

A Life of Worship

Romans 12:1-2

1/16/05

Intro

Many people are so often limited in their walk of faith. Perhaps it's because they don't understand that a **walk of faith** is a **life of worship**.

A life of faith is connected to a **Life of Worship**.

Worship means a lot to me. I am a musician and love to play many different instruments, but worship is of course, so much more than music.

Illus – Someone was once talking to one of these kids who was into “punk.” One of the things he said is very instructive, he said, “Punk is not music, it’s a lifestyle.”

How much more so should that be true of worship?

DEF of worship: whatever you do, do it as a gift for the Lord

Romans 12:1-2 – your spiritual service of worship

These, then, are the principles of living a life of worship.

I. Believe What God Can Do

A. Be a man of vision

- In faith, a visionary is someone who believes that God is able to do wonderful things.
- It's confidence in God's power.
- It's about believing in what God can do, not what I can do.

1 Samuel 17:40- 47 – David's faith was greater than Goliath.

II Samuel 22: 34-35– He makes my feet like *hind's* feet, and sets me on high places. He trains my hands for battle, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.”

B. Believe in God's resources

- When Abraham went up Mount Moriah to worship God, Isaac asked him why he did not have a lamb for the sacrifice. “God Himself will provide,” he said. <Jehovah Jireh>
- **We must believe that God will provide and trust that He will accomplish that which he has called us to do.**
- **“Where God guides, God provides,”** as we so often say.

Isaiah 22:22-24, “Then I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder, when he opens no one will shut, when he shuts no one will open. I will drive him like a peg in a firm place, and he will become a throne of glory to his father's house. So they will hang on him all the glory of his father's house...”

Illus – God open the doors, but we must knock.

Illus- How God provided my way through bible college.

C. Do not strive in the flesh

- There is an old saying that some people think is actually in the bible...

Illus – “God helps those who help themselves...” Not so, it would be much more accurate to say, “God helps those who worship Him.”

Psalm 121:1-2, “I will lift up my eyes to the hills --where does comes my help from? My help comes from the Lord, maker of made heaven and earth.”

Illus – Hudson Taylor learned the greatest spiritual secret, “rest in Jesus Christ.”

John 15:5, "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

II. Worship Him in Times of Trouble

A. Our faith grows with our problems

- God uses the fires in our lives to make us mightier men.
- We can be measured by the size of the problems we can manage.

Illus – Before David faced Goliath, God had first allowed him to face a lion and a bear; then after Goliath ...

Illus – Shimei and David

Jeremiah 12:5, “If you have run with footmen and they have tired you out, how then can you run with the horses? If you fall down in a land of peace, what will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?”

Habakkuk 3:17-18, “Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold and there be no cattle in the stalls, yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.”

B. Stay faithful in the little things

- As we are faithful in the little things, God begins to trust us with the greater things.
- Stay on the course of righteousness in times of trouble. Trust that God will work everything out to His glory.

Luke 16:10, “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.”

Luke 19:17, “And He said to him, ‘Well done, good servant, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, be in authority over ten cities.’”

C. Prepare for problems

Illus – I was speaking to a friend who was frustrated at the lack of progress in his life, “Excellence will cost you something,” I said. He loved to spend many hours playing computer games.

Illus – Ronald Reagan used to carry around a large stack of index cards of quotes that he memorized.

- **It has to do with the inputs we have in our lives.**

Proverbs 23:7 “As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.”

- **It has to do with our commitment to God’s Word.**

Colossians 3:16, “Let the Word of Christ dwell within you richly.”

Illus – Eleazar the Son of Dodo, one of David’s mighty men, clung to the sword with such determination that they had to pry it out of his hand.

III. Worship Him Through Godly Character

A. Let your life always be with grace

- **I don’t know of anything more important for a way of life.**

Colossians 4:6, “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned as it were with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.”

Psalm 19:14, “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.”

B. Accomplish godly ends though godly means

II Cor 10:3-7a – let us not battle according to the flesh

Illus – Spiritual lessons from professional wrestling. ;>)

- **Don’t use worldly means to accomplish a spiritual end (spiritual purpose).**

Illus – When talking to spouses who struggle with criticism, I try to get them to see that they are using the flesh to try to bring about change that is godly. This doesn’t work.

C. Let God do the promoting

- **God operates the kingdom of God in a paradox.**
- **God uses those who are servants to lead.**

Matthew 20:25-28, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; whoever desires to be first among you let him be last; and whoever desires to become great among you, let him be least and the servant of all; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Conclusion

We must not mistake that the means of worship is worship itself. What God desires is our heart.