

I. Cultivating the Mind of Christ in Worship

- To have the Mind of Christ we must understand the biblical principles of praise and worship. The Scriptures record in several places that Jesus sings praise to the Father:
 - Heb 2:12 NLT For he said to God, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise you among your assembled people."
 - Rom 15:9-- "I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing praises to your name."
 - Mt 26:30-- When (Jesus and His disciples) had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.
- Worship = to express worth
- Worship is a reverential attitude of mind or body or both: Ex 4:31 NAS-- So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD was concerned about the sons of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, then they bowed low and worshiped.
- Worship is relational. The principal Greek word for worship is *proskuneo*, which means, "Kiss toward."
- God is seeking worshipers, not worship: John 4:23 NLT—But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way.
- All human beings worship something. God loves us knows it is to our best advantage to worship Him because we become like what we worship:
 - Ps 115:8 NLT-- And those who make idols are just like them, as are all who trust in them.
 - Ps 135:18 TV— The artisans who made them are just like them, and so are all who *mistakenly* trust in them, *no exceptions*.
- Every time we turn the affection of our heart toward God, we "see" Him and become more like Him: 2 Cor 3:17-18 NLT— For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18** So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.
- Worship is a priestly ministry based on our capacity to communicate and interact with God. Scripture suggests that we actually minister to Him with our worship:
 - Ex 19:5-6-- Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'
 - 1 Pt 2:9-10 Phillips— But you are God's "chosen generation", his "royal priesthood", his "holy nation", his "peculiar people"—all the old titles of God's people now belong to you. It is for you now to demonstrate the goodness of him who has called you out of darkness into his amazing light. In the past you were not "a people" at all: now you are the people of God. In the past you had no experience of his mercy, but now it is intimately yours.
- Worship is more than a song, but singing praises is a biblical pathway for intimacy with God. He connects with us in a unique way when we offer up our song to Him:
 - Ps 100:4-- Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise.
 - Ps 22:3 KJV-- But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.
- Insights:

II. Logistics

- At the conclusion of praise, your leader will go to her room. If you are ready to go first, you may join her then.
- Everyone remaining in the room is asked to please observe a discipline of silence.
- Enjoy the meditation time. Use the suggestions below to help you connect with the Lord.
- When you are finished with your prayer time, please quietly slip into the main meeting room and signal those in your small group that one of them may go for prayer next.
- Stay and journal about your prayer time. Record your prayers, insights, and breakthroughs while they are fresh on your mind.

III. Meditation Time—This is your time. Look over the options listed below. Pick and choose among these ideas as you desire. Or feel free to use this quiet time in another way that blesses you more.

- Continue your processing using the resources you've been using this week:
 - Keep going on the Personal Inventory Questionnaire if you feel that there are more insights to be gained.
 - Review any notes or journaling you've made on the issue you are bringing to prayer.
 - Use the Tools & Techniques handouts that apply to your situation.
- Work on the new materials from today:
 - Review the worship principles from today.
 - Meditate on the worship songs that are playing. Read or sing along with the lyrics on the screen. Close your eyes and soak in the music, realizing that you are joining with the atmosphere of heaven as you do so. Record anything the Lord reveals.
 - Find replacement truths for the misinformation that has infiltrated your thinking or contributed to a stronghold. Use the handout "Tools & Techniques: Spiritual Blessings."
- Listen to God using these meditation exercises. Clear your mind, being fully present before the Lord. Offer the eyes of your heart to the Lord and allow Him to speak to you creatively:
 - Ask God if there is anything you are holding back from Him. Write it down, talk with Him about what is behind this, and listen to His response.
 - Ask God to speak to you about your receptivity/openness to Him. Is there a picture or word He wants to give you that helps you see how you are viewing Him? Quiet yourself before Him and see what comes to your awareness. Write this down and talk to Him about it.
- Insights: