

Worship and Its Challenges



- George Barna - "Worship is a non-negotiable obligation and privilege of every Christian...We agree that when it comes to worship, God deserves it, the Bible commands it, and churches try to facilitate it," he stressed.
- "But we have a problem when it comes to worship. ... **True worship is rare.**"
- "**Worship is as much an attitude as an activity," he added, "and the right heart allows intimacy with God."**

➤ **What is Worship?**

- We have been created for worship. According to what Paul wrote the Roman church, one of the chief sins of humanity is that as a whole, we have failed to acknowledge and worship God.
- **Romans 1:18-23** But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. 19 They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. 20 For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. 21 Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. 22 Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. 23 And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. NLT



► A.W. Tozer –“The reason why many are still troubled, still seeking, still making little forward progress is because they haven’t yet come to the end of themselves. We’re still trying to give orders, and interfering with God’s work within us.”

► The first time the word “**worship**” is mentioned in the scripture may surprise us!

► **Genesis 22:1-19 – The Sacrifice of Isaac**

► There is something that Bible scholars call the “law of the first mention”. This “law” simply states that if you select an important biblical word, you will find that its first appearance in the scriptures sets the tone for all the richness of its meaning throughout the rest of the Bible. In other words, the first mention gives us the clearest picture of the meaning of the word.



► The challenges for us when it comes to worship is often our mindset about worship!

► Genesis 22:1-2 Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am." 2 "Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."

► **Worship can be a test!**

► Answering the call!

► God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am."

► Your BEST "Yes I Will"

► Here I am!

► What is the Heart of Worship?

► **The heart of worship is SURRENDER.**

► 2 "Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."

► **We give ourselves to Him, not out of fear or duty, but because He is God!**

► **Psalm 100:3** Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. NLT

► **Isaiah 45:9-10** "What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, 'Stop, you're doing it wrong! Does the pot exclaim, 'How clumsy can you be?' 10 How terrible it would be if a newborn baby said to its father, 'Why was I born?' or if it said to its mother, 'Why did you make me this way?'" NLT

► **Surrender is an issue of Trust**

► **Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. NLT

➤ Worship Involves Cost!

- Vs.3 **The next morning Abraham got up early.** He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. **Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about.** 4 **On the third day of their journey,** Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.
- Sacrifice and Worship appear to be inseparable!
 - True worship is true sacrifice that requires our complete dedication before the Lord.
- There always seem to be journey involved!
 - The Bible is account of numerous people's journey in relationship to God and worship!
 - Worship appears to be a journey more than just an event!
 - What about the length of our journey and our worship?



➤ Worship sometimes requires separation.

➤ Vs.5 "Stay here with the donkey," Abraham told the servants. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back."

➤ The cost of worship!

➤ **The primary purpose of worship is not about us receiving blessings from the Lord but our acknowledgement God himself!**

➤ **Psalm 29:1-2** Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. 2 **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. ESV**

➤ Vs.6 So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, 7 Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?" 8 "God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together.

➤ **What do we love more than our love of or for God?**



► 2 Samuel 24:18-25 That day Gad came to David and said to him, "Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." 19 So David went up to do what the Lord had commanded him. 20 When Araunah saw the king and his men coming toward him, he came and bowed before the king with his face to the ground. 21 "Why have you come, my lord the king?" Araunah asked. David replied, "I have come to buy your threshing floor and to build an altar to the Lord there, so that he will stop the plague." 22 "Take it, my lord the king, and use it as you wish," Araunah said to David. "Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and you can use the threshing boards and ox yokes for wood to build a fire on the altar. 23 I will give it all to you, Your Majesty, and may the Lord your God accept your sacrifice. 24 But the king replied to Araunah, **"No, I insist on buying it, for I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing."** So David paid him fifty pieces of silver for the threshing floor and the oxen. 25 David built an altar there to the Lord and sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offerings. And the Lord answered his prayer for the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

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- ▶ If our worship cost us nothing it will not likely affect earth or heaven.
 - ▶ The O. T. worship, the Law, seems always to require something being brought to give. (sacrifice)
 - ▶ Romans 12:1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. NLT

▶ **Worship involves instruction!**

- ▶ God's directive to Abraham was clear!

► The **easy way or shortcuts** can be costly!

► He had brought 2 of his servants with him!

► He could have had them continue and carry the wood!

► This wasn't a place for spectators only participants

► 2 Samuel 6:3-10 They placed the Ark of God on a new cart and brought it from Abinadab's house, which was on a hill. Uzzah and Ahio, Abinadab's sons, were guiding the cart as it left the house, 4 carrying the Ark of God. Ahio walked in front of the Ark. 5 David and all the people of Israel were celebrating before the Lord, singing songs and playing all kinds of musical instruments—lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets, and cymbals. 6 But when they arrived at the threshing floor of Nacon, the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out his hand and steadied the Ark of God. 7 Then the Lord's anger was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him dead because of this. So Uzzah died right there beside the Ark of God. 8 David was angry because the Lord's anger had burst out against Uzzah. He named that place Perez-uzzah (which means "to burst out against Uzzah"), as it is still called today. 9 David was now afraid of the Lord, and he asked, "How can I ever bring the Ark of the Lord back into my care?" NLT



► The intent was right, the method was wrong!

► Look at 1 Samuel 6 – 7:2

► 1 Samuel 6:20 "Who is able to stand in the presence of the Lord, this holy God?" they cried out. "Where can we send the Ark from here?"

► 1 Samuel 7:2 The Ark remained in Kiriath-jearim for a long time—twenty years in all. During that time all Israel mourned because it seemed the Lord had abandoned them. NLT

► "They placed the Ark of God on a new cart" 2 Samuel 6:3

► Too often, we want a God that will not inconvenience us.