

Why We Worship

Worship - part 2

January 11, 2026

We are living for something bigger than ourselves, and bigger than what we do.

This week's devotions are very personal in nature. Here are some of the reason why I worship God.

DAY 1: Forgiveness and a clean and clear conscience

1. I remember the night I was saved. I was a junior in college with everything a lost college student could want: a good athlete, lots of friends, dating, on the road to becoming a doctor, and a weekend party animal.
2. But for the previous months, I began experiencing a growing sense of emptiness—that something was missing. I tried to push away any thoughts and feelings in that direction, but the growing sense of something missing kept growing.
3. The night I was saved, I saw the ugliness of my sinful heart clearly for the first time. I was horrified. I sensed I was a black sheep in the middle of a herd of lily-white sheep.
4. As I confessed my sin nature to God and accepted the amazing forgiveness of Jesus, the realization that I had just been forgiven of all my sin was stunning to, but what I did not anticipate was the fact of spiritual cleansing! It seemed I was standing under a gigantic waterfall that was washing everything away that I had wrongly done, said, and thought.
5. Under the verses below, jot down what strikes you about forgiveness and cleansing.

Isa. 1:18 “Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be like wool.”

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Acts 24:16 So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward God and toward man.

6. What is your biggest takeaway from today's devotional?

DAY 2: Gratitude for salvation

1. It has been said by many veteran Christians, great ones that everybody admires, that the farther down the road you walk with God the more you see the ugly depravity in your own heart.
2. I was aware that I had been saved from an eternity in hell.
3. What I was not aware of yet, was that I was being saved from myself—my pride, critical spirit, a “me first, then you” way of living, my anger, fear, worry, blame-shifting, and lots of other human sins!

4. Under the verses below, jot down what strikes you about salvation.

Titus 3:3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...

1 Peter 1:18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Rom. 7:23 ...but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Romans 8:1 There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

5. What is your biggest takeaway from today's devotional?

DAY 3: Changing the old me

1. When I first became a Christian, I assumed that the whole matter was one of heaven or hell.
2. I had no idea that God's plan was for me to undergo a massive transformation of who I was, what I believed, what I valued, what was important, a revolutionary way of building relationships, and the very purpose of my life! That process has been going on for over half a century!
3. Under the verses below, jot down what strikes you about God changing us.

Rom. 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

2 Peter 1:5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." ¹⁶ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁷ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. ¹⁸ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁹ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

4. What is your biggest takeaway from today's devotional?

DAY 4: Freedom: freeing me from my sin nature

1. Under the verses below, jot down what strikes you about God's process of freeing us from sin?

John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

³³ They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

³⁴ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Romans 6:6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin...

Romans 6:14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans 6:16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Romans 6:19 I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. ²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gal.5:13 For you were called to freedom, brothers, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh but through love be servants of one another.

2. What is your biggest takeaway from today's devotional?

DAY 5: Becoming a new man

1. God is making me the man that I was meant to be! He is building in me the character of Christ: other-centered, contentment, valuing people relationally, discovering wisdom, and a hundred more things!

Eph. 4:11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Eph. 1:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

Matthew 4:19 "Follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

2. We find our deepest joy and satisfaction in living to please God!

Psalm 27:4 One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple.

Psalm 149:4 For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.

3. One of the great gospel **paradoxes** of life. When we seek to please God with our lives **we benefit** most!

1 Cor. 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

4. What is your biggest takeaway from today's devotional?