

THE IMPORTANCE OF WORSHIP

Matthew 2:1-12

-Worship is meant to transform us.

-Worship should be a delight to us and not necessarily a duty.

-Worship is about being alive to God. Immanuel-God with us.

-Matthew 5- Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be filled.

-God is looking for lovers and not theologians or students.

--Our desire for God determines the depth of His penetration into our hearts and as a result lifts us into His Presence. Psalm 100 is an example. We enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. We give thanks and He opens His gates. This does not come with our own will power but from within us as we draw close to God in cooperation with His Spirit.

-There is a sense of His presence when we enter into His Presence. (I asked the question about hungering to be in His manifest Presence). Matthew 22:37 and loving the Lord with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength. Western church has majored on loving God with all of your mind.

-When we are loving the Lord in this manner, we create a capacity to be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3: 19). Our pursuit of God will increase our capacity for God. Read A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God

-Exodus 25:8 is about making a Tabernacle. God dwells within us-We are the Temple of God. God came to earth to live in man. Then in Revelation 21:3 we find that God comes and lives with man. To dwell/live with us.

-There is no longer any physical Temple. The Universe is His Temple. Isaiah 11 and Habakkuk 2.

-Worship creates God's dwelling place. In corporate worship God becomes more tangible to us.

-Rationalization wants to overcome mysticism. We try to explain everything and if we can't explain it we conclude it must not be God. Examples: 5 loaves and 2 fish. 3 wise men just came in and worshipped.

-We are to facilitate filling people with God and not buildings with people, no matter how BIG or small. We are to take what Jesus has given us no matter how big or small. Jesus said to go and make disciples.

-Just having a stimulating worship experience is not enough (worship teams, etc.) The priority is whether or not we encounter God. We are changed in His Presence. Many times we focus on ourselves and it is not about us, it's about God.

-We become more like Jesus when we worship. Some people stay home when they feel bad emotionally or feel they have blown it. Individual and corporate worship is what they need.

-What is hindering you from becoming a place where God can dwell? Proverbs 25:24, God says I don't want to dwell there because of all of their bickering. Is there thanksgiving/praise or bickering?

-When we worship, then He will speak to us (communion with the Holy Spirit).

Isaiah 66:1-2. There is something you can do. 1) Humility-cultivate a humble heart. Don't allow sin to become habitual. Be aware of darkness. Build barriers. 2) Tremble at God's Word. Be ready to obey. Be available to do what God wants you to do.

-Weekly meetings are very important. We are family and His blood flows through us. In our services there is a sense of awe/beauty and wonder.

-Revelation 3:20. Jesus is speaking to His Church. Ezekiel 46:9, When you come to church you cannot leave the same way. Expect to be changed. Western church has focused on entertainment.

-Revelation 4:5. There is a worship service going on in Heaven. (God enjoys our worship).

-WORSHIP IS NOT OPTIONAL: It is a pivotal moment in our spiritual journey.

-We are not transformed by our doctrines about God. We are transformed by the God of our doctrines. God transcends our intellect. We need teaching and touching. God wants to meet with you today. We don't get there by our intellectual activity.

-We are to become God's REPRESENTATIVE. Worship equips us to minister. We are to give away what God has given us. We are meant to bless others. Importance of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

-Acts 16:22-34 Paul and Silas were conducting a worship service. The Presence of God was there.

-Focus determines our reality. Can glorify God or complain to God. If we zoom in on the problem we are seeing with the wrong perspective. How do we zoom out to reframe? Through worship which creates a new frame. We should glance at circumstances and gaze at Jesus. Romans 11. We sometimes feel we are not qualified to worship.

-#4 Entering into His gates with thanksgiving will change you because God is worthy. You make a decision to worship even if you do not feel like it. This is the most important decision you will make.

-Colossians 3:1. Refocuses us that we may see life from God's perspective. Worship centers us.

-Acts 16:26 Worship produces shock waves in the Spirit and in the physical realm (Ex. Paul and Silas and the earthquake).

-Focus determines your reality.