

gracepoint

# EXTREME WORSHIP

EXTREME CHRISTMAS 2010  
DEVOTIONAL  
WEEK TWO

Monday 13 December 2010

## An appropriate response to God

Scripture readings:

*Psalm 29 vs 1-11*

*1 Corinthians 10 vs 31*

Worship is so much more than singing songs. It is more than physically falling to our knees before God. It is about our hearts bowing in reverence before the Almighty King moment by moment. It is a heart attitude and a lifestyle of response to all that God is and all that He has done.

We are often tempted to think that worship ends when the last notes of the song fade away, but really, that is when worship is just beginning. The way we choose to live, to love and to honour Him in all that we do is worship. Living with an awareness of Who God is and keeping our eyes fixed on Him, daring to draw near to Him and to live His way, obeying and following Him, loving Him with all our hearts – that is true worship.

When we have a real understanding and awareness of Who God is, we cannot help but respond with love, devotion, submission, praise and gratitude. We cannot but draw near and adore Him and give Him all the glory of which He is due, in song, in word, in deed and in thought – in all that we are.

*“Worship is all that we are, reacting to all that God is.” – Tom Inglis*

### **Extreme Worship Challenge 1:**

How can you ensure that worship is a way of life for you? May you be challenged to consider how you can glorify God in everything you do.

Tuesday 14 December 2010

## Created for worship

Scripture readings:

*Deuteronomy 6 vs 13*

*Psalm 22 vs 27-31*

*Revelation 15 vs 4*

We were created to worship. One of the primary reasons for our existence is to bring glory and honour to God. Because we were designed with worship in mind, our human nature intrinsically involves worship. Some worship material possessions. Some worship status and popularity. Some worship pleasure. We will always worship something, even if it ends up being ourselves, but none of these things can satisfy, because we were created to worship God alone and only He can fulfil our deepest desires.

Worship is not for our benefit; it is for God, to honour and glorify Him, but it is so like our loving God to make something that we do for Him become such a glorious experience for us as well. It is in worshiping that our minds and eyes are fixed on God and our perspective is restored. It is in living a lifestyle of worship that we can bring our hearts before God and know that He hears every cry and sees every tear. It is in worship that we can celebrate and rejoice in His goodness, and as we do, we become more like Him. Jack Hayford once said, "Worship changes the worshiper into the image of the One worshiped." May you be encouraged, as you choose daily to walk in worship, that as you do, you are being transformed into the likeness of Jesus.

### **Extreme Worship Challenge 2:**

Honestly examine whether you are fulfilling your purpose in terms of worshipping God with your whole life and being.

Wednesday 15 December 2010

## The will to worship

Scripture readings:

*Philippians 4 vs 4-7*

*Psalms 46*

*Hebrews 13 vs 8*

*Psalms 23 vs 4*

While worship is a natural outpouring of love in response to Who God is, when we find ourselves in difficult places, worship is not always the natural response of our hearts. Therefore, worship is an act of will. It is a decision that we make in every situation, with every breath, that God is worthy of our praise, no matter what our circumstances may be.

Paul urges us in Philippians 4 to always rejoice in the Lord. This is not a call to superficial happiness or glossing over hurt or difficulty and plastering on a fake smile. This is a call to rejoice in the knowledge that though the mountains crumble into the sea, our God is there, unchanged and eternal. It is a call to worship no matter what because God does not change and His love, mercy and grace remain unmoved, no matter what circumstances we may face. He is never any more or less worthy of our worship – He is the same, yesterday, today and forever – and even in the valley of the shadow of death we can know that He is there and that He remains eternally faithful.

### **Extreme Worship Challenge 3:**

Make the decision to choose to worship and to rejoice in God no matter what your circumstances. Decide that the attitude of your heart will always be one of reverence and awe as you look to God and live in His presence.

Thursday 16 December 2010

## A sacrifice of praise

Scripture readings:

*Exodus 20 vs 3*

*Jeremiah 33 vs 11*

*Hebrews 13 vs 15*

*Romans 12 vs 1-2*

In the dark moments of our lives, when things aren't going the way we think they should or we do not feel God's love and presence, worship becomes a sacrifice. There are times in which we do not feel like offering thanks to God or honouring Him. There are times when we are overwhelmed with anger or confusion – not with gratitude. In those moments, we need to bring Him a sacrifice of praise, knowing that God is still worthy of all glory, honour and devotion and that His promises remain. Worship isn't about us... it's all about Him.

We are called to daily, offer ourselves as living sacrifices to God to be used by Him according to His will and purposes. We are called to praise Him in every season because He is always worthy, no matter how we may feel.

*Job 1 vs 20-21:*

*“And Job arose, and tore his robe, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground and worshiped. And he said, I came naked out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.”*

### **Extreme Worship Challenge 4:**

Bring God a sacrifice of praise today, no matter how you may be feeling, simply because He is worthy.

Friday 17 December 2010

## Lighting up our world

Scripture readings:

*Matthew 5 vs 13-16*

Worship is our witness. When we choose a lifestyle of worship – one that truly honours God and seeks to give Him glory in all that we do – others will be impacted. When we live with a heart-attitude of reverence and awe towards God that says, “Your will be done, Lord” we will be like lights on a hill that cannot be hidden and who reveal, in the midst of the darkness, the face of Jesus to those around us. When we allow a lifestyle of worship to change us and transform us into the likeness of Christ, we will be able to bless others by our service and our testimony.

True worship means living with our eyes fixed on Jesus and our priorities aligning with His. It means more than singing or talking about doing things God’s way, but practically putting Him first in all that we do. As we live out worship and choose to bring Him glory, no matter what our circumstances may be; when we do these good works, others will see them and glorify our Father in Heaven.

*“When I worship, I would rather my heart be without words than my words be without heart.” - Lamar Boschman*

### **Extreme Worship Challenge 5:**

Take some time today to honestly evaluate the impact of your life. When others see the things you do and the way you live, do they see a light pointing them to Jesus or does your life just point to you?

Saturday 18 December 2010

## What you did for the least of these...

Scripture readings:

*Isaiah 1 vs 11-17*

*Matthew 25 vs 31-46*

*James 1 vs 27*

*1 John 3 vs 18*

Worship is expressed in our interactions and relationships with others and true worship works itself out in justice. In Isaiah 1 God speaks clearly about His hatred of religious gatherings that are ultimately selfish and superficial. True worship in His eyes is doing good and seeking justice in the world around us.

Worship is not an abstract concept. Jesus makes it clear that what we do for those around us, we are doing for Him. We may not be able to touch or see God, but part of true worship is reaching out and touching those we can see and embrace; simply loving and serving those around us.

*“Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it’s Christmas.”*

*– Dale Evans Rogers*

### **Extreme Worship Challenge 6:**

How can you practically take a stand for justice or do something about injustice in your world? Commit to taking the stand and making a difference