

Wednesday with the Word

Wheat Street Baptist Church

Rev. Ralph Basui Watkins, MFA, DMin, PhD
Teacher / Pastor

There is Power in Praise: Praise & Worship Makes the Difference

- We were created to praise God.
- The first and primary thing the church is called to do is to praise God.
- It is our being a faith community that gathers for praise and worship and leaves to lead a life of services and witness.

“We come to church to feed our faith we leave the church to live our faith!”

The Vision for Wheat Street Baptist Church

“We are a church in the heart of city with the city in our heart.”

John 14:12-14

12 *Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me or anything, I will do it.*

Vision:

We exist to develop mature disciples of Jesus Christ who make a real difference in the world by actively seeking the love, justice, freedom, liberation and peace of God.

(Luke 4:18; Matthew 25:31-46; Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 1:16-20; Mark 6:30-44; Mark 7:1-23; Mark 9:33-37; Mark 10:13-16; Mark 12:41-44; Acts 1:6-11; Acts 2:14-21; Acts 2:43-47; Acts 4:23-37; Philippians 4:4-9)

Goals for 2018

1. Build an infrastructure for future growth (focusing on systems and structures)
2. Worship Encounters that transforms believers - Pastor for Worship and the Arts - 2018
3. Ministry and outreach that meets the needs of the masses with a special emphasis on youth / children - Pastor for Mission, Outreach and Social Engagement

Praise:

Praise in the literal sense mean to express warm approval or admiration of; To praise means to commend, applaud or to pay tribute to; To praise means to speak highly of, to compliment, to congratulate, to rave about, to go into raptures about; Praise means to wax lyrical about, make much of, to be cognizance of ones good qualities and to be thankful

Worship:

reverence offered a divine being or supernatural power; *also* :an act of expressing such reverence:a form of religious practice with so sense of ritual; extravagant respect or admiration for or devotion to God to esteem God by *worshipping God*

Praise and worship moves us into a space of connecting with God as we speak well of God and allow the Holy Spirit to move us into a realm of connectivity with God that is transformative. It takes us out of self and puts in contact with the divine as we come together in corporate worship. Corporate worship is centered around the movement of the Holy Spirit as God uses us a body to inhabit as God inhabits the praises of God's people.

Romans 12:1-21

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

We come to worship and present our bodies, our minds our souls unto God. We come with our hands up surrendering our will to God's will. We come to yield to God, to give to God, to hear from God and to follow God. Worships is at the foundation of our faith. We are to worship God. We presents ourselves to God as a living sacrifice when we come and freely worship God. To worship is to sacrifice.

Sacrifice:

an act of offering to a deity something precious; *especially* :the killing of a victim on an altar:something offered in sacrifice :destruction or surrender of something for the sake of something else:something given up or lost the *sacrifices* made by parents

Worship should lead us to sacrifice.

What are somethings we should be led to sacrifice?

Romans 2:2

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

As we worship God it should be transformative. Our minds are to be renewed so that we can hear and see what God wants to do through us and the faith community in which we serve. We come to worship to hear God and open our minds up to be touched and developed by God by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 2:3

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. **4** For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, **5** so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. **6** We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; **7** ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; **8** the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

These are gifts; here Paul is specially talking about your lead or top gift. We may have more than of these and we all are to be generous as an example but some people have the gift of generosity. Spiritual gifts are a special endowment from God bestowed upon believers to do great works. We should only serve in area of giftedness.

Our gifts tells us what we should do.

Our passion tells us whom or where we should serve: youth, children, adults, the poor, the imprisoned, the ill, etc....

A Gift Based Ministry (a partial list of spiritual gifts):

Administration

The gift of administration is the divine strength or ability to organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks.

Biblical References: Luke 14:28-30; Acts 6:1-7; 1

Corinthians 12:28

Apostleship

The gift of apostleship is the divine strength or ability to pioneer new churches and ministries through planting, overseeing, and training.

Biblical References: Acts 15:22-35; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Galatians 2:7-10; Ephesians 4:11-14

Craftsmanship

The gift of craftsmanship is the divine strength or ability to plan, build, and work with your hands in construction environments to accomplish multiple ministry applications.

Biblical References: Exodus 30:22, 31:3-11; 2 Chronicles 34:9-13; Acts 18:2-3

Discernment

The gift of discernment is the divine strength or ability to spiritually identify falsehood, to distinguish between right and wrong motives and the spiritual forces at work in situations.

Biblical References: Matthew 16:21-23; Acts 5:1-11, 16:16-18; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 John 4:1-6

Evangelism

The gift of evangelism is the divine strength or ability to help non-Christians take the necessary steps to becoming a born-again Christian.

Biblical References: Acts 8:5-6, 8:26-40, 14:21, 21:8; Ephesians 4:11-14

Exhortation

The gift of exhortation is the divine strength or ability to strengthen, comfort or urge others to action through the written or spoken word and Biblical truth.

Biblical References: Acts 14:22; Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:24-25

Faith

The gift of faith is the divine strength or ability to believe in God for unseen supernatural results in every arena of life.

Biblical References: Acts 11:22-24; Romans 4:18-21; 1 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11

Giving

The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to produce wealth and to give by tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth.

Biblical References: Mark 12:41-44; Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:2-7 65

Healing

The gift of healing is the divine strength or ability to act as an intermediary in faith, prayer, and by the laying-on of hands for the healing of physical, mental and spiritual sickness.

Biblical References: Acts 3:1-10, 9:32-35, 28:7-10; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28

Helps

The gift of helps is the divine strength or ability to work in a supportive role for the accomplishment of tasks in Christian ministry with the ability to often see the need before others do.

Biblical References: Mark 15:40-41; Acts 9:36; Romans 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:28

Hospitality

The gift of hospitality is the divine strength or ability to create warm, welcoming environments for others places such as your home, office, or church.

Biblical References: Acts 16:14-15; Romans 12:13, 16:23; Hebrews 13:1-2; 1 Peter 4:9

Intercession

The gift of intercession is the divine strength or ability to stand in the gap in prayer for someone, something, or someplace, believing for profound results.

Biblical References: Hebrews 7:25; Colossians 1:9-12, 4:12-13; James 5:14-16

Word of Knowledge

The gift of knowledge is the divine strength or ability to bring truth to a situation by supernatural revelation. This is often accompanied by a word from God.

Biblical References: Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:8; Colossians 2:2-3

Leadership

The gift of leadership is the divine strength or ability to influence people at their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture, vision, or idea.

Biblical References: Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17; Hebrews 13:17

Mercy

The gift of mercy is the divine strength or ability to feel empathy and to care for those who are hurting in any way.

Biblical References: Matthew 9:35-36; Mark 9:41; Romans 12:8; 1 Thess. 5:14

Miracles

The gift of miracles is the divine strength or ability to alter the natural outcomes of life in a supernatural way through prayer, faith, and divine direction.

Biblical References: Acts 9:36-42, 19:11-12, 20:7-12; Romans 15:18-19; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28

Pastor/Shepherd

The gift of pastor/shepherd is the divine strength or ability to care for the personal needs of others by nurturing and mending life issues.

Biblical References: John 10:1-18; Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-3

Prophecy

The gift of prophecy is the divine strength or ability to communicate God's truth and heart in a way that calls people to a right relationship with God.

Biblical References: Acts 2:37-40, 7:51-53, 26:24-29; 1 Corinthians 14:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5

Service

The gift of serving is the divine strength or ability to do small or great tasks in working for the overall good of the body of Christ.

Biblical References: Acts 6:1-7; Romans 12:7; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 1:16-18; Titus 3:14

Teaching

The gift of teaching is the divine strength or ability to study and learn from the Scriptures primarily to bring understanding and depth to other Christians.

Biblical References: Acts 18:24-28, 20:20-21; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-14

Tongues (and Interpretation)

The gift of tongues is the divine strength or ability to pray in a heavenly language to encourage your spirit and to commune with God. The gift of tongues is often accompanied by interpretation and should be used appropriately.

Biblical References: Acts 2:1-13; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:1-14

Word of Wisdom

The gift of wisdom is the divine strength or ability to understand and to bring clarity to situations and circumstances often through applying the truths of Scripture in a practical way.

Biblical References: Acts 6:3,10; 1 Corinthians 2:6-13, 12:8

Romans 12:9-10

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; **10** love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

We should esteem and love each other. We shouldn't single people out to be honored but rather we should show mutual honor daily. This comes from the root of love.

Romans 12:11-13

11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. **12** Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. **13** Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

How do we maintain our zeal and joy:

1. Serve the Lord
2. Rejoice which helps us have hope
3. Be patient
4. Pray always
5. Contribute / give to the in need
6. Be nice and welcoming to strangers

Romans 12:14-21

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. **16** Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. **17** Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. **18** If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." **20** No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.