

18-ALL YOUR HEART

“But be sure to fear the LORD and serve Him faithfully with all your heart;
consider what great things He has done for you.”

(1 Samuel 12: 24 NIV)

I remember hearing pastor Jack Hayford recount a mission trip story...he was visiting a remote tribe and when they worshiped they did a little dance...in his heart pastor Hayford said “Isn’t that a foolish little dance! Why do they feel that they have to worship THAT way?” while having a quiet time back home he was trying to pray, and he felt like his prayers were being blocked...he prayed “Lord, why aren’t you hearing me?” He heard God speak to his heart and say “If you want to have a clear channel of communication with me, I want you to dance before me like that tribe danced.” At first reluctantly, and then with abandon, he danced that dance before the Lord, and suddenly felt his prayers breaking through.

We don’t have the right to judge the way someone else worships....God speaks to different people in different ways...we DO need to make sure that we are worshipping with ALL OUR HEART, without judgmental spirits, with a spirit of “awe” before the master, and with pure motives and clean hearts. God longs for His children to worship Him, but if we are approaching our times of worship with arrogance, pride, or thinking that we worship correctly while others worship incorrectly, God will not hear us, and those times of worship will be ineffective and empty.

THOUGHT: “There is a difference between going to a service "for the worship" and going to a service "to worship the Lord." The distinction appears to be a minor one, but it may imply the difference between the worship of God and the worship of music! “(Sinclair B Ferguson)