

## Seven Reasons to Worship

Some years ago Christian author and thinker A.W. Tozer (1897-1963) wrote a book entitled *Worship: The Missing Jewel*. He observed that “God wants worshipers before workers; indeed the only acceptable workers are those who have learned the lost art of worship.” As you read the following Biblical perspectives on worship, may you discover some of the many beautiful facets of the jewel of worship.

### 1. Worship is our Response to the Infinite Worth and Glory of God as Revealed in the Gospel.

- The result of receiving the gospel is genuine worship: “I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel...saying, Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come, and worship Him who created heaven and earth...” (Revelation 14:6,7).
- In worship we declare the worth of God as Creator: “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created” (Revelation 4:11). †
- In worship we declare the worth of Jesus Christ as our Saviour. “Worthy is the Lamb who has slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and blessing” (Revelation 5:12).

### 2. In Worship God Exposes our Sin and Provides His Remedy for Sin.

- All sin is rooted in a failure to worship God. “Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened” (Romans 1:21,22).
- Worship exposes our sin. “I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up...and I said, Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man on unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.” (Isaiah 1:1,5).
- In genuine worship our sin is taken away. “Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal...and he touched my mouth with it, and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged’” (Isaiah 1:6).
- In worship we declare our trust in the sufficiency of Christ’s redemptive work. “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood...” (Revelation 5:8).

### 3. Worship is an Affirmation of our True Identity.

- In worship we enter the realization of our true identity and self-worth as God’s very own people. “Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture” (Psalm 100:2, 3).
- In worship we let go of all our own attempts to establish our identity and self-worth through the worthless pursuits of idolatry – the attempt to find love and significance in all the wrong places. “For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold no water” (Jeremiah 2:13).
- Let the keeping of the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath be a joyful celebration of our identity. “...call the Sabbath a delight...you shall delight yourself in the Lord” (Isaiah 58:13,14).
- God has designed the Ten Commandments to affirm and protect our identity in Him: As we worship our One and only Creator-Redeemer God, we receive His image, name, and number. Through such genuine worship we overcome the beast (Revelation 15:1-4).

### 4. Worship is God’s Appointed Path to Wholeness.

- Jesus prescribed worship to the woman at the well as His cure for her dysfunction and brokenness. “...true worshipers will worship God in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship Him” (John 4:23).
- Genuine worship makes possible the internalization of God’s truths in our hearts. “Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts” (Psalm 51:6).
- Worship leads to the de-centralization of ‘self’. “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and blessing” (Revelation 5:12). Jesus Christ cannot receive these, unless we must give these to Him.
- Through worship we deal a deathly blow to pride and self-sufficiency. “I am the LORD: that is My name: and My glory will I not give to another” (Isaiah 42:11); “God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Galatians 6:14).
- Worship is an expression of love: “And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (Deuteronomy 6:5).
- In worship we process all our negative emotions: fear, anger, bitterness, vindictiveness, resentment, unforgiveness, discouragement, impatience etc. “Do not fret because of evildoers” (Psalm 37:1-40).
- Worship is God’s antidote to all our fears. “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1).
- In worship we let go vindictiveness toward all who have offended us as we trust that God will make matters right. “Plead my cause, O Lord, with those who strive with me; fight against those who fight against me” (Psalm 35:1). “Arise, O Lord, in Your anger; lift Yourself up because of the rage of my enemies; rise up for me to the judgment You have commanded” (Psalm 7:7).
- Worship is the path to experience genuine joy and wholeness. “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of Your heart” (Psalm 37:4); “In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures evermore” (Psalm 16:11). “The joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10); “For You, Lord have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands” (Psalm 92:4).
- In worship we discover God’s sufficiency for our every need. “My cup runs over...” (Psalm 23:5); “They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the rivers of Your pleasures” (Psalm 36:7, 8).

- Genuine joyful worship is the antidote to temptation. The full and genuine satisfaction of all our needs in God will guard us against seeking the satisfaction of our deepest needs in anyone or anything else other than God. *"In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures for evermore"* (Psalm 16:11). *"O satisfy us early with Thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days"* (Psalm 90:14). *"But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:19).

## 5. **Worship is the Crucial Issue in the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan.**

- Worship is the crucial and ultimate issue in the great controversy between Christ and Satan. *"If anyone worships the beast..."* (Revelation 14:9).
- Satan wants the worship that only belongs to God. *"I will be like the Most High"* (Isaiah 14:14). Satan wanted Jesus to worship him: *"If you will bow down and worship me..."* (Luke 4:7)
- The best protection against the beast is the genuine worship of the Lamb. *"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain"* (Revelation 5:12).
- Worship is our participation in the judgment as we give in praise and adoration give our deposition to declare our agreement with the testimonies of the witnesses [the 4 living creatures and the 24 elders] in heaven's open courtroom. *"Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"* (Revelation 5:13).
- In joyful worship we anticipate with heavenly beings the coming judgment as God's way of establishing justice on earth. *"We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because Thou hast taken to thee Thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth"* (Revelation 11:17,18).
- Through worship we make the universe secure against all sin as we declare the righteousness of Him who has saved, redeemed, and justified us. *"Great and marvelous are Your work's Lord God Almighty; just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints"* (Revelation 15:3).

## 6. **Worship is Warfare Against all of Satan's Works, Devices and Deceptions.**

- In worship we engage in warfare against Satan and his kingdom.; as we magnify God with our praises, we declare and remind Satan that he is a defeated foe. *"Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations and to bind their kings..."* (Psalm 149:6-8).
- In worship we enthrone God as the rightful ruler of the Universe, and thus His presence transforms our lives and circumstances. *"But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel"* [God inhabiteth the praises of Israel – KJV]. (Psalm 22:3).
- In worship we enter our work as "kings and priests" deputized by Christ Himself to deliver people from bondage and to extend God's kingdom rule into areas where Christ is not now ruling (Revelation 1:6; 5:10).
- Through praise we give our testimony to defeat the enemy. *"And they overcome him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony"* (Revelation 12:11).
- In worship we participate with Christ in His work of healing the brokenhearted and setting the captives free. *"The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised"* (Luke 4:18).
- The result of Christ's healing ministry is the restoration of worship: *"...to give them the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified"* (Isaiah 61:3).

## 7. **Worship is Our Witness to Others about the Supremacy and Sufficiency of our God.**

- In corporate worship we edify others in the congregation. *"I will declare Your name to my brethren. In the midst of the assembly I will praise You"* (Psalm 22:22), *"Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people, and praise Him in the company of the elders"* (Psalm 107:32).
- In worship we give a joyful and contagious witness to attract others to our wonderful God who is BIG enough to handle anything. To worship is to make others glad in God. *"My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear it and be glad"* (Psalm 34:2), *"He has put a new song in my mouth – praise to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the Lord"* (Psalm 40:3),
- In worship we give living testimonies to our children and future generations about God's covenant faithfulness. *"One generation shall praise Your works to another, and declare Your mighty acts"* (Psalm 145:4,5), *"We will not hide [God's works] from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done"* (Psalm 78:3,4).

Just imagine the energizing potential of what could happen in our own lives and churches if we devoted ourselves to all the dimensions of this kind of worship: *"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved"* (Acts 2:46, 47). God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him.