

Vertical Pt 3

Vertical Worship

Isaiah 64:1 (NKJV)

Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence.

Review:

Week 1: Without God's manifest presence, we are completely, utterly, entirely lost.

Week 2: God alone fills the universal longing in the human heart.

Today: Worship makes a place for the glory of God.

John 4:7-10 (NIV)

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.^[a]) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" ¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." ¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." ¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." ²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

- **The PATTERN of Worship**

“Worship is pulling attention off our idols and putting it on God”

Tim Keller

Biblical Definition: *praise, adore, give weight worth/weight to*

OT: *To fall or prostrate yourself before someone on the ground (Illustrate with Volunteer) It’s a picture of subservience (people to people-weird/people to God- normal)*

NT: *to kiss towards, to kiss the hand, to give, to pay homage*

Psalm 29:1-2(NIV)

¹ Ascribe to the Lord, you 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 his holiness.

- To ascribe worth: “You are worth more, I am worth less” ...the magnification of God and minimization of self.
- When we elevate Christ’s worthiness, when we lift up His glory, we discover our greatest joy.
 - **We Find Our Weight in Worship**
- Been told they are worthless? Making ourselves worthless through worship is daunting. But God’s desire for us is to realize how much worth we have to and with Him instead of relying on self-worth. Self-worth will always be an up and down, roller coaster ride but His thoughts toward us never change. We find our worth when we give less ‘weight’ to ourselves and more ‘weight’ to Him.
- Only an all-sufficient God, who needs nothing, can sustain our worth. We are the apple of His eye, His pearl of great price, His great love and when we choose to worship Him, when we make ourselves “worth-less” And Him “worth-more” He will remind us of who we are in Him.

2 Kings 17:15 (NLT)

“They worshiped worthless idols, so they became worthless themselves...”

- **Greater Understanding leads to Greater Worship**
- Relationship requires understanding

John 4:21-22 (NIV)

²¹ “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.

“Worship what you do not know”

- Samaritans only used the first 5 books of the OT- Similarly this happens today when we just pick parts of the Bible that we like.
- **Idolatry: worship of anything that isn't God** [Family, possessions, careers, self]
- When we participate in worship without a clear understanding of God's truth it can turn into idolatry.
- God's not a buffet where we pick and choose the parts we like...we need the whole thing. If your life is only built around the parts of the Bible that you like, then that's idolatry.
 - **Relative Truth:** If truth is relative (subjective), each person is right in what they believe, regardless of the Bible, or of the belief of others. Humanism advocates the relativity of truth to the individual and his circumstances. (Stealing is wrong only if you believe it to be wrong; abortion is wrong only if it hurts your conscience, etc. To many the truth changes to fit the circumstances.)
 - **Absolute Truth:** The truth is not relative, but it is absolute (objective). Truth does not need my permission or consent to be truth. It is truth and will be truth with or without my acceptance or obedience.
- Jesus affirmed her interest but pointed her to deeper understanding. Worship isn't about sincerity alone. It's not just what I meant...it must be truth.
- When I grow in my understanding, I move from rightful intentions to rightful living. It's not just what I meant to do; it becomes who I am because it's who He is.

LifeGate Core Value: Our Passion for His Presence is Contagious

- **The PRIORITY of Worship**

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

- **God wants to be worshiped passionately**
 - Jesus statement here implies that there are worshipers that God seeks.
 - He loves all mankind perfectly, but when we choose to worship, we get His attention (similar to Cornelius in Acts). Ex. Toy soldiers who look the same but then one steps out.
- **Step out in worship**

What's keeping you from worshipping with your whole heart?

- Let's raise a standard against anything that would lessen our passion in worship (Unforgiveness, comfort, apathy)
- Not everyone's expression looks the same...redline who you are!

- It you get more excited about your hobbies and interests than the Lord than that's a problem.
- To be a church where the glory comes down, we must have unashamed adoration. I'm not drawing attention to myself but bringing my very best worship.

- **The POWER of Worship**

²⁴ *God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."*

- Worship requires that I fully engage: It can't just be a head thing: Shoulders Up. God wants us to be moved!! We don't sing about the Lord; we sing unto the Lord!
- It's bridge we all must cross...from your head to your heart. Let's commit to grow in our adoration!
- We worship in Spirit and Truth. We don't define what worship is and what it looks like— He does in His Word, the Truth. He says "shout unto the Lord; clap your hands all you people; kneel before Me; lift up holy hands; sing songs, hymns, spiritual songs; bow before me; be still and know; sing a new song; praise Him using musical instruments; etc.

Comfort/conformity: *"idol worshippers" are usually "idle worshippers*

Romans 12:1-2a NIV

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

- Let us be more concerned about offending God's Word than His Word offending us.
 - My life centers around "This is written...", not "This is how I feel."

That's worship!
- We respond to the promptings of His Spirit in worship. The Samaritans were defining worship by what made them comfortable. The Spirit will always challenge our comfort. When we choose our comfort over His prescribed worship then we are in idolatry!" We would rather sit, be quiet and simply be "idle". But His Spirit will prompt us, push us forward as into greater submission. Deeper worship!
 - Mind: allow God's thoughts to shape our thinking
 - Will: enables you to listen and focus as you worship
 - Lean in and set your heart to receive
 - Emotions: He must be worshiped with our emotions
 - He wants us to feel something
 - Scheduled and Spontaneous (songs of understanding and spiritual songs)

- **The PRACTICE of Worship**

- **Brings God Himself**

- Jesus is given His rightful place and He is enthroned on the praises of His people.
- God is everywhere but God is here!

Psalm 27:4(NIV)

⁴ One thing 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.

2 Chronicles 7:1-3 (NIV)

When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. ² The priests could not enter the temple of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled it. ³ When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the Lord above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, "He is good; his love endures forever."

Psalm 22:3 (NLT)

³ Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

- **Brings Salvation**

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 (TPT)

²⁴ But if everyone is prophesying, and an unbeliever or one without the gift enters your meeting, he will be convicted by all that he hears and will be called to account, ²⁵ for the intimate secrets of his heart will be brought to light. He will be mystified and fall face down in worship and say, "God is truly among you!"

- Look at what happens in a vertical church: Everyone is declaring the message of God and the unbeliever experiences the presence of God.
- This is why we can't go horizontal; we can't dial it back. If anything, we dial it up. Souls hang in the balance.

- **Brings Victory**

2 Chronicles 20:22 (NLT)

²² At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves.

- Look, God didn't give them a military strategy, it was a vertical strategy
- First and foremost, we need a Vertical worship strategy! Victory follows worship!

- Worship engages our faith and makes room for God to bring the victory
 - o **Brings Healing**

Malachi 4:2 (NLT)

² “But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings.^[a] And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.

Worship makes a place for the glory of God.

RESPONSE:

Practice His Presence

- o Commit yourself to all out adoration of Jesus and His glory.
- o When you pray, when you study the Word, when you join with other believers, prioritize His presence.
- o Take steps from shoulder-up worship to heart-up worship.

Acts 17:24-28 (MSG)

²⁴⁻²⁸ “The God who made the world and everything in it, this Master of sky and land, doesn’t live in custom-made shrines or need the human race to run errands for him, as if he couldn’t take care of himself. He makes the creatures; the creatures don’t make him. Starting from scratch, he made the entire human race and made the earth hospitable, with plenty of time and space for living so we could seek after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him. He doesn’t play hide-and-seek with us. He’s not remote; he’s near. We live and move in him, can’t get away from him!

Worship God in TRUTH: fully recognize His place both in the universe and in your own life.

Worship God in SPIRIT: give yourself fully to the kind of adoration that engages God and brings the glory down for all to see.