

Endless worship methods

Just an observation and a reflection on modern methods of worship. I sometimes turn on the Christian radio station which plays mostly charismatic type worship songs. Some of those songs are actual worship songs from churches.

The common theme motivating these worship leaders and congregations is to FEEL something from God. The leader will keep the song going on and on until they "break through" and feel His presence. So in effect the motivation is to feel something in response to their actions of worshiping.

I am reminded of the story of Elijah at Mount Carmel challenging the prophets of Baal. Elijah gave them their chance to get god to do something in response to their cry. From morning till noon they danced about the altar...then from noon to evening they continued crying out and dancing about and even cutting themselves as a sacrifice to their god. NOTHING HAPPENED.

But here's the thing...previously when they had done these things their god **had answered**. But on this day with Elijah present and God intent of winning them back to Himself their god was bound.

What we see there on top of Mt Carmel is typical charismatic worship methods. On and on and on until their god does something in response. This is a dangerous practice! It sets us up for deception.

O may God the true God bind up that false worship and that false god so that He may win back to Himself all those children led astray.

The bottom line is we as Christians do NOT start off from a position of being far from God. We are in Christ, in the Father. There is no gap between us that we must do something

to get closer to God. We **are** close to God.

But when we only know the unbelief and sensual feelings of this kind of worship we perform in the same way those Baal worshipers did in order to get God to move. Show me in the NEW TESTAMENT where they worshiped for long times like this. They believed therefore they spoke and therefore they did.

Sure we are to sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody in our hearts to the Lord...but this always comes out of the foundational bedrock of the finished work of Jesus. I cannot stress this enough.

If you are coming to God from a place in your thinking where you imagine He is far away then you cannot help but do things to get that close feeling. The just shall live by faith...actually it says live by His faith.

Jesus never sanctioned this kind of worship. Only once are we told that he sang any songs and that was as they left the Passover meal before His death.

The New Testament position and reality is one of being in Him.