

Worship: The Key to Living the Abundant Christian Life
Psalm 63:1-5
Part Six

Christ came into this world to give life and life abundant according to **John 10:10**. So how can believers, who have come to Christ by grace through faith, enter into the abundance of that life that they have received?

Worship is the key to abundant living! Worship is the key to unleashing the abundance of the Christian life for worship is the key to getting our hearts right before God, and if our hearts are right before God, then the Spirit of God will fill us and the life of Christ will flow through us to the praise of His glory as we day by day are transformed into the very image of Christ, not by the strength of our might, but through the strength and power of His might, the strength and power of our triune God.

And this is the truth that I have tried to highlight for you over these past few months as I have shared with you these messages that I have entitled **“Worship: The Key to Living the Abundant Life,”** and as I have developed for you a diagram that I have entitled **“Living Above the Line.”**

And what has been my hope in all of this? That God will use this series of messages and this diagram as it unfolds week by week not only to provide us a better understanding of the dynamics of a worship-filled life, but that God would also use this series of messages and this diagram to help fuel our appetite for worship, and that our appetite for worship would become so voracious that each and every facet of our lives would become an extension of our worship and an expression of our love and affection for God. This is my hope.

What biblical truths support the belief that worship is the key to living the abundant Christian life?

The first truth was that the God of heaven, our creator, alone is worthy of worship (Psalm 19:1-6; Isaiah 6:1-8). And how did we illustrate this in our diagram? Turn your note page over and write “GOD” sitting on a chair at the top.

And what was the second truth? The second truth was that though the God of heaven, our creator, alone is worthy of worship, mankind is unable to come into His presence to worship Him because they are spiritually dead (Romans 5:12). And how did we illustrate this truth in our diagram? Turn your note page over and add three stick figures with upraised arms and a line above them at the bottom of your diagram. And what did this result in?

When spiritual death spread to mankind this meant that the whole of mankind became idolaters, whether that meant worshipping idols made with human hands or erecting idols in their hearts. And then what did mankind's idols become? They became their masters.

And how did we illustrate this truth in our diagram? Now add a circle above each stick figure with the words "master #1," "master #2," "master #3" to your diagram.

What a miserable, wretched, spiritually bankrupt condition we were once living as we sought to satisfy the emptiness of our souls caused by our separation from God with the stuff of this world, but this is exactly where we were.

And this miserable life of futility would have continued if God had not had mercy upon us. And this led us to the third truth. Though mankind could not break through the barrier of sin, God, as an expression of His love, did break through that barrier by sending His Son into this world to die for our sins (1 Peter 3:18).

So how did we picture this truth in our diagram? Now create an open space in the line and extend a cross upward through the opening on your diagram on the back of your note page.

So does the Bible teach us that God broke through the barrier of sin that had separated us from Him, through the death of His Son? Yes! But we would not have known this unless this message that the Scriptures refer to as the gospel had been made known to us. And praise God that by His grace it was made known to us! So how did we picture this truth in this diagram? Now draw a Bible at the base of the cross on your diagram.

So after we, by the grace of God, heard the message of the gospel and, by

the grace of God, had responded in faith to the gospel by turning our backs on our former masters so that we might enter through the door that God had opened for us, what happened next?

God immediately joined us to the life of Christ through the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit according to **1 Corinthians 12:13**, and thus we became alive to God and were then immediately able to enter into the presence of God, having been made the righteousness of God in Christ according to **2 Corinthians 5:21**. Praise God!

And what did we become when we entered through that door that God had opened for us through the death of His Son? This question brought us to the fourth truth.

Those who choose by grace through faith to enter into God's presence through the door that He has opened will become His worshippers and will therefore experience the filling of the Spirit (Romans 12:1; Ephesians 5:18). And how did we illustrate this truth? Draw a figure bowed before the throne of God.

Those who choose to enter through the door that God has opened will, in response to God and all that He has done for them through Christ, become His worshippers, or in other words they, in response to God and all that He has done for them through Christ, will present their bodies to Him as living and holy sacrifices.

If this had not happened they would not have been able to pass through the door that God had opened, for otherwise they would have remained idolaters. But those who have passed through the door that God has opened, by grace through faith, did not remain idolaters. They by their own choice became the worshippers of God.

So, what happens when a person, by grace through faith, enters through the door that God has opened for them through the death of His Son and has become one of His worshippers? They will be filled with the Spirit and thus enter into the abundance of Christ's life, which is the very life that Christ promised to give them if they came to Him. This is why I can with great confidence say to you worship is the key to living the abundant Christian life.

And what might be some of the manifestations of that abundance? There are a myriad of different things that we could point to but there are a few manifestations that I would particularly like to highlight. So, what is the first one?

Those who bow before God in worship will experience joy (Psalm 84:1-4). And what was the passage that we spotlighted in order to highlight this point? It was **Psalm 84:1-4**. In this passage we see the joy of a Jewish pilgrim traveling up to the temple in Jerusalem for the purpose of worship. So how joyous was he? Let me now once again read these verses for you.

“How lovely are your dwelling places, O Lord of hosts! (2) My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. (3) The bird also has found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even Your altars, O Lord of hosts, My King and my God. (5) How blessed are those who dwell in Your house! They are ever [What?] praising you.”

Why? They are ever praising Him for they, as they are bowed before Him in worship, are continuously overwhelmed by the blessedness of knowing Him and having become the recipients of the abundance of His lovingkindness.

So could we confidently say, based on these verses, that this Psalmist believed that those who choose to bow before God will experience joy and will continue to experience joy as they remain bowed before God regardless of their earthly circumstances? Absolutely! This is exactly what we would have to conclude. So how did we represent this in our diagram? On your diagram draw musical notes being lifted up to God from the kneeling figure.

So is joy, regardless of our circumstances, a by-product of bowing before God in worship? Yes! So if we are here today and we are discouraged, downcast, depressed or despairing, what do we know? We know that we are not worshipping God. Rather than being focused on Him and His goodness, we are focused on something else. So, what do we need to correct this? We need to come before God and confess to God that someone or something has become more to us than Him, and immediately give up that idol that we have erected in our hearts as we once again bow before Him in worship and before Him alone.

But joy is not the only benefit that we will experience if we, in response to God and all that He has done for us in Christ, bow before Him in worship. So, what else will we experience?

Those who bow before God in worship will experience satisfaction (Psalm 63:1-5; 36:5-8).

So why have I chosen this particular by-product of worship to emphasize? I have chosen to emphasize this particular by-product because over my years of ministry I have encountered so many unsatisfied professing believers who, in so desperately striving to meet their own perceived needs, are far more concerned about getting something than giving something.

This is certainly not the way it should be, for if we truly, by grace through faith, have entered into God's presence through the door that God has opened for us, through the death of His Son and are presently, in response to all that He is and has done for us, bowed before Him in worship, giving will be far more important to us than getting.

And to help us to understand why this would have to be so I would like to begin by reading for you **Psalm 63:1-5**.

But before I read these verses. Let me give you the background that stirred David to write these verses.

David was in a very inhospitable environment. His son, Absalom, had instigated a revolt against him. And in response to this revolt David was forced, though it was summer, to flee eastward from Jerusalem into the Judean wilderness and this certainly was problematic. And why would fleeing into the Judean wilderness during the summer months have been problem? The Judean wilderness in the summer months would have been significantly hotter and dryer than it is even here in the Antelope Valley. And this certainly would have poised a great challenge for David to physically survive, but even in the midst of these challenges we find David, through worship, finding satisfaction.

So now let me read these verses. **“Oh God, You are my God; I shall seek you earnestly; my soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Thus I have seen You in the**

sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. Because your loving kindness is better than life, my lips will praise You, so I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in your name. [And what was the by-product of David having worshipped God in this way? We do not have to guess David tells us] **“My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness.”**

So did David, through worship, find satisfaction after fleeing into the Judean wilderness? Yes, he did. He found satisfaction for his soul. Or in other words, David, through worship, felt that every need of his inner man had been fully met. And not only did David feel, through worship, that every need of his inner man had been fully met, but that every need had been fully met in the very best way possible **“as with marrow and fatness,”** which would have figuratively represented the best and richest food.

So could we confidently say based on these verses that David believed that those who choose to bow before God in worship will find their souls, or in other words their inner man, satisfied? Absolutely!

So how will we represent this on our diagram? Draw a fat stick figure.

So now let me take this a step further. If someone has engorged themselves at the banqueting table of worship and has found the deepest longings of their souls satisfied, would they feel any need to scrounge through the table scraps of this world for any further sustenance? And what is the answer? I believe the answer would have to be no!

Those who have engorged themselves at the banqueting table of worship and has found the deepest longings of their souls satisfied would not feel any need to scrounge through the table scraps of this world for any further sustenance. Praise God!

This obviously is tremendously liberating. So in what way is this liberating? Those who are engorging themselves at the banqueting table of worship and whose souls are satisfied will not feel as if they need to get something or to experience something beyond worship for them to be happy, or perhaps better said they will not feel as if they need to get something or experience something beyond worship in order for them to have the deepest longings of their soul satisfied, for they will know that their souls have been satisfied as they have bowed themselves before God in worship.

And what will be the natural outflow of this in terms of the way true worshippers will approach all their dealings in life? Their lives will no longer be focused on getting but rather their lives will be focused on giving.

And doesn't this make perfect sense? If we are worshipping and our souls are truly satisfied, and we know because our souls are truly satisfied that we no longer have need of anything but God, then doesn't it make sense that as we are before Him in worship and are being filled with the Spirit, or in other words the life of Christ, that we will become givers? How could we not become givers for Christ is a giver!

So will this dramatically impact our lives! Absolutely! If we are presently worshipping God and the deepest longing of our souls are presently being satisfied and the Spirit of God filling us, then the life of Christ is flowing through us. This morning and the time you spend here will not be about us but about the Lord and others.

When we leave here this morning and you return home, your life will not be about yourself but rather about the Lord, your roommate or roommates, or your family.

So if you go home to this afternoon and you find yourself wanting your family to serve you rather than you wanting to serve your family, what do you know? You are not worshipping.

If you go to school to tomorrow and you find yourself wanting your friends to serve you rather than you wanting to serve them, what do you know? You are not worshipping.

If you go to work tomorrow and you find yourself wanting your boss to serve you rather than you wanting to serve your boss, what do you know? You know that you are not worshipping.

True worshippers will find the deepest longing of their souls satisfied, they will have no need for anyone or anything other than God and their sole focus as the Spirit fills them and the life of Christ flows through them will be to serve the Lord and others.

May God give us the grace, even under the most difficult of circumstances, to bow before Him in worship so that we might experience the satisfaction of true worship.