



The following notes are from a sermon Pastor Wayne Flowers gave at Smythe Street Church on Sunday September 29th, 2019

My topic today is “The Heart of Worship”

We are wired for worship!!

The question is not **if** you will be a worshipper, but who or what **are** you worshipping!

- We cannot help but worship something.
- Worship is our response to what we value most.
- What we worship determines our actions.

With every breath and every action we are proclaiming what is worthy of our affection, our time, our attention and our allegiance.

I like what Pastor Louie Giglio said:

How do we know where and what we worship?

You simply follow the trail of your time, your affection, your energy, your money and your loyalty. At the end of the trail you will find a throne. Whatever, or whomever is on that throne is what is of highest value to you. On that throne is what you worship.

I am going to give you 2 very important things Jesus said about worship.

The first this Jesus had to say about worship is this...

Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” Matt. 22:37

This was in response to the question, “What is the **great** commandment.”

Jesus said that **on this hangs all** the law and the prophets.

Here is a key point about worship...

The most important thing to “hang” our life on is to love and worship and serve God with all of our being.

This is the priority that gives stability to every aspect of our life.

Does not mean that other things won’t have our affection, devotion and attention.

It means that they all must line up behind and under the precedence of this top priority...GOD DESERVES AND GET MY FIRST AND FOREMOST LOVE AND ALLEGIANCE!!

Let’s drill down on that thought a little more...

Jesus spoke the following to a Samaritan woman he met at the well, to whom he desired to impart life changing truth and hope.

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. John 4:23,24

Isn’t it interesting how when dealing with the issues of life, we will come to the heart of the matter, and discover that the heart of the matter is worship!

To this lady worship was...

Something to be debated between the Jews and the Samaritans.
Something that was locked into a specific place or object.
Something that was cloaked in empty tradition.
Something that had lost personal meaning and significance.

Here is a key point about worship...

Confusion about worship = Confusion about life!

If you are confused about who or what gets your worship – your affection, time and loyalty – then you will be confused about life!!

Note what Jesus said...**a) True worshippers.**

There is true and false worship.

Your choice will determine the direction and the destiny of your life.

This choice will decide if you have clarity and purpose for your life that is godly and fulfilling!!

b) Worship in spirit.

Our worship of God is a deeply spiritual exercise.

Are we spending too much time and giving too much attention to the shallow things of life?

c) Worship in truth.

Worship is about all that is genuine and true.

We deal with so much that is based on false premise and proposition.

This speaks to both the condition of our heart and the truth about who God is!

d) They are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.

Is God looking down from heaven looking for those who are worshipping Him and thinking, “I need to be there in order to feel better about myself?” Obviously not!!

God wants to be where people pull up a big chair and say “God, that place is for you!!”

This is what worship is! It is giving God the highest value and priority in our life!

Conclusion.**I have given you this truth about worship...**

The worship of God aligns every other aspect of our life in the way God intended!

So many of you are in the heat of the battle.

Life throws so many challenges at you.

Worship is the way we push back on our difficulties.

Worship is how we fight our battles!!

I look in scripture and I see the following...

- a) When God's people went into battle, they would send out the worshippers first.
- b) When Job faced the deepest test of his life he fell on his face and said, "Blessed be the name of the Lord."
- c) When Daniel was in exile in a strange and godless land, he stayed true to the God he loved.
- d) When Paul and Silas were in jail for preaching Jesus, they worshipped and sang praise.

What is my point?

The way we are going to make it through this very shakeable and fragile life is to enthrone the unshakeable God at the very core and centre of our life.

As I worship and align my life with all that God is, I am assured that when everything else has become dust, He will remain God and I will remain his child!!