

Discover Your Soul's  
Path to God

# SACRED PATHWAYS

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STUDY GUIDE

## A Study Guide for Sacred Pathways

"This study has been prepared by Adalee Lewis and is offered for your benefit. It has not been written by Gary Thomas, nor have the suggested books been compiled by him. It is a labor of love offered by a reader to those groups who might appreciate a headstart in their own effort to study Sacred Pathways in a group format."

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## Chapter Seven

## ENTHUSIASTS

## Loving God with Mystery and Celebration

## DESCRIPTION

“Excitement and mystery in worship is the spiritual lifeblood of enthusiasts. ...enthusiasts are inspired by joyful celebration... cheerleaders for God and the Christian life. Let them clap their hands, shout ‘Amen!’ and dance in their excitement, that’s all they ask. ...They don’t want to just know concepts, but to experience them, to feel them, and to be moved by them.” (28)

“Enthusiasts enjoy a celebratory form of worship as well as many of the more supernatural forms of faith. ...like to let go and experience God on the precipice of excitement and awe.” (152)

## CAUTIONS

“The necessity of maturity will probably lead virtually every enthusiast through (the) canyon of unanswered prayer, where expectancy runs dry and the only mystery seems to be where God is hiding.” (162)

“In the midst of a celebration it’s easy to forget how fearful and awesome God is. Without reverence, however, celebration degenerates into shallow triviality.” (165)

“Just because we feel good during a time of worship doesn’t mean we have offered up our will in an appropriate manner...just because we feel down or ‘flat’ doesn’t mean we aren’t effectively worshiping God.” (170)

“Enthusiasts by temperament are particularly fed by such experience (and) long to preserve the mystery of faith. Accepting the mystery of faith has both its strengths and its dangers, for while there is much mystery and supernatural activity in Scripture, there are also strong warnings against improper manifestations of what is popularly called ‘spirituality’.” (154)

## WELL KNOWN ENTHUSIASTS

Ann Kiemel Anderson, King David, Graham Kendrick; Zig Ziglar; Barbara Johnson; James Robertson; Swindoll; hayford;

## SCRIPTURES TO PONDER

I Chron. 13:8; 15:16; 16; II Chron. 29:26; Luke 19:37-40; Acts 16:25; Eph. 5:18-19; Acts 3:7; I Cor. 14:40; Acts 8:9-24;

## SONGS TO ENHANCE WORSHIP

Graham Kendrick songs  
 Celebrate Jesus,  
 Great is the Lord  
 Hail, Jesus, You're Our King  
 He Has Made Me Glad  
 I will Bless the Lord  
 In the Presence of Your People  
 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee  
 Light the Fire  
 Lord, I Lift Your Name On High  
 Majesty  
 More Love, More Power  
 My Life is in You, Lord  
 O Lord, You're Beautiful  
 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven  
 Rejoice! The Lord is King!  
 Shout to the Lord  
 The Lord Reigns,  
 We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise  
 We Rejoice in the Grace of God  
 With My Whole Heart

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

1. Keep track of your dreams. Write down any that seem significant. The meanings should be fairly obvious to you. Talk with someone about them.
2. Spend time just listening to God. Write down what you hear Him saying.
3. Cultivate the mystery of expectancy: ask God to bring someone in your path to whom you can minister; Start a conversation with a stranger.
4. Spend time with children: lead music at children's church; act out Bible stories for them.
5. Use your imagination to put yourself into the scene when you are reading Bible passages. Try to understand how the participants were feeling, thinking, acting.
6. Use your imagination to consider how you might act on the teaching of the Scriptures, e.g., the Beatitudes; teachings about forgiveness; tithing.
7. Be part of a strong church that holds its members accountable. Ask for a prayer partner or a mentor.
8. Take a course; learn an evangelistic method to give you a witness structure.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Think about unanswered prayer in your life. To what do you attribute this? How do you respond when God says, "Wait."
2. What are you expecting/wanting from God right now. Talk with Him about it. What does He tell you?
3. In what ways does God speak to you in your daily life? What forms does it take? What does He say? How do you react?
4. How do most like to celebrate God? What are some other ways you might like to experiment with?
5. How do you feel when others around you don't sing at all or sing softly throughout a song service, don't raise their hands or move at all during worship?
6. What changes would you like to see in the worship services at your church that would make worship a more satisfying experience for you?

## RESOURCES

- Carothers, Merlin R.. *Answers to Praise: Letters to the Author of Prison to Praise*. (1972). Bridge-Logos Publishers. ISBN: 0882700154
- Carothers, Merlin R. *Power in Praise: Sequel to Prison to Praise*. (1993). Bridge-Logos Publishers. ISBN: 0912106263.
- Carothers Merlin R. *Prison to Praise*. ISBN: 157748343X.
- Kiemel, Ann. *I Love the Word Impossible*. (1976). Tyndale House Publishers. ISBN: 0842315756.
- Kiemel, Ann. *It's Incredible*. (1980). Tyndale House Publishers. ISBN: 0842318186.

