

February 4, 2014

# EXTREME FAITH

## Worship

"Dreams become Goals and goals have plans that make them become reality..."

Name:

# Take me home!

## How do you define worship?

### It's Not Just Music



## WORSHIP

### How do you define it...

What comes to your mind when you think about the word and the action of worship? We all worship things and sometimes we worship people. But how does worship play out in our relationship with God? Is worship just about the music and the style of music? Or is worship the thing that can only happen when we are with others in church? The word worship can bring up many questions and it can leave us a little puzzled at times. So for the month of February we are going to go deep into the meaning of worship. We are going to unpack it and we are going to experience it together. So how does the dictionary define worship? wor·ship (wûr'shîp)

a. The reverent love and devotion accorded a deity, an idol, or a sacred object.

b. The ceremonies, prayers, or other religious forms by which this love is expressed.

2. Ardent devotion; adoration.

Now the dictionary will never ever be able to fully define worship or the experience of worshiping our God. To truly understand worship one must experience it and in the experience of it one grows a deeper understanding of who God is.

In John 4:23-24 we get a glimpse of what how worship is defined by Jesus. This definition of worship comes while Jesus is in a conversation with a woman who does not know who Jesus is, she is attempting to

match wits with Jesus. The discussion goes into worship and where one should worship and how they should worship. Jesus defines worship this way. 23 "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." Basically Jesus is saying that worship has to do with more than just songs, it has to do more with your heart. We can sing songs but if we don't have the right heart attitude, it really isn't worship. So what kind of heart do you need to have? A heart that truly longs to give Him praise as a response to what He means to you. A loud cry of You are the one! A quite and still move of your heart to say that You are the one I want to follow. Worship starts with your heart and then moves out from there. What are you thankful for? What do you think of God? When you let it all out and you come before Him, then you are beginning to understand worship. God is all powerful and He loves you. So what is your response to Him? Do you just carry on with your life or do you have take some time and cry out to Him letting everything in you know that He is king and that He is worthy of worship. Worship defined: Knowing who God is and giving Him everything that you have as a response.

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### What's Up?

So what's up with all the raised hands? I mean that is a great question isn't it. I mean think about it? Why do people put up there hands or a hand during worship? Well have you ever been at a concert or just listening to some really awesome music with your friends and found yourself pounding a fist in the air towards the band? So why do you do that? Could it be that you are attempting to engage in the music. Kind of like when you clap or start moving your feet, you respond to the music.

In worship as you come before the King of all Kings and you raise your hands you are like a child lifting up your hands to your father. Ever do that when you were little, like pick me up in sign language. Raising your hands in worship is saying You are my King to God. You are my Father and won't You just pick me up and let me know that I am your child. Not so weird when you think of it that way, now is it...

## Experts From Extravagant Worship

Everyone in town knew her as a sinful woman, but her selfless display of extravagant worship changed how everyone remembers her now. Jesus was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper. "When [she] learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them" (Luke 7:37-38). Imagine the depth of this woman's tears being enough to clean the dusty feet of Jesus! Imagine the gratitude that moved her to boldly display her devotion and adoration of the Man reclining at the table. She had heard Him teach of the kingdom of heaven. She had understood the heart of the Lord. She had seen the miracles He had done. She had been delivered from her old way of life through His loving acceptance of her. With tears flowing from a sobbing heart, she washed the Lord's tired feet and wiped away the soil with the tresses of her hair. Then she perfumed His feet with oil from her alabaster jar that was valued at a year's wages. Continued on page four...



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## CHARACTER

### EXTREME APPLICATION

Worshiping God with Spirit and Truth means that you have an extreme character. You know who you are and you know who God is. Knowing that God is worthy to be worshiped, means that you understand that He is to be worshiped! The world would have you think that you are to be worshiped, and that is when things get messed up. Extreme character means that you know your place, and God is to be worshiped and nothing else. Now that's Extreme!

### Think About it The tension of

#### (of Worshiping God alone)

The world would have you worship anything but God. The culture around you seeks to make you think that you are to be worshiped. It seeks to make you think that things are to be worshiped. When you truly define worship you quickly realize that there can only be one thing that occupies the worship in our lives. That creates tension in our lives, because the forces that are around us are constantly attempting to make us change our mind. When you put God as No.1 in your life then you have the freedom to truly worship Him. As soon as you do that well everything else falls into place and you have a perspective that sets you apart from everything else around you.

Knowing that God is God and nothing else can fill that spot is a freeing thing. It allows us to be who we were created to be. It allows us to live life without the tension of all the competing things that long for us to worship them. When we give our attention and worship to anything other than God we cheat ourselves and we lose the potential to be who we were made to be. Think of that verse John 10:10 The thief comes to kill steal and destroy, but I have come that they may have life to the full. Life to the full is knowing who you are and who you were created to be. You were created to worship God and to live in the freedom of being all that you were made to be.

So don't buy the lie, live life to the full and know who is the only one worthy of being worshiped, when you live that way you will experience a freedom like never before!





# DIG IN

John 4:23-24

23“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

1. How do you define worship in your own words?

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2. Circle all that apply: Worship is...

Singing songs      Loving God      Raising your hands  
Thinking little of yourself      Life to the full      Living with a purpose  
Knowing who God is      Living life to please God      prayer

3. How do you like to worship?

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4. Talk about This is small Group:

What do you think about worship in terms of singing with a group of people?

Why does it or does it not seem weird?

What do you think happens when you worship God?

Why do you think it is important to worship God?

## A CHALLENGE FOR YOU:

Take some time this week and listen to some worship music, Really listen to the words of the songs, and soak in what the artist are saying with their words.

Take it a step further and look up the lyrics on the web and read the lyrics as you listen to the song.

Don't have any worship music, no worries.  
Try searching for worship music on YouTube, Pandora, or my favorite Spotify!

UNDERSTANDING  
WORSHIP

## Experts From Extravagant Worship

Her love for Jesus knew no bounds. When the others voiced their disapproval of her extravagance, Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She has done a beautiful thing to me." Oh, for the opportunity to kiss the beautiful feet of Jesus.... As the year 2000 approached, I felt the Holy Spirit had given me the phrase "Extravagant Worshipers" to use as a banner over our department. As part of our weekly rehearsals at Hillsong, we attend teaching nights, and everything that was taught during that year was on this central theme. Our hunger for more of God had fueled the year in a magnificent way, and by the end of that first year I was excited at what 2001 would bring. Then one quiet moment in prayer, the Lord gently whispered in my ear, Daughter, you're not an extravagant worshiper yet. When one hears God say something like that, one humbly listens! So I realize I am not there yet; our team is not there yet; and if we are to continue to call ourselves "extravagant worshipers," I understand that we have a long way to go. So what does it mean to be an extravagant worshiper? Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines the word extravagant as "2 a: exceeding the limits of reason b: lacking in moderation, balance, and restraint (praise) c: extremely or excessively elaborate 3 a: spending much more than necessary b: profuse, lavish." The Holy Spirit is calling us to excessive worship. We're to be overgenerous in our praises to God. Extravagant worship means to be elaborate in our offering of admiration to Him; our worship is to be over and above reasonable limits previously established. The cause of Christ pumping away in our veins should cause extra-ordinary praise to the Father. I long to worship Jesus as did the woman with the alabaster jar of perfume! Excessive, abundant, expensive, superfluous, lavish, costly, precious, rich, priceless, valuable . . . Jesus knew the woman who anointed Him with her precious perfume fully understood that she had been forgiven for terrible sins. Jesus explained this love she had for Him to Simon the Leper, telling him a parable about two servants who were forgiven for debts by their Master. One owed him a little; the other owed him much. Jesus continued the story: "Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace" (Luke 7:42-50). When we stand before the Lord to worship Him, we are to worship Him in truth. To do so, we must ask ourselves, "How big are the debts Jesus canceled for me? How generous was He toward me when considering the pain my sins inflicted upon Him? How much thanks do I owe Him for canceling the consequences of my past? Am I overgenerous with my worship? Do I exceed reasonable limits when praising Him? Or am I merely doing what is required, merely fulfilling the basic level of commitment? Am I simply trying to earn my right of passage?" If our worship is spiritual and truthful, we will search our souls and appraise the value we place on His love for us. What can we bring to the altar that represents extravagance? I have had the honor of meeting some extravagant worshipers during my lifetime: Among them is a young couple in our church who lost their young daughter through sickness, yet they worshiped their King through over-whelming grief and are still doing so today. A young man who was left paralyzed from his waist down through an accident was quickly back in our church services. With tears running down his face, his arms stretched heavenward, and his heart loving Jesus, he worshiped His Savior with extravagant thanksgiving. A friend of mine, a young married mother of four little ones, whose husband is in our worship team, is always in church, always early, always full of joy, and always found full of extravagant praise for her Lord. The Oxford English Dictionary describes extravagant as "wasteful." This word particularly grabbed my attention, for one of the most beautiful accounts of extravagant worship in the Bible is this story of how the gift of perfume from the sinful woman was considered "wasteful" by those around her. But as she poured out her costly perfume from the alabaster jar, she must have wished she had even more to give Him. As she poured out her tears in offering, He washed away her brokenness. As she loved extravagantly, He forgave extravagantly. Her action of elaborate love toward her Lord is a powerful example of true, heartfelt worship. Her act of worship had nothing to do with music or song, but it had all to do with being extravagant in devotion to her Savior. What is worship, and what are we doing when we worship? True worship, the kind of worship that God seeks, is described in John 4:23-24: "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." I have meditated on that Scripture for many hours. I understand true worship to be when one's spirit adores and connects with the Spirit of God, when the very core of one's being is found loving Him, lost in Him. True worship is not about the songs being sung; it is not about the size of the band; it is not about the size of the choir. Although music is a wonderful expression of worship, it is not in itself the essence of it. The core of worship is when one's heart and soul, and all that is within, adores and connects with the Spirit of God. In fact, regardless of how magnificent the musical moments are, unless one's heart is fully engaged in the worship being expressed, it is still only music. The song of a pure heart that is yearning for more of God and less of one-self is the music that holds the key to many victories and delights the heart of our King...

From the book  
Extravagant Worship  
by Darlene Zschech



[illegible]

Extreme faith  
and  
Extreme vision

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