

Worship: Reasons and Results

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We are called to an everlasting preoccupation with God - AW Tozer

God saves men to make them worshippers. We have an idea that the Gospel only saves men. While that is true the much deeper understanding of this good news causes men to stand in awe of it's Author.

Missions exists today because worship doesn't. Missions is a temporary necessity but worship goes on forever. Therefore, worship is both the fuel and the goal of mission. John Piper.

The end we ought to propose to ourselves in this life is to become the most perfect worshippers of God we can possibly be as we hope to be through all eternity.

Why is true worship so important as we do missions?

I. Worship is where God Dwells

Worship provides a place for God to dwell on earth in all His fullness.

God is everywhere but His delight is when people stand amazed and enthralled by Him.

Psalm 22:3 "When you praise God He brings a big chair and sits there." (Japanese translation) (He inhabits the praises of His people)

II. Worship encounters God in all His fullness (manifest presence of God).

Psalm 46:10 God says, "Be still and know that I am God. I will be praised in all the nations; I will be praised throughout the earth."

More spiritual progress can be made in one short moment of speechless silence in the awesome presence of God than in years of mere study. AW Tozer

The Christian is strong or weak depending upon how closely He is related to God. Dick Eastman

III. Worship enlarges God.

We can not make God any larger by our efforts. He is indescribably big. Worship is the magnifying glass through which the Holy Spirit shows us the vastness of God and all His abilities. Like the angels in heaven who continually fall on their faces, as if to show that they are still seeing more wonders of the Creator, we too will be on a never ending study of God. Worship provides an atmosphere to expand and increase our knowledge and understanding of God in all His fullness.

You can't make God big, but you can see God big. AW Tozer

Psalm 34:3 Magnify the Lord with me, let us exult His name together.

Psalm 69:30 I will praise the name of God with song and magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Luke 1:46-55 Mary's magnificat - "My soul does magnify the Lord."

Axiom - the bigger you see God the bigger you believe God.

IV. Worship enjoys God

Worship provides a place of entry into the pleasures and delights of God's presence.

Psalm 16:11 You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Psalm 65:4 - 4 How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You To dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple.

*Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to **enjoy him** for ever. WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM*

V. Worship enlists God

Worship provides our primary means to mobilize and release the resources of God into the needs of the nations.

Psalm 77:114 You are the God who works wonders; You have made known Your strength among the peoples.

2 Chron 20:21-22 he appointed those who sang to the LORD and those who praised Him in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the LORD, for His lovingkindness is everlasting." 22 When they began singing and praising, the LORD set ambushes...

Acts 16:22-40 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

VI. Worship excites God

Worship provides the only true position from which we might bring God pure pleasure.

If there is worship that doesn't please the Lord it is not worship. There are forms of worship but not truly worship.

Psalm 149:3-4, Let them praise His name with dancing; Let them sing praises to Him with timbrel and lyre. For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the afflicted ones with salvation.

Zephaniah 3:14-17 Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You will fear disaster no more. In that day it will be said to Jerusalem: "Do not be afraid, O Zion; Do not let your hands fall limp. "The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.

VII. Worship exalts God

Worship provides the platform and power necessary to exalt God in the nations.

Psalm 57:9-11 I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations. For Your lovingkindness is great to the heavens And Your truth to the clouds. Be exalted above the heavens, O God; Let Your glory be above all the earth.

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I believe scripture points us to the idea that God enjoys being enjoyed! The depth of our spiritual walk, the power of our commitment and love, will go as deep as the fascination and wonder we have with the Person of God. The door of revelation has been open to us, take more time to ponder Who He is. Read all you can. Fill your mind with the "High praises of God."