

# Worship Series

A Call to Worship

## INTRODUCTION:

### Psalm 135:3

Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant.

<sup>1</sup>

### Dave Hunt

Worship is not a repetitious exercise of rituals and formulas. These create a veil that actually prevents us from enjoying the presence of the Lord. Worship is the heart poured out in gratitude and awe, expressing our appreciation of who He is and what He has done for us by His grace through Jesus Christ.

- **What Worship isn't...**

1. It isn't lip service, but rather comes from an authentic place within hearts.
2. It isn't supporting false doctrines, but rather is about the truth and the business of God.
3. It isn't about manipulation for gain.
4. It isn't about socializing or clicks that separate.
5. It isn't centered around the traditions of mankind, but around the traditions of God.

### Matthew 15:6-9

So, for the sake of your tradition, you have made void the word of God. <sup>7</sup> You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

- <sup>8</sup> ““This people honors me with their lips,  
but their heart is far from me;  
<sup>9</sup> in vain do they worship me,  
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.””

6. It isn't mundane or boring, but rather allows our spirit to involve itself with the activities of Heaven.

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: New International Version\*](#) (Ps 135:3). (1984). Zondervan.

### **C.S. Lewis**

Look to Heaven and you'll get earth thrown in, but look to earth and you'll get neither.

### **Sinclair Ferguson**

It is God who gives us the spirit of worship (Psalm 133:3), and it is what we know of God that produces this spirit of worship. We might say that worship is simply theology, doctrine, what we think about God, going into top gear! Instead of merely thinking about Him, we tell Him, in prayer and praise and song, how great and glorious we believe Him to be!

### **Richard Foster**

Forms and rituals do not produce worship, nor does the disuse of forms and rituals. We can use all the right techniques and methods, we can have the best possible liturgy, but we have not worshipped the Lord until Spirit touches spirit.

- *What is Worship?*

### **William Temple**

Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness, the nourishment of the mind with His truth, the purifying of the imagination of His beauty, the opening of the heart to His love, the surrender of the will to His purpose.

- *What does Worship involve?*

1. The Attitude & Approach of Worship – recognition & thanksgiving
2. An Activity of Worship – service, sacrifice, submission & singing

### **Revelation 4**

Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." <sup>2</sup> And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it. <sup>3</sup> The one sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones—like jasper and carnelian. And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow. <sup>4</sup> Twenty-four thrones surrounded him, and twenty-four elders sat on them. They were all clothed in white and had gold crowns on their heads. <sup>5</sup> From the throne came flashes of lightning and the rumble of thunder. And in front of the throne were seven torches with burning flames. This is the sevenfold Spirit of God. <sup>6</sup> In front of the throne was a shiny sea of glass, sparkling like crystal.

In the center and around the throne were four living beings, each covered with eyes, front and back. <sup>7</sup> The first of these living beings was like a lion; the second was like an ox; the third had a human face; and the fourth was like an eagle in flight. <sup>8</sup> Each of these living beings had six wings, and their wings were covered all over with eyes, inside and out. Day after day and night after night they keep on saying,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty—  
the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come.”

<sup>9</sup> Whenever the living beings give glory and honor and thanks to the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever), <sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall down and worship the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever). And they lay their crowns before the throne and say,

<sup>11</sup> “You are worthy, O Lord our God,  
to receive glory and honor and power.  
For you created all things,  
and they exist because you created what you pleased.”

## **I. The Almighty, The Focus of Our Worship**

### **Matthew 4:10**

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“‘You shall worship the Lord your God  
and him only shall you serve.’”

### **A.W. Tozer**

God wants us to worship Him. He doesn't need us, for He couldn't be a self-sufficient God and need anything or anybody, but He wants us. When Adam sinned it was not, He who cried, "God, where art Thou?" It was God who cried, "Adam, where art thou?"

### **A. The Wonder of God (Revelation 1:9-20; Revelation 5:5-6)**

1. The Power of His Presence
2. The Symbolism of His Essence
3. The Magnitude of His Majesty

## **B. Invitation (1)**

1. God wants you to be with Him.
2. Where does God invite John first? A: Into the throne room of worship!
3. Why was this the first stop on the invitational journey? Because God knew what the rest of the book would reveal and before battles come, worship must be given because it is our strength to overcome.
4. God initiated the relationship.
5. In worship, God is inviting us deeper into His very life of existence, deeper into understanding His will and His ways, and deeper into reality itself.
6. For God, worship is not egotistical, but an invitation for you to experience what is only His to offer.
7. It is an invitation for our spirits to come and eat the living bread of life. This is the symbolism behind communion, and why Jesus said, "This is my body, this is my blood...take and eat." This is the symbolism of Communion and its relation to our worship.
8. Worshipping God should be a feast for the soul.

## **C. Revelation (1)**

1. In the context of this passage, God is about to reveal to John the events of the future, ultimately revealing Himself.
2. The One who is Eternal, Unchangeable, Perfect, All-Knowing, All-Powerful, Ultimate Goodness, etc. The God of all gods, the King of all kings, the Lord of all lords, the Supreme Sovereign Authority. When we worship God, who God is in essence will become clearer to us.
3. The reason some of our hearts are troubled is that we haven't spent enough time in worship and praise to the Lord.

## **A.B. Simpson**

Begin to rejoice in the Lord, and your bones will flourish like an herb, and your cheeks will glow with the bloom of health and freshness. Worry, fear, distrust, care—all are poisonous! Joy is balm and healing, and if you will but rejoice, God will give power.

## **D. Commendation (8b)**

1. Those who live in the presence of the throne room of God cry “Holy, Holy, Holy...”
2. Recognizing God’s holiness is the highest praise we can give Him.
3. The word “holy” means to be set apart. We praise God because He is different in every possible way of goodness from us.

## **Isaiah 55:8-9**

My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD.

“And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

<sup>9</sup>For just as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so my ways are higher than your ways  
and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.<sup>2</sup>

4. We are called to be holy because God Himself is holy and set apart.

## **1 Peter 1:13-16**

<sup>13</sup>Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

<sup>14</sup>As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, <sup>15</sup>but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup>since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”<sup>3</sup>

## **Jonathan Edwards**

A true love of God must begin with a delight in his holiness.

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<sup>2</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [\*Holy Bible: New Living Translation\*](#) (Is 55:8–9). Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#) (1 Pe 1:13–16). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

5. Our holiness should be revealed in our conduct of action as the Spirit seeks to transform us into the likeness of Jesus.

### **1 John 2:6**

This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did

### **E. Adoration (11)**

1. Comes from a place of recognition
2. Comes from a place of gratitude
3. Comes from a place of wonder
4. Comes from a place of love

### **John McArthur**

Worship is our innermost being responding with praise for all that God is, through our attitudes, actions, thoughts, and words, based on the truth of God as He has revealed Himself.