

Five Ways the Devil Can Bind Our Worship

Psalm 99:1-4 – CEV - **Our LORD Is King** - ¹ **Our LORD, you are King!** You rule from your throne above the winged creatures, as people tremble and the earth shakes. ² **You are praised** in Zion, and you control all nations. ³ **Only you are God!** And your power alone, so great and fearsome, **is worthy of praise.** ⁴ You are our mighty King, a lover of fairness, who sees that justice is done everywhere in Israel.

⁵ Our Lord and our God, **we praise you** and kneel down **to worship you**, the God of holiness! ⁶ Moses and Aaron were two of your priests. Samuel was also one of those who prayed in your name, and you, our Lord, answered their prayers. ⁷ You spoke to them from a thick cloud, and they obeyed your laws. ⁸ Our Lord and our God, you answered their prayers and forgave their sins, but when they did wrong, you punished them. ⁹ We praise you, Lord God, and we worship you at your sacred mountain. Only you are God!

Worship is important to the church. As a matter of fact, the church is powerless without worship.

- ***Worship is important to the soul.***
- ***Worship is how we go into the presence of God.***
- ***If we don't worship, we cannot go into the God's presence.***
- ***If we don't go into the presence of God we cannot grow spiritually,***
- ***Therefore, we shall surely die.*** (Spiritually speaking)
- ***That's why when we come to the house of God it is imperative that we worship.***
- ***We need to get our minds off the busy day and get our minds on God.***
- ***We can't worship God if our minds are everywhere but here.***

Worship is important. We must have worship

Worship is what brings revival. It brings the power of the Holy Spirit and ***with the power of the Holy Spirit*** comes deliverance, peace, and victory.

That's why the devil wants to hinder our worship

- He will do whatever it takes ***to distract you*** to the point that ***when you get to church*** you ***don't feel like worshipping***.
- That's how ***he robs us*** of ***our blessing***.
- Because ***worship is what gives us the strength*** to get up and go on.
- If we ***don't*** worship, we become ***weak and frail*** and ***easy to whip***.

So, the devil wants to hinder our worship.

- There is an old song we sang when I was first saved: ***"We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him."***
- That is exactly ***why we have gathered here today*** and ***there's not a problem or a devil that's going to stop us from worshipping God.***

This is God's house, and He's worthy of all we can give

Question: Why did I come to church today? What's my purpose?

Did I come to worship God, or did I come for some other reason?

First way the devil can bind our worship is through preoccupation.

- If he can ***preoccupy your mind*** while you are at church, ***he can bind your worship.***
- In other words, ***if your mind is on something besides God, you can't worship the Lord***

How many times has this happened to us?

- We know that ***we ought to have our minds on God*** but for some reason ***our minds are*** on ***where we're going to eat lunch*** after Church.
- Or whether or not ***we left the stove on*** or ***unplugged the iron.***

- Or we might be sitting there ***thinking about the argument*** that we just had.
- Or we might be thinking about what time the game starts, ***sure hope the preacher*** has a short one today.

Understand: The devil will fill your mind with anything that will stop your worship.

- Sometimes we even get **preoccupied** with **what everybody in the church thinks about us.**
- ***Am I dressed the right way? Do I fit in? Do I look out of place? Does my hair look OK? Is anybody staring at me?***
- ***Don't forget the reason we're here! We didn't come here to please one another; we came here to please the Lord.***

The Bible says in Acts 2:1 - The Coming of the Holy Spirit - *On the day of Pentecost all the Lord's followers were together in one place.*

- That on **the Day of Pentecost** that **they were in one accord.**
- **They were not preoccupied.** When they came to that Upper Room, ***they had their minds on God.***
- They weren't **worried about lunch.**
- They were **only concerned about pleasing God.**
- They were **hungry for God to manifest Himself** among them.
- And when we come to Gods house; ***if we would somehow occupy ourselves with God***
- **Not preoccupy ourselves** with something else ***we would see a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit.***

All our attention must be on God!!!

- **We can't be looking at everybody else and focus on God at the same time.**

- **We can't** scan the church to see who's here and who isn't and **still have our minds on God.**
- **We can't** be thinking; oh man, so and so needed that, I sure hope he's listening and **still have our minds on God.**
- **The devil** will use any device necessary to preoccupy your mind **because that will keep you from worshipping God.**
- If we would **focus on worship** the way we focus on other people, there's **no telling what would happen** in this place.
- **We fall for the trick of the devil.** Our Worship often dies because we are preoccupied looking at them instead of looking up to HIM.

We must stop allowing the enemy to distract us.

- **If we will go ahead and worship God** - instead of looking around and wondering why somebody bothered coming to church in the first place.
- We are **not** going to get caught in the devil's trap.
- **We're going to keep our eyes on Jesus and worship Him** and have a move of the Holy Spirit.

A second way the devil can bind our worship is through prayerlessness.

- If the devil can keep us from praying, our worship is nothing but a ritual.
- **The devil's favorite tool** to keep us from praying is to get us to think that we're too busy to pray. [**We're too busy not to pray**]
- **The devil will use any tool;** he will use the TV, your play time, your job, or even sleep.
- If he can, **he will hinder your prayer life**, because that will bind your worship.
- **The devil knows** that if you're not praying, **you're already whipped.**

- **When you pray it puts the devil in a panic mode.** Because he knows that God answers prayer.
- ***That's why the devil tried to hinder prayer*** in the Bible in every way he could.

Acts 19:15 - And the evil spirit answered and said, ***“Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?”***

- You know why they knew Paul, ***because he prayed?***

When we don't pray it makes the devil's job easy.

Prayer prepares us for worship!

- We become **aware and sensitive to what God wants.**
- **When we pray, we understand what God is trying to tell us.**
- **The more we pray the more we know Jesus and worship becomes a natural part of our lives.**
- **The devil wants to bind that because worship will make you an overcomer.**
- **You will overcome whatever the devil throws at you if you will be earnest, fervent, and consistent in prayer.**
- **Prayer gives us liberty to worship at home and at church.**

A third way the devil can bind our worship is through pride

Pride is a disease that makes everybody sick but the person who has it.

- Somebody who's proud is **always looking down** on other people.
- As long **as they are looking down, they cannot see God** because He is up, so they miss out on the higher and better aspects of life.

- God hates pride!

He said in Proverbs 8:13 - ***The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.***

Pride and arrogance, I hate.

- ***Pride will build a wall*** between you and God.

Psalm 138:6 - ⁶Though the LORD is on high, Yet He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar.

You can't be close to God and be full of pride.

We can't be arrogant and be close to God.

- We can't start ***thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to*** think and be close to God.
- Pride is a spirit that we must get rid of so that we can be close to God.
- It's hard to crucify the flesh. So how do you do it? ***Through prayer!***

James 4:6 - But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says: ***"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."***

The humble can worship the Lord.

- When we humble ourselves in the house of God and we worship, God will respond to that kind of worship.
- Then He makes us glad. **Then we can rejoice.**

A fourth way that the devil can bind our worship is through prejudice

The devil has used this tool a lot in order to bind the worship of some good people.

To have prejudice means that somebody has prejudged somebody else or something else without sufficient facts to make an accurate judgment.

It's sad to say, but ***it happens in a lot of churches.*** Folks come to church, and they have **prejudice** against somebody else.

We cannot fall into the devil's trap and *prejudge somebody who doesn't fit into our predetermined mold.*

- We cannot get caught judging somebody's spiritual condition. **It doesn't matter how they look.**
- We cannot get preoccupied with prejudice because **that will bind our worship....**

That's exactly what the devil wants.

- So that's what **we are not** going to give him.
- We will just continue to worship without prejudice.
- Anybody who wants to worship with us can.
- If we can worship **without being preoccupied,** God's going to move.

Can I add something? We cannot be prejudice about how we think everybody ought to worship.

- **Everybody worships different.** If we didn't, we would all be puppets on a string. ***What good is that to God?***

God wants us to worship Him because we want to, not because we have to.

- It **doesn't matter how** we worship just so ***we worship.*** **Let's leave the judging to God.**

1 Samuel 16:7 - *tells us that man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*

- Everybody has their own unique relationship with God.
- It's our responsibility to come to church **with the purpose the desire to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.**

A fifth way that the devil can bind our worship is through presumption

What does presumption have to do with? It has to do with overstepping, taking for granted.

- ***If we ever reach the place to where we start thinking that **God is here just because we showed up**, we are badly mistaking.***

The devil would like for us to think we can have church with or without God.

- **That we can replace God** with social activities or whatever.
- **We cannot replace the presence of Almighty God.**
- **If God is not here**, then we may as well stay home.

This church depends on the presence of God.

- **Lives are at stake!** Families are at stake! Marriages are at stake!
- **We must have the presence of God in this church.**
- ***Not only do we need his presence in this church, but we need to experience his presence in our lives.***

Matthew 3:3 - We must prepare the way of the Lord, instead of presuming that He'll show up just because we're here.

- The name on the building doesn't guarantee that God will be here.
- ***We must prepare for the presence of God. How?***
- **We need to remove all the unsightly things from our lives. Preparation!**
- **Preparing** the way means that the crooked places must be made straight

Isaiah 40:4 - That all sin be removed from the camp.

- ***We may have to repent*, but whatever it takes to make sure that **the presence of God is here** is what we ought to be willing to do.**
- **When we make preparation**, there will be a revelation of the glory of God.

CLOSE:

There are a lot of folks who want to know who Jesus is and they do want to experience His presence for themselves.

They are hurting. They are suffering and struggling with life. Just trying to live from one day to the next is a burden.

- What they need is a church where they can come and worship with liberty.
- They need a church where they can come and feel the presence of God and receive His touch in their life.
- They need a church where their spiritual needs can be met.

When we worship in spirit and in truth, we are preparing the way of the Lord

- **When His way is prepared, He steps into the service** and does a great work in the lives of people.
- **The devil can't do anything to stop it.**
- **He cannot stop them from being delivered, set free, cleansed, or made whole.**
- **We cannot allow the devil to bind our worship**, especially now when the need is so great, and Jesus is about to return.

We must worship Him in spirit and in truth