

The Awe of Worship Part II.

Isaiah 6:1-8

John Ortberg

"I need to worship because without it I can forget that I have a big God beside me and live in fear. I need to worship because without it I can forget his calling and begin to live in a spirit of self-preoccupation. I need to worship because without it I lose a sense of wonder and gratitude and plod through life with blinders on. I need worship because my natural tendency is toward self-reliance and stubborn independence."

Charles Spurgeon

Nothing teaches us about the preciousness of the Creator as much as when we learn the emptiness of everything else."

Romans 1:8-10

⁸First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. ⁹For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you ¹⁰always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you

λατρεύω. – to serve/worship

- the word is used in an extended, loose and almost figurative or spiritualized sense to include every form of divine worship.¹

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

¹ Strathmann, H. (1964–). [λατρεύω, λατρεία](#). In G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 4, p. 63). Eerdmans.

“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

A. The Communion between the Creator & Creature

1. To be allowed in the presence of God is an awe-inspiring, overwhelming experience.

Hebrews 12:18-24 ESV

¹⁸ For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

2. The presence of the Lord can be fearful because His glory is so overwhelming.

Isaiah 6:3-4

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven’s Armies!
The whole earth is filled with his glory!”

⁴ Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.

3. God’s presence is naturally humbling and can make us feel so small.

Charles Spurgeon

Saints are described as fearing the name of God; they are reverent worshippers; they stand in awe of the Lord's authority; they are afraid of offending Him; they feel their own nothingness in the sight of the Infinite One.

B. The Crisis of our own inability, imperfections, and sinfulness

1. God's light and holiness force us to see the reality of ourselves.
2. God's light and holiness reveal our sins.

John 1:4 -5

⁴The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

⁶God sent a man, John the Baptist, ⁷to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. ⁸John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. ⁹The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

3. God's light and holiness reveal our condition and predicament.

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

Luke 5 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, ²and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." ⁶And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." ⁹For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had

taken,¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.”¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.²

4. God’s light and holiness will make a way for atonement and cleansing which ultimately points us to Jesus which is a major prophecy of Christ followed in the next chapter, Isaiah 7.

C. The Calling and Invitation to Serve

1. Isaiah now living in grace is called by God into a personal question.
2. Isaiah is called by God to be his mouthpiece to his people.
3. Isaiah, through the wonder of this experience and the glory revealed to him, states he is willing to go wherever the Lord sends him.
4. Isaiah wants to be used by God.

Os Guinness, *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life*
“Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are but also of becoming what we are not yet but are called by God to be.”

D. The Commission

1. Worship promotes a desire to serve.

Romans 1:9

For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you.

2. Service is a love response to the One we worship.
3. Worship promotes a response to God’s calling.

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Lk 5:1–11). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

4. God tells Isaiah, “Go!”

5. Worship promotes obedience.

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

¹⁸Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Worship As Only a Habit

Satan was standing outside a church building one Sunday morning. Inside, the people were singing, praying, and listening to preaching. A passerby asked Satan if that did not bother him. With a demonic, sneering laugh he replied negatively. Then he added, “They get that way on Sunday, but they will be all right on Monday. It’s just a little habit they’ve acquired.”

God save us from such a habit. Our worship is to make a difference in who we are and what we do.

Real Worship

Can we really call it *worship* if it is not followed by *service*? It is a mockery to praise the Lord inside church walls unless we tell others about Him outside those walls!