


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."

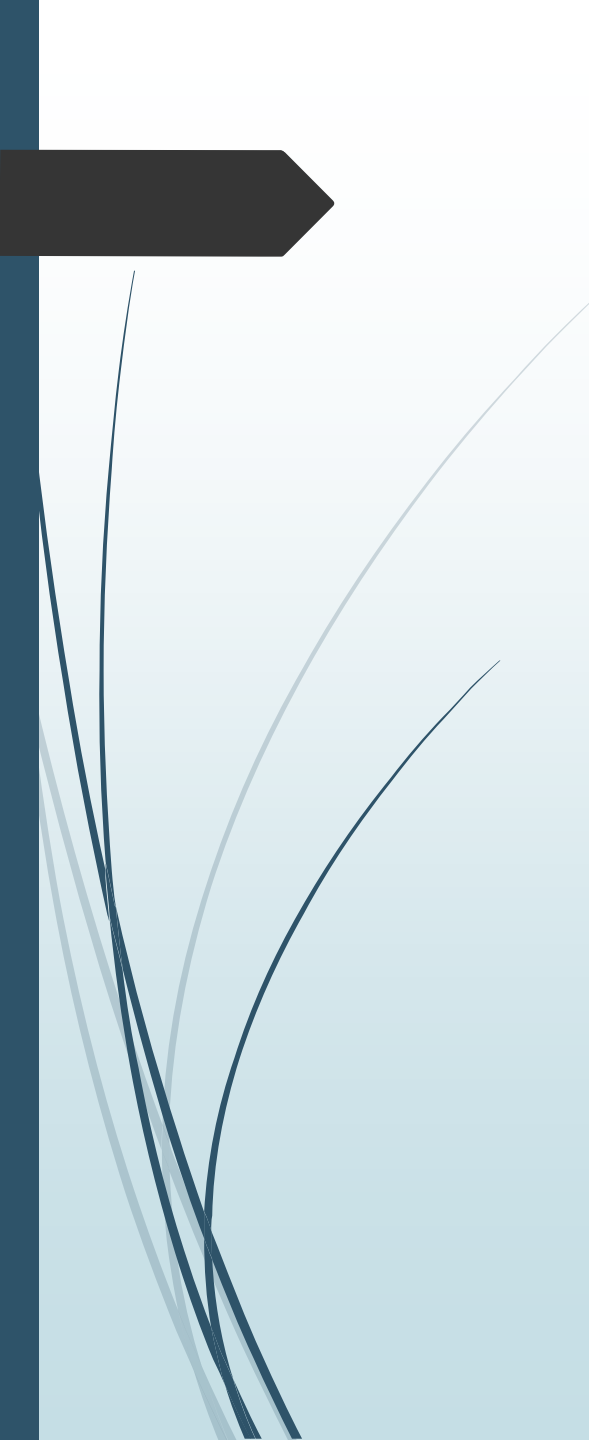
➤ The cost of worship!

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

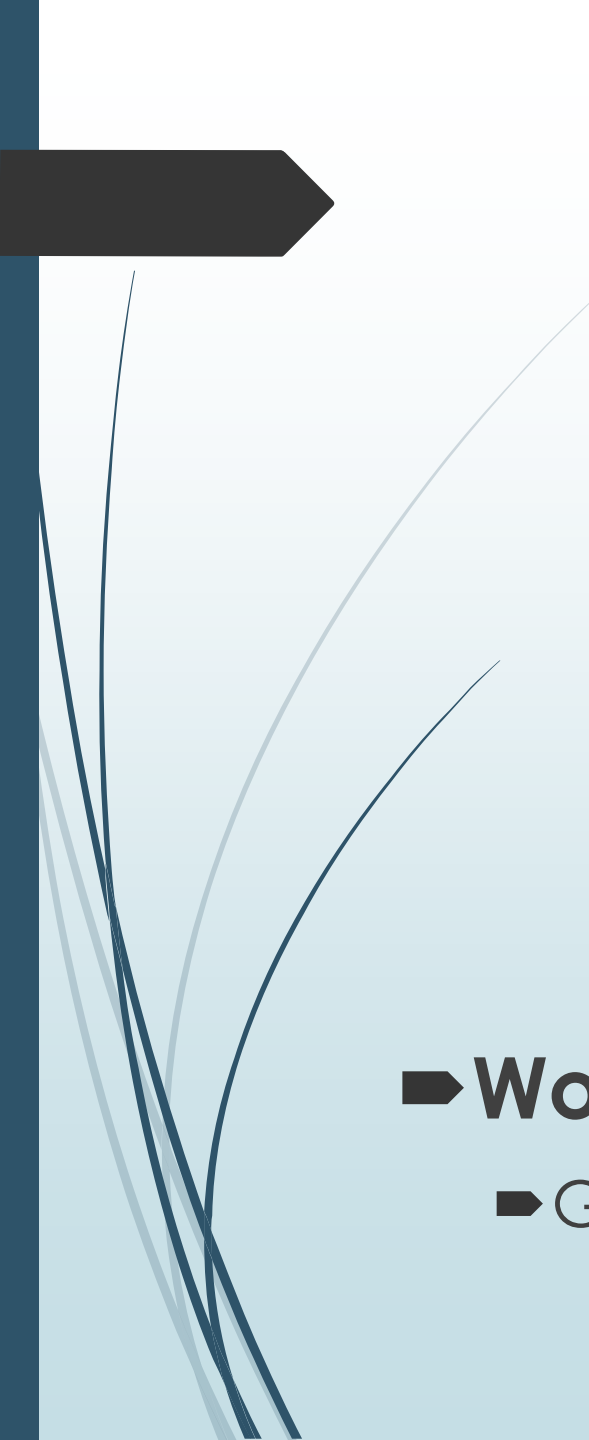
➤ **Psalm 29:1-2** Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. 2 **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. ESV**

➤ 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.


➤ **Worship, an encounter with the living and holy God.**

- Another definition of worship, "Recognizing who God is and responding to it."
- **Did Abraham know or understand something about who God is that we don't?**
- Hebrews 11:17-19 It was **by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him.** Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, 18 even though God had told him, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted." 19 Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead. NLT
- He went to worship and leave the details of how God would be faithful in His promises up to God. He would let nothing stand in the way of his worship of God.

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- ▶ Recognition of who God is often brings us into an encounter with Him!
 - ▶ Declaring of who “HE” is true worship! Declaring how I or we feel, or what I or we are going to do is me and us centered!
 - ▶ We can get caught in the trap of needing to be “served in worship”, but the truth is, if we have not taken into account the very purpose of worship, we have made it about something else.
 - ▶ Genesis 22:12 "Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son."
NLT
 - ▶ It was through true worship that God brought both provision and His declaration of purpose to Abraham!


► Encounter (Presence) and Declaration!

- **Genesis 22:15-18** Then the angel of the Lord called again to Abraham from heaven. 16 **"This is what the Lord says:** Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that 17 I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. 18 And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me." NLT
- **Exodus 3:5-8** "Do not come any closer," the Lord warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. 6 I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." **When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God. 7 Then the Lord told him,** "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. NLT




► **Isaiah 6:5-9** Then I said, "**It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man.** I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. 7 **He touched my lips with it and said, "See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven."** 8 Then I heard the **Lord asking**, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me." 9 **And he said, "Yes, go, and say to this people, NLT**

► **Daniel 8:15-20** As I, Daniel, was trying to understand the meaning of this vision, someone who looked like a man stood in front of me. 16 And I heard a human voice calling out from the Ulai River, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of his vision." 17 As Gabriel approached the place where I was standing, **I became so terrified that I fell with my face to the ground.** "Son of man," he said, "you must understand that the events you have seen in your vision relate to the time of the end." 18 While he was speaking, I fainted and lay there with my face to the ground. But Gabriel roused me with a touch and helped me to my feet. 19 **Then he said, "I am here to tell you** what will happen later in the time of wrath. What you have seen pertains to the very end of time. NLT



► **Luke 5:4-11** When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish." 5 "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." 6 And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! 7 A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking. 8 **When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm too much of a sinner to be around you."** 9 For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. 10 His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. 11 And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus. **Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!"** 11 And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

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► **Revelation 1:12-19** When I turned to see who was speaking to me, I saw seven gold lampstands. 13 And standing in the middle of the lampstands was someone like the Son of Man. He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest. 14 His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire. 15 His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves. 16 He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth. And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance. 17 **When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave. 19 "Write down what you have seen—both the things that are now happening and the things that will happen. NLT**



