

Coach House Church BEACONS

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

15TH APRIL 2020

As a child growing up as the son of a worship leader, I was introduced to the term worship very early on. My pops would regularly read from the bible in His worship slot verses like this one...

Psalm 96:9 "Worship the Lord in all His holy splendour.

Let all the earth tremble before Him. Tell all the nations, "The Lord reigns!"

The Book of Psalms in the Bible is filled with hundreds of anthems used in the religious celebrations of Jesus and they clearly instructed the people back then and now how to worship God.

Imagine this though - I'm a rather energetic 8yr old running about, listening and watching my pops sing and play his 12 string acoustic guitar and even though I heard the word worship in peoples testimonies, in conversation, songs, and in the Bible, I didn't completely understand what it meant.

So over the next few minutes I'm going to try and explain what worship is.

The Priority of Worship

Let's start with the goto view of worship. Worship is not the slow song that the band at church sings. Worship is not the amount you place in the offering basket. Worship is not volunteering in children's church. Yes, these are acts or expressions of worship, but they do not define what true worship really is. There are numerous definitions of the

word worship. Yet, one in particular captures the weight we should give to worship as a spiritual discipline. It is from the Webster Dictionary and it says this....."Worship is to honour with extravagant love and extreme submission"

True worship, in other words, is defined by the priority we place on who God is in our lives and where God is on our list of priorities. True worship is a matter of the heart expressed through a lifestyle of holiness. Ok so what is Holiness - well Webster also defines this too, "perfect moral integrity or purity; freedom from sin; sanctity; innocence."

If your lifestyle does not express the beauty of holiness through an extravagant or exaggerated love for God, and you do not live in excessive submission to God, then I invite you to make worship a non-negotiable priority in your life. - Sounds heavy right? Well I think it should carry that much weight.

We worship God because he is God. Fullstop. Our extravagant love and extreme submission to Him flows out of the reality that God loved us first. As we have just been through the celebration of Jesus coming back to life at Easter, I urge you to find God, and not the easter eggs the supposed Easter bunny leaves for you. God's presents are never-ending , never failing, will never do you harm, are made to build you up, support you and prepare you for eternity with Him.

It is of course fitting to thank God for all the things He has done for us. However, true worship is shallow if it is solely an acknowledgement of God's wealth.

In the book of Psalm in the Bible Ch96:5-6 it says,

"The gods of other nations are mere idols, but the Lord made the heavens! Honour and majesty surround him; strength and beauty fill His sanctuary."

that's from the NLT version. - The Message version puts it like this:

"God made the heavens—Royal splendour radiates from him, A powerful beauty sets him apart."

In other words, our worship must be toward the one who is worthy simply because of His identity as the almighty, all-knowing, and far reaching One, and not just because

God is wealthy and able to meet our needs and answer our prayers. We must focus our practice of worship on the worthiness of God and not His wealthiness.

The Person We Worship

Think about this: Would you continue to worship God if, from this day forward, God's miraculous signs and wonders were not so profoundly evident in your life? Would God still be worthy of your worship? Or is your worship completely dependent upon the abundance of God's blessings upon your life? Do you only worship God for what He can do for you?

The Promise of Worship

Because of our God's unimaginable generosity toward us, God, in all of His glory, chooses to respond to us through our worship. This is the promise—that when we worship God with extravagant love and extreme submission, God will come and be close to us, to reveal Himself to us. The promise is not that we will feel great or that our heavy load will be lifted, but that God will come. And when God comes in His own time as a response to our worship, Psalm 96:11-13 says this:

“Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice! Let the sea and everything in it shout His praise! Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy! Let the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for He is coming!”

In other words, when we worship God, He will look at our hearts first; the other benefits that we tend to expect because we lift up our feeble hands and shout with our weak voices are worthless if our hearts are not right with God.

Look, when we offer God our true worship, we are inviting Him to inspect our hearts for anything that is not like Him. This is the promise of worship—we can be transformed into God's likeness because He will reveal the truth about the condition of our hearts as we worship Him.

Worship is having an extravagant or exaggerated love for God, I dare you to be brave enough to make worship a non-negotiable priority in your life. Evaluate your expressions of worship so that through singing, declaring, and giving, you will

"give to the LORD the glory he deserves ... " (Ps. 96:8).

The promise is that when we worship God in this way, He will come and hangout with us. And above all, God will respond to your worship by making your heart more like His.



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