O Worship the King

Hebrews 10:14-25

Pastor Mark John Bennett

What is your definition of worship? What does worship look like, to you? Do you have to go somewhere to worship? Can you worship anywhere? What is an unusual place, time, or way you worship?

Biblical to **worship**: pay homage, show reverence; to kneel down (before), fall down, in reverence, paid homage...

From the Thesaurus: <u>admire</u>, awe, <u>adore</u>, <u>canonize</u>, <u>celebrate</u>, <u>chant</u>, <u>idolize</u>, <u>revere</u>, <u>sing</u>, <u>venerate</u>, <u>adulate</u>, <u>deify</u>, <u>esteem</u>, <u>exalt</u>, <u>extol</u>, <u>laud</u>, <u>love</u>, <u>magnify</u>, <u>praise</u>, <u>respect</u>, <u>reverence</u>, <u>sanctify</u>.

"For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)

1. The Power to Worship

The Source of Power?

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere —in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." (Matthew 28:18)

"By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ <u>quenched the flames of fire</u>, and <u>escaped death</u> <u>by the edge of the sword</u>. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. ³⁵ <u>Women received their loved ones back again from death</u>." (Hebrews 11:33)

The Power of the Word.

"I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." (Psalm 119:105)

"Your eternal word, O Lord, stands firm in heaven." (Psalm 119:89)

"Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Ephesians 6:17)

"God's word lives in your hearts, and you have won your battle with the evil one." (1 John 2:14b)

Different kinds of interaction with the Word.

Praying - Speaking to the Lord, or about...?
Singing - Listen to the Words... <u>who</u> is the song about?
Proclaiming - Speaking the Word.
Study - Getting into the details.
Memorizing.
Re-casting - Spiritual Formation - My journal.

Awe.

Yesterday during a walk, Sharon and I sat in the sun and felt the warmth of the heat on our faces. We felt the warmth of the sun, but we were in awe of the Glory of God in creating the sun for us. We experienced joy from our Heavenly Father.

"One region of the brain is deactivated [when we experience awe] —the default mode network. That is where all the self-representational processes take place: I'm thinking about myself, my time, my goals, my strivings, my checklist. That quiets down during awe."

Awe activates our vagus nerve. That's "the big bundle of nerves starting in the top of your spinal cord that helps you look at people and vocalize", Keltner explained, and it also "slows our heart rate, helps with digestion and opens up our bodies to things bigger than us."

"Awe also cools down the inflammation process," Keltner said his studies have shown. "It's part of your immune system that attacks diseases, and we want it to be cooler and not always hot."

QUESTIONS:

- Do you read the Word every day?
- Do you have a reading plan?
- Do you memorize the Word?
- Do you meditate on God in awe?
- Are you in a Bible Study with other believers, sharpening iron together, encouraging and being encouraged by others?

Power constrained 220v.

Surrender and submit the Authority of the Father, given to the Son, and seeking the Holy Spirit's movement.

2. The Purpose of Worship

Remove

"If we <u>confess our sins</u>, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:5-9)

Reverence

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly <u>enter heaven's Most Holy Place</u> because of the blood of Jesus. ²⁰ By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. ²¹ And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, ²² <u>let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him</u>. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise." (Hebrews 10:19-23)

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. <u>And let us</u> <u>run with endurance the race God has set before us.</u>² We do this by <u>keeping our eyes on Jesus</u>, the champion who <u>initiates and perfects our faith</u>. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Relationship

"No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends." (John 15:15)

"See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1)

3. The Peace of Worship

Peace of mind and heart.

Individual Worship

Jesus is the Prince of Peace who said *"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."* (John 14:27)

The Bible calls *"the peace . . . which surpasses all understanding"* (Philippians 4:7 ESV). That means you can have unexplainable peace even when everything around you is in chaos.

Remember AWE!

That kind of peace comes only from Jesus, our Prince of Peace.

Made Right with God and Others.

Corporate Worship

^{"14}For by that one offering <u>he forever made perfect those who are being made holy</u>. ¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also testifies that this is so. For he says, ¹⁶ "This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the Lord: <u>I will put my laws in their hearts</u>, and <u>I will write them on their minds</u>." ¹⁷ Then he says, "<u>I will never again remember their sins</u> and lawless deeds." ¹⁸ And when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices." (Hebrews 10:14-18)

^{"24} Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Suggestions:

One Minute Pause. 30 Days to Resiliency. Lectio 360.

QUESTIONS:

- Are you reading the Word (every day)?
- Are you memorizing the Word?
- Are you praying (without ceasing)?
- Are you regularly confessing your sins to God and trusted others?
- Are you praying for His Kingdom to come and His Will to be done in your life?
- Are you studying the Word with other believers?
- Are you practicing spiritual disciplines that will make you spiritually whole?

W-O-R-S-H-I-P

We-Often-Revere &-Serve-HIM-In-Praise