

The Ultimate Priority - Worship . . . Part 6

THE WORSHIP PERSPECTIVE Psalm 34:1-22

STIMULATE

** As our study together last week was coming to an end, we discussed two practical steps that would help us to always be "**Worshipping the Holy Spirit**" and help us to be successful in our desire to walk by the Spirit. Do you recall what those two steps were?

1) Be prayerfully aware of the nine manifestations of the Holy Spirit's fruit in my life, and then pursue with a vengeance the glory of the Father in the displaying of that fruit!

2) Avoid, or run from, any form of the deeds of the flesh, found listed in Galatians 5:19-21.

** This wonderful series has covered much for us, as we have learned what the Bible has to say about "**The Ultimate Priority - Worship**". By way of quick review, we have learned over the past five weeks about:

"**Unacceptable Worship**" - Selected Scriptures

1. WORSHIP OF FALSE GODS
2. WORSHIP OF THE TRUE GOD IN A WRONG FORM
3. WORSHIP OF THE TRUE GOD IN A SELF-STYLED MANNER
4. WORSHIP OF THE TRUE GOD, IN THE RIGHT WAY, WITH A WRONG ATTITUDE - HYPOCRISY

"**Worship as a way of life**" - Selected Scriptures

Comprised of the three dimensions in which our worship of God is to be made manifest. Outward, Inward and Upward!

"**Worshipping the Father**" - Matthew 6:9-15

"**Worshipping the Son**" - John 9:1-41

"**Worshipping the Spirit**" - Galatians 5:22-26

** Did any one of those times of fellowship in the Word of God stand out for you as a special blessing?

For myself, I was blessed to learn that I could "**Worship as a way of Life**" in three dimensions!

MOTIVATE

** Today, as our series comes to an end, we have the privilege of looking over the shoulder of David as he pens the marvelous 34th psalm. All that we have been learning about "**The Ultimate Priority - Worship**" comes to a joyous crescendo as David teaches us about "**The Worship Perspective**".

Please join me in Psalm 34 as once again we are blessed to share in God's precious Word together.

Opening Prayer

The Worship Perspective

INVESTIGATE

This amazing Psalm will not only teach us "**The Worship Perspective**", but it will break that perspective down into three parts for us, making it even easier to apply. We will be learning from David about his:

1) **Determination to Worship** - Vs. 1-7

2) **Desire to Worship** - Vs. 8-14

and God's

3) **Divine View of Worship** - Vs. 15-22

Before we actually get into this Psalm, it would be good for us to understand some of the historical background behind it. As David ran in fear for his life from Saul, he fled to Gath and was recognized. He now is in fear of Abimelech, which was the dynastic designation (like that of Pharaoh) for King Achish of Gath. (cf. 1Samuel 21:10-22:1)

Alright then, knowing that David's soul was often in fear and anguish, let's begin our look at this marvelous Psalm to see first of all David's "**Determination to Worship**".

Verses 1-7

V. 1 ** Looking at the opening two words of this Psalm, what does David say to express his "**Determination to Worship**", even in the midst of a fearful situation?

"I will . . ." The Psalms often instructed the writer himself (and us by default) as to the proper manner by which we should respond to the faithfulness of our God. cf. Psalm 42:5,11, 43:5, 103:1-2, 104:1, 116:7 and to summarize Psalm 54:4

V. 1-2

** How does David further express his determination in the remainder of verse one and on into verse two?

By using the word "shall" three times, he proclaims that God's praise **shall** continually be in his mouth, his soul **shall** make its boast in the Lord and the humble **shall** hear it and rejoice.

** Before we go any further, did you notice that David was instructing his soul to boast - is that alright?

Absolutely! In fact it is a requirement of the Christian life, as long as our boasting is properly placed "in the Lord" and not in ourselves. All see - Jeremiah 9:23-24, 1Corinthians 1:26-31, 2Corinthians 10:17-18

V. 3 ** Now back to David's determination, how is a "**Determination to Worship**" like a case of the chicken pox?

It is contagious!!! The dictionary defines chicken pox as "an acute contagious virus", if we are absolutely determined to worship our Lord Jesus Christ - that too should be contagious.

David calls out "O magnify the Lord **with me**, and let us exalt His name together." Worship of the creator God was not meant to stop with us. Our determination should be manifested in our desire to share with others around us.

Let's find out why David was so determined to worship . . .

V. 4 ** Well, we have said that David was in fear because of King Saul, what did David do with his fear?

He "...sought the Lord..."

** What did our gracious God do?

"... He answered [David] ..." and "delivered [him] from all [his] fears." The very things that were haunting David became insignificant in the light of God's gracious provision and protection.

V. 5-7

** David is not the only benefactor of this kind of loving care by God, what becomes of those who look to the Lord in their distress (whether rich or poor)?

They become radiant, their faces are never ashamed, the Lord hears them and saves them out of all of their troubles and then last, but not least, the "angel of the Lord" encamps around them.

** How do we know that all of this wonderful blessing is bestowed upon believers only?

Because it is granted to "those who fear Him"!(V.7)

Well it is good to see that David has a "**Determination to Worship**", even in the midst of trials. But it gets better as we see him develop a "**Desire to Worship**" in verses 8-14.

Verses 8-14

V. 8 ** In order for mankind to develop a "**Desire to Worship**" the Lord Jesus Christ, what are they going to have to do?

"...taste and see that the Lord is good..." Only by internalizing a relationship with Christ will we start to desire to worship Him. cf. Jeremiah 15:16

** This internalizing of Christ is a two way street! Not only do we accept Christ "into" our lives, but where do we hide our lives for protection from the world?

"...in Him..."!

V. 9 ** As our desire for true worship grows, what attitude will dominate the worship of a mature saint?

Fear, a reverential awe of almighty God!

** How does God respond to those who fear Him?

He completely provides for them, so that "there is no want."

V.10 ** What about the "young lions" or in today's vernacular "macho men" who do not desire to worship the Lord?

They will "lack and suffer hunger".

** How about those who seek the Lord?

Again, they shall not be in want of any good thing.

V.11 ** A proper "**Desire to Worship**" is also very contagious, what does David now do with his own growing desire?

He invites others to come and listen to him.

** What characteristic of the "fear of the Lord" does David now surprisingly introduce?

It can be taught! Through life's experiences, held up to the authority of the word of God, the truly humble (V.2) can be taught to fear the Lord. cf. Ephesians 5:8-10

V.12 ** In these next three verses, David describes the character qualities of God's true people. What will a Christian desire with the length of life that God grants to him or her?

"...that he may see good..." If we desire to worship the Lord, we will also desire only those things that are "good" as God defines them. (V.8)

V.13 ** For our desire for worship to be genuine, how will it effect our speech?

It will "keep our tongue from evil and [our] lips from speaking deceit". cf. James 3:2

V.14 ** Does our desire for worship only effect our speech?

No, it directly impacts our actions as well. We will want to "depart from evil, and do good, seek peace, and pursue it."

So far today we have learned that "**The Worship Perspective**" is made up of our "**Determination to Worship**" and our "**Desire to Worship**". We must not leave out the most important element found in "**The Worship Perspective**"...that is the "**Divine View of Worship**" found in verses 15-22.

Verses 15-22

V.15 ** By what David says, how do we know that God even has a "**Divine View of Worship**"?

Because God's eyes and ears are directed toward the righteous.

** Well, that might be the proverbial "good news/bad news". Who in the world can claim to be righteous?

Christians! Those who have come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. He has mercifully exchanged our sin for His righteousness. cf. 2Corinthians 5:21

V.16 ** How does that compare to God's view of evildoers?

He sets His face against them, to cut off the memory of them from the earth!

V.17 ** What should we do when we since trouble?

Cry out to the Lord, knowing He hears and delivers.

V.18 ** When we are truly suffering, what truth from God's own word should lift our broken hearts?

The Lord is near and saves our crushed spirits!

V.19 ** When we maintain "**The Worship Perspective**" in our lives, we are going to encounter affliction. (cf. 2Timothy 3:12) How do we know that our God accepts our worship from His perspective?

He will deliver us "out of them all"!

V.20 ** As David reflects upon God's meticulous protection for the righteous, He (through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) slips into a Messianic prophesy related to the death of Christ. What does He say about God's protection, even in the death of the Messiah?

"He keeps all his bones, not one of them is broken"
cf. John 19:31-36, Exodus 12:43-46, Numbers 9:11-12

If our God can watch out for the most minute detail of the Messiah's sacrificial death on our behalf, He can certainly deliver us from all of our afflictions.

V.21 ** Unlike the protection afforded us by the "**Divine View of Worship**", what is going to be the outcome of life for the wicked?

Their own "evil" will slay them. cf. Proverbs 29:6 Because of their hatred for us, they will be condemned. cf. 2Thessalonians 1:6-8

V.22 ** There is no greater assurance of the "**Divine View of Worship**" than in the outcome of a life that has been devoted to serving the Lord. How will it end according to David?

The Lord redeems the soul of His servants; and none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned. Our worship of the Lord Jesus Christ is beautifully described in the phrase "take refuge in Him".

EXTRICATE

** What was it in David's life that brought him back to "**The Worship Perspective**" that God's word calls for?

His fears and afflictions showed him, or better, reminded him of his need to seek the Lord.

** Instead of focusing on his fearful problems, what did David determine in his heart to do?

Worship the Lord! David proclaim, "I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth!"

DELINEATE

** That should prompt our memories to be able to answer this next question. What were the three parts of "**The Worship Perspective**" that we learned in this study?

1.) Determination to Worship - V. 1-7

2.) Desire to Worship - V. 8-14

3.) Divine View of Worship - V. 15-22

EVALUATE

** Where do you find yourself today? Are you absolutely determined to worship the Lord Jesus Christ in everything you think, say and do? Does that determination help you to develop an even greater desire to worship the Lord? Are you thankful to God for His merciful and divine view of our worship?

ACTIVATE

** It would be most fitting for us to bring this series to an end by proving that we have learned "**The Ultimate Priority - Worship**", because we are always maintaining "**The Worship Perspective**".

We need to let God's loving Holy Spirit challenge us to focus this next week on one or all three parts of this wonderful perspective in such a way that it will overflow onto the lives of those around us.

Closing Prayer