmony of body, mind and spirit. This is the aim given us by the psalmist; be still and know that I am God. In meditation we turn the search light of consciousness off ourselves.*

*In meditation we are not thinking or imagining about God at all. We seek to do something immeasurably greater: we seek to be with God, to be with Jesus, to be with His Holy Spirit.*

*Meditation has nothing to do with quiet reverie or passive stillness, but with attentive wakefulness. That is the invitation of Christian prayer: to lose ourselves and to be absorbed in God. Each of us is summoned to the heights of Christian prayer, to the fullness of life.*

*Meditation is what the early Christians called pure prayer."*

*"The wonderful beauty of prayer is that the opening of our heart is as natural as the opening of a flower. To let a flower open and bloom it is only necessary to let it be; so if we simply are, if we become and remain still and silent, our heart cannot but be open, the Spirit cannot but pour through into our whole being. It is for this that we have been created."*

### **Hunger for God**

It is vital that we remain hungry for more and more of God. As Christians, we have two choices: we either keep pushing forward for more of God or we slide backwards. There is no standing still.

We need to keep pressing forward towards the prize that has been set before us, and not allow the things of this world to pull us backwards.

If we are hungry for Him, He will meet that hunger in ways that we have not yet experienced. I believe that God is looking for those who are hungry for Him and that He will reward them with His presence in greater ways than have been seen so far.

### **Going beyond the outer courts...**

One of the warnings to us as musicians and worshippers is to not make camp. There is always more in God, and He is always calling us to make progress in Him and to keep reaching for Him in deeper and higher ways. We always need to seek the Holy of Holies and not simply the Outer Court or even Inner Court experience.

### **The Glory of God**

In order to understand the glory of God, we need to understand the realm in which God exists. Although it is true to say that God exists everywhere and all of the time, because He is omnipresent, the realm in which He exists and has His throne is a realm of perfection, complete beauty, total love, utter peace and joy, unimaginable power and unspeakable majesty. Words are not

enough to express God in His fullness and are also not enough to explain the awesome wonders of heaven.

The Bible speaks of the Shekinah Glory of God, which surrounded and emanated from the Ark of the Covenant. Inside the Holy of Holies there was no light source other than the Shekinah Glory of God, which was the presence of God that had broken through into the natural realm in a powerful and tangible way.

When God comes to us during times of worship, His presence often breaks through with a strong atmosphere of the very realm and person of God. This is the Glory of God – His being and His presence.

*(We will look at the Shekinah Glory of God in more detail next week).*

### **God desires for us to be real with Him**

One of the most important things for us to remember when worshipping God is that He desires us to be real with Him. We need to remove our masks that we too often wear before Him, remembering that God looks upon the heart anyway, and He knows us better than we know ourselves.

There is a tendency for us to put on a happy face when we are not at all happy and God knows our true state. Praising God through our suffering and pain does not mean that we put on a cheesy grin and just pretend that all is well. Praising God despite our circumstances means recognising where we are at and praising and worshipping God anyway.

When we do this, we often find that we are lifted out of our circumstances and into a fresh place of joy and peace with Him. We gain a fresh perspective of where we are at and as so often happened with David, our tears are turned into joy and our mourning into dancing.

### **“Follow Jesus” and remember that God is in control**

It is of vital importance to always follow Jesus in what He is doing with the worship through His Holy Spirit, and to remember that He is the one in control. When we attempt to control the worship for ourselves, we find that the anointing and glory of God begins to dissipate and fall away.

In worship as with inner healing, it could be said that we open a book with only one page in it. What does the page say on it? “Follow Jesus!”

## **The Father Heart Of God**

It is absolutely essential for us to understand that we are sons and daughters of God and that we need to minister to others from a basis of this relationship. In this way the Father heart of God will be shown in us and will be manifest through us as we minister to others.

*“Have you ever wondered what God thinks of you? Is it hard for you to believe He loves you as much as the Bible says He does? God is so big and He sometimes seems so distant - but what is He really like? Do you really know Him? You've heard His instructions, but do you know anything about His emotions or His character?”*

*One of the most wonderful revelations of the Bible is that God is our Father. What do you think of when you hear the word "father"? Do you automatically think of protection, provision, warmth, and tenderness? Or does the word "father" paint different kinds of pictures for you? God reveals Himself in the Bible as a gentle, forgiving Father, intimately involved with each and every detail of our lives. It is not only a beautiful picture, but a true one. However, every person seems to have a different idea of what God is like, because they unconsciously tend to attach the feelings and impressions that they have of their own earthly father to their concept of their Heavenly Father. Each person's own experience with human authority is usually transferred over to how they relate to God. Good experiences bring us closer to knowing and understanding God, just as bad experiences create distorted pictures of our Father's love for us.*

*If you see that you have been hindered in your relationship with God due to some kind of failure of parental love, then take these things to the Lord. You must find forgiveness in your heart towards anyone who has hurt you. If you don't, your bitterness will consume you and you will find no peace with God. Realise too, that you are not alone. I haven't met a perfect person yet, or a parent who hasn't made mistakes. Everyone has suffered some kind of hurts in their life. One of the keys for release is found in forgiveness. The important thing is that you go forward and get to know God for who He really is - not who you **think** He is. He is the Perfect Parent. He always disciplines in love. He is faithful, generous, kind, and He loves you and longs to spend time with you. He wants you to receive His love and know that you are a special and unique person to Him. Will you receive God's love and affection? Won't you open up and enter into an intimate relationship with your true Father? He is patiently waiting for you to come. It is my prayer that you will realise His love for you and respond to the father heart of God.” (Quote from John Dawson)*

As we come to understand the Father heart of God in more clarity and as we live with experiential knowledge of this, we will find that we minister to others with more of God and less of us. We will minister with compassion, understanding, unconditional love and acceptance. We will also find ourselves hearing more clearly from God and seeing more clearly in the spiritual realm, as our hearts and minds will be increasingly focused on Him and more filled with Him. We will also find that our lives are increasingly filled with God's joy,

love, peace and the fruits of the spirit will be manifest in greater ways in our lives.

Although the key to moving in the gifts of the Holy Spirit is faith, if we don't have love then we are simply a noise and nothing more. However, as we are motivated by God's love and minister according to His heart and mind, we will truly be the vessels through which God can touch and change the hurting and the needy of this world.

Ask yourself this question: what would God rather have from us – elaborate praise in public or intimate whispers of love? I believe that He infinitely prefers the latter, as He desires to connect with us in intimacy above all other things. This is the purpose of our being.

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