



~ The Heart of Worship – Part 2 ~

“In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” – Jon 16:23-24

Have you ever watched the Super Bowl? It’s an exciting event, isn’t it, especially when your team is in the game. It’s amazing how a person can be so riveted while watching a little pigskin ball being thrown across a field.

It makes me wonder about our worship to God. Does it have that same devotion, that same dedication and excitement till the finish? People struggle with the concept of worship and too many people have become spiritually lazy – coming to church each week looking for someone to give them their spiritual experience and then hoping it will last them until the next week when they come again. But true worship cannot be just given away. It must be sought after with a humble and surrendered heart.

Webster’s dictionary defines worship as *“to love, admire, or esteem devotedly”*. God longs for our heart. He longs for relationship. True worship comes from a true spirit of a recognized need for God and a need for God comes from prayer and constant connection with God. Prayer leads to a need for God. We cannot truly worship God unless we first feel our need for Him in our lives. How can we feel like talking to someone we don’t see as being critical to know?

The secret to true worship is prayer. God is attracted to weakness and He simply cannot resist those who humbly and honestly admit how desperately they need Him. The more we pray, the more we sense our need to pray, and the more we sense our need to pray, the more we want to pray. Prayer is the source of the Christian life, a Christian lifeline. Teaching is good only where there’s life to be channeled.

I would like to suggest that if worship means to *“love, admire, esteem devotedly”*, and prayer is the key to experiencing worship with God, then true worship is coming before God, honoring Him with our hearts surrendered, truly desiring to experience Him in our lives. We are not New Testament Christians if we don’t have a prayer life. When we begin to pray, and truly admit our need for God, then we will feel the desire to truly worship God the way that He was meant to be and true worship leads to experiencing God.

The reasons to worship God are too many to name. But here are just a few: **He created us** (Gen. 1:27-28), **He is our Deliverer** (2 Samuel 22:2-7), **He gave everything He had so we might live** (John 3:16). How can we not want to worship and adore someone like that?

So, where do we start? The first step is to stop making excuses and admit that we need God in every area of our life – not only where it feels safe. Then, commit to a daily quiet time with God where you can pray to Him and begin to listen to Him speak to your heart. His voice is a gentle whisper, not a raging storm, so it's important to quiet yourself down so you can begin to hear Him. Start with 15 min to start and then grow from there. Open your heart and tell God your thoughts.

Next, begin to act on His promptings when you hear His voice. Remember, God will never ask you to walk contrary to His word. It's a standard for you to use in your battles against the voice of self vs. the voice of God. God's gift of Jesus on the cross provided a way for you and me to have complete victory in our lives over all things. It's a daily process and a journey of a lifetime, but God's word is sure and He will not fail you.

Lastly, find a prayer group or a prayer meeting. Find someplace where there are other like-believers gathered together for bible study and prayer. We are not an island. We need each other and our prayers for each other. There is power when God's people come together and pray. Make a commitment to God to seek after His heart that He might prepare you for His purpose. He longs for relationship with you. He longs for your worship so that He can create His heart within you. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

Kimberly Mills

Elijah Road Ministries Devotionals

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