

**Greenslopes Baptist Church**  
**Series: Choices**  
**Choose a life of Worship**

One of the primary purposes of all believers is to worship God

But, just because worship is a familiar and frequently mentioned subject, most of us don't fully engage in all that is Biblical. So, what is worship?

Formal definitions refer to worship as "expressions of reverence and adoration"

Some Christians see worship as an occasional activity such as singing songs at Church on Sunday mornings.

I believe the Bible teaches that worship should be seen as an attitude that underlies all that we do, say, think and live for as a Christian.

Another way of describing Worship is "all that brings glory to God."

According to the first question in the Westminster Shorter Catechism "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever."

So, Worship is more than singing Hymns or contemporary songs; It is a lifestyle.

Worship is something we can do both individually and corporately.

- Alone, personal and intimate, in a peaceful location, silent, still, waiting, meditating and listening, aware of, and basking in God's presence.
- Or in a large group, with thousands of others, celebrating all of God's attributes and goodness with instruments, shouting, and noisy celebration.

We can engage in worship at all times and situations

- In times of Celebration and a heart of thanksgiving
- When in distress or trouble
- When we feel shame and sorrow over our sin, failure or even tragedy. After king David was confronted with his sins resulting in the death of his baby son...  
*Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped.* <sup>2Sam 12:20</sup>
- Worship can also be regular Sunday church attendance, and giving of our finances
- Worship can be formal or organic, organised or unstructured

True worship happens when-

**A/ We have a revelation of who God is:**

His divine character, His power, Omnipresence, authority, Holiness, Justice, compassion, love etc)

- *Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness.* <sup>1Chron 16: 29</sup>

- Phil 2:<sup>9</sup> *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,* <sup>10</sup> *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,* <sup>11</sup> *and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

### **B/ What God has done, what he does and will do:**

God's plan of salvation, His provision, care, love, protection, leading-  
He saves, forgives, provides, loves, protects, encourages, sustains, refreshes, disciplines, grows, and has a place prepared for us.

- *"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."*

Rev 4:11

- *Oh, praise the greatness of our God!* <sup>4</sup> *He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just.* <sup>Deut 32: 3</sup>

### **C/ Our response is expressed**

#### **There are many ways we can express worship**

##### **Speaking phrases of adoration**

Eg Reciting Scripture, Liturgy, Creeds, statements of belief, poetry

*I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.* <sup>Ps 34:1</sup>

##### **Shouting**

*Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.* <sup>Ps 27:6</sup>

##### **Singing**

*Sing praises to God, sing praises to our King, sing praises.* <sup>Ps 47:6</sup>

##### **Postures that express reverence or adoration**

Such as Bowing, kneeling, standing, sitting, dancing and leaping for joy, undignified exuberance

*Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the LORD with all his might* <sup>2</sup>

Sam 6: 14

*Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."* <sup>Heb 12: 28-29</sup>

##### **With Musical accompaniments**

*Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skilfully, and shout for joy.* <sup>Ps 33:2,3</sup>

##### **Clapping**

*Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.* <sup>Ps 47:1</sup>

##### **Hands Raised**

*I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.* <sup>Ps 63:4</sup>

##### **Giving**

*As the offering began, singing to the LORD began also, accompanied by trumpets and the instruments of David king of Israel. The whole assembly bowed in worship, while the musicians played and the trumpets sounded* <sup>2Chr 29: 27-28</sup>

## Acts of service

### Quiet reflection or “chatting” with God

Eg Psalm 139

### Why should we Worship?

- God doesn't change, even when we and our circumstances do.
- He is always good and worthy of our praise and worship
- Worship recalibrates our life
- Worship renews our perspective
- Worship refreshes our hope

### Worship that Pleases God is:

#### EXCLUSIVE

*It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only. Luke 4:8*

#### HONEST

Hannah's deep anguish as she prayed for a child 1Sam 1:10-11

#### PURE AND SURRENDERED

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.* <sup>Rom 12:1</sup>

#### OBEDIENT

Abraham considered obeying God's command to sacrifice Isaac as an act of worship <sup>Gen 22:5</sup>

#### INTIMATE

Sharing our deepest desires, hurts, doubts, fears and hopes

*Give him things that are so raw and so honest that they wouldn't mean anything to anyone else. -Bill Johnson*

#### HUMBLE

*God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble.* <sup>Jam 4:6</sup>

#### COSTLY

Giving to God when we don't have surplus

The widow's who gave her last coins <sup>Mark 12:4</sup>

David refused to give an offering to God that did not cost him anything <sup>2Sam 24:24</sup>

*I need to take the pain of loss, confusion and disappointment and hold them really close to my heart and in that context, give God praise. In heaven, I won't have any confusion, pain, loss, disappointment, the only opportunity that I have in all of my existence to give Him an offering that cost me that is now. -Bill Johnson*

#### AT TIMES UNCOMFORTABLE

Worshipping in ways that are Biblical but outside our comfort zone

**OFTEN INCONVENIENT**

Choosing to worship even when we don't "feel like it"

**BOTH SPIRIT AND TRUTH IN ORIGIN**

*God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.* <sup>John 4:24</sup>

**Questions**

1. What ways of worshipping do you resist?
2. When and how do you worship other than at church?
3. How could you grow in worship as a lifestyle and not merely a Sunday activity?
4. Do you generally worship God because of who He is or what He has done?