



## ~ The Heart of Worship – Part 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.” – Romans 12:1*

Did you know that the very heart of worship is actually surrender? It's the very core of its being. Until that happens, true worship cannot begin. And you cannot surrender until you are humble. Humility is a state of mind and while surrender can also be the same, surrender tends to take form in an action. Both are required for true worship before God.

Webster's dictionary defines humility and surrender as the following:

- **Humble (humility)** – meek or modest; deferentially respectful; to cause to be meek
- **Surrender** – to relinquish possession or control of to another; to give oneself up to another (the act of surrendering)

Surrender is an unpopular word, disliked almost as much as the word submission. It implies losing, and no one wants to be a loser. In today's competitive culture we are taught to never give up and never give in – so we don't hear much about surrendering. But surrendering to God is the heart of worship. It is the natural response to God's amazing love and mercy. We give ourselves to him, not out of fear or duty, but in love, because He first loved us (*1 John 4:19*).

Here's the kicker. Are you ready? True worship isn't about you. Now, I know this came as a shock to some of you but, worship in its truest sense is what we give to God. It's all about Him. True worship – bringing God pleasure – happens when you give yourself completely to God. Notice the word offer in Romans 12:1 – offering yourself to God is what worship is all about. It's an act of personal surrender. God wants your life – all of it. Ninety-five percent is not enough.

Surrendering to God is not passive resignation, fatalism, or an excuse for laziness. It is not accepting the status quo. It may mean the exact opposite: sacrificing your life or suffering in order to change what needs to be changed. God often calls surrendered people to do battle on His behalf. Surrendering is not for cowards or doormats. But, it takes humility to reach the point of true surrender. It takes denying all of self.

Let's take Joseph for example. Joseph spent 13 years being submitted to his masters as a slave in Egypt – even when falsely accused. Moses is cited in the Bible as being the most humble man who ever lived (Numbers 12:3). Imagine that! He must have had the patience of Job to deal with those million ornery people he led thru the wilderness. Speaking of Job...

Ever lose everything you ever held dear only to have your spouse and friends accuse you that it was your fault? Job weathered the storm of a lifetime and took the verbal beating with humility and surrender. He would not turn against the God he served.

But, the greatest example of them all is Jesus. Philippians 2 says that Jesus was the complete example of worship to God by humbling Himself, even to death on the cross.

So how did these four experience God thru their “worship”?

- Joseph experienced God’s power – visions, prophecy (Genesis 41)
- Moses experienced God’s friendship (Exodus 33:11)
- Job experienced God’s goodness and justice (Job 42:7-17)
- Christ experienced the full knowledge and workings of God – which led to full empowerment by God (Matthew 11:27)

What do you need to experience from God today? It starts with giving Him the worship of your heart – a fully surrendered spirit ready to do as He bids. All who humbly seek after Christ will never be denied and will receive the experience of a lifetime. Why not start today?

**Kimberly Mills**

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