

The Priority and Process of Worship

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb. 7th 2021

Reflection: Over these past weeks we've discussed how God desires and deserves our Worship.

Mk 12:30 *"thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."*

At the heart of worship is Devotion; and at the heart of Devotion is Dedication!

Pr. 23:26 *"My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways."* (Rāṣhâ':delight in)

The Great Commandment (Deut. 6:4,5; Mt. 22:37; Mk, 12:30; Lk 10:27) teaches us that God wants to be Loved/Worshipped:

1. Passionately: *"with all thy heart* (Kardi'a: thoughts, feelings, center!) *and with all thy soul"* (Psyche: life)
2. Thoughtfully: *"With all thy mind"* (dian'oa: understanding; imagination)
3. **Practically:** *"With all thy strength"* (ischys': force, ability) Mk 12:30; Lk 10:27

A. A Practical Love will:

1) **Declare** itself. Ps. 107:2 *"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so."* (Ps. 100:1,2; Mk 8:35-38)

2) **Demonstrate** itself by diligently serving the object of that love!

Ps 100:2 *"Serve the Lord with gladness"* Jn 14:15 *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."*

Lk 6:44,46 *"Every tree is known by his own fruit... Why call ye me Lord, Lord, (kyrios: supreme authority) and do not the things which I say?"*

John 14:21 *"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, (tereo: preserves, guards) he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."*

a) That's why Ro. 12:1,2 (Complete dedication) is called our "Reasonable service"

And is followed by a list of gifts (Vs 3-8) And practical commands (Vs 9-21)

Eccl 9:10 *"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might;"*

Col 3:23-24 *"whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, ... Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."*

B. God delights when our devotion is demonstrated through passionate service.

"Love the Lord thy God... with all thy strength" (ischys': force, ability)

Eccl 9:10 *"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might;"*

Col 3:23-24 *"whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."*

1) That's why Ro. 12:1,2 (Complete dedication) is called our "Reasonable service"

(Logikos' Latrei'a: logical expression of worship) And is followed by a list of gifts (Vs 3-8) And practical commands. (Vs 9-21)

a) This ties our everyday lives & choices to our **worship!** (Ro. 12:9-13)

9 *"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another;

Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord!

Rejoicing in hope; (elpis: anticipation) patient in tribulation; (thlipsis: pressure)

continuing instant (proskartere'ō: earnest, ready) in prayer;" (Proseuchē': Worship!)

Conclusion: The Great Commandment comes from Deut. 6: *"Hear (shama) O Israel, the LORD our God is one Lord. And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might!"* (Me'ōd: Diligence)

The rest of the chapter describes what "Diligent Love" looks like!

Application: Learning to love God Passionately, Thoughtfully, and Practically involves a Process that requires:

1. **Faith.** Heb. 11:6 *“But Without faith it is impossible to please him...”*

That means anything that challenges / increases your faith (Pain, pressures, problems) is an opportunity to worship! 1 Pt 1:6-8

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:” (doxaz.'o: Praise, honor, Worship!)
(see also Heb. 13:12-15)

2. **Focus.**

A. Most prayer (worship) is a type of autopilot “Vain repetition” Mt. 6:7

B. Worship involves an intentional focusing of my attention on God!

1) This is at the core of “Mediation”. (Deep thinking) Joshua 1:8

2) By Beholding, We Become! 2 Cor 3:18 *“we, with an open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord are changed (transformed!) into the same image, from glory to glory, even by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

C. Focus is difficult because we’re distracted by Our self-centered natures and a selfish world.

Ro 8:7,8 *“the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”*

1) Satan seeks to shift our attention away from God’s person, purposes, and Plan!

This is the essence of Sin! James 1:13-16

D. God wants us to focus on Him Ph. 4:6,7 *“Be careful (merimnao: anxious, distracted) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer (Proseuchē: shift toward God) and supplication (de’ēsis: petition) with thanksgiving (eucharistia: gratitude {From Charis!}) let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep (phroure’ō: guard) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

Faithful, Focused Attention is an incredible expression of love. God is faithful and focused on us. (Ps. 139!!!)

Ps. 32:8 *“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.”*

This is why a daily “Devotional” time is so important.

Mt. 6:6 *“when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father”*

Ps 5:1-3 *“Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my meditation. Harken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray. My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.”*

Ralph Spaulding Cushman



*“I met God in the morning, When my day was at its best.
And His presence came like sunrise, Like a glory in my breast.
All day long the Presence lingered. All day long He stayed with me;
And we sailed in perfect calmness, Over a very troubled sea.
Other ships were blown and battered, other ships were sore distressed;
But the winds that seemed to drive them, Brought to me a peace and rest.*

*Then I thought of other mornings, With a keen remorse of mind;
When I too had loosed the moorings, With the Presence left behind.
So, I think I know the secret, Learned from many a troubled way.
You must seek Him in the morning, If you want Him through the day.”*

