

The Heart of Worship

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan 17 2021

Genuine Worship is one of the most misunderstood (& and mis-applied) spiritual disciplines. If you ask Google “What is Worship” you’ll get 724 million articles seeking to answer that question. If you Google “Worship Pictures” you’ll find the vast majority show people with their hands in the air (assumably based on 1 Tim. 2:8). *Surely Worship involves more than waving at God!*

Webster’s defines worship as: 1: to honor or show reverence for a divine being or power 2: to regard with great or extravagant respect, honor, or devotion. 3: to perform or take part in worship or an act of worship. As a noun it becomes “*a form of religious practice with its creed and ritual*”

It’s easy to confuse the “Art” of Worship for the “Heart” of Worship!

Jesus clarified this in Jn 4 when he asked the woman to be honest with Him and herself. Vs 15-18

When she tried to change the subject to ritual worship (vs 20) Jesus responded (Vs 22,23)

“Ye worship, ye know not what... true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.”

“True (Biblical) Worship” involves: Sacrificial Giving

1. 1st reference to worship is Gen. 22:5 *“I and the lad will go yonder and worship”* (Shāḥâ’: worship, reverence, bow before)

A. What was the Stated purpose of this exercise? Gen. 22:2

B. What was the Actual purpose of this exercise? Gen. 22:11-19

1) To Test Abraham. Vs 11,12

2) To Reveal His larger (future) plans. (Vs 8,13,14 and Heb. 11:17-19)

Gen. 22:14 *“Jehovahjireh... In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.”*

3) To Bless Abraham. Vs 15-18 “because thou has obeyed my voice”

You can’t separate Obedience from True Worship!

2. Sacrificial Giving is an integral part of worship.

A. David modeled this Ps 29:1-2 *“Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”*

Ps 96:7-9 *“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.”*

1) At one point, David’s Pride brought a terrible plague! (70,000 deaths)

1 Chr 21:1 *“Satan stood up ..., and provoked David to number Israel.”*

2 Sam 24:16 *“the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people,: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite. “*

2) God prompted him to build an altar, so he offered to buy the land to needed for this. 18-21

When Araunah offered to give David the land and the animals for sacrifice, he answered:

“Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer offerings unto the LORD my God, of that which doth cost me nothing.” Vs 24

3) Later, David prayed and sacrificially prepared to build the Temple there. 1 Chr 29:10-14
“in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. ... But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee!”

B. The Magi understood this. Mt. 2:1 *"We have come to worship Him!"*

Mt 2:11 *"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; "*

C. Eventually we'll understand this. Rev 4:10,11 *"The 24 elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that lives for ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."*

Conclusion: If genuine worship involves giving:

What does God most want from us?

God wants our Hearts! (*Devotion*) Pr. 23:26 *"My son, give me thine heart, (Lēb: heart (508x); mind (30x); feelings (8x), the will (4x), the center ("midst" 11x)*

How Does He (and we) know he has them?

Devotion is demonstrated by our Dedication! *"and let thine eyes observe my ways"*
"observe" Rāṣâ': to delight in! See Ps. 37:3-5

Deuteronomy 10:12,13 *"What doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear (yare': revere) the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, (yālak derek: follow Him) and to love (ahab') him, and to serve ('ābad': to work for and worship 5x) the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep (shāmar': observe, protect) the commandments (miṣwâ': to enjoin/prescribe) of the LORD, and his statutes, (ḥuq'qâ: prescribe, appoint) which I command thee this day, FOR THY GOOD"*

Heartless worship is hopeless (vain) worship.

Isaiah 29:13; Mt 15:8,9

"This people draws nigh unto me with their mouth, and honors me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Heartless worship is hopeless worship!

"this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me!" (See also Isaiah 1:11-15)

APPLICATION:

1) Is Christ in your heart? (Rev. 3:20; Romans 10:10; Gal. 4:6; Ro. 8:16)

Gal 4:6 *"because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba,"*

Ro 8:16 *"The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"*

2) Does Christ "Have" your heart? Pr 23:26 *"My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe (delight in) my ways."*

Remember that Devotion is Demonstrated by Dedication! (See John 14:21)

Mt 22:36-38 *"Master, which is the great commandment in the law?"*

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment."