



Personal Worship (Part 4) December 19, 2004

We are addressing 3 questions in our study on Personal Worship

#1. What is worship ? What does it mean to worship God ?

#2. How do I worship ?

#3. What happens when I worship ?

Review of #1. What is worship ?

Review of #2. How do I worship ?

Some additional thoughts on How do I worship ?

Spiritual Worship Versus Fleshly Worship

1 Peter 2:5

We are called to offer up "spiritual sacrifices" as opposed to fleshly sacrifices.

3 kinds of spiritual sacrifices:

Hebrews 13:15 – the fruit of our lips

Romans 12:1-2 – the consecration of our body

Philippians 3:3 – our service/work in the ministry

Colossians 2:18-23

Don't bind yourself with man made regulations of false religion.

Don't worship worship. Don't make a god out of worship – your style, form, methods, music. Focus on God. Worship God. Enjoy Him!

Some people get so caught up with a certain style, ambience, form – that if they see people worshipping differently, they conclude that they are not worshipping. You should be able to stand in the middle of a cemetery and still worship the living God!

Ezekiel 44:18

Something produced off the flesh – is not acceptable to God.

Revelation 19:10

While we must respect ministers of God, some of us have turned this respect into an unhealthy form of worship of the man/woman of God. You cannot worship a man/woman – no matter how deep he/she has led you into God.

Isaiah 42:8 48:11

Many of us ministers are guilty of stealing the glory that belongs to God, by causing people to get so focussed on us rather than on the God who works through us!

Now:

#3. What happens when I worship ?

A. Worship Changes Me

Psalm 115:4-8 2 Corinthians 3:18 Hebrews 12:29

What or whom you worship influences what you are and what you will become.



You become like the god you worship.

Our God is a consuming fire. Intimate fellowship with God will bring a refining in our lives.

B. I Experience God's Presence in Worship

James 4:8 Deuteronomy 4:29

You will find Him. God reveals Himself to those who bow before Him and seek Him.

You are God's building (1 Corinthians 3:9). You are the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16). His presence fills your temple.

C. Worship Empowers Me To Rule & Reign

1 Peter 2:9, Revelation 1:5,6

Our worship of Jesus is our priestly ministry. We are priest under the High Priest and kings under the Eternal King.

Priests worship and kings reign.

Worship and ruling are intertwined.

James 4:7

Worship is submission to God and therefore through it comes our ability to successfully resist the devil.

Matthew 4:8-10,

Perverted worship handed over the rulership of this world to the devil. True worship regains what was lost through perverted worship.

Romans 5:17

Worship empowers us to rule and reign. How much more should we believers who worship the true and living God, rule and reign in life!

D. Worship Leads me into Great Conquests

Romans 8:17 2 Timothy 2:11,12 Matthew 5:5 James 4:10

A true worshipper is also a great conqueror!

Too often we incorrectly think that to do great exploits for the kingdom, we have to be aggressive, militant, etc. While there is a definite place for this in the Christian life, we must not forget that in God's Kingdom, it is the meek who inherit the earth. It is in dying that we live. It is suffering that leads to glory. It is in surrender that we reign.

Worship is surrender. It is yielding to God. It is dying to self. It is humbling ones self before God.

Humility brings promotion.

E. Worship Ushers Me into His purposes

Exodus 19:1-6

Israel was brought out of Egypt for one main purpose – to worship.



They were brought out to worship – and as a secondary consequence they were brought in to a land flowing with milk and honey.

Too often we get so caught up with looking to enter in to our promised land and to pull down our Jerichos – and we forget that we are primarily called to be priests who worship. As I fulfill this calling, I can trust God to empower me and lead me to possess my Canaan and conquer my Jerichos!

F. Worship At Home Will Change My Home

2 Samuel 6:11-12

When we make worship central to our daily lives we will experience God's glory in our very homes.

Exodus 28:12

Conclusion:

Developing a lifestyle of personal, intimate worship

Psalm 27:4

Your worship is your expression of your quest for God.

Develop a lifestyle of personal, intimate worship. Explore the heights and depths of intimate worship of God. This will change your life more than you have ever imagined.