

An Audience of One
Looking Up & Looking Out Message Series Week 2
Pastor Jeff Burkholder
January 15, 2023

How do we experience meaningful, God-honoring worship?

- A. We worship in spirit and truth.** (John 4:19-24;
Colossians 3:16; Psalm 100)

Spirit = heart, passion, emotion

Truth = Scripture, Bible, doctrine

“You see, the effect of purely emotional activity is that people get a good feeling. The effect of the truth is that they worship God. Truth is *always* at the heart of authentic worship. Every kind of enthusiasm or emotion that is not inseparably linked to the truth is ultimately meaningless.”

John MacArthur, *Worship: The Ultimate Priority*,
Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL, 2021. p. 163.

“Your heart and mind require a good, balanced diet of gospel truth that will build you up for your working week, your times of trial, and for each season of life. The lyrics of the songs we sing in our churches and repeat in our hearts find their way into shaping our priorities, our behavior, our loves...into the quiet space (or not so quiet, if you have kids) of the car journey on a Monday morning, into the language of our prayers as we fall asleep.”

Keith and Kristyn Getty, *Sing! How Worship Transforms Your Life, Family, and Church*, B&H Publishing Group,
Nashville, TN, 2017, p. 37.

- B. We worship for an audience of One.** (Psalm 149:1;
Colossians 3:17; Ephesians 5:19)

C. We worship in the midst of suffering. (Job 1:20-21)

“We won’t always be moved in the same way or to the same degree when we sing. There may be times when we feel numb. But the answer isn’t to stop singing. Crying out to God for grace to feel strong affections toward him is itself a sign of a true worship. And certainly more fruitful than gritting our teeth and accepting that condition as normal. Singing can be the very means God uses to touch our hearts and move us toward faith again.”

Bob Kauflin, *True Worshipers: Seeking What Matters to God*, Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2015, p. 117.

D. We worship in the holiness of Jesus. (Hebrews 13:11-15)

“When we’re convicted of our sin and respond by confessing it to God and resting in what Christ has done, we have every reason to sing! That’s not being a hypocrite—that’s living in the good of the gospel.”

Bob Kauflin, *True Worshipers: Seeking What Matters to God*, Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2015, p. 119.

“The gospel is not merely one of many possible themes we can touch on as we come to worship God. It is the central and foundational theme. All our worship originates and is brought into focus at the cross of Jesus Christ.”

Bob Kauflin, *Worship Matters*, Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2008, p. 72.