

# Principles for Effective Worship

**Psalms 1:1-3** (NLT) *Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. 2 But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. 3 They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.*

Spiritual practices are meant to remove the illusion that God is absent. They are meant to bring us into contact with God. All of our spiritual practices serve to guide us into one or more of these four principle activities:

1. **CENTERING:** Returning to our Source

a. **Jeremiah 17:7-8** *But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. 8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.*

2. **EMPTYING:** Removing the junk from our lives

a. **Psalms 32:5** *Then I let it all out; I said, "I'll make a clean breast of my failures to God." Suddenly the pressure was gone— my guilt dissolved, my sin disappeared.*

3. **GROUNDING:** Rooting our souls in the Ground of our Being

a. **Ephesians 3:16** *I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.*

4. **CONNECTING:** Receiving the full flow of the water of life

a. **John 7:37-38** *Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"*

# Worship: Human Need Meets Divine Encounter

**Worship is not a ritual to be endured but a profound human need and divine encounter.** Worship is the means by which we transcend the mundane and connect with the sacred. Here are some key thoughts on worship:

## 1. Worship is a Way of Living

*Worship is a way of seeing the world in the light of God.* Worship is not confined to a temple or a church—it is a life-orientation.

**Romans 12:1** (ESV) *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

## 2. Worship Must Be Sincere and Alive

Prayer must never be a citadel for selfish concerns but rather a place for deepening concern over other people's plight. Be warned against rote or mechanical worship.

**2 Chronicles 25:2** (ESV) *And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, yet not with a whole heart.*

**2 Chronicles 25:14** (ESV) *After Amaziah came from striking down the Edomites, he brought the gods of the men of Seir and set them up as his gods and worshiped them, making offerings to them.*

## 3. Awe is the Root of Worship

*"The beginning of our happiness lies in the understanding that life without wonder is not worth living."*

Awe is the **spiritual foundation** of worship. Every one of these realities deserve a whole sermon and more. Awe pulls us into God...into his:

- a. Majesty
- b. His mystery
- c. ...and his mercy

#### 4. Sabbath as the Pinnacle of Worship

The Sabbath is not a day off but a “cathedral in time.” Worship on the Sabbath is a **foretaste of eternity**, a moment when time is sanctified.

*“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.”*

#### 5. Worship is an Answer to the Divine Search

The Bible is not man’s theology but God’s anthropology.

Rather than humans seeking God through worship, **God is the one seeking us.**

#### Summary:

Worship is not simply something we do for God—it is **a meeting point between heaven and earth**, a moment of transformation where the soul rediscovers wonder, purpose, and the presence of the Divine. Through worship mankind becomes the knot that ties heaven and earth together.