

Inspirational Nuggets

(Archived posts from www.discipleshipcenter.org)

WORSHIP:

Here are some additional thoughts about worshiping God, based on His name, that are found in the *Experiencing God* workbook, authored by Henry Blackaby, Richard Blackaby and Claude King. These thoughts help us get a better handle on what worship might look like:

Seeing God's names in Scripture can call you to worship Him. To worship Him is to reverence and honor God, to acknowledge Him as worthy of praise. Calling on His name indicates that you are seeking His presence.

Here are some ways to worship Him:

- *Bless His name*
- *Glory in His name*
- *Rejoice in His name*
- *Call on His name*
- *Hope in His name*
- *Remember the name*
- *Declare His name*
- *Know His name*
- *Seek His name*
- *Fear His name*
- *Lift up hands in His name*
- *Sing praise to His name*
- *Give thanks to His name*
- *Love His name*
- *Sing to His name*
- *Glorify His name*
- *Praise His name*
- *Trust in His name*

Use whatever worship avenue you like. Hymns are a good way to specifically worship in many of the ways listed above.

How might focusing on one of God's names help me worship Him today?

WORSHIP:

"Worship is, in part, listening to what God might say to us, through music, through words, through fellowship. It is also our response to what He speaks. Worship has occurred when (a) life responds with an openness to how God could change our lives."

- C. Neil Strait

"Worship is not a matter of reciting a few things that we think God wants to hear, and then moving on. Worship is about recognizing how much we owe God, not only for our salvation but for the way He sustains and blesses every day of our lives, and attempting to repay the debt the only way we can - with a life of devotion to Him."

- Randy Southern, from *The World's Easiest Guide For New Believers*

WORSHIP:

This "nugget" comes from Marshall Shelley, Spring 1999 edition of *Leadership* magazine.

"Early in our marriage I gave my wife a terrific anniversary gift: a rain gauge. At least I thought it was a great gift. Susan, after all, is a farmer's daughter and keeps close watch on the weather. I envisioned her delight and nostalgia while tracking our back yard precipitation. I congratulated myself on my creativity.

Guess what? Susan was not impressed: 'A rain gauge - for our anniversary?!' The rain gauge is now a family joke, a classic example of a gift enjoyed by the giver but not the receiver.

One word I hear a lot these days is authentic, as in 'we seek authentic worship.' Usually this means we're trying to create an experience that helps worshipers feel something. Nothing wrong with that, but if our focus is only on our experience, we may be giving God a rain gauge.

Are we offering in worship a gift we enjoy and figuring God will like it?"

A real gift, real worship, means knowing what's important to the Giver.

WORSHIP:

I was recently given this definition of worship, as written by William Temple:

Worship is . . .

- . . . the quickening of the conscience by the holiness of God;*
- . . . the nourishment of our mind by the truth of God;*
- . . . the purifying of our imagination by the beauty of God;*
- . . . the opening of our heart to the love of God;*
- . . . the surrender of our will to the purpose of God;*

And all of this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which human nature is capable, and therefore the chief remedy for that self-centeredness which is our original sin.

How would this definition of WORSHIP impact your worship this coming Sunday?

WORSHIP:

You may think I'm way out in left field after you read this Nugget ...

I love baseball and softball. I played slow pitch church softball for over 20 years and enjoyed it immensely. I have been a fan of baseball for over 40 years now, and I feel overjoyed when major league players report to spring training.

As I observe major league baseball players, I marvel at their skills. One of the things that keeps those skills so sharp is that they are involved with baseball just about every day during the season. In sad contrast, when I played softball, I only played once a week. So on game day, my ball-playing skills were nowhere near those who play on a daily basis. I would be less likely to hit line drives consistently, or make a great fielding play, simply because I only played weekly (or weakly, if you like!).

I wonder if there might a significant similarity between ball playing and worship. Might our "worship skills" be sharper each Sunday if we were already involved in worship on a daily basis, Monday through Saturday, first? Sure, we probably can't have a congregational service each day, but we can find ways to praise, honor, pray to, and listen to God each day. Those kinds of "worship skills" can be carried out on a daily basis - individually, or in small gatherings. Practiced daily, those skills can help us "get into worship" faster, be more attuned to God's voice, obey Him more readily, and raise the level of worship for others around us, on Sundays.

Are you ready to get into the swing of major league worship? Worship the Lord DAILY!

WORSHIP:

One of the most influential figures of Christianity over the past few centuries is John Wesley. Most think of him as a great theologian, or a circuit-riding preacher, or a denominational founder. You probably would be hard-pressed to find someone who primarily remembers John Wesley as a man of music - that distinction might be better suited for John's brother, Charles, who wrote many well-known hymns (like the one you've seen in a "Charlie Brown Christmas," entitled "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" - Vince Guaraldi didn't come up with the song, but Charles Wesley did!).

And yet, John Wesley did have some thoughts about music, including this one today regarding how one should sing during times of worship. Try this on and see what you think:

*"Above all sing spiritually. Have **an eye to God** in every word you sing. **Aim at pleasing Him** more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and **see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually**; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when He comes in the clouds of heaven."*

When you worship through singing this week, ask God to help you do it with a focus on Him, continually.

WORSHIP:

If you want to know something about a Bible character, just look at their name. The name tells you something about their personality, their actions, or some other facet of that person. For example, in Acts 4:36, we meet a man by the name of "Barnabas." His name means "son of encouragement," and often in Acts he is portrayed as someone who is meeting with a group of Christians to help "encourage" them to get stronger in their faith.

According to the workbook entitled *Experiencing God*, there are over 140 names that belong to God. That's a lot of names! (If I had that many names, no one would want me in their address or phone directory.) Each of those 140 names tells you something about God. Again, an example: In Genesis 17:1, God refers to Himself as "God Almighty," and He is getting ready to prove that by giving 100-year-old Abraham a son through his senior adult wife Sarah. Only an Almighty God could do that!

Now, when it comes to worshipping God, one great way to worship Him is to think of one of His associated names in the Bible. *Then, worship God based on how He has been at work in your life according to that name.* Need an example? Try this. You could read Psalm 48:14, and determine that "our Guide" would be a name for God. Then, think of the different times, across the years, in which God has guided you. And worship Him based on those times when He showed Himself to be Your Guide.

Need some names of God to worship by? Contact me, and I'll be glad to send a list of His names to you.

"In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name." -- Psalm 33:21