

7 Hebrew For Praise

*You Were Planned For God's Pleasure (WORSHIP) Revelation 4:12 "(God) created everything, and it is *for (His) pleasure* that they exist and were created." The Bible says *you were created for God's enjoyment*. Just like a parent enjoys watching his/her kids, God enjoys watching you *be you - most of the time!* He made you *to love you*, and so you could *choose to love Him back*. That is your #1 purpose in life. When we love God back *that is Worship*. Worship is often misunderstood. *When we say the word "worship,"* you may think of prayer. You may think of singing. You may think of ritual or communion or something you do in church. *But worship is far more than all those things.**

▪ **Worship is MY RESPONSE to God's love.** God made *the first move*; He loved you first. He's waiting to see if you will *choose to love Him back*.

▪ **Worship is GIVING BACK to God.** God gives to us. Whenever you give back or "*offer*" something to God, *that's called worship*. #1 thing you can give Him is *your love*. He's got everything else. But God *doesn't have your love* unless *you choose to give it to Him*.

Worship is FOCUSING my ATTENTION on God. We think about hundreds of things every day. So, when *you choose to stop thinking about all the other things you could be thinking about*, and *choose instead to think about God*, that is

worship. *“God, I’m thinking about You right now. You are important to me.”* God loves that. That’s worship.

Worship is **EXPRESSING** my **AFFECTION** to God. For some of you, this is difficult because you grew up in families that *weren’t very affectionate*. Didn’t say, *“I love you”* much. You’re going to have to learn *how to express affection*. **Tip:** If you’re *thinking about* God, you’re already halfway there. You just need to *think w/feeling*: *“God, I’m thinking about You, and I want you to know, I love you. I’m thankful for my relationship with you. Thank you for loving me...caring...”*

We’re going to help you EXPRESS AFFECTION to God. Every time you see the word “praise” in the Bible, it comes from one of 7 Hebrew root words that describe a particular way to praise the Lord. That *specific way* of praising the Lord got ‘lost in translation.’ We’re going to teach what each of these 7 words *mean*, and then practice what we learn.

Halal (huh-lawl’) *to shine; to make a show, to boast, to be clamorously foolish, to rave, to celebrate; to express an extreme degree of admiration or approval. To give extravagantly* [spend much *more than is necessary; excessive; go beyond* what is justifiable; *unrestrained*. Praise that borders on being *excessive/foolish*. One of the root words for *Hallelujah*. **Makes me think of fans at sporting events who aren’t afraid to cheer, lose their inhibitions, celebrate with singing, shouting, and boasting about their teams’ performance.**

In *Halal* praise, one ceases to be self-conscious or worried about what others think of our behavior. It is being totally consumed by the passion of expressing our love for God. 2 Sam 6: David danced before the Lord “with all his might.” Matthew 26, Mark 14, John 12, woman who broke her expensive alabaster jar of perfume (worth more than a year’s wages) and poured it on Jesus head and feet, wiping his feet with her hair. Selfless, extravagant, praising God *with everything we have*, holding nothing back.

Deuteronomy 6:5 Love the Lord your God with *all your heart*, and with *all your soul*, and with *all your might*.”
“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and *all that is within me* bless His holy Name.” Psalm 103:1 *How many times have you done that? What would that be like?*

In context: Psalms 22:22: I will tell my people about You. I will *praise (halal) You in the great assembly.* “*I will praise you in front of people as though You’re the only One watching.*”

T^hillah (te-hil’-la) *to sing praises extravagantly; to celebrate with song. Spec: a hymn of praise. The act of praising God highly in the song. Halal is spoken praise; T^hillah is singing Halals.*

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with *praise (T^hillah)*. Psalm 100:4 (“...singing praises unto God with all you’ve got.”)

You are the Holy One; you are enthroned upon the *praises* (*hillah*) of Israel. Psalm 22:3

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to *praise* (*hillah*) Him. Psalm 33:1

Yadah (ya-dah') The Hebrew word *Yadah* comes from two root words: *Yad* which means *the open hand, direction*; and *Ah* which references *Jehovah*. Together they mean *Hands to God. To use or hold out the hand; to worship God with extended or lifted hands.*

Psalm 67:3 Let the people *praise* (*Yadah*) thee, O God; let all the people *praise* (*Yadah*) thee.

Psalm 63:4 I will *praise* you as long as I live, and in your name *I will lift up my hands.*

Psalm 107:15 Oh that men would *praise* (*yadah*) the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men.

Ill: When a child wants attention from a parent they lift their arms so mommy/daddy will pick them up. That analogy can be applied to God.

Another perspective: *“One day...I saw myself standing in praise to God with my hands lifted towards heaven, and I saw the glory of God descend between my uplifted arms, much as is described in the Bible when the glory of God’s presence came to rest between*

the wings of the cherubim on the mercy seat in the Tabernacle. It was as if God was saying,

‘You are, as a believer, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. My blood paid for your sins. I am in you, and I am your mercy seat. Your uplifted arms are your body’s counterpart to the outstretched wings of the cherubim. As you praise Me, I will enthrone myself and my glory upon you.’ ”

Towdah (toe-dah’) *an extension of the hand. A sacrifice of praise or thanks.* The implication is that we are to raise the hands as in a court of law swearing to “*Tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.*” It’s a form of praise where we raise our hands and say/repeat what God says.

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving (*Towdah: w/your hand upraised speaking truth*) and into His courts with (*Tehillah*) praise.” Psalm 100:4 We enter into God’s presence through a gate and the Key to the Gate is *Towdah* Praise where *we come in speaking/confessing the truth about who God is.*

Ill: “The Lord is good, and His mercy endures forever, His faithfulness continues through all generations.” “Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.” *Towdah* is also thanking God for “things not yet received” as well as things you already have.

Zamar (za-mar’) *the idea of striking with the fingers. To touch the strings or parts of a musical instrument; to play upon it. To play/sing songs of praise with instruments.*

Psalm 92:1-3 It is good to give *praise/Yadah* to the Lord, and to *Zamar* to Your Name, O Most High; To declare Your love in the morning, and Your faithfulness at night, to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp.

Psalm 98:5&6 *Praise/Zamar* the Lord with the harp...and the sound of a psalm; with trumpets and the sound of a horn.

Barak (**buh-rock'**) *to kneel down, to bless God as an act of adoration.* When we kneel or bow we are expressing our *love, submission, and trust* in God.

Psalm 95:6 O come let us worship and *bow down*; let us kneel (*barak*) before the Lord our maker.

1Chronicles 29:20 Then David said to all the assembly, 'Now *bless (barak)* the Lord your God.' And all the assembly *blessed (barak)* the Lord, the God of their fathers. They *bowed low to the ground to give honor to the Lord* and to the king.

Psalm 34:1 I will *bless (barak)* the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Bowing shows humility, submission, honor, reverence. We cannot live life on our knees. But we can always live in submission/humility towards God.

Shabach (**shuh-bach'**) *to address in a loud tone. To shout praises to God triumphantly!* Over and over we're told to shout, or praise God loudly.

Psalms 145:4 One generation shall *praise (Shabach)* Your works to another and declare Your mighty acts.

Psalm 5:11 But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; let them ever *shout for joy...*

Psalm 32:11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice you righteous; *and shout for joy*, all you upright in heart.”

Psalm 17:1 Clap your hands, all you peoples! *Shout unto God with a voice of triumph!*

A mighty *shout of victory* is a powerful form of praise. **At the Battle of Jericho**, on the seventh day, God told Joshua to march around the walls one last time and then to have all the people give a loud shout (and the walls came tumbling down.) **With only a 300-man army, Gideon defeated the vast Midianite army**, and the battle plan was to break jars, blow trumpets, and shout, “*A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!*” Shouts of praise to the Lord, makes the devil run!