

From our lips and from our lives

Worship

Meditate on a familiar passage of scripture, verse by verse asking God to speak through it eg. Psalm 23 or any other psalm or the Lord's prayer and then feedback what God has been saying through it.

Read Hebrews 13:15-16

Jesus is the everlasting door by which we come to worship God. His death has made it possible for us to be accepted by God. His cross has made our worship acceptable in the Father's sight. We can approach His throne of grace. Anytime. Anywhere. We're no longer under any religious system. Not that of the Old Testament nor any other. In the past, worshippers had to approach God through a ritualistic system of sacrifice. But not anymore. (Hebrews 10:12)

However, so many people don't know the fullness of what Christ has done for them. The greatness of who He has made us to be. Sometimes we don't know enough about our new standing with God in Christ to break free from the lies of the deceiver. We can try to worship but condemnation abounds. Guilt restrains. No wonder our worship can be weak and lame. No wonder we aren't unrestrained in our worship or we're not passionate. So, we can always come to worship through the doorway of Jesus Christ... continually!

Q1. What do you recognise as the most important adjustments needed in your life in order to more 'continually' offer worship to God?

The first part of continual praise is the "fruit of our lips" which magnifies God. There's no fruit without some kind of root. So whatever comes out of our mouths actually comes from the roots that have taken hold deep in our souls. (Matthew 15:18) God is looking for the kind of people who are always soaking in His Word, sinking the roots of His character into their hearts and minds. As a result, there are true expressions to and about Him, which are constantly coming from our mouths. (Psalm 34:1)

The passage goes on to expand worship to include acts of kindness, sacrifices that really please God – the fruit of our lives. Even if no one notices or cares. God's truth is reflected back to Him. It's a lot easier to sing a song than it is to stop and touch the broken. It's a lot easier to go to church than to take "church" to the world. But sharing with others is a sacrifice of worship that pleases God.

Q2. What specific forms of "doing good" and "sharing with others" has God given you the opportunity and privilege to live out? How have you sensed God's pleasure in this?

Q3. What does worshipping God mean or what could it mean – in your own place of work or at home or on your course?

Q4. What specific "sacrifices" do you believe God is calling you to make in your life at this time, in order to bring blessing to Him and to people around you?

Next worship study: 'Moving beyond me to us'