

Concepts in Worship

7. V. Procedures Intended to aid in the furtherance of participation in worship (public)

*(In Review: remember the basic points sketched from the start in these talks: worship is not humanly legislated, cannot be mechanized and should not be psychologically analyzed. It is a voluntary expression of the heart that adores God and while the Lord has established some principles with regard to worship we must be cautious that we do not add to these our own set of "legalisms." Our more immediate discussion has been the public meeting and our stress has been that we are not designating who is more spiritual but who is fulfilling the priestly functions of leading the worship life of the collect gathering. Having stressed this from the point of view of privilege and responsibility, we have discussed it also in the light of the leading of the Spirit and the desire of the Lord to be glorified in and by us. Our most recent discussion on matters that impair our worship prompts us now to look at some items that aid in our more public participation.)*

A. Some general remarks:

7.1

1. This is largely a practical lesson in performance...more than a chapter and verse discussion of a biblical doctrine. We can glean biblical input from the lives of saints in the framework of the Scripture but the discussion turns more largely on the practical observations of life. It is, all the more in that light, a necessary subject.
2. Most of the important things in life we grow into. And some object to suggesting procedures that help us fulfill the worship life. It should be, in their estimation, as natural as talking, etc. But most of us needed help in that area, too. The fact that most of us can communicate meaningfully with others is the proof that we received the help we needed. Those who have no guidance or direction in these affairs are often poor communicators...most of us know that with regard to our children and it would be good to apply it to heavenly children so long as we recall the oft repeated warnings given above.
3. So in this discussion we offer a few guiding principles...some of which are debatable and some which might cause contention but all of which are offered with openness and understanding.

B. Some positive steps...things that may be done...by you...to increase the concept of participation and to increase the familiarity with the worship-leader role.

1. The adoption of personal devotions.

7.2

- a. Definition: Learning to express to God one's love--privately--to worship Him from the word--to listen to the Word speak to our hearts.--to show quietly a life that loves the Lord.