

# Worship

Worship is ascribing honor and awesomeness and dignity to God. This is something actively done by us—either internal or external or both, but it is based on something done by God. In other words, it is a right response to God and His works. Since the person and works of God are first in this relationship and spark our worship, learning about God and His works is a way to grow in worship by providing a basis and reason for worship. Another way to grow in worship is to pay attention to and focus on what you already know of God and His works and choose to respond rightly to them, rather than ignore them.

## Assessment statements with related verses and questions for further study

Circle most accurate... transfer from your assessment or prayerfully retake as you go through the series.

not me  
kinda me  
really me

### a. Pleasing God with my life is my highest priority ..... 1 2 3 4 5

Romans 12:1 *1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.*

What is Paul urging us to do?

What does this verse say our “spiritual act of worship” is?

How does that maybe change our traditional view(s) of worship?

### b. I often acknowledge my dependence on and gratitude to God for the good things of the moment .....1 2 3 4 5

Colossians 2:6-7... *So then just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

How did you receive Jesus into your life?

How can you continue to live in Him in that same way?

How do dependence and thankfulness flow together?

### c. God's goodness often overwhelms me.....1 2 3 4 5

Psalms 31:19 *How great is Your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear You, which You bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in You.*

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Psalm 145:7 *They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.*

List evidences of God's goodness in your life...

How can you celebrate His goodness to you?



**d. I increasingly realize my need for God's grace to make me who He wants me to be .....1 2 3 4 5**

II Peter 1:3 *His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.*

Where do we receive what we need to be pleasing to God?

Is it already available?

What is our part?

**e. I am able to praise God during difficult times and ultimately can see them as opportunities for God to refine me ..... 1 2 3 4 5**

Job 1:20 *At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."*

James 5:11 *As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.*

What do you find yourself saying when life gets really difficult?

How can Job's example help you?

What does James say about God in the Job incident?

**f. I have a growing desire for solitude and silence in order to spend time with God.....1 2 3 4 5**

Mark 1:35 *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.*

Luke 5:16 *But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*

What do we learn from Jesus' prayer habits in these verses?

How can you become more like him?

**g. I regularly meditate on God's Word and invite Him to be present in my everyday activities.....1 2 3 4 5**

Psalm 1:2 *But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

Joshua 1:8-9 *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

What does the Psalmist say about God's word?

What does God command of Joshua?

What does God promise to Joshua?

How can you make God's word more central to your everyday life?

## Resources

Knowing God—JI Packer (Very popular introduction to the study of who God is)

Your God is Too Small—JB Phillips (Dismantles false and small views of God and shows the reality of the greatness of God)

Practicing the Presence of God—Brother Lawrence (Classic simple devotional)



## Concrete Steps

- Set aside time to study God's Word on a daily basis. Pray and ask God for insight into His Word.
- Memorize Scripture. Choose some scriptures from your daily reading (or this study) to memorize. Make it a priority to hide God's Word in your heart.
- Set aside some time or a few days to go on a spiritual retreat to be alone with God.
- Identify a place you can go to focus on God and worship Him. Make it a habit to spend time in this place on a regular basis.
- Study the names of God using the Psalms. You may want to keep a journal to remind yourself what you have learned about God. Bring these names to mind throughout the day and acknowledge and worship God as revealed by them.

## My Response...

What was the most meaningful statement of Scripture you read in the section on Worship?

Reword the statement in a prayer of response to God.

What does God want you to do in response to the study of Worship?

## My Plan...

1.

2.

## General Practices

**1. Practicing the Presence of God:** Practicing the presence of God involves looking for God in every detail of life. To do this you may want to think of God as ever present in every situation, and remember you are never alone. Look at everything you do, not as something you do by yourself, but something you do together with God. Spend time speaking with Jesus as if He were right there with you. Take some time to think about Him every hour of the day.

**2. Fasting:** The purpose of a traditional fast is to abstain from food in order to focus clearly on your relationship with God. You can also fast from television, entertainment, reading, or anything that distracts you from God. Those who are diabetic, pregnant, or who suffer from severe physical disorders should consult a physician, and might consider fasting from other things than food. Remember, the goal is to develop a focus on God.

In order to fast you may want to consider the following:

- What is the purpose of this fast?
- Begin with something small like one meal or one time slot.
- During the fast, commit the time you would have spent eating to prayer, Bible study, worship, etc.
- Use it as a time to focus on God.

**3. Journaling:** Sometimes it is helpful to journal in order to see God's work in our lives. You may want to start a journal that allows you to record some of the victories and struggles you are having. Record your thoughts and feelings as you go through a process of self-examination. Make it a point to review your journal annually to see how God has worked in your life over the past year.

**4. Worship:** Find a place where you can worship God privately. It may be a spot outdoors, in the privacy of your bedroom, or even in your car while commuting to work, possibly using a good CD of musical worship. Wherever it is, make a habit of visiting this place regularly and worshiping God there.

**5. Meditate on God:** Take some time to meditate on who God is and to get a sense of His greatness. You may want to use the Psalms as a guide. Read through a Psalm and note what the psalmist says about God's character and about his experiences with God. Take some time to praise God for who He is and for what He has done in your life.

**6. Worship as a Lifestyle:** Make it a point to see every action as a worship sacrifice to God. When you wake, thank Him for the day. As you go to work or school, sing praise music or adore Him for who He is. Throughout the day, try to commit every word, thought, and action to Him as a way of thanking Him and worshiping Him, realizing every breath is His gift to us. At home, bring God into every activity. Talk with others about the things God has done in your life.

**7. Preparation for Corporate Worship:** Spend some time preparing yourself for your church worship service. As you approach the building, take a moment to stop and thank God for your church. Before the service begins, say a prayer of thanks to God. Tell Him you are looking forward to meeting Him in worship. Pray that God would prepare your heart to worship Him. Spend some time praying for the pastor and everyone involved in worship that day. Look around at those entering the church and pray for as many as you can specifically that God would touch their hearts and souls during the service. During worship, try to picture Christ seated on the throne (read Isaiah 6:1-8) and thank Him for His sacrifice.