

Worship God

What Does Whole-Hearted Worship Look Like?

Part 2 – Bowing | Kneeling

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I. Bowing Shows That You Know You're Not In Control

Kneeling, bowing, and being prostrate are postures of humility, surrender, and weakness rather than authority and control. That's why it's appropriate for us to take this posture in relationship to our God.

Revelation 4:1-11 shows you what the throne room of God Almighty looks like.

As you get a glimpse of God, not just as our Father, but as our King, ruling and reigning over all, you'll see the word "throne" **14x** and the name "Lord God Almighty" **9x** in this one chapter, which is why the human elders fall down before Him knowing that He is in control and they are not.

We resist coming to grips with this. No matter how many times the world spins out of control, we still try to predict what's going to happen next, because we want to control what happens next and refuse to acknowledge just how weak, dependent, and out of control we really are.

"People facing immediate danger want to hear an authoritative voice they can draw assurance from; they want to be told what will occur, how they should prepare, and that all will be well. We are not designed, it seems, to live in uncertainty...Not only do we want knowledge of the future, we want it when we want it...At some level, people must be thinking that the more they learn about what is predetermined, the more control they will have. This is an illusion. Human beings want to feel that they are on a power walk into the future, when in fact we are always just tapping our canes on the pavement in the fog."

- Mark Lilla, "No One Knows What's Going to Happen"

You'll never be in control no matter what you listen to or how much money you spend, but you can know and trust in the One who is in control and that will change your life!

II. Bowing Shows That We Know What's He's Done

Revelation 4 shows us that God is Almighty and is in control, but **Revelation 5:6-14** shows us what He's done for us to solve our biggest problem.

In the book of Revelation, Jesus is referred to as "the Lamb" **28x**.

All of the major themes that run through Revelation are related to "the Lamb." You'll see the "blood of the Lamb," the "bride of the Lamb," the "marriage supper of the Lamb," and a throne that is called the "Throne of God and of the Lamb."

Not once, but twice, the human elders fall down and worship Him and praise Him for doing for them what no one else could do.

In **v. 9**, we read that He was slain! By His blood He ransomed people for God from every tribe, language, people, and nation!

Revelation 5:9 "...for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation..."

III. Bowing Shows That You Long For What He Can Do

In **Ephesians 3:14-21**, Paul gets down on his knees to thank God for what He's done, but then he begins to sing and shout as he gets caught up in what God might yet do!

Ephesians 3:20-21 "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

- How did Paul go from praying to soaring and singing?

It happened as he was gripped with the fact that the power of God goes beyond what we can imagine. And the love of God goes beyond what we presently experience.

God has more for you! You have not plumbed the depths of His love for you and you have not tapped into all the power that He has for you.

Bowing acknowledges that He's in control, it acknowledges what He's done, and it points you in the direction of what He could yet still do! Bowing gets you ready for where we're headed, because whether you ever do it now, you will do it on that final day!

Philippians 2:10-11 "... that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."