



Worship - (Giving God the Glory)

Worship is at the core of all that we are as human beings. Scripture tells us that human beings were created to be worshippers of the One True God. Within our nature is a great need to worship something greater than ourselves. True worship only finds its true expression when it is directed at the One True God. At the heart of worship is the desire to give to God what is rightfully His and to recognise who He is and what He does. Worship is not about the worshipper, but is about ministering to God and bringing a sacrifice of praise and adoration to Him. Much of worship today is becoming about the feelings and the entertainment of God's people, rather than the people of God, as a priesthood, ministering to God what is rightfully His.

Discuss - (In group / or small groups)

Q1) How do you think people who are not Christians express their need to worship?

Q2) In what ways do you think worship can be expressed in everyday life and experiences?

Q3) What things can happen during the week / or during a service that can make it hard to worship God ?

Q4) How do you think we can worship God despite these difficulties?

So what does the Bible teach us about Worship?

Worship - Is an encounter with Almighty God

Throughout Scripture we read how time and time again when people came into the presence of Almighty God, they bowed down and worshipped Him. In the New Testament we see the same goes for Jesus. We see in the Nativity story how the wise men visit Jesus and fall down before Him and worship Him. As we encounter God and see His glory, the natural response is to give back to Him what is rightfully His. We see this is even true within heaven.

Revelation 4 v 1 - 11 & Revelation 7 v 9 - 17 _____

Worship - Is to surrender to God

As we gaze upon God through the place of worship, a natural response happens within us. No longer are we focusing on ourselves, but we focus upon Him. The result of this is that we fully open ourselves to His will and purposes and come to a place of obedient expression. When this happens we are less concerned about how people see us, then we are in pleasing God and truly bringing to Him something that costs. David a great King in the Old Testament was a man halmarked by His desire to worship God with all his might. See David's response in 2 Samuel 6 v 12 - 23 _____

True Worship - Provokes us to Worship whatever the circumstances

One of the simple facts of a life submitted to God and disciplined in worship, is that it can worship the Lord whatever the circumstances that life throws at it. We see within the life of David and Paul that when they went through difficult and trying times, their commitment to worship God remained the same. The reason for this is that in the midst of changing situations and difficulties - the one certainty is the constant reality and faithfulness of God!!

Psalms 102, _____ Acts 16 v 22-34 _____

True Worship - breaks down strongholds in our lives and releases Spiritual Victory.

As we focus upon the Lord and begin to bring Him the praise that He deserves one of the outworkings of this is that often the power and majesty of God is more fully manifested in our meetings. This has the effect of releasing powerful healings, forgiveness, and graces upon the worshipping community. It is almost, as we worship we create an atmosphere of faith that God responds to, and into which He pours out His grace, Glory and power.

We see that God called Joshua and the people to worship and promised as they did the walls of Jericho would come crashing down, giving them the victory. Worship is a key that unlocks spiritual victories in our lives to!!

Joshua 5 v 13 - Ch6 v 20 _____

True Worship - Is about lifestyle and Offering to the Lord all we are, and have!!

Real Worship is about cultivating a daily lifestyle that is offered to God. As we offer to the Lord all that we do in a day and do our best in everything. What we offer is made holy by Jesus and He accepts it as a "Offering of Service." Worship is more than just singing songs, or prayer. As we cultivate a daily focus on Jesus and open up our lives and situations to a daily encounter with Him - We find we can worship God in all situations and circumstances .

Some people say it is impossible to worship God all the time because the pressures of the moment take our focus off God. However what is seen as worship in the Bible is not about a complete focus on God in the midst of every situation, but doing what you do for Him and making sure you do your best in every situation - "As if you were doing it for the Lord." If we truly present ourselves as living sacrifices then our lives will become in every sense an offering of worship to the Lord.

Romans 12 v 1- 2, _____

