

Back 2 Basics: Christianity 101

Worship

What is worship?

Isaiah 6:1-8 (CSB)

*In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. **2**Seraphim were standing above him; they each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. **3**And one called to another: Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth. **4**The foundations of the doorways shook at the sound of their voices, and the temple was filled with smoke.*

Isaiah 6:1-8 (CSB)

5*Then I said: Woe is me for I am ruined because I am a man of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips, and because my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Armies. **6**Then one of the seraphim flew to me, and in his hand was a glowing coal that he had taken from the altar with tongs. **7**He touched my mouth with it and said: Now that this has touched your lips, your iniquity is removed and your sin is atoned for. **8**Then I heard the voice of the Lord asking: Who will I send? Who will go for us? I said: Here I am. Send me.*

Background Isaiah

- Isaiah means “YHWH is Salvation.”
- Time: Late 700s BC,
- Assyrian empire began a policy of expansion and conquest.
- Isaiah declares God’s message to the people of Judah who are facing Assyrian invasion. Because of their rebellions and idolatry, the kingdom of Judah will be destroyed – even though individuals can still repent and seek the Lord.
- Judgement and hope in the Messiah.

1. Worship doesn't depend on everything around us going well.

- **Rampant idolatry**
- **Death of King Uzziah**
- Worship must be free of conditions!
- *If I put conditions on my worship, I will never worship.*
- Worship acknowledges God as central.
- Is God central to your worship?
- When things are going badly, am I still available to God? Is God still the center of my life?

2. Worship begins with God's glory and holiness.

- 6:1b -3
- *Seated on high, lofty throne* (God's authority)
- *Hem of robe filled temple.* (God's victory)
- Although Uzziah has died, LORD is ever-reigning and ever victorious!
- Seraphim call out: Holy, Holy, Holy!
- Holy = Set Apart. There is NONE like HIM.
- True worship recognizes God's glorious grandeur and holiness. It extols God for being God!

3. Worshipful hearts have an awareness of their sin and an appreciation for God's pardon.

- 6.5
- *“Man approaches God most nearly when he is in one sense least like God. For what can be more unlike than fullness and need, sovereignty and humility, righteousness and penitence, limitless power and a cry for help?” C.S. Lewis*
- To Deny my sinfulness is to shrink my capacity to receive God's mercy.
- The one who has been forgiven little, praises little. But the one who has been forgiven BIG, praises BIG.
- 6.6-7. purified by a hot coal. Lips are now ready to declare God's holy message. His iniquity is removed, sin atoned for.

4. Worship prepares us to live a life on mission.

- 6.8.
- Isaiah comes away from an encounter with God totally surrendered to the Lord's will.
- Worship prepares us to live a life for God on mission.
- Here I am! Send me!

What is worship?

- Worship is the unconditional extolling of God for His glory and holiness. Worship is animated by contrition for our sin and gratitude for God's pardon. Worship conditions us for better service to the Lord.