

True Freedom Of Expression

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True Freedom Of Expression

Worship services at Christ Gospel Churches are exuberant celebrations of God's Love, Light, and Life. They are a time of joy, a time of gratitude, a time of releasing, and a time of transformation. We shout, we dance, we leap, and we speak in tongues. We clap our hands in song and in praise, and we lift our hands in prayer and surrender. We cry and groan in intercession and travail, as the Holy Spirit moves and speaks through us. Sometimes, we tremble and shake, or fall in a trance or pray face down, as a symbol of total surrender to our LORD. All these demonstrative worship experiences uplift our hearts and cleanse our minds so that we can receive God's Word on a deeper level. Once people open their hearts to these spiritual experiences, they find great inspiration and renewal and, more importantly, a closer walk with Jesus Christ and a greater understanding of His Word.

Our worship services follow a principle of true freedom of expression, a principle well established in God's Holy Word. Spiritual Freedom means to be liberated from fleshly control, both from within and from without. It means to have immunity from the specified control and obligations of unknowledgeable people who would prevent believers from performing true worship to the LORD from their spiritual heart. Spiritual liberty implies the absence of hindrance, restraint, and confinement of the LORD's Holy Spirit by one's carnal reasoning.

Spiritual expression is the LORD's Spirit squeezing, pressing, and forcing out of our soul the true worshipful praise and thanksgiving that He desires to hear and to receive. The Holy Spirit enables penitent souls to express their thoughts and feelings through a multiplicity of deeds and words in true worship from their lover hearts, that special place of affection within the heart that God made expressly to

love and to adore Him. True worship to the LORD is the powerful, spiritual expression that embodies the heart's thoughts and feelings of love in an emotional form.

While this is not a complete study, the following examples in God's Word form the basis of why we worship as we do.

True Freedom Of Expression

I. The LORD Commands Us to Lift up Our Hands in Praise and Worship to Him.



Uplifted Hands

I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting (I Timothy 2:8).

The word *will* in this Scripture refers to God's *raw-zone* Will, His Purposive Will, for mankind. God's Purposive Will and Master Plan is for His people to lift up holy, pure hands before Him when they pray. With uplifted holy hands before God, penitent souls make a demonstration of the Cross of the LORD Jesus Christ and His Salvation. Thus, in the Unbegotten Father's Presence, as penitent sinners, we make a grateful demonstration for Christ's Cross and our Salvation.

There is no other name but the Name of Jesus whereby sinful souls can be saved and diseased bodies can be cured.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for **there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved** (Acts 4:12).

Since we have received Christ Jesus' eternal, living Salvation, we should demonstrate grateful homage to the LORD by our uplifted hands that have been made pure and holy by Jesus' Blood, shed upon the Cross, and by the Waters of His Name, Death and Life.

II. God Commands Us to Clap Our Hands and to Shout in Triumph.



Clap Hands

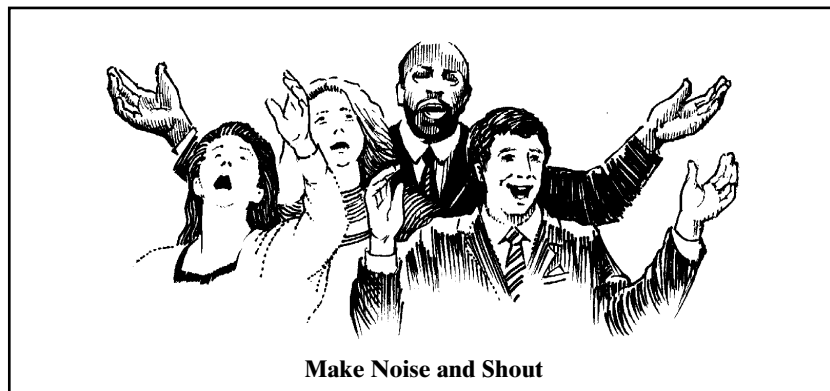
O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth (Psalm 47: 1, 2).

The awareness of the LORD's Sovereignty over us and all His universes should inspire our hearts to welcome, gratefully, our King of Kings to the throne of our hearts by clapping our hands as a joyful token of our sincere satisfaction for all that He has done for us. We also are to accompany our hand clapping with a voice of triumph for victory over the world, the flesh, and the forces of evil.

Such spiritual expressions of love, joy, and victory are precious and priceless in God's Eyes. However, to some unenlightened individuals, these pious praises and devout expressions of affection to the

LORD God may seem chaotic and imprudent. Hence, they censure, condemn, and ridicule such noise-making. Nevertheless, we are exceedingly blessed as we remain eternally true and determinedly faithful to clap our hands for the LORD, our Sovereign King.

III. The LORD Commands Us to Make a Joyful Noise unto His Name.



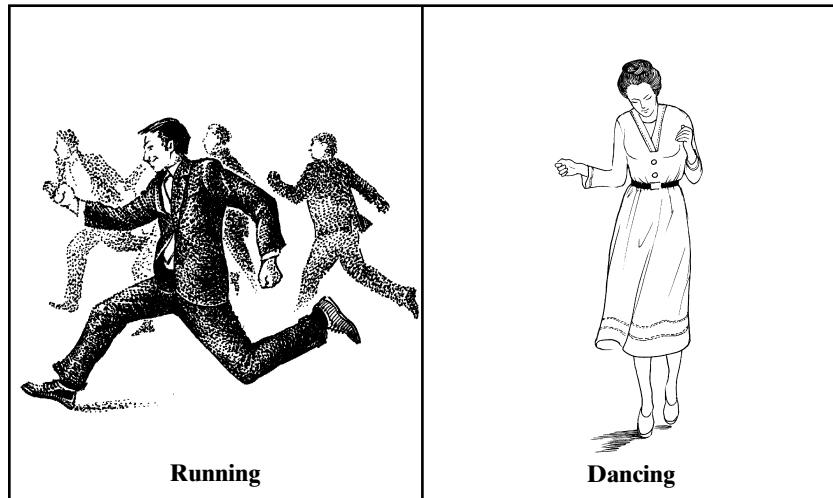
Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands
(Psalm 100:1).

It is God's Purposive Will for us to make a joyful, glad, and happy noise, as we confess our gratitude to the LORD, with thanksgiving for His eternal Salvation. The LORD desires for His believers to be noisy, cheerful worshippers with exceeding great joy for their salvation that they have received from His Son, the LORD Jesus Christ. Our LORD Himself is noisy, for He is the Divine Deity with a Voice like many waters and great thunder.

And I heard **a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder:** and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps
(Revelation 14:2).

The LORD desires for the whole world to hear the joyful noises of His Salvation that has been brought to penitent sinners by His Holy Son.

IV. The LORD Commands Us to Praise His Name by Dancing and Running.



Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. **Let them praise his name in the dance:** let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp (Psalm 149: 2, 3).

The **name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe** (Proverbs 18:10).

When Ezra and Nehemiah returned from captivity in Babylon and overcame their enemies in Jerusalem, they rebuilt the Temple, the wall, and the gates of the city. Consequently, the Jewish saints held a great celebration in the city. These saints were filled with triumphant joy that caused them to praise the LORD God, their

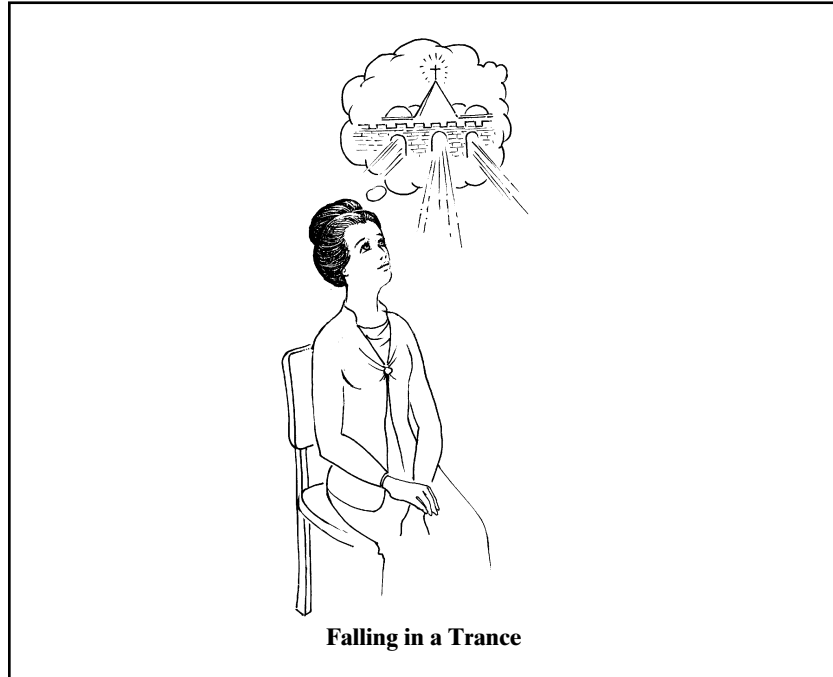
Sovereign, Supreme King, with new songs of praise and jubilant feet that praised Him in the dance.

We are to praise the LORD's Name in the dance because, wherever two or three believers gather together, Jesus said, "[T]here am I in the midst of them."



The Hebrew word for *dance* means a circle that encloses the LORD's Holy Name. This dancing on Earth is a prophetic mirror of the LORD's being in the midst of the Bride in the New City. Dancing is a demonstration of the joy, happiness, and satisfaction in Jesus Christ's Salvation in the midst of the penitent soul.

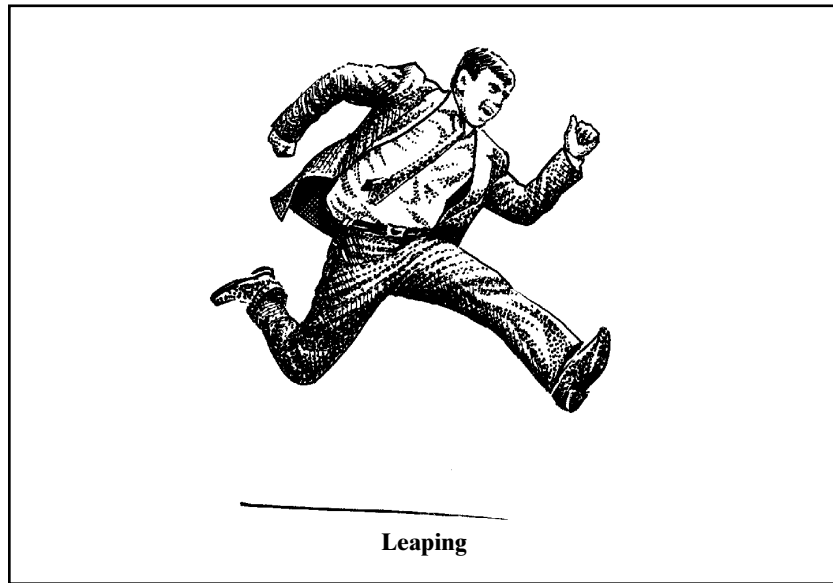
V. The LORD God's Unbegotten Power Sometimes Causes His People Who Are Diligently Seeking Him to Fall into a Trance.



And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even **while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance;** And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me (Acts 22:17, 18).

When the Apostle Paul was in Jerusalem, praying in the Temple, he fell into a trance. A trance is a state of being that resembles sleep, where one remains conscious, yet voluntary movement is temporarily lost. The Apostle Paul lost control of himself because Jesus came and took control of him. The Apostle Paul saw Jesus, Who gave him a command to leave Jerusalem and the Jews, who would not receive his message, and take the Gospel to the Gentiles.

VI. The Purposive Will and Master Plan for Worship Includes Leaping for Joy.

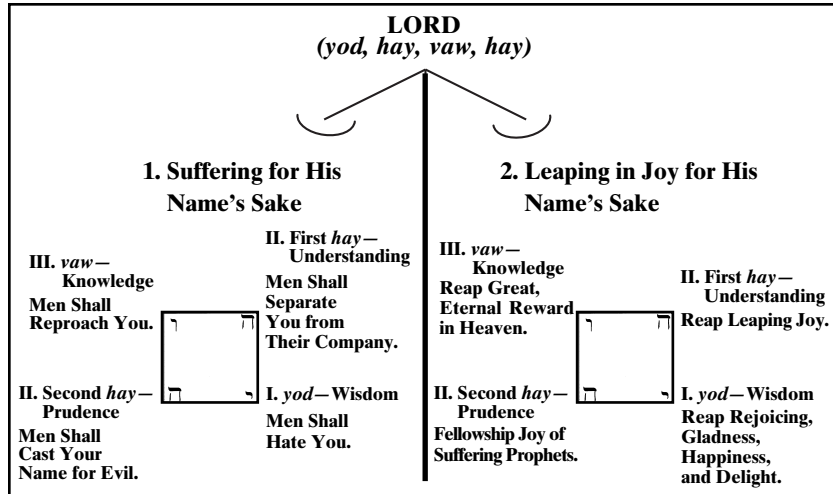


Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets (Luke 6: 22, 23).

The Hebrew word for *leap* is *raw-kah*, which means to jump, to skip, to spring about wildly for joy, to remove oneself suddenly from the ground, to shake, and to dance.

The LORD measures out for us His appointed suffering for His Name's Sake, as well as His appointed, pleasurable leaping for joy for His Name's Sake.

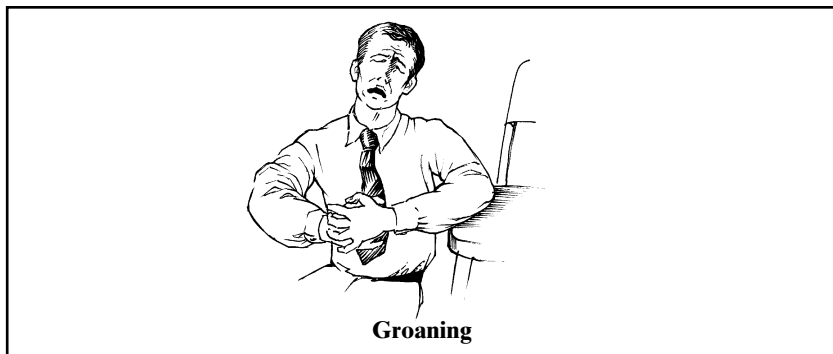
The following diagram explains these verses in Luke, chapter six.



Temporal suffering that the Christian receives from wicked people in a spiteful world cannot be compared to the eternal, pleasurable rejoicing and leaping joy in Heaven in the Presence of the Holy LORD and His faithful Prophets.

VII. The Holy Ghost Makes Prayer Through a Submissive Soul by Groaning, which Is a Demonstration of a Prayerful Heart.

The Holy Ghost prays through a surrendered heart, expressing pain, grief, and deep suffering over those who are lost and who have gone astray from the gracious LORD.

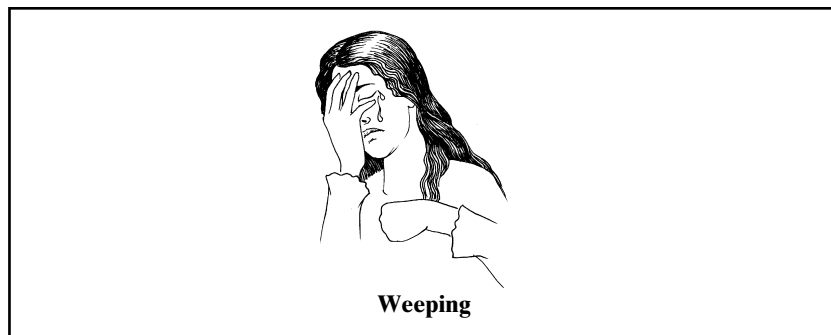


Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: **but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.** And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26, 27).

The Holy Ghost helps our human infirmities by interceding and groaning, according to God's Purposive *raw-zone* Will. We lack knowledge of other people's needs, and even our own needs, yet the Holy Ghost can make deep groanings through us to address these needs, for words cannot express such deep feelings of grief and sorrow.

This expression of prayer is God's answer for today's Church world that has become lethargic, powerless, and cold. Let us return to the simplicity and humility of the early Church. Let us humble ourselves before our Almighty, Holy God, and let us demonstrate, visibly, that we are surrendered to the control of His Will and Word. To do so, we must reinstate the Holy Spirit to His rightful place of directing and controlling our private and public worship. In these last days, the LORD is pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh. Let us reject cold, dead formality and exchange it for the Love, Light, and Life of the Power of the Holy Ghost.

VIII. The LORD Commands and Controls Situations of Life in Order to Bring His People to Weeping at His Feet.



Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews (Acts 20:19).

Jesus is our perfect example. He wept at Lazarus' death. John 11:35 says, "Jesus wept."

Weeping is the result of strong emotions that bring tears to our eyes. Weeping is mourning, sorrow, and lamentations for something or someone. Tears are God's *wailing water* that He puts in His Bottle and writes in His Book.

Thou tellest my wanderings: **put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?** (Psalm 56:8).

If we go out weeping for lost souls, we shall come back singing, bringing in fruitful sheaves.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him (Psalm 126: 5,6).

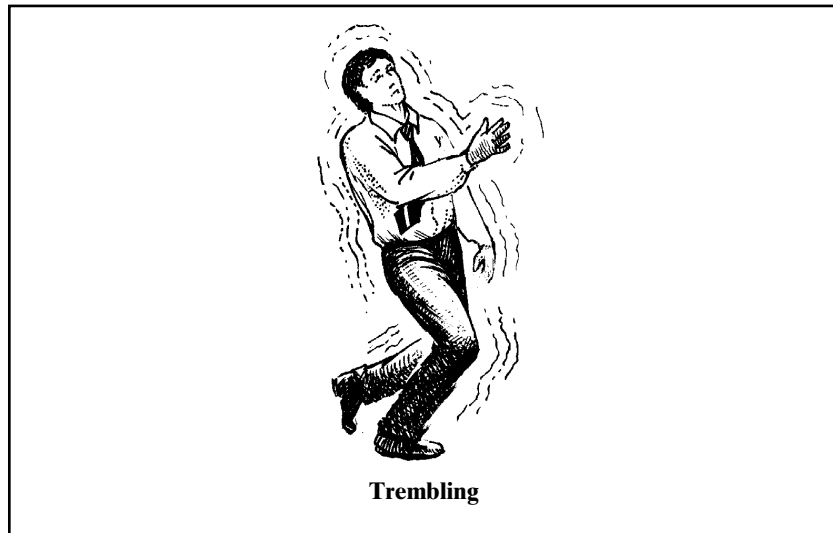
IX. As the Early Disciples Did, We Are to Praise and to Worship the LORD by Praying in One Accord.



And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And **when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord**, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is (Acts 4: 23, 24).

After the Disciples had heard of Peter and John's courage in obeying God in the face of the malice of the Jewish priests and elders, they all joined in one accord to thank and to praise God for His Governance and Guidance. They lifted up their hearts and voices in unified praise and thanksgiving for God's Keeping Power.

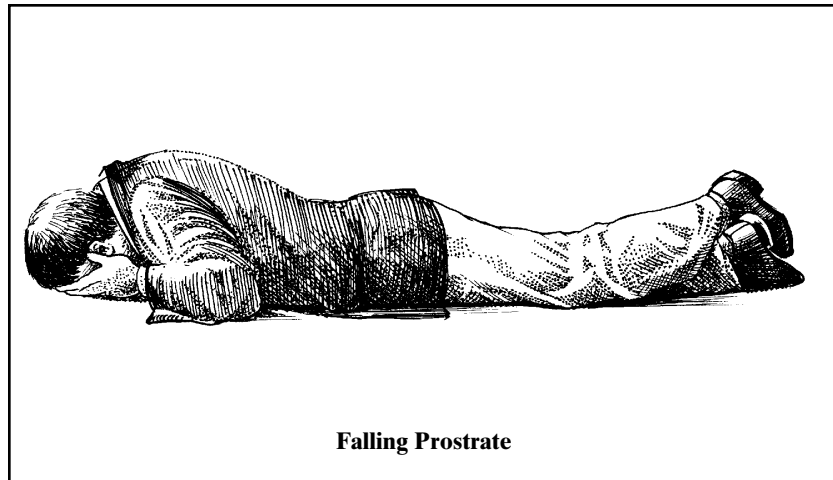
X. The Presence and Power of the Holy Ghost Causes the Submissive Saint to Tremble.



And **he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?** And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do (Acts 9:6).

When the LORD appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus, as he was on his way to persecute the LORD's believers, he fell trembling to the ground. The Holy Ghost causes the submissive body of a soul to tremble, to shake, and to quake with excitement under His Divine Strength and Power. The saint's body trembles when his soul and spirit are stimulated with the emotions of the LORD's Love, Light, and Life. The LORD's Holy Spirit heats, inflames, stirs up, and calls our spirit and soul into actions of praise and worship to His Holy Name.

XI. The Power of the Holy Spirit Causes God's Servants to Fall Prostrate at His Feet, just as the Apostle John Fell Prostrate at Jesus' Feet.



And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last (Revelation 1:17).

To fall prostrate before the LORD is to bow in the deepest humility of holy adoration and greatest reverence.

When the Apostle John saw the LORD Jesus Christ in the grandeur of His Resurrected Glory, he fell at His Feet as a dead man, overcome by Christ's glorious, resurrected Holiness.

True humility falls to the ground to lift up Jesus Christ, God's Only Begotten Son, and His Resurrected Glory and Light. When we humbly bow to Jesus Christ, we are joined to His eternal Love, Light, and Life.



Please Be Courteous and Respectful

At a Christ Gospel service, you may see some or all of these demonstrations of the Holy Spirit. There is a divine order and plan to the service, although a newcomer may perceive the service as chaotic. We follow the leading of God's Spirit to meet the needs of hearts and souls present on each occasion. Hence, every worship service varies. Some involve longer periods of weeping and prayer at the altar, while others may have extended periods of shouting, leaping, and dancing.

We ask our members and guests to be respectful during all our worship. Just because the service is noisy does not mean that folks are free to chat to each other while others are loudly worshipping or praying. Rather, if you do not feel moved to participate with us in our worship, please sit or stand, as the case may be, quietly and respectfully, and seek God in your heart. He will reveal Himself to you in His time.