

Worship - The Highest Form of Prayer

1. What does the highest form of prayer mean?

- a. "Highest" means a place where we can experience the depth of God's presence in relation to the position we have.
- b. Prayer is communication with God:
 - i. Communication leads to communion.
 - ii. Communion is the union that comes from communication.
 - iii. Our communion comes from the co-union of God in Man and Man in God.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

*To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, **so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

- c. "Highest" is in relation to experiencing God from our position and calling.
 - i. What is our position before Him?
 - In Him, we have been crucified, died, buried, quickened (made alive), raised, and seated in heavenly places.
 - We are the righteousness of God.
 - We are the bride of Christ.
 - We are the beloved son or daughter of God – God's favorite,

2. What is worship?

- a. A probable derivative of the word - meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master.
John 4:23-24
*"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; **for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.** "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

3. Why does God seek after and respond to worship? What does worship express to God?

- a. Expresses reverence for who He is and how Holy He is.
- b. A longing and desire for Him – a shedding of inhibition of what others think.
- c. A recognition that there is something greater than self and self-desires.
- d. Demonstrates a voluntary submission.
- e. Humility to God – which is a place of entire dependence on God - a place where truth is revealed and accepted.
 - i. The purity of truth has no shadows or blinders by selfishness.
 - ii. All things are naked and open.
- f. A willingness to be exposed before God in your humanity and weakness.

4. What does humility do?

- a. Humility brings us higher. So what does it mean to be exalted?
 - i. Part of the definition centered around the experience of our position and the way God sees us.
 - James 4:10 – ...*humbles himself shall be exalted...*
 - Matt 23:11-12 – ...*humble your self as a little child...*

- Luke 14:11 - *For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*
- 1 Peter 5:6 - *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time...*

- b. Worship is not just an act that we do in a service:
 - i. Worship is a lifestyle – Rom 12:1-2
 - ii. Worship is an habit of those who experience God.

5. What are the results of worship and communion with God?

- a. Revelation of who God is and learning His ways.
- b. Dwelling with God, beholding Him, and becoming like Him.
- c. Softening and tenderizing one's heart.
- d. Grace being released in one's life.
- e. Acutely aware of the awesomeness of God - progressively.
- f. Understanding what, when, how, and where to pray?
- g. Praying from your position.

Examples

1. Moses

- Moses experienced God – Exodus (18-32)
- God speaks to Moses after Moses waited 6 days in His presence.
- The people would worship from a distance in the tent.
 - Exodus 24:15-16
 - Exodus 33: 13-18
 - Psalm 95:6-11

2. David

David was known for many things:

- Being a king, killing Goliath, being a priest, and bringing all the lands together.
- Dancing before the Lord in 2 Samuel 6 while bringing the ark into Jerusalem.
- David was the sweet psalmist of Israel.
 - 2 Samuel 23:1
 - 1 Chronicles 16
 - Psalm 27:4
 - Psalm 63:1-5
- He experienced the grace of God.
- He had a revelation from God.

3. Elders and Living Creatures around the Throne of God

- Revelation
- Reverence
- Accepting the truth
 - Revelation 4:4
 - Isaiah 66:1-2
 - Isaiah 57:15