



DEFIANT Worship

Sept. 3, 2023 - Carissa Carter

DEFIANT Series Review:

- Week 1: **Intentional Faith**
- Week 2: Fighting the good fight and **keeping the faith** w/Big Lee
- Week 3 - **A Heart of Faith**
- Week 4: Mark 4 - (Soils) **Fruit of Faith**
- Week 5: **Defiant Faith** in **Serving**
- Week 6: Defiant Faith in **Giving**
- Week 7: Defiant Faith in **Praise & Prayer**

TODAY (Week 8)

- Defiant Faith in **Worship**. More than 30 minutes of singing in church.

WORSHIP - Old English word: "**worth-ship**" which means "**to give worth or value to something. This value is determined by what I'm willing to pay!**"

- To "Worship" is to **honor or show reverence**, as a divine being or supernatural power. And **to regard with great or extravagant respect**, honor, or devotion

"Worship is showing and recognizing the superior status of another."

- Nathan Finochio

"Worship is putting the value you hold for something on display."

- Zach Neese, *How to Worship a King*

- If worship is an outward display of things we value, name some things we tend to worship.

What is DEFIANT WORSHIP?

Defiant worship is **intentional and deliberate**. It is a daily lifestyle of submission and deciding ahead of time, to devote honor, respect, **value, and adoration of something/someone, regardless of the cost.** ("I'm committed to this, no matter what")

1). Defiant Worship is **INWARD**. It starts **in the heart** and is evident in who we are.

Pastor Jason: Our heart is the soil; the most fertile ground in the world. Whatever is put into our heart **will produce something**.

- What is your heart producing?

- Share an example of when your heart produced something that surprised you. What about something that disappointed you? Or something you were excited to see that your heart produced?

Deuteronomy 6:4-6 (NIV)

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God *with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength*. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

- **OT Heb word - Heart: Lebab** "the inner man; the understanding mind; the seat of appetites/passion"
- Commentary: Loving the Lord with your heart is **an affection that influences ALL our actions, in secret as well as in public.**

- Share an example of things we "love with all of our heart" that are not God.

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

"Above all else, *guard your heart*, for everything you do flows from it."

Jeremiah 17:10 (NIV)

"I the Lord *search the heart* and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve."

Matt 22:37 (NIV)

"Jesus replied: "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*" (Jesus is quoting that history-changing passage in Deuteronomy 6:4-6.)

Luke 6:45(NKJV)

"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

- **Greek word - Heart: kardía** - "the center of our being or the seat of intelligence. **It means to love the Lord with all volitional desire and choice.**
- **Commentary:** You shall love Him with **all thy faculties or powers**. You shall love HIM supremely, **more than ALL other beings and things**, and **with all the intense passion** possible. To love HIM with **ALL the heart** is to **fix the affections supremely on Him. More strongly** than on anything else, and **to be willing to give up ALL that we hold dear at HIS command ...**

Worship is not meant to be formed by what *feels good*, but by the light of what is *true*.

- Sam Storms

- Are we willing to give up all that we hold dear? We sing it, we say it, but do we mean it?

- Do we have the endurance to "fix our affections supremely on Him?" What does that mean?

Matt 15:7-8 (NLT)

"You who pretend to be someone you are not, Isaiah told about you (and) He said, 'These people show respect to Me with their mouth, but their heart is far from Me. Their worship of Me is worth nothing.'"

- **KJV: "in vain** - aimlessly, bearing no fruit
- It means these people can have **regular forms of worship** and **strict ceremonial observances**.
- **These people keep the law outwardly**, but God requires the heart, **and THAT, they have not rendered**. *The heart matters*

- What does Jesus mean when He says they "keep the law outwardly?"

2). Defiant Worship is **UPWARD (God-centered)**. It shifts our lifestyle and is evident in how we live.

Rom 12:1 (NKJV)

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies (whole being) a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*"

- **Rom 12:1 (MSG)** "So, here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering."
- "Offering or Living Sacrifice" GK "**thysia**" meaning offering your entire being and placing it before Him on **HIS terms**. (*There is no negotiating*)
- "*which is your reasonable* (logical) service" meaning: The only logical response in pleasing God, is to **give Him my entire being** - my whole life.
- Transformation won't happen if we don't actually DO something with our "good intentions".

- Spiritually speaking, can you relate to Carissa's gym membership analogy? Share.

James 1:22-24 (NIV)

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says**. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like."

HOW do we do what the Word of God says?

Mark 4:20 "Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop."

- **Hear it, accept it, and do something that bears fruit.**

We show up, we listen, we read the Word of God.

We accept it. We obey it. We show up.

We sit under sound, Biblical teaching. We accept it. We obey it.

We show up. We do life with other (solid) believers.

We show up. We get disciplined. We accept what needs to change. We obey it.

And come winter, rain, snow, or days hot enough to be at the lake, whether family in town visiting, or you've had a long day and are just "too tired" ...

We still make a decision to show up.

Because we decided a long time ago that HIS value is worth the cost.

- Are we ever tempted to look for loopholes in His word? Or excuses to justify our behavior?

3). Defiant worship is **OUTWARD**. It is evident in what we **do**.

- **Greek word in NT: Proskyneō** - to kiss the ground **when bowing down before a superior**; it suggests **the willingness to make all necessary physical gestures of obedience**- It is an action.
- **From Matthew to Revelation**, this act of bowing in submission to a superior **is used over 61 times**, implying that: **true, Biblical worship involves a full-body response.**

- Think of a special event or concert that you invested in and you didn't want to miss a single moment of it. What did you do to be ready? What did you have to say "no" to? Or say "yes" to?

- How does this translate to your worship of God?

John 4:23 (ESV)

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him."

- Worship in spirit: *"To say that we must worship God 'in spirit' means, among other things, that it must originate from within, from the heart; it must be sincere, motivated by our love for God and gratitude for all He is and has done. Worship cannot be mechanical or formalistic. That does not necessarily rule out certain rituals or liturgy. **But it does demand that all physical postures or symbolic actions must be infused with heartfelt commitment, faith, love, and zeal.**"* -Sam Storms
- Worship in truth: *"This is easier for us to understand, for it obviously means that our worship must conform to the revelation of God in Scripture. It must be informed **by who God is and what He is like**. Our worship must be rooted in and tethered to the realities of Biblical revelation. God forbid that we should ever sing heresy. **Worship is not meant to be formed by what feels good but by the light of what is true.**"* - Sam Storms

Defiant worship:

It is about what I inwardly choose to honor, to respect, what I give my time, my finances, and my passions to. It's what I choose to value.

This worship is not driven by feelings, experiences, denominational upbringing, or religious practices, BUT rather it has been birthed in my heart, the seat and center of my entire being. This worship then moves upward from my heart into my God-centered lifestyle.

It drives ALL my decision-making. In all my “yeses” and my “no’s,” defiant worship demands that the only acceptable and reasonable response is for me to offer Jesus my ALL.

Then and ONLY then, in full submission of my entire being, can I choose to worship Him through outward expression that is fueled by Spirit and founded in Truth.

What is my response to this call to Defiant Worship?

- Repent and re-surrender
- Acknowledge that I don't trust that God has my best interest in mind, repent, and ask for His help to trust Him
- Acknowledge that I consider it “too costly” or “too painful” or “too risky” to fully trust God with my entire heart (worship)
- Reflect on His goodness all these years, acknowledging again that He is worthy of any and all cost, and ask Him for renewed strength to keep up the good fight for Defiant Faith