



LOVE GOD

WORSHIP GOD

Spiritual Outcome Defined:

Desires and enjoys God above all else and displays this desire for God throughout one's daily life.

Spiritual Outcome Described:

Everybody worships. Everybody may not worship God, but everybody has something or someone they desire and crave above all else. That which is central is that which we worship. We may or may not worship the God we sing to on a given Sunday. As we sing, we may in fact be dreaming about and contemplating the true object of our worship: the next deal, the prospective spouse, the respect and admiration of others, etc. What is our central *hope*, that one thing we long for that will change everything if we get it? What is our central *love*, that one thing we could not lose or life would not be worth living? What is our central *trust*, that one thing we look to for strength and confidence in life? How we answer these questions reveals the object of our worship. God is looking for a people who will make him their ultimate *hope*, their ultimate *love*, and their ultimate *trust*. In short, he is looking for a group of people who will let him be their God, the object of their worship. He longs for this, not because he needs this from us, but because he knows we need him for our own wellbeing and satisfaction.

"EVERYTHING. THAT'S WHAT'S AT STAKE IN WORSHIP. The urgent, indeed troubling, message of Scripture is that everything that matters is at stake in worship." -- Mark Labberton

Many view worship as a lifeless ritual of singing songs at a church gathering. Jesus challenged such thinking when he quoted Isaiah, saying, "*These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me*" (Matthew 15:8). Gathering with a group of others to sing songs of worship is only authentic worship when God is that person's deepest and truest desire. A person may sing to God, but if that person's most central desire is about vocational advancement, financial gain, or relational satisfaction, then it is not true worship. True worship happens not only in the context of congregational singing, but it happens throughout one's week as we display with our every decision that which we truly value.

Evidence of this Spiritual Outcome in a Person's Life:

- A growing longing for the presence of God.
- Increased thoughts of God throughout one's day.
- Increased self-control as lesser desires are seen for what they truly are and are not.
- The presence of joy and peace despite challenging circumstances.

Guidance

Read each passage multiple times. Then write your observations about the passage and any thoughts you have from the discernment question. What do you notice in the passage, and what does this reveal about your life?

2 Chronicles 20:1-34

Observations:

Discernment Question: Jehoshaphat and his army entered into battle with worshippers leading the way. What do you do when life's battles war against you? What would it feel like and be like to enter life's battles in a spirit of worship? How could you do this authentically?

Psalm 27 (especially 27:4)

Observations:

Discernment Question: David's "one thing" (his most central desire) was to "gaze upon the beauty of the Lord." What's your "one thing"?



Psalm 73:25

Observations:

Discernment Question: Do you desire God as this Psalmist desires God? Why or why not? If not, what is it you desire (worship) above God?

Isaiah 29:13

Observations:

Discernment Question: How well are the words you say about God a reflection of the heart you feel toward God?



Jeremiah 2:12-13

Observations:

Discernment Question: How do you satisfy your soul thirst?

Luke 24:50-53

Observations:

Discernment Question: Does Jesus inspire worship from you? Why or why not?



John 4:13-24

Observations:

Discernment Question: Could your current relationship with God be described as a relationship that quenches your thirst or a relationship that makes you thirsty? Why?

Acts 2:46-47

Observations:

Discernment Question: How much do you value gathering with other follows of Christ, in both small and large groups, to praise God as a community? Is this value reflected in your practices?



Romans 12:1-2

Observations:

Discernment Question: How do the actions of your life display worship of God?

Colossians 3:15-17

Observations:

Discernment Question: Do you celebrate God?



Hebrews 12:28-29

Observations:

Discernment Question: Do you revere God? Does he regularly inspire awe in you?

Revelation 22:8-9

Observations:

Discernment Question: Are there any people or things you effectively fall down before in a way that should only be done with God?

Before moving on to the Next Steps, consider taking time to worship God, express gratitude to God, or celebrate God in a way that is genuine for you.



Next Steps

What are practical next steps you will do from what you have discovered in this survey of Scripture on worshipping God? Include insights offered from others in your group that could be applied in your own life as well.



Memory Verses:

Psalm 27:4 NIV

One thing that I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

Hebrews 12:28 NIV

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

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