

Worship: The Key to Living the Abundant Christian Life
Psalm 63:6-8
Part Seven

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 Christian life”** and 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 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! 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 turn their backs on their former masters so that they might enter through the door that God has opened for them will become His worshippers, or in other words they, in response to all that He has done for them through Christ, will as an expression of their love for Him present their bodies to Him as living and holy sacrifices. This is a given in light of the fact that Christ died for our sins so that He might bring us to 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 become one of His worshippers? They will be filled with the Spirit and thus enter into the abundance of Christ's life. This is why I with great confidence can say to you worship is the key to living the abundant Christian life.

So how will we know when we are living in the midst of that abundance that is produced when we are worshipping God? There are a myriad of different ways. But for this series of messages, and for our diagram, I have chosen to isolate only a few of them. So, what was the first one?

Those who bow before God in worship will experience joy (Psalm 84:1-4). What kind of joy? The joy of the Lord, that Spirit-produced joy, that fills us with thanksgiving and praise even in the midst of difficult circumstances, knowing that even though we deserved to be forever separated from God, we by grace through faith have become a child of God, forever secure in His

love, and destined for the glory of heaven. Now that is something that every Spirit-filled believer can be joyful about and will be joyful if they are in fact worshipping God and have therefore in fact experienced the filling of the Spirit.

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 if you are here this morning and the circumstances of your life have robbed you of this kind of joy, you know something. And what is that? You are not worshipping God, for if you were truly worshipping God you would be able to find joy even in the most difficult of circumstances. So, what is another way we can tell if we are in fact worshipping God or not worshipping God?

Those who bow before God in worship will experience satisfaction (Psalm 63:5; Psalm 36:5-8). In other words, those who bow before God in worship will find satisfaction for the deepest longing of their souls. Or we could say it this way. They will be like individuals who have feasted at a banquet table full of the choicest and richest food. Therefore having the deepest longing of their souls met, in this way through worship, they will then be in a position to be more concerned with the needs of others rather than their own needs, whether that is in regard to their husband, wife, parent, child, friend, neighbor, boss or co-worker.

So how did we illustrate this kind of satisfaction that comes through worship in our diagram? Draw a fat stick figure.

So if you are here this morning and the deepest longing of our soul is not presently being satisfied and the evidence of this is that you presently more concerned about getting from others than you are in giving to others then you know something. And what is that? You know that you are not worshipping!

But joy and satisfaction are not the only by-products worship that I would like to highlight for you. So, what is this next by-product of worship that I would like to emphasize?

Those who bow before God in worship will experience strength (Psalm 63:6-8). So, what kind of strength am I talking about? I am talking about the

strength of the Lord. And is the strength of the Lord a by-product of worship? Absolutely! And I believe that King David's words in **Psalm 63** will confirm this truth for us.

As I have mentioned to you before, when David originally wrote this Psalm he was living in the Judean wilderness. And why was he living in the Judean wilderness? He had been forced to flee into the wilderness from Jerusalem because his son Absalom had instigated a revolt against him.

So let me ask you this question. Could these events have shaken David's faith in God as well as in God's promises? Yes, absolutely! But these events did not shake his faith in God or in God's promises. And why didn't they? It was because as David worshipped God, God supplied David His strength. Let us now go to **Psalm 63:6-8** and see if this is not so

So let us begin with David's words in **verse 6**. And what were his words? These were his words, **"When I remember you on my bed, I meditate on you in the night watches."** So, what do we learn from these words? We learn that David, while lying on his bed at night in that Judean wilderness after having fled from Absalom, was choosing to focus on God rather than the circumstances that were pressing down upon him.

And why would David choose to do that? Why would David choose to focus on God rather than on his circumstances that were pressing down upon him? Let me now read you the explanation of David as given to God in **verse 7**. And what was his explanation? **"For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy."**

So why had David, according to **verse 7**, repeatedly and continuously in the night watches, while lying on his bed in the Judean wilderness, choose to focus on God rather than on the difficult circumstances that were pressing down upon him? It was because David had come to know God as a compassionate and loving God who had always helped him and who had always been quick to receive him into His protective care.

This is why we find David, according to **verse 7**, repeatedly in the night watches choosing to focus on God rather than on the difficult circumstances that were pressing down upon him. And where did these meditations impact David? These meditations brought him to a place of worship.

And where do we see this? We see it at the beginning of **verse 8** when David declared to God, **“My soul clings to you.”** In effect, David was telling God that there was nothing in this world that was of greater worth or value than God Himself.

And what was the by-product of David being brought to this place of worship? God supplied to David His strength. Let us now read the last part of **verse 8** and see if this is not so. And what did David say to God? **“Your right hand upholds me.”** So now let me ask you. What does the right hand of God picture? The right hand of God in the Scriptures pictures His power and authority. Let me give you an example of this in **Exodus 15:6**. And what does this verse say? **“Your right hand, O Lord, is majestic in power, your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.”**

So, what will those who bow before God in worship experience? Those who bow before God in worship, who value Him above all things, will receive His strength, not of course to do their will or to advance their purposes but rather to do His will and advance His purposes.

And how will we picture this on our diagram? Draw a picture of a strong man.

So will we always, when we choose to worship God, be supplied His strength as David was supplied with God’s strength? Absolutely! We will always be supplied His strength. Of course we will. If we have chosen by grace through faith to pass through the door that God opened for us through the death of His Son and if we are presently choosing to give up our lives up to Him in worship, desiring only that His will and not ours be done, of course God will supply us with His strength.

And how will He do that? He will do that through the filling of the Spirit, which allows the life of Jesus to begin to flow through us. And when the life of Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, begins to flow through us there is nothing that we cannot do or accomplish in His name.

What does **Philippians 4:13** tell us? **“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”** How many things all things? All things!

May God give us the grace to bow before Him in worship, so that we, through the strength that He supplies, might walk in the power of the Spirit rather than in the weakness of our flesh.