



Empowering People to Change the World

Worship as Beholding the Lord

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“Worship as Beholding the Lord”

I feel like God is accentuating worship to us as a church and so we have left Philipians for a time.

1. We have looked at “Worship in the Spirit” from Philipians 3.
2. “Worship in Spirit and Truth” from John 4.
3. Last week, we studied “The 4 Spiritual Laws of Praise” from Revelation 4.
4. Today, I want to tackle this concept of “Worship as Beholding the Lord.”

What do we mean by Worship?

- Worship is way more than singing songs or writing songs.
- Worship is not the amount you place in the offering box. Worship is not volunteering in children's church. Yes, these may be acts or expressions of worship, but they do not define what true worship really is.
- Worship is about where you place your value. Worship is where you give value to something. An expression of worth.
 - In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for “worship” has this idea of bowing down, falling down before the Lord.
 - But in the New Testament, in the Greek, it has more the idea of kissing. It is more intimate, more relational.
 - ***Worship is to honor with extravagant love and extreme submission (Webster's Dictionary, 1828).*** I absolutely love this definition.
- It is a heart response to God; an expression of value.

- Worship is about priorities—what you value. If you value Jesus, then your priorities line up with an extravagant love, passion and desire for intimacy with Him!
- Worship is not a means to an end, it is the end.

God designed you to be a worshipper:

- Everyone is a worshipper. Worship is what everyone does. The question is what you will worship?
 - some worship their family,
 - some worship money,
 - some worship themselves,
 - some worship success,
 - everybody worships. It is determined by what you value, what you give worth to.
- We've studied John 4 and Revelation 4. God is looking for worshippers (John 4) and loves worship (Rev 4.)

Two very important verses: The first is **John 4:23**

- ***23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.***
- Every plan, every ambition of God is motivated by love and love chooses the best.
- If God chooses the best for you, and if the best is that you be a worshipper, then it must be what is best for you. He is looking for worshippers who join what He is doing in heaven.

But the second passage, is the process of why God has an ambition for worshippers.

2 Corinthians 3:13

Unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴ But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. ¹⁵ But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. ¹⁶ Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

God's greatest desire is that you would be conformed to the image of Jesus and thus worship must be one of the most transformational ways that we are conformed to image of Jesus.

- Take two people.
- If you take a person who has known the Lord for 40 years and worship has only been a passing thought for Sunday morning, that 10-second encounter with Jesus.
- And you take another person who has known the Lord for 2 years and they worship the Lord every day, 30 minutes to be in the presence of His glory. Who do you think will be the more conformed to the image of the Lord?
- We know the answer but very few of us understand the process.
- We are conformed by how much time we spend in God's glory, beholding the glory of God. You spend a lot of time beholding the Lord, your character will be transformed more deeply.
- Every time we take time to relax and enjoy the Lord in worship, God is changing your heart and life.
- The Old Testament concealed, New Testament revealed. Exodus and Isaiah were prophesying of the new thing.

- Exodus 19:6 ***“And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests”;***
- Isaiah 61:6 ***“you shall be priests onto the Lord”***
- But in 1 Peter 2:9 ***“you ARE a royal priesthood...”***
- Israel rejected the priestly ministry and only Moses accepted it on Mt Sinai, “Moses you talk to God and tell us what he says” They were choosing the Law but didn’t want the relationship.

1 Peter 2:9

⁹But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

- God has raised us up, the church. He invites us into His glorious presence.
- It is an intimate exchange of a personal encounter with God. We are cleansed by the blood of Jesus and we can stand before Him. God is looking for worshippers.
- When you were born again, you are uniquely equipped to be a worshipper. You can reengage yourself with the glory of God. God is looking for worshippers.
- You are designed by God in everything in you to be a worshipper. Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- We become like what we behold.

Ps 115:3

But our God is in heaven;

He does whatever He pleases.

⁴ Their idols are silver and gold,

The work of men’s hands.

⁵ They have mouths, but they do not speak;

Eyes they have, but they do not see;

⁶ They have ears, but they do not hear;

Noses they have, but they do not smell;

***⁷ They have hands, but they do not handle;
Feet they have, but they do not walk;
Nor do they mutter through their throat.***

***⁸ Those who make them are like them;
So is everyone who trusts in them.***

- You trust in what you worship. Trust is one of the final expressions of worship.
- Almost every time in the Bible, idolatry and adultery are almost always mentioned together. Especially in Revelation.
- You know why? Because adultery is in the physical what idolatry is in the spiritual. It is a betrayal of devotion.
- You become what you worship! It changes you. Your heart changes.
- In verse 8 you become like what you trust in. You lose your freedom and the idol takes over.

2 Corinthians 3:18

¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- We gaze at the Lord; we learn to behold Him—not unlike beholding yourself in a mirror—and as you put your gaze upon Him there is this supernatural transaction happening in your heart.
- Moses was so transformed that the people literally could see his face glowing and he had to put on a veil.
- God is downloading this exchange of His Spirit with your spirit.
 - It happens also when we open the Word, meditate in the Word and dialogue with the Lord.
 - Conversation not just information transforms us. Turn it into a prayer.

- Worship is the same thing—we are sharing our heart with the Lord in worship.