

The Heart of Worship

So often, we hear the word "worship" and our minds jump simultaneously to the songs we've heard in church or on Christian radio stations. The descriptions we see of worshipping and praising the Lord are noted all throughout Scripture, but many of those are not in reference to music at all.

"Ascribe to Adonai, O families of peoples, Ascribe to Adonai glory and strength. Ascribe to Adonai the glory of His Name. Bring an offering and come into His courts. Tremble before Him, all the earth. Say among the nations: 'Adonai reigns!'" ~ Psalm 96:7-10a ~

What is worship? It may be easier to start with what worship is not: Worship is **not circumstantial** – *read Acts 16:22-25*.

- Paul and Silas worshipped, even shackled in a prison cell.
- Worship is **not** a **method of receiving something we want from the Lord** read Daniel 4:34.
- King Nebuchadnezzar expected nothing of God. He only intended to ascribe Him glory. Worship is **not about us**.

We tend to think that worship is something we do when we're joyful or only when life is going really well. We're called to worship just as sincerely in trials as we are in triumphs. In addition, sometimes, we tend to approach prayers and worship when we're seeking something we need from the Lord. While we see people worship God before receiving a blessing in Scripture (and no doubt in our own lives as well), our worship does not entitle us to anything God has to offer.

It's not about us. It's all about Him!

Pause: Take some time to think about how your current view of worship compares to what you just read. In what ways do you need to modify your mindset towards the idea of worship? What do you think your worship would look like if you did that? Write your answers below.		

Worship is an act of reverence – a response of adoration, awe, and love. We are called to live this out, even when we don't feel these things in our hearts. Worship is an action. We're choosing to honor the Lord for who He truly is. As such, worship can come in the form of prayers, music, or even just thoughts.

In true worship, our hearts are humbled to recognize His majesty. God is worthy of everything we have to offer and more. Even if He did nothing else, He remains worthy. Worship is proclaiming the goodness of God, His faithfulness, the authenticity of Who He is. It is giving all of ourselves – Spirit and Truth – soul and mind – in service to and adoration of the Lord.

"'But an hour is coming – it is here now – when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people as His worshippers. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.'"

~ John 4:23-24 ~

Question: What are you taking away from this study, and in what ways is your worship going to change after reading this study?

Worship: Take some time with the Lord today to worship Him. Dwell on the **truth** contained in these songs and proclaim the words in your **spirit**. Feel free to write anything God puts on your heart below. Here are some worship songs to get you started.

- ~ King of Glory by Heartery of David
- ~ Great are You Lord by All Sons & Daughters

~ There's No Other Name by Bethel Music and Francesca Battistelli	