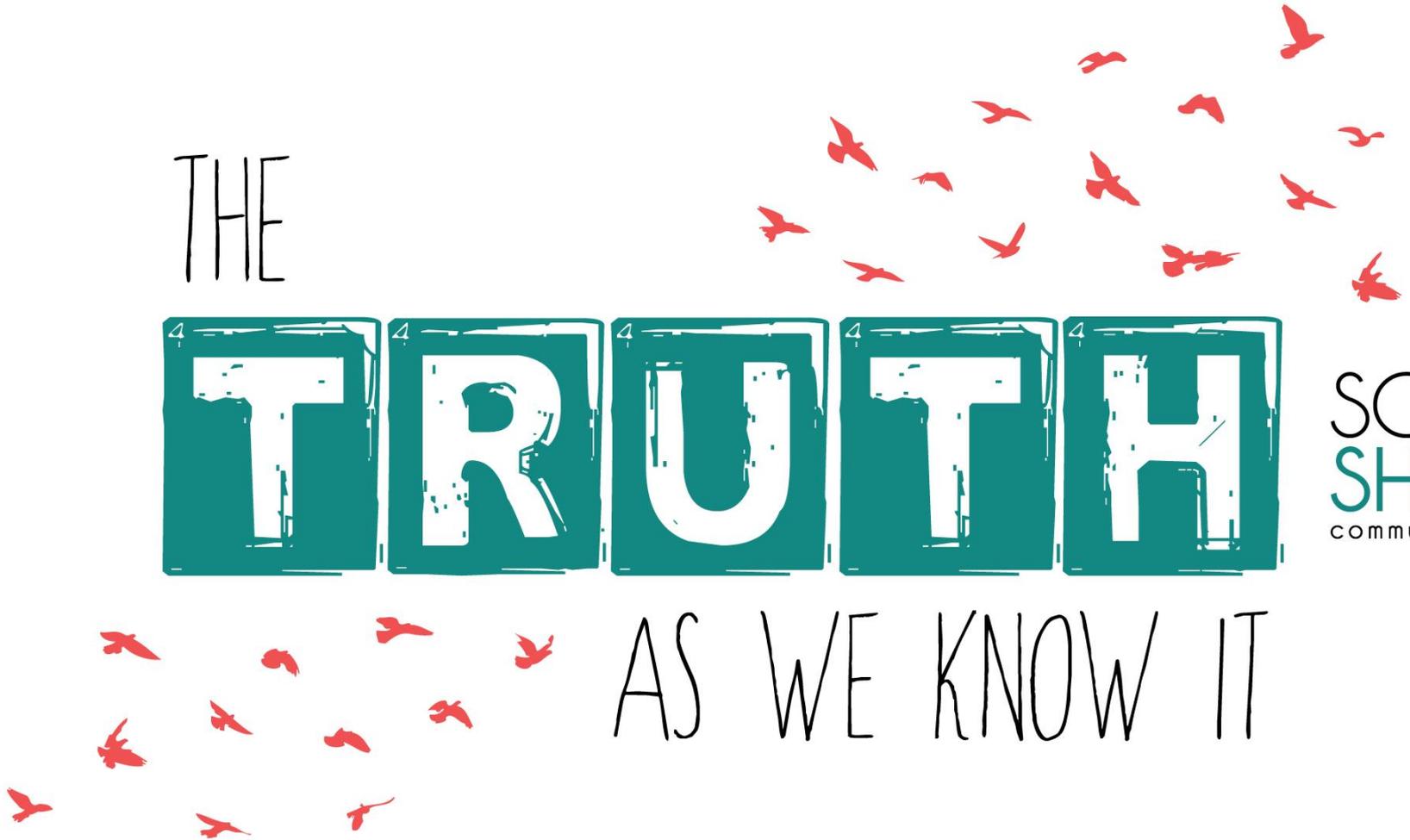


THE

TRUTH

AS WE KNOW IT

SOUTH  
SHORE  
community church





# **Seven Hebrew Words for Praise: A Biblical understanding of praise and worship as a gateway to intimacy with the Father**

- Who wants to be closer to God? Who wants to intimately know the heart of Jesus?



- Aids or hindrances to intimacy:
  1. Our Identity- We need to know who we are to Jesus. We need to know who we are in Christ.
    - a. We are DEEPLY loved by God  
(John 3:16-17) (intimacy is relational/live from acceptance)
    - b. God believes in US. (Great Commission/ winning team)
    - c. God has a passion to fill us with His presence. (Galatians 5:22, Fruits of the Spirit)(Overflow)



Remember: Worship is a response for all that God is and all that God has done for us. You cannot respond properly to God if you do not know who you are in God.



2. A fully surrendered life is the key that opens the gateway to intimacy with the Father.  
“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves, take up their cross daily and follow me.” Luke 9:23



- **Seven Hebrew Words for Praise:**

1. **YADAH** (used 101 times): To worship with extended hand. To give oneself in worship and adoration. To lift your hands to the Lord. It carries the meaning of absolute surrender as a young child to a parent ("pick me up, I'm all yours").  
(Worship is a response.)

Scripture references: Gen. 29:35, 2 Chron. 7:6, 20:21, Psalms 9:1, 28:7, 33:2, 42:5, 49:18, Isaiah 12:12.



## 2. **TOWDAH** (used 30 times):

To give worship by extension of the hand in adoration or agreement with what has been done or will be. To claim a promise by agreeing with His word, faith in His word. There is great faith in this form of praise "All that I am is Yours and I agree with what You're saying." This is often used in the context of a "**sacrifice of praise.**" I may not yet see it, I may not yet feel it, but I will give you the praise that's due You no matter the circumstances in my life.

Scripture: Psalm 42:4, 50:23, Jer. 17:26

(exposing vital organs, position of trust)



3. **BARAK** (used 80 times): To kneel or bow. From the root "*berech*" meaning "*knee.*" An act of worship and reverence to God that involves kneeling as an act of adoration. It is a symbol to congratulate, salute, praise, thank, to bless the Lord ("You are King, I surrender to You.") (Psalm 103)

*Scripture: Ps. 18:46, 34:1, 95:6, 103:1-2, 1 Chr. 29:20*



3a. **SHACHAH** (translated "worship") (used 66 times): means to "bow, stoop down, or prostrate oneself" as an act of submission or reverence; to fall or bow as a sign of deep respect before a superior.

Scripture: (Exodus 34:14)

(A fully engaged activity)



4. **ZAMAR** (used 45 times): To worship with instruments. "To touch the strings or parts of a musical instrument." To make music accompanied by the voice. It is one of the musical verbs for praise in the book of Psalms, literally to "to celebrate or give praise with instruments and voices."

Scripture: Psalm 21:13, 27:6, 66:2-4, 92:1, Is. 12:5, 1 Chr. 16:9

("Our God" and "Great I Am") - drums heartbeat of heaven



5. **SHABACH** (used six times): to address in a loud tone, a loud adoration, a shout! (**shout of praise**). Praise with a loud voice, unashamed, proclaiming the Glory, Triumph, Power, Mercy, Love of God. This word implies that testimony is praise. Carries the attitude of putting your whole being into it, an attitude of being totally uninhibited.

Scripture: Ps. 35:27, 47:1, 63:3-4, 106:47, 117:1, 145:4

(Worship as warfare: Joshua 6:5 - walls of Jericho)

(New worship leader)



6. **TEHILLAH** (noun related to verb "halal") (used 55 times): To sing. Also mean to sing a spontaneous song (prophetic) - unprepared, unrehearsed, straight to God. Singing a melody of the heart by adding words. Can bring tremendous unity to the body of Christ. It is praise that God inhabits (Praise He sits enthroned on - Psalm 22:3)

(Anointed worship - often comes from Tehillah inspiration)

Scripture: Ps. 22:3, 33:1, 34:1, 147:1-2, Is 61:3, Ex. 15:11



7. **HALAL** (verb) (used 122 times): To be clear (speaks to color and sound), to shine, to make a show, to boast, to rave, to celebrate! It carries the implication to make loud, clear sounds of praise (to be conspicuous). It also carries the meaning to be "*clamorously foolish.*"

Our English word "Hallelujah" comes from the combination of the Hebrew words "halal" and "Yahweh" (or "Yah").

Scripture: 1 Chr. 16:4, 23:5, 30, 25:3, 29:13, Neh. 12:24  
(DNA as New England sports fans)

