

A Biblical Explanation of the Worship Experience at Bethel Pentecostal Assembly

Dear Friend:

The Psalmist in Psalm 122:1 said, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

Our desire at Bethel is that our worship experience will be meaningful, allowing God to meet our deepest needs as we worship Him for who He is! The bible says in Psalms 48:1, "Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise." God loves to hear us sing from a heart that is full of thanks and loves Him! This material is made available to provide answers from God's Word outlining why we worship the way we do.

We trust that you will find the scripture-based answers (NIV translation) to be informative and helpful. Our denominational "Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths" can be viewed at "paoc.org/family" - look at "What We Believe" and "Who We Are tabs."

Rev. Bryan Warnar

1. Why so many musical instruments in our Worship Service?

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with the tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Psalm 150:3-5

2. Why do we frequently stand when we sing or read scripture?

Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood and praised the LORD, the God of Israel, with very loud voice. 2 Chronicles 20:19 (see also Nehemiah 8:5)

3. Why do we clap our hands in song and praise?

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. Psalm 47:1

4. Why do we raise our hands in praise to God?

I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. Psalm 63:4
Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD. Psalm 134:2

I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing. 1 Timothy 2:8

5. Why do we audibly/vocally praise the Lord as a congregation?

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. Psalm 34:1

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Psalm 103:1

When they heard this they raised their voices together in prayer to God, "Sovereign Lord." They said, "You have made the Heaven and the Earth and the sea, and everything in them." Acts 4:24

6. Why do we sing Choruses and Hymns?

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Colossians 3:16

7. Why at times during the worship service, is there a quiet period in which there is not singing/speaking?

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. Psalm 46:10

8. What place does prophecy have during the worship service?

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the

same Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:7-10

Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. 1 Corinthians 14:29

If anybody thinks that he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to is the Lord's command. 1 Corinthians 14:37

9. Why do people pray for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and how does this experience happen?

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 (see also Acts 1:4,5)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1-4 (see also 8:12-17, 9:10-22, 10:44-47, 19:1-7)

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord. Ephesians 5:18-19

10. What place does speaking with other tongues and interpretation have in the service?

I would like everyone of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified. 1 Corinthians 14:5

If anyone speaks in a tongue, two - or at the most three - should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. 1 Corinthians 14:27

Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:39

11. Why does the entire congregation pray together for specific requests?

When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God, "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them." Acts 4:24

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

12. Why do we pray for the sick and those with other needs and anoint with oil?

They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them. Mark 6:13

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. James 5:14-15

13. What does the Bible say about the laying on of hands?

Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. Matthew 19:13

...They will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well. Mark 16:18

Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. 1 Timothy 4:14

14. Why do we gather at the front of the church (altar) for prayer?

Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. Matthew 10:32

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

15. Why do we worship God with the bringing of tithes and giving of offerings?

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. Malachi 3:10

But just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us - see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 2 Corinthians 8:7

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

16. Why do we preach Jesus Christ as the only Saviour from sin?

Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 2:5

17. Why do we practice Baby dedication?

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD." And he worshipped the Lord there. 1 Samuel 1:27-28

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there. Matthew 19:14-15

18. Why do we practice Water Baptism?

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.

At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:13-17

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

19. Why do we celebrate the Lord's Supper?

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? 1 Corinthians 10:16

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you; The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

20. Why is it important to attend church regularly?

I rejoiced with those who said unto me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord. Psalm 122:1 Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed. Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord. "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord.") Luke 2:22-23