

Hari OM

Nine forms of Bakthi

Srimad Bhagavatam and Sri Vishnu Purana explain the following nine forms of Bhakti:

1. Sravana (hearing of God's lilas, glories and stories)
2. Kirtana (singing of His glories)
3. Smarana (remembrance of His Name, attributes, pastimes and presence)
4. Padasevana (service of His feet)
5. Archana (worship of his image by praising the God)
6. Vandana (prostration to the Lord)
7. Dasya (cultivating the Bhava of a servant with God)
8. Sakhya (cultivation of the friend-bhava) and
9. Atmanivedana (complete surrender of the self).

A devotee can practise one or more or All of above methods of Bhakti -- which suits him best. Through that he will attain Divine Bliss. Each form of Bhakti, when practiced by the devotee with selfless and exclusive devotion, has equal potential to culminate in Divine Mind or Consciousness. We should have exclusive and selfless devotion (Bakthi) in one or more forms of the Nine modes of Bakthi we discussed above. The great examples include:

1. Listening to recitals of the names and glories of God (shravana), as did King Parikshit;
2. Oneself reciting the names of God (nama-sankirtana), as did Narada, Chitanya, Mira and Tyagaraja;
3. Recalling Him and His deeds (smarana), as did the sage Shuka;
4. Waiting on Him (pada-sevana), as did Lakshmana;
5. Worshipping Him (archana), as did King Ambarisha;
6. Saluting Him (vandana), as did Akrura and Uddhava;
7. Serving Him (dasya), as did Hanuman and Garuda;
8. Befriending Him (sakhya), as did Arjuna and Sugriva;
9. Dedicating one's whole self to Him (Atma-nivedana), as did King Bali and Kannappa Nayanar

GF Blessings. Om Tat Sat



Guruji Dr. KV