

Spiritual Disciplines #4: The Lifestyle of Worship

WHAT IS WORSHIP? –

Worship: extravagant respect or admiration for or devotion to an object of esteem.¹

1. The object, person or idea that receives most of your time, thoughts, efforts, resources, money, emotions, and drive is what/whom you worship.

A.W. Tozer

Worship is to feel in your heart and express in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder and overpowering love in the presence of that most ancient mystery, that majesty which philosophers call the First Cause, but which we call our Father which art in heaven.

2. Worship is our response, both personal and corporate, to who God is and what He has done for us in Christ; expressed in and by the things we say and the way we live.² (Isaiah 40:21-29; Romans 12:1)
3. Worship is giving unto God all that He deserves and is worthy of, while realizing that we cannot actually offer Him anything of value apart from what He has already given us to begin with.
 - Apart from Christ, we have nothing of value to offer God. (Isaiah 64:6)
 - Christ has placed in our hands the very means necessary to bring gifts before His throne in worship because of what He already accomplished for us at Calvary.

¹ Merriam Webster's Dictionary.

² Adapted from Louie Giglio's definition of worship.

- Through Christ's death and resurrection we have been given the ability to worship from our spirit according to the truth of God's Word.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Romans 12:1 (NLT)

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

Romans 12:1 (AMP)

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.

1. The call to worship is the call to become a living sacrifice.

A living sacrifice is one whose whole life has been set apart or consecrated unto God for His Kingdom purposes.

2. Christ was and is the ultimate Living Sacrifice.

Christ has extended to us the invitation to share in both His suffering and His glory by becoming living sacrifices.

HOW DO WE WORSHIP GOD?

1. We worship God in Spirit and in Truth. (John 4:23-24)

- We worship God in Spirit when we receive salvation in Christ.
- We worship God in Truth when we worship with sincerity and are completely vulnerable before Him.

2. We worship God with praise and thanksgiving. (Psalm 100:4)

- God's presence comes in the midst of a people who will praise Him. (Psalm 22:3)

- Praise according to the Word of God is one of our greatest weapons of warfare. (II Chronicles 20:1-30; Acts 16:25-34)
 - Praise and thanksgiving protect us from sin. (Romans 1:21)
 - Praise and thanksgiving realigns our soul (heart, mind, will, emotions) with God's Truth.
3. We worship God through our obedience to His Word and the Holy Spirit's leadership in our daily life.
 - Obedience to His Word
 - Obedience to the Holy Spirit's leadership
 4. Ultimately, we worship God when the entirety of our lives is laid upon the altar (living sacrifice) for God to do with as He sees fit for His glory and Kingdom purposes.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE WORSHIP GOD?

1. When we worship God corporately and individually... We are participating in the very activity of heaven. (Revelation 4:8-11)
2. The enemy flees from us. (I Samuel 16:23)
3. We overcome obstacles in our lives. (Joshua 6:1-21)
 - God keeps our mind in perfect peace. (Isaiah 26:3)
 - God destroys our enemies and gives us victory. (II Chronicles 20:1-30)
 - Those stuck in darkness around us are set free. (Acts 16:25- 34)
 - God's presence and power comes into our circumstances. (Psalm 22:3)
 - We are ultimately fulfilling our highest calling and purpose. (Isaiah 43:21)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does your worship need to come into greater alignment with the Word of God? What is one action step you can take immediately to make that adjustment?
2. Worship is a response to who God is and all that He has done for us in Christ, not a means by which we somehow “pay God back” or earn His love. How does this truth challenge the way you think about worship?

HOMEWORK

Select one of the following:

1. Reflect on the four following Scriptures. What about these Scriptures calls you to worship? Write out your thoughts on the first three of these Scriptures.

Isaiah 1:18, Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 8:28; Isaiah 40:21-31

2. Read one of the following passages and reflect on how the victory related to worship.

II Chronicles 20:1-30 (King Jehoshaphat) **OR** Joshua 6:1-21 (Walls of Jericho)