

## The Heart of Worship

One of the most common topics that people write in to WalkDeep about or have questions about is the topic of worship. It seems that people from all walks of life, with varying roles inside and outside the church, coming from all different angles on the topic, somehow know intuitively that worship is a core part of the human experience. People somehow know that we were made for something greater than ourselves.

As one person wrote in,  
"we are constantly giving ourselves to something."

This WalkDeep conversation contains thoughts and expressions from people around the globe, along with some notable quotes from other leaders throughout church history. In addition, questions for reflection are provided for your personal use, or for times with a friend, small group, band, or leadership team.

*May this fuel conversations about worship  
in a way that connects us more deeply with Jesus,  
more now than ever before.*

"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

- Philippians 2.9-11

"Worship is giving all that you are to all of God."  
- Anonymous

"Worship is our response to what we value most."  
- Louie Giglio

"Worshipping God is hard for me these days."  
- from "an honest follower on the journey of faith"

"Worship is a life where God is at the center  
of all we do." - youth worker, Tampa

"Worship is embracing the Father and allowing him  
to embrace you, continually."  
- Robbie in Columbia, SC

"Worship is what my soul needs, because God  
is at the center of true worship and he is what  
I need most." - John Piper

"Worship is God's heart for your life."  
- Anonymous

"The heart of worship is to delight in the  
goodness, greatness, and glory of God. It is to  
reflect deeply on his character and attributes and  
then to respond in natural praise and adoration."  
- John Ortberg, pastor and author

"Worship is a taste of heaven." - R.C. Sproul

"Worship is giving myself to God even when I can't  
see him or feel him." - Anonymous

"Worship is baring your soul, like being naked with  
the lights on, and knowing that it's beautiful when  
brought with a heart yearning for connection."  
- Kristi from Greenville, SC

"It is in the process of being worshipped that God  
communicates His presence." - C.S. Lewis

"Lord, make me see thy glory in every place."  
- Michelangelo

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"Sing to the LORD, all the earth;  
proclaim his salvation day after day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.  
For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;  
he is to be feared above all gods.  
For all the gods of the nations are idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.  
Splendor and majesty are before him;  
strength and joy in his dwelling place."  
- 1 Chronicles 16:23-27

"Worship is humbling ourselves before God."  
- Jackie from Florida

"Worship is the deep and humble understanding  
that HE is God and I am not." - Debbie from Ohio

"Worship is having that most inner longing fulfilled."  
- Jan from Enfield, Worship Leader, 'The Church'

"Worship is our opportunity as a people to draw  
near to God who desires to be among His people.  
Imagine, God wants to dwell among us!"  
- Bradley Dyess

"Worship is...serving the poor" - Anonymous

"Worship is when God opens your eyes and your  
heart to see how he really is."  
- Joe Shaw from South Carolina

"Worship is a lifestyle! It means everything that  
you do is an ACT of WORSHIP!)"  
- Kay in Angeles City, Philippines

"Worship is resting in the arms of His Love." -  
Pastor Tim Wolfe, Abundant Life Fellowship C.C

"Worship is the intimacy felt between man and  
woman during union multiplied many times over  
that HE wants us to experience each time we come  
together with HIM. That experience becomes the  
catalyst leading into a life change that is to be shared  
with the rest of humankind. When we as humans  
know what love is, is only a minute example in our  
finite mind of what HE wants as Worship between  
us and HIM. GOD created us just for that. When it is  
normal to know when HE comes down to visit us on a  
daily basis." - Stephen Gibbs ~ A Worshipper of HIM

"Worship should be everything we do each day -  
washing the laundry, cooking meals, working, loving  
your children and spouse, leading or joining in worship  
in church, helping our neighbors, reading the Bible.  
All are equal acts of worship. My prayer is that I will  
offer up one more thing each day, until everything I  
do is worship, in preparation for what it will be like one  
day when I come face to face with my Savior."  
- Donna, Washington Baptist Church

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"And they sang a new song:  
'You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
because you were slain,  
and with your blood you purchased men for God  
from every tribe and language  
and people and nation.'"  
- Revelation 5:9

## Questions for Reflection...

Which of those statements are most meaningful to you? Why?

Do you have something else to add about worship that doesn't seem to be represented here?

What motivates you most to want to offer yourself fully to God?

What scares you about giving yourself fully to God?

Is there a prayer you'd like to write out?

## If you lead a ministry team, small group, or band, try this...

*This may be done all at one time, or spread these exercises out over several weeks.*

- Start by handing out a blank note card to each person, and invite them to write out a definition of worship in their own words. Allow a few minutes for quiet reflection.
- When finished, ask people to share their definition with the group, encouraging them that there is no wrong answer!
- Next, hand out copies of the page containing the quotes and statements about worship, taking turns reading them out loud.
- Ask people to share which statements are most meaningful to them, and why.
- Consider together:
  - ◇ How can we worship God more fully each day?
  - ◇ In what ways will this discussion impact us as we lead others?
- Some Scriptures to explore together:
  - ◇ Psalm 95
  - ◇ Psalm 150