

# Worship God

## ***What Does Whole-Hearted Worship Look Like?***

### **Part 1 – Singing**

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When you turn to the Bible you'll see a picture of worship that's high octane, active, passionate, and participatory.

Worship, by definition, is our response to God for all that we're seeing of who He is and what He's done for us. It's personal. And when it's personal it should be passionate!

#### **I. Real Worship Starts With A Personal Salvation Story**

“An emaciated gospel leads to emaciated worship. It lowers our eyes from God to self and cheapens what God has accomplished for us in Christ. The biblical gospel, by contrast, is like fuel in the furnace of worship. The more you understand about it, believe it, and rely on it, the more you adore God both for who He is and for what He has done for us in Christ. ‘Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!’ Paul cried (Rom. 11:33), and it was because his heart was full of the gospel.”

- Greg Gilbert, *What is the Gospel?*

When you know what He's done for you and you keep it on the front burner of your life, you erupt regularly with spontaneous praise and worship.

In **1 Timothy 1:12-17**, Paul never got over our great God and this great gospel that had changed his life forevermore. It was personal, so he was passionate all the way to the end.

#### **II. Real Worship Has Always Included Singing**

**Job 38:4-7** “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. <sup>5</sup>Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup>To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, <sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

At the very moment of creation there was a response of worship and singing!

“Morning stars” and “sons of God” are references to angels who couldn't help themselves. The angels sang and shouted for joy while God tossed the complexity of a universe into place with nothing more than His spoken word!

There are more than **50** different words that are used in the Bible in the Hebrew language to talk about praise and singing. And one of them is “tehillah.” It literally means “a loud song of praise that expresses the glory and honor due His name.”

**Psalm 40:2-3** “He also brought me out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. <sup>3</sup>He has put a new song in my mouth – praise (*tehillah*) to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the Lord.”

**Psalm 34:1** "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise (*tehillah*) shall continually be in my mouth."

There are **575** references to praise, singing, and music in the Bible. Christianity is a singing religion and has been from the very beginning because there are more than **300** commands in the Bible to sing.

Singing is not optional or some kind of personal preference where you say, “I’ll take Christianity, thank you, but I’ll pass on all the singing.”

**Revelation 15** gives us a song that’s all about God and what He has, once and for all, done to fulfill all of His promises.

**Revelation 15:2-4** “And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. <sup>3</sup>And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, ‘Great and amazing are Your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations! <sup>4</sup>Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. All nations will come and worship You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed.’”

### III. Singing Is A Choice That Can Lead To A New Feeling

So many people think that singing is only for when you feel like singing. But that can’t be the case or there wouldn’t be so many commands to sing. Singing doesn’t just express how you feel, but can change how you feel.

God knows that singing is a powerful way to drive home God’s truth to your heart.

**Colossians 3:15-16** “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

In **v. 16**, Paul says you’ve got to have the Word of God dwelling in you richly and one of the best ways to do that is to sing it in!

“One of my favorite tools to use with those who are feeling overwhelmed by life is to sing worship songs out loud... [because] when you’re singing [biblical songs] you are reciting solid truth to yourself... [A] person can become so overcome by memories, feelings of guilt, and even flashbacks that the voices inside their head are very loud. Singing out loud helps them to drown out their own voices going on inside.”

– Ernie Baker, *Trauma-Informed Counseling*

### IV. Singing Can Clarify And Amplify The Truth You Say You Believe

“Music has a peculiar power. Music infuses words with a dynamic energy that merely speaking them could never achieve... Singing evokes an intensity of mind and spirit. It opens the door to ideas, feelings, and affections that otherwise might have remained forever imprisoned in the depths of one’s heart. Singing gives focus and clarity to what words alone often make fuzzy...Nothing else can do for me what music does. It bathes otherwise arid ideas in refreshing waters. It empowers my wandering mind to concentrate with energetic intensity.”

– Sam Storms, *The Singing God*