

Heart of Worship

"The [reverent] fear of the Lord [that is, worshipping Him and regarding Him as truly awesome] is the beginning and the preeminent part of knowledge [its starting point and its essence]..." Proverbs 1:7

"The [reverent] fear of the Lord [that is, worshipping Him and regarding Him as truly awesome] is the beginning and the preeminent part of wisdom [its starting point and its essence], And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding and spiritual insight." Proverbs 9:10

"The [reverent] fear of the Lord [that leads to obedience and worship] is a fountain of life, so that one may avoid the snares of death." Proverbs 14:27

"PRAISE THE LORD! (Hallelujah!) Blessed [fortunate, prosperous and favored by God] is the man who fears the Lord [with awe-inspired reverence and worships Him with obedience], who delighted greatly in His commandments. The generation of the upright will be blessed." Psalm 112:1

"When all has been heard, the end of the matter is: fear God [worship Him with awe-filled reverence, knowing that He is almighty God] and keep His commandments, for this applies to every person." Ecclesiastes 12:13

JESUS' WORDS ON WORSHIP

1. MATTHEW 6:9 "HALLOWED BE THY NAME" WE ENTER HIS PRESENCE
2. JOHN 4:19-24 "WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH" THE ISSUE IS NOT WHERE WE WORSHIP, BUT HOW AND WHOM.

A. HOW: IN SPIRIT

MATTHEW 22:36-38; MATTHEW 15:8-9; MATTHEW 5:23-24

B. WHOM: IN TRUTH

JOHN 14:6; JOHN 14:10; JOHN 14:16-17 & 20

WAYS WE WORSHIP – *Sacred Pathways* by Gary Thomas

1. NATURALISTS
2. SENSATES
3. TRADITIONALISTS
4. ASCETICS
5. ACTIVISTS
6. CAREGIVERS
7. ENTHUSIASTS
8. CONTEMPLATIVES
9. INTELLECTUALS

"In the process of being worshiped, God communicates His presence to men." CS Lewis

Discussion

1. What has been your experience with worship? Can you give an example of either sitting in the beach chair, dipping your toes in the water, wading half way, or the full submersion?
2. Have you ever had a preconceived idea or prejudice of worship?
3. What way are you, personally, most fulfilled in worshipping and experiencing Him?
4. What understanding do you gain when Jesus emphasizes to the samaritan woman at the well that, “true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth?”
5. In listening to Matt Redman’s song, “Heart of Worship,” is there anything that especially rings true to your heart?
6. There is a phrase, “The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart.” We see how important our heart is to God in being able to worship Him in spirit. Often surrender and sacrifice can be in the act of forgiveness, letting go of all bitterness, resentment, jealousy, envy, pride, fear, ...etc. Is there anything that is getting in the way of your heart being near to Him?