



Life Changing Words From God Week #8 Worship

Jim Hoffman

Almighty God, the great I am
Immovable rock, omnipotent, powerful, awesome
Lord

Victorious warrior, commanding King of Kings
Mighty conqueror, and the only time
the only time I ever saw Him run

CHORUS:

Was when He ran to me, He took me in His arms
Held my head to His chest, said “My son’s come
home again”

Lifted my face, wiped the tears from my eyes
With forgiveness in His voice He said,
“Son do you know I still love you?”

He caught me by surprise when God ran

The day I left home I knew I'd broken His heart
And I wondered then if things could ever be the same

Then one night I remembered His love for me

And down that dusty road ahead I could see

It was the only time – it was the only time I ever saw
Him run

And then He ran to me, He took me in His arms
Held my head to His chest, said “My son's come
home again”

Lifted my face, wiped the tears from my eyes

With forgiveness in His voice He said,

“Son do you know I still love you?”

He caught me by surprise as He brought me to my
knees

When God ran – I saw Him run to me

I was so ashamed, all alone and so far away
But now I know He's been waiting for this day
I saw Him run to me, He took me in His arms
Held my head to His chest, said "My son's come home
again"

Lifted my face, wiped the tears from my eyes
With forgiveness in His voice I felt His love for me
again He ran to me, He took me in His arms
Held my head to His chest, said "My son's come home
again"

Lifted my face, wiped the tears from my eyes
With forgiveness in His voice He said, "Son", He called
me Son

He said, "Son do you know I still love you?"
He ran to me and then I ran to Him

When God ran

Worship in the O.T.

OT:7812 shachah (shaw-khaw'); a primitive root; to depress, i.e. prostrate (especially reflexive, in homage to royalty or God):

KJV - bow (self) down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop,
worship.

Worship in the N.T.

NT:4352 proskuneo (pros-koo-neh'-o); from NT:4314 and a probable derivative of NT:2965 (*meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand*); *to fawn or crouch to*, i.e. (literally or figuratively) *prostrate oneself in homage* (do reverence to, adore):

Worship

‘Worship is not found in the place or in the form of an observance, but in our spirits recognizing the truth’

Ian Johnson

Worship

“Worship is all about what
God is doing in you”

“God is after our worship”

Pastor Troy Peterson

Worship

“we should not seek to leave worship feeling good about ourselves, but seek to leave worship having God feel good about how we feel about him”

Rev Thomas Smith

Worship

The size of your God will determine both the depth and the intensity of your worship.

Jim Hoffman

Worship

- When we worship, we *declare openly* that God is God; that He is all that He says He is and more.
- When we worship we are to *abandon all pretense and all of our pride* in an act that speaks of who God is to us.
- Worship is one of the things that *we do* that speaks volumes of *who we are*.

Worship

- *Worship needs to spring from an awe for God.* If we have lost our awe for God then we are just going through the motions.
- *Awe for God is essential for worship.* Without a sense of His awesomeness why would we even bother at all?
- At our core, *we don't want a God who is just a little better than we are;* we want a God who is beyond description and one that defies logic and reason.

The Woman at the well and worship.

- John 4:20-24 "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship ." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father. 22 "You worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the *true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth*; for *such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.* 24 "*God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*" NASB

Worship in spirit and in truth.

- There was a time when the place for worship was of great importance; not so today.
- Today, worship requires no official setting or place; *right here, right now is always a good place and time for worship.*
- Because God is a spirit, there really is no other way to relate to Him, but with our spirits.

Worship in spirit and in truth.

- We worship in spirit and in truth *when we agree with His truth that He presented in Jesus.*
- To worship *in the spirit* is to worship *with our spirit.*
Notice also that this kind of worship is not optional, but it is the only kind He accepts. (*must worship*)
- Indeed, does not one lead to the other? *The more I know of our God the more I want to worship Him.*

Worship in spirit and in truth.

- An application of John 8:32 (and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free) is that knowing the truth about God frees us up to worship Him.
- Ps 103:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is *within me*, bless His holy name. NASB
- Ps 145:18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him *in truth*. NASB

Worship in spirit and in truth.

- This verse definitely answers that argument that goes *‘I worship God in my own way’*.
- While it may appeal to our flesh to think that God is just like us and will accept whatever we elect to give; it is not so when it comes to worship.
- *God is not one who will accept our compromise offers to worship Him on our terms.*

Worship is more than music.

- Music may well *assist us in our worship* and sometimes it's *a means of worship*, but worship is rarely just music.
- The *reading of the Word is* as much an aid to worship to some as music is to others.
- Sometimes *meditation* can be a catalyst for worship. (in spirit and truth)

Worship and music.

- It is easy to be lead into God's presence here on a Sunday morning; *music resonates in our spirits and draws our attention to God.*
- *Music is a powerful spiritual force* that can open us up to the Lord in a way that mere words do not.
- When we sing, when we listen, *let's allow this thing called music to cause us to worship;* otherwise it's just entertainment.

‘let my people go’

- Exodus 8:1 ‘so that they may worship me’
- Exodus 8:20 ‘so that they may worship me’
- Exodus 9:1 ‘so that they may worship me’
- Exodus 9:13 ‘so that they may worship me’
- Exodus 10:3 ‘so that they may worship me’
- Exodus 10:7 ‘so that they may worship me’

A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word, 'darkness' on the walls of his cell.

C.S. Lewis

- Failing to worship God does not affect, nor does it diminish Him in any way.
- Failing to worship to God has *as much negative impact* on us as worshipping Him has a positive one for us.
- We are *changed when we worship*; a transaction takes place between our spirit and the Spirit of God. *Grace is imparted to us and we grow.*

“When I worship, I would rather my heart be without words than my words be without heart.” ...Lamar Boschman

- We must be on guard against going through the *motions without passion*, and against *passion that has no purpose*.
- Better that we offer *a few words of heartfelt praise* than volumes of words that flow from a perceived duty.
- Forced worship that fails to hold God in awe is *the kind of emptiness that keeps people bored in church*.

Acts 17:23

For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship , I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.

NIV

- There is ample evidence from scripture and from history that *man has an in born desire to worship.*
- Even those who have never been told the truth still have some form of worship.
- The folks at Mars Hill were covering all of their bases just in case there was a god that they had not yet heard of *'to the unknown god'* .

Acts 17:23

For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship , I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.

NIV

- In that simple phrase 'to the unknown god' we see at least this much; all of the gods that they had knowledge of did not satisfy.
- *So many gods, so many shrines, but no peace for their souls.*
- So they were doing what all of us do when we have an unmet need; *we keep looking.*

Rom 12:1

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 (NIV)

- We see here that *when we give ourselves* to God that we are worshipping Him.
- If *giving tithes and offerings is worship*, then surely the giving of ourselves is worship as well.
- *Worship is getting prostrate; in this case we lay down our lives in worship.*
- This may not look as spiritual as other forms of worship, but I'm not sure one can get more spiritual.

Rom 12:1

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 (NIV)

- Notice also the reason behind the request; “in view of God’s mercy”
- We could say it this way; since God *has held back all that we deserve* we should reciprocate by *holding back nothing that He deserves.*
- Matt 16:25 *"For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it.* NASB

What does worship look like?

- The (24) elders in Rev 4 *fall down*.
- *Present our bodies* as sacrifices. Rom 12:1
- *Doing service* for the Lord. Heb 9:6
- Sometimes it's *giving gifts*. Math 2:2
- Worship *at His footstool*. Psalm 99:5
- Worship *at His holy hill*. Psalm 99:9
- Joseph worshipped *leaning on his staff*. Heb 11:21

What does worship look like?

- I have seen people worship *in silence* and others with *loud praise*.
- Some worship with their *hands raised and swaying to the music* while others *stand still and focus on the presence of the Lord*.
- Some *dance*, some *fall down*, and others have found themselves in various positions.
- So we say, what is my worship to look like? Perhaps the answer is all of the above as God leads.

So how are we to worship?

- We are to worship the Lord the same way that we are to do everything else; *led by the Holy Spirit.*
- We need to worry less about what *others are doing around us* and concern ourselves more with what *God is doing in us.*
- I believe that God accepts just about every imaginable form of worship except one; *He rejects worship that is insincere.*

So how are we to worship?

- Matt 15:8-9 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. 'But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' "NASB
- *Be careful when someone tries to script worship; it either springs from our hearts or it simply is not worship.*
- People have little trouble 'worshipping' their athletic heroes, and their favorite entertainers; they often hold nothing back. *Let's not let them be more sincere in their worship of the less worthy ones than we are of the all worthy One.*

Questions

