

Lifting the Banner in Worship

In worship it is sometimes helpful to imagine lifting a banner with one of God's names, a banner to stand beneath, proclaiming our allegiance and service to our God whose name we raise. In biblical times armies raised banners as they encamped beneath them, and they carried banners before them as they advanced. It's still true today: platoons, companies, brigades, regiments—all have their flags.

God not only identified Himself as *Jehovah-Nissi*, the LORD is my banner (Exodus 17:15), but Isaiah affirmed it when he declared that one day Jesus (the Root of Jesse) would stand as our banner (Isaiah 11:10a, NIV). He is our banner, our victory, our sufficiency for every need.

One way to begin our daily prayer time is to mentally lift our banner, focusing on different names of God to raise in worship. We do this by asking the Spirit of God to help us express our love and adoration, our awesome respect for who God is as our Shepherd, Protector, Savior, etc. The more familiar we become with God's names, and with the Bible's verses, words, and phrases of worship, the more the Spirit will be able to enlarge our view of God and help us enrich our worship in ways that are pleasing to Him.