

"The Essential Attitudes for a Life-Transforming Encounter with God"

In last week's column, I shared that when we experience a revival in worship, everything else in our lives will be restored as well. This week, I'd like to discuss three essential attitudes we should have when attending worship to help us experience that revival.

First, we need to come with a heart full of expectation. Sunday worship is the best opportunity we have each week to truly encounter the presence of God. Therefore, everyone attending worship should come with a strong sense of anticipation, ready to meet the living God. Worship is a time when God, the Creator of heaven and earth, works powerfully through His Spirit, and extraordinary, supernatural things can happen that are beyond our imagination.

As 2 Chronicles 16:9 in the Old Testament says, "The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him." If you feel the presence of the living God while singing praises, or if you gain faith or a heart of repentance during the message, or if you find answers to your problems—then you have truly met God in worship. When you come to Sunday worship, you should have an expectation that surpasses any party or event, anticipating a profound encounter with God.

Second, we should approach with a repentant heart. Even if we've spent the week walking closely with Jesus, we still carry our faults and shortcomings with us into worship because of our human nature. That's why it's important to come before the Lord humbly, confessing our weaknesses and seeking His mercy and grace. Arriving a little early to examine our hearts and our relationship with God is a fundamental way to prepare for a grace-filled worship experience.

Third, we must come with a heart ready to obey. Some people come to worship primarily to receive grace, and while that's not wrong, it's important to remember that the true purpose of worship is not just about what we receive, but what we give to God. This is why we call it "service." So, we need to move beyond a passive stance of merely receiving grace and instead actively seek to grasp the voice of the Lord speaking to us personally. This is the essence of a heart ready to obey.

When God speaks to you, it's His invitation to be a part of the incredible work He's going to do. So when you receive a specific word from God, it calls for a response of dedication and commitment. After hearing the sermon, do you pray, "Lord, this week I

will try to live according to the word You gave me today. But I'm weak, so please help me"? I hope you make this kind of prayer every week.

If you've decided to adopt these three attitudes, I have one request for you. Please be more engaged during worship. Sing praises loudly, and if you feel blessed by the message, respond with a strong "Amen," helping to lift the overall spiritual atmosphere of the service.

When we start our week with a successful Sunday worship, that week will be filled with the peace, joy, and righteousness of God's kingdom, leading to success in all areas of life. I pray in the name of Christ that you experience the blessings that come from restoring worship in your life!