

## The Heart of Worship

### "Saturated and Sent"

Psalms 22:3 KJV

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Everything we do in a worship service is *the sermon*. The whole service is a *worship* service. But, a lot of times it's so easy to come into church and jump into the first three or four songs and about the time we land the last one, we're just starting to let go of the past week. Today we're talking about the heart and the spirit of worship. Nothing about worship should be rote. We're worshipping *the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Most High God, the Ancient of Days, El Shadai, God Almighty, and the God that is I AM*. And so, as we're stepping into 2026, we say, *"Lord we're going to dedicate everything we do, but even to a greater degree, as we set our gaze upon You, our hope and our prayer is that this will set the tone for 2026 for Bridge Church."*

We call the main space in church "the sanctuary" because it's a place of refuge. It's a place of restoration. It's a place of healing. It's a place of hearing. And then, we're commissioned to go out and *do* - to live out what we're learning and what we're receiving. So, as we turn our attention from everything happening in the news to the *Lord*, we realize our need to worship him.

We're stepping into a progression of worship where we're seeking to lift up the Lord Jesus Christ, to honor him with vertical worship, and to get our eyes upon him as we step into 2026. It's not enough to just come and be saturated like a teabag - to only dip down in the water and leak out and get full and flushed with all that *steeping*. There's something to be done with it. There's something we need to be putting our feet and our hands to.

One of our number one values is *worship* and how we can host the presence of God. Oswald Chambers said, *"Worship is giving God the best that He has given you. Be careful what you do with the best you have. Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love gift."* Worship is an exchange. It's a beautiful exchange where there's a back-and-forth that happens as he pours himself into us and we pour right back out to him.

It's amazing how that can happen in a given setting. We're to take time to meditate before God and offer the blessing back to him in a deliberate act of worship. In other words, worship is not passive. Worship is *active*. It's something we do. And in that, we come into a place like this and we say, *"Father, whatever I have, I give to You. I honor You. I lift You up. I exalt You."*

We should look up when we say that as we picture him high and lifted up and seated on a throne. *"If you hoard it for yourself, the blessing that God's given you, it will turn into spiritual dry rot."* - Oswald Chambers from *My Utmost for His Highest*. None of us should want any spiritual dry rot in our life. Rather, we should want to come into an atmosphere like this and say, *"God, I give back to You what You've given to me. I offer back to You the gifts, the blessing, everything that You are and everything I have."*

Psalms 95:6-7 NKJV - a call to worship

*"Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is our God."*

## **1] Revelation - God reveals - we respond**

One song we sing is called *"No One Like the Lord."* It's a song that's referenced and informed by the book of Revelation. That's what *revelation* is - he reveals and we respond to what he reveals. And as he reveals his presence to us, maybe it was through somebody we met today, a conversation that gave put some life into us and put a little pep in our step - maybe it was something that happened in the hallway, or something that was prayed or said from the platform. All of that is God informing our life and giving to us, and now he's revealing things to us. In worship, we get to give it back. We get to respond to that. We kneel in our spirit and in our heart.

Revelation 5:11-14 ESV - worship in heaven

*"Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!' And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!' And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' and the elders fell down and worshiped."*

Another song is informed by this: *"Then I looked and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands."* This is around the throne of God in heaven. This is what we're going to get to see and participate in. Worship begins with revelation - to reveal, to see for the first time. When we see who He is, worship rises naturally.

## 2] Surrender - lay your crowns down

Romans 12:1 NIV - offer living sacrifices

*"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship."*

Revelation 4:8-11 ESV - the throne room

*"And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, 'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!' And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 'Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.' "*

That's the scene that's set in heaven, but we're actually already participating in this. When we sing here, when we worship here, we're actually participating. And our songs, our worship go up as prayers into what the Bible calls in the book of Revelation "the harps and bowls." It says that the bowls are filled with the prayers of the saints. So as we pray and as we worship, that's what we're doing. We're literally filling that bowl up in heaven to the point where it can't contain anymore.- the prayers of the saints.

When we worship, we're literally participating and filling that up, and then it's poured out in blessing. It's poured out in praise. It's poured out in worship. And all of heaven rejoices. And the elders fall down around the throne and worship him. So worship begins with revelation. And that word revelation means to reveal to see for the first time. And when we see who he is, worship rises naturally. God is the Ancient of Days. He's the King of Kings. He's the Lord of lords. He's the One Who Was and Is and Is to Come. He's all of those things. And even as we declare those things, we can feel something building up inside of us. When we see who he is, worship rises naturally.

God isn't looking for performance. He's looking for *surrender*. We're to cast our crowns - our trophies, accomplishments, victories, successes, the things that give us prestige in this world - down before the Lord. Worship is offering *ourselves*, not *impressing* Him. We were created and born to worship, but somewhere along the line that got tamped down. Maybe we were taught erroneously that we need to contain that. We were told, "*Don't get too excited.*" But, we need to give him what we have, even if it's just making a joyful noise.

It could be that the weirdness that's happening in our life, the craziness that's happening around us, the things that don't seem to be happening like we thought they would - could it be that God is listening to the prayers we're praying in worship on a given Sunday and he's saying, *"Okay, I'm going to answer that. I'm going to take you out beyond the borders, out into the ocean, out beyond your boundaries to places that are uncomfortable where you're either going to sink or swim."*

Then they're not just words on a screen, but they're the cry of our heart to God. And as we sing the scripture back to him, he will meet us there - as we offer up the blessings that he gave to us. We offer ourselves as a gift and we lift him up. He is worthy of praise, honor, and glory. Oswald Chambers also said we think the greatest thing we can do is to die for God, to just literally be a martyr, but actually his heart is that we would be living sacrifices. If we're dead, we're with him. It's over. Our impact on the world is lost. But, if we're living and we're living a life of worship, it's holy and pleasing to him, and it's a spiritual act of worship.

We need to lay down distraction - whatever has been going on this week or whatever's coming up next week - and take it to another level. Maybe do something we don't do all the time or maybe something we've never done, not to create a drama, but maybe just another step. If we lift our hands, lift them a little higher. Whatever it is, it could be incremental, but take a little bit of a risk, even if we've never been one who outwardly expresses their worship.

That's fine, but worship is an outward expression of an inward reality. So, scripturally, we're in good standing if we lift our hands to the Lord. We're in biblical precedent to worship God, to honor him, to close our eyes, to lift our countenance to heaven as though we're looking into his face - to take a step, lay down distraction, lay down control, to release and offer ourself to the Lord in our worship.

### **3] From gaining to gratitude**

One of the greatest expressions of worship is *gratitude*. We're called to live a grateful life - to be grateful - to be *thankful* for his grace, his goodness - and his patience. We move from this attitude of gaining and getting to the place of gratitude. We spend a lot of our years trying to attain things and gain things, whether it's status, success, winning, whatever it might be. But at some point in our walk with the Lord, we move out of the *gaining* into *gratitude* - to where we're just thankful for what we have right now. That doesn't mean we won't have other needs or be on other tracks for various things, but we still have this gratitude - not ignoring what we've been given, or what he has allowed in our life.

Psalms 95:1-2 ESV

*“Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!”*

Colossians 3:16 ESV

*“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.”*

Worship realigns our hearts with him and produces gratitude. How can we not say thank you for so great a salvation? We become what we behold as we look *to* him, look for him, as we set our eyes and our gaze upon him, we go where our gaze is and we become what we behold as we behold him. And as we behold him, we're changed, transformed. We even *look* different, like Moses when he came down off of Mount Sinai after meeting God. Everything about him changed.

#### **4] Commission - We move forward with hope and expectation because he is coming again.**

Matthew 24:30-31 ESV

*“Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”*

Acts 1:9-11 ESV

*“And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’ “*

Jesus is coming back. He is coming and we should be ready all the time. Worship doesn't end here. It sends us out to where we live, to where we work, and to where we play. And we become as living altars filled with faith and expectation, knowing that Jesus will return. He is coming again. So go and live the worship that we've offered. It's all about the fact that he's coming back, which means we can live *loud*. We can live *strong*. And we can live *boldly* for him.

This is part of our commission - now what do we do? Where do we go from here? *He's coming*. Let that shape our life to one of worship, honor, and gratitude. This hope for tomorrow is our hope for today. Halleluah!

*"There is a day coming when the old will pass away. Every wrong will be made right. No darkness, no night. The Son will light the way. There is a King coming. The one who conquered death and grave. No more pain and no more sorrow. This hope for tomorrow is our hope for today.*

*He who was, He who is, He who was, He who is, He who is to come. Christ the Son of man riding on the clouds with a crown upon His head. Every eye will see Him with the nail scars in His hands. There's only One worthy of all glory and all praise, all wealth and all honor. Speak wisdom and power to the Lamb that was slain.*

*He is surely coming. Oh can you feel it too? All this tension growing stronger. It's just a sign He's getting closer. He's already on the move. The story has been written. We all know how it ends. My future has an anchor. My eyes are on the Savior. He's coming back again. Hallelujah!*

*Lord we wait. Oh we pray. We're waiting on You with our eyes on the horizon. We are hungry. We are thirsty. Would You come? We pray, come, Lord Jesus, come!"*  
(*"He Who Is To Come"* - Live From Passion 2025)

## **Prayer**

*Father, thank you for Your Word. We receive it and we surrender our hearts to You as we move into a new level of worship with You. Father, as we receive more revelation of who You are - King of Kings and Lord of lords - we participate with the heavenly choir. Give us grace to lay down our distractions, Father. Your heart is that we would be living sacrifices who honor You with our hearts, our heads, and our hands. We cast all our crowns down before You Lord. We offer ourselves, knowing that You created us to worship. Jesus is coming back. Help us to be ready where we live, where we work, and where we play as living altars filled with faith and expectation that Jesus will return soon. We love You, we honor You ...and we worship You. In Jesus' name. Amen*