

Strengthen the Stakes

In the last few weeks we have been looking at the last phrase in Isaiah 54:2 - "*strengthen the stakes*" as a challenge to grow in our personal devotional life. If we are to grow bigger - we have to grow deeper.

I began two weeks ago by challenging us to '*Be Responsive*' – and last week we had a great time of putting that into practice as we spoke about Prayer.

Today I would like to develop another one of those key subjects and once again invite you to do some really practical stuff with me at the end as we consider worship.

1. *Worship is our Ministry*

It could be said that the two great W's in the Christian life are Witness and Worship. They are our great Commission.

Worship is part of our calling - we are a 'Priesthood of Praise'. (1 Pet 2:5 & 9, Heb 13:15)

We worship because God is worthy; because worship is His due and because Worship takes us deeper with God. (The Isaiah 6 process – Revelation, Consecration, Motivation)

2. *The Nature of Biblical Worship*

The Psalms provide a wonderful resource book and manual for worship. From this Davidic style of worship we realise a few things.

Biblical worship is **Audible** – it can be heard ... '*the fruit of our lips*'

Biblical worship is **Visible** – it can be seen ... lifting hands, dancing

Biblical worship is **Tangible** – it can be felt ... emotions – joy, gladness, sorrow

3. *Hindrances to Worship -*

Sin - the state of our conscience

Fear of man - don't want to be embarrassed

Tradition - this is not the way we do it

Lets worship