

Flow of the Spirit

John 4 provides us with incredible insight into worship. In verses 10-14 Jesus encourages the woman at the well to drink from a spring that will satisfy her thirst forever, "but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." (John 4:14) As we worship, the spring inside our hearts will flow out to the people that we are ministering to.

This is both wonderful and challenging, as we must ensure that we continually soak ourselves in the Holy Spirit so that we do not dry up. We must also pursue holiness, as we cannot allow the flow of the Spirit in us to be polluted by sin. Psalm 19:14 says, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight." I find this verse a great challenge as the things I allow my heart to dwell on will ultimately effect the overflow of the Holy Spirit from my heart as I minister in worship. Jesus said, "Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks."

The last few months have been a time of pruning (John 15) and refining, as the Lord has been cleansing us in order that more of His presence may flow through our lives. In Psalm 51:6, David declares the requirement of the Lord for our lives, 'Behold, you desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom.' I believe this verse to be one of the most significant of Psalm 51 as it describes one of the qualities a leader in God's Kingdom must possess:- Integrity. The Hebrew words for integrity are 'tom' and 'tamam' meaning 'blamelessness' and 'complete' 2 and as David writes this Psalm there is the awareness that he has lost this quality, or has at least compromised it with his actions. David's sin not only effected his personal relationship with God, but his relationship with his family and the nation of Israel. As the leader of the Lord's people David was required to live a pure lifestyle, as he writes in Psalm 24:3-4, "Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood, and has not sworn deceitfully."

The Greek word for integrity is 'katharos' meaning 'pure'. This word could be understood in a physical sense to be 'refined by fire', in a Levitical sense to be 'clean' and ethically to be 'free from corrupt desire, sin and guilt.' 3

To understand this further we must look deeper into Psalm 51:6. The word for 'truth' is 'met' literally meaning 'faithfulness, reliability

or trustworthiness'. 4 The Hebrew word used for 'innermost being' is 'tuhot' meaning 'inner parts or heart, with a possible focus that this is a mysterious and unknowable part of a person.' 5 In other words a person of integrity has a trustworthy heart, having been made blameless and without corrupt desire. It is with this focus that Jethro counsels Moses to seek out 'men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain' to be made judges of the people. (Exodus 18:21) Indeed, Paul writes to Timothy regarding the quality of a leader in 1 Tim 3:8 explaining that deacons 'are to be sincere...and not pursuing dishonest gain.'

It is with this same focus that the Lord has been dealing with us as a worship team, that we may be holy as he is holy. Jesus revealed to the woman at the well in John 4:24 that those who worship God must do so in 'spirit and truth.'

I believe that the Lord is going to take us into a new season of life in our worship where we will find a new level of intimacy with the Father, and He will pour out His Spirit upon us to reach out to the world in healing and power. As we allow the Lord to continually prune and refine us, he will inhabit the praises of His people.

As worshippers, it is my passion that we shine with His glory, allowing the living water of His Spirit to flow in us and out from us to everyone that we come into contact with, whether ministering in worship or in every day life.

© copyright Chris Orange 2005 for www.aloudervoice.com