

# Real Worship

*Setting Aside Preference and Submitting to the Bible*

## Why is Our Worship So Word-Oriented? pt. 2

*Pastor Brad Bigney / Sunday, May 20, 2012 / Grace Fellowship Church*

### I. It's God's Word that Will Keep Us from Going through the Motions of a Dead Worship Service

**Hebrews 4:12** “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

**Deuteronomy 8:3** “... man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.”

**Deuteronomy 32:46-47** “... Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day... They are not just idle words for you—they are your life.”

**I Timothy 4:13** “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”

There's no power in drums, style of music, candles, incense or stained glass windows. The power is in God's Word. Without it we have nothing.

### II. It's God's Word that Will Keep You Changing and Growing for a Life-Time

It's not accountability that will produce the most fruit and change in your life. It's the power of God's Word exploding in the chambers of your heart and changing you from the inside out that makes the biggest difference!

**2 Peter 1:2-4** “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup> as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, <sup>4</sup> by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

The process of our change is centered around God's Word because a changed life starts with changed thinking. God's Word was designed to RENEW our minds.

**Romans 12:1-2** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

**Ephesians 4:17-24** “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, <sup>18</sup> having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; <sup>19</sup> who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. <sup>20</sup> But you have not so learned Christ, <sup>21</sup> if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: <sup>22</sup> that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup> and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

Our minds get cluttered and bogged down with the lies of Satan, the deception of our own hearts, and the nonsense that the world bombards us with on a regular basis. The way to untangle and renew your mind is to download Scripture.

Doctors **Avi Karni** and **Leslie Ungerleider** of the National Institute of Mental Health did a fascinating study asking subjects to perform a simple motor task—a finger-tapping exercise. And so as the subjects tapped, the doctors conducted an MRI to identify which part of the brain was being activated by tapping. And they practiced this finger-tapping exercise DAILY for 4 weeks. And at the end of 4 weeks a brain scan was repeated. And in every instance... it showed that the area of the brain involved in the task had expanded. That simple finger-tapping exercise literally recruited new nerve cells and rewired neuronal connections. (taken from *In a Pit With a Lion On a Snowy Day*, Mark Batterson. P.46)

When you read and hear Scripture, you're not just wasting your time. You're recruiting new spiritual cells and rewiring connections that have gotten twisted and gnarled so that you can't even think straight any more.

Through God's Word we get a whole new operating system that reconfigures our mind so that we can think Christ's thoughts instead of our own.

**Colossians 3:2-4** "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

### III. It's God's Word that Will Give You Hope and Help You to Persevere

Life is hard. But the promises of God will sustain you in those hard times and give you hope to keep going when you don't think you can take another step or fight another fight or resist another temptation.

God did not design the Christian life for you to live in your own strength... with your own wisdom. You can NOT do it.

**Psalm 119:28** "My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your word."

**Psalm 119:50** "This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life."

**Psalm 119:92** "If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction."

**Psalm 119:147** "I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word."

Only the word of God has the power to keep you going when life grinds you down.

"Christians in the West are weakened by wimpy worldviews. And wimpy worldviews make wimpy Christians. God is weightless in our lives. He is not terrifyingly magnificent. His sovereignty is secondary (at best) to his sensitivity. What is missing is the Bible. I mean the whole Bible, with its blood and guts and sins and horrors—and all of it under the massive hand of God. The hand whose fingers flick stars into being. The hand that gives life and takes it. The hand that rules everything. Everything. What we need is to know the great things about God. Knowing great things about God will help make us ready not to collapse under cataclysmic conflict and personal catastrophe." *Spectacular Sins*, John Piper, pgs 13, 14

Our worship is word-focused to help you keep from collapsing under cataclysmic conflict and personal catastrophes!

**Romans 15:4-6, 13** "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. <sup>5</sup> Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... <sup>13</sup> Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

### IV. It's God's Word that Gives You Freedom and Helps You Make Sense Out of Life

**John 8:32** "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

**John 17:17** "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."

**Psalm 107:10-14, 19-20** "Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, bound in affliction and irons— <sup>11</sup> because they rebelled against the words of God, and despised the counsel of the Most High, <sup>12</sup> therefore He brought down their heart with labor; They fell down, and there was none to help. <sup>13</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. <sup>14</sup> He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their chains in pieces. <sup>19</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. <sup>20</sup> He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions."

The Bible gives us everything from our origin in Genesis 1 & 2 to our ultimate destiny in Revelation 22. God – through His Word – invites us to look in, listen to and look at our own lives to make sense out of what so often seems like chaos. But when you read God's Word, you realize it's not chaos!

"This Word is a hitchhiker's guide to the whole cosmos —especially life on one amazing blue planet. The text seems true to our human nature and our desires for love, mercy, connection, meaning, and glory. In its pages we find three-dimensional people like ourselves, with wavering faith, mixed motives, pride, and jealousy, at times humility and regret. The stories are gritty, honest, surprisingly unedited, and filled with real-life detail. It's full of the stuff we're full of." *A Faith and culture Devotional*, Kelly Monroe Kullberg and Lael Arrington, pgs 77, 78

There's a God who created you with dignity and purpose. And God's Son became the God-Man who lived and died and rose again for us.