

Weekly Devotional Sheila D. Smith

“Creative Worship”

“...ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name. Bring an offering and come before him; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.” (I Chronicles 16:29)

When I think of the mighty worshippers of the Bible, who ascribed glory to the Lord more than His warrior, David? Accomplished in military exploits, David claimed victory after victory because the Lord’s favor was upon him. As much as war was part of his lifestyle, so was giving the Lord “the splendor and glory due his name.”

The above verse, taken from David’s Psalm of thanks to God after the covenant was brought back to Jerusalem, (I Chronicles 15 & 16) captures the spirit of gratitude David inhabited. Out of his joy and thankfulness for the Lord’s blessings flowed uninhibited praise! His praise was uninhibited even to the point of looking foolish in the eyes of some when expressing his genuine gratitude (15:29).

But oh, how creative He was in his “foolishness!” He danced and sang joyful songs. He appointed a great musical procession to accompany the ark, celebrating a magnificent occasion! Leaders were instructed to play musical instruments: lyres, harps, cymbals, trumpets, and rams’ horns, giving continual praise. All Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with great shouts! (15:16, 28)

What creativity in the use of musical instruments and song! NOTHING was withheld, for they wanted to give their very best to the Lord. Even the head Levite, Kenaniah, was placed in charge of the singing and the choirs “because he was skillful at it.” (16:22)

God does not require us to have singing voices of perfect pitch or abilities in instruments beyond our access. After all, He did fashion us as we are! But, He does desire sincere worship from those He created to do just that – worship Him!

When our praise comes from a place of genuine, heart-felt gratitude, our responses WILL be vibrant, creative, and plentiful! I, too, want to give the risen Lord my very best!

Questions for Reflection:

1. Am I holding back from my Father His due praise?
2. What is holding me back?
3. What needs to be added, removed, or altered in my life so my Father can receive my very best?

Prayer - Oh, Father! How grateful I am for your bountiful blessings! I will risk looking foolish to some to express my abandon to you. Loosen my tongue to sing, my feet to dance, and my arms to be raised in praise! Anoint my prayers with fresh words of love and true worship. Behold, I give you my best! Hallelujah! AMEN.