



Going Deeper: Worship

Everyone is a worshiper. To worship means to ascribe worth to something or someone. We all have people, places, and things, that we ascribe worth to; that we honor, cherish, enjoy, and value. For a disciple of Jesus, God is the priority of our worship. We have tasted and seen that the Lord is good and He is the One worthy to ascribe worth to.

The Scriptures exhort us to live all of our lives as worship to the Lord. We are to worship Him in the way we live, treat others, and use our resources.

In our quiet times, we practice focused times of worship. God's Spirit nourishes us with his care, healing, revelation, and hope in these focused times of worship. The overflow of these focused times of worship prepares us to worship with all of our lives.

We designed this guide to equip you for focused times of worship.

The Fuel For Our Worship:

What The Fuel Is Not:

A Need Within God:

We don't worship God because of a need within him. God is not needy of our praise. He is fully and completely sufficient in and of himself.

As CS Lewis said, "a man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word, 'darkness' on the walls of his

cell.”

Our Feelings:

Our feelings will come and go, and can be fickle. They are not reliable fuel of our worship.

What The Fuel Is:

The fuel of our worship is God Himself, (His unchanging character), what He has done (His ways & actions throughout history and in our lives), and all that He is going to do (His promises to His people)!

These three fuels are on display in Psalm 145

Psalm 145.1 I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. 2 Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. 3 Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. 4 One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. 5 They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty— and I will meditate on your wonderful works. 6 They tell of the power of your awesome works— and I will proclaim your great deeds. 7 They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. 9 The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.10 All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you. 11 They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, 12 so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.14 The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.15 The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.16 You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.18 The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.19 He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.20 The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

21 My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

In this passage the Psalmist exhorts us to worship the Lord because of God's character:

7 They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. 9 The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

In this passage the Psalmist exhorts us to worship the Lord because of what the Lord has done:

4 One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

5 They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty— and I will meditate on your wonderful works. 6 They tell of the power of your awesome works— and I will proclaim your great deeds.

In this passage the Psalmist exhorts us to worship the Lord because of what the Lord is going to do in the future:

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

Note that the Psalmist highlights God's character, his past works and his future works. These are the sources of our worship. Our worship is a response in light of God's greatness.

The Fruit of Our Worship:

God does not need our worship. He is completely sufficient in and of himself. But he works through our worship to bring forth fruit in and through our lives. Through worship the Holy Spirit ministers to us in the following ways:

We receive God's pastoral care and healing

Psalm 62.8 Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

The Psalms are the book of worship and prayer of the church. In their pages we find the words to articulate our feelings and experiences in the valleys and mountaintops of life. And as we express and process our pain and our joy, the Spirit ministers to us care and healing.

We receive revelation from the Spirit

Psalm 73.12-17 This is what the wicked are like— always free of care, they go on amassing wealth. Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments. If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children. When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

Psalm 72 highlights how worship is a place where we receive revelation from the Spirit. For the Psalmist, he was discouraged about how he saw the wicked prospering in the midst of his own affliction. But when we entered the sanctuary, the place of worship, then he gained revelation and true perspective.

In worship the Holy Spirit takes the truth of who God is, what He has done and what He will do and reshapes us from the inside out. As we sing and declare, we join in with God's word to our lives which transcends what the world, what the devil, and even what our own flesh might say about us. This act reorients us from defining our lives according to words other than God's redemption and restoration of all things. For the proud and powerful, this brings humility. For the lowly and marginalized this brings hope.

We find hope and joy

Psalm 84.1-12 How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty; listen to me, God of Jacob. Look on our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.

Better is one day in the presence of the Lord than a thousand elsewhere! As we worship the Lord, we are filled with joy and hope because of how good and awesome He is.

We engage in spiritual warfare and witness

Ephesians 3.10-11 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As we worship we display his splendor to the rulers and authorities in heavenly realms and we shift things in the spirit. As we worship God, a lost and dying world is able to encounter hope and healing in Christ.

Putting It Into Practice:

Here are a few ways to worship the Lord in your quiet times:

Sing Worship Songs

Psalm 96.1-4 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

In your quiet time, take some time to sing a worship song to the Lord.

Declare God's Character and Worth

Psalm 51.5 Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Another way to worship the Lord is by declaring truths about His character, all that He has done, and all that he is going to do in praise. To do this, take portions of Scripture on these topics and speak them back to God. Here are some powerful Scriptures to use:

Psalm 23, Psalm 103, Psalm 145, Hebrews 1.1-4, Revelation 4.8-11, Revelation 5.9-12

As you read these passages, let the truths in them shape your declaration of God's praise!