

# 40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 10

## The Heart of Worship

### POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT FROM LAST WEEK:

*God is pleased when I trust Him.*

What is the opposite of this?

### VERSE TO MEMORIZE FROM LAST WEEK:

*“The Lord is pleased with those who trust in His Love.” – Psalm 147:11*

Trusting in His Love... What does that mean?

### QUESTION TO CONSIDER FROM LAST WEEK:

*Since God knows what is best, in what areas of my life do I need to trust him more?*

Another way to ask this question is, “In what areas of my life am I trusting solely in my own abilities, and I haven’t brought God into at all?”

- The Heart of Worship is Surrender
- What do you think of when you hear the word “Surrender”?
  - Surrender makes you think of defeat in battle, forfeiting a game, yielding to a stronger opponent... Criminals “surrender” to authorities...
- “Surrender” is almost as unpopular as “Submission”
  - We’d much rather think of our life in Christ in terms of being victorious, succeeding, and conquering
  - We don’t like the idea of yielding, submitting or obeying...
- But, Surrender is what God wants most from us
  - Surrendering to God is Heart of Worship

- We surrender ourselves to God, not out of fear or even out of duty...
  - We surrender in Love, because he first loved us...
- After spending the first 11 chapters of Hebrews explaining God's grace to us, look what Paul tells us to do in chapter 12:
- Romans 12:1 NIV
  - 1) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.
- Offering yourself to God as a living sacrifice is what worship is all about
  - It's called many things in the Scriptures:
    - Consecrating yourself to God
    - Making Christ your Lord
    - Taking up your Cross
    - Denying your self
  - It's all talking about this same process: Offering your Life to God
- God wants your Entire Life
  - Not just 90% of it...
  - God wants it all
- There are **THREE** main barriers that keep us from offering ourselves 100% to God:
  - 1) **FEAR**
    - Trust is an essential ingredient to surrender.
      - You will never fully surrender yourself to God until you know Him better
    - Fear keeps us from surrendering, but true love casts out fear
      - The more you realize how much God loves, the easier surrender becomes
  - How do we know that God loves us?
    - Here's **SEVEN** Examples:

- 1) God says he Loves you – Psalm 145:9
- 2) God never lets you out of His sight – Psalm 139:3
- 3) God cares about every little detail of your life – Matthew 10:30
- 4) God gave you the ability to enjoy all kinds of pleasure – 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:17
- 5) God has great plans for your life – Jeremiah 29:11
- 6) God forgives you – Psalm 86:5
- 7) God is patient with you – Psalm 145:8

- The biggest example is that God sacrificed His Son for you!

- Romans 5:8 NIV

- 8) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- God isn't cruel, but loving...

- Surrendering to God isn't something to be afraid of

## 2) **PRIDE**

- We don't surrender to God, because we don't want to admit that we aren't able to save ourselves

- We don't want to admit that we are not in control of everything

- What was the temptation in the garden?

- What was the basis of the original sin?

- You will live forever?
- You will find incredible pleasure?
- You will never get fat?

- No!

- You will be like God!

- The desire to have complete control over our lives, and the environment around us is the root of all the sin in the world

- It's the cause of so much stress in our lives
- Life is a struggle...
  - But, it is only a struggle because we are struggling with God
  - We want to be God
    - We want to make up the rules
    - We want to define what's Right and what's Wrong
    - We want to decide what is acceptable Worship
- There is no way you are going to win that struggle...
- We all accept our humanity intellectually, but not emotionally
  - When faced with our own limitations, we react with anger, irritation, resentment
- We want to be:
  - Taller (or shorter)
  - Smarter
  - Stronger
  - Talented
  - Beautiful
  - Wealthy
    - We want to have it all and do it all
    - We get upset when it doesn't happen

### 3) **CONFUSION**

- We simply don't have a good understanding of what Surrender means
  - Surrendering to God is not passive resignation
- Surrendering means to sacrifice your life in order to change what needs to be changed
- Surrendering to God also doesn't mean you give up your ability to think for yourself
  - God doesn't want to waste the mind that He gave you

- God doesn't want Robots to serve Him
  - He wants you to be able to think for yourself
- Surrendering to God doesn't diminish your personality, it enhances it
  - C.S. Lewis said it well:
    - *"The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become. God made us. He invented all the different people that you and I are intended to be. It is when I turn to God, when I give up myself to His personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own."*
- Surrendering means obeying God even when it doesn't make sense
  - Look at the great example of Simon:
    - Luke 5:5 NIV
      - 5) "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."
- You know you have surrendered to God when you rely on God to work things out, instead of trying to manipulate others, force your own agenda, or control the situation
  - You don't always have to be "in charge"
  - You are able to "let go and let God do the work"
- When you surrender yourself to God, you aren't affected by criticism
  - You don't have to rush to defend yourself, because it wasn't your idea to do it
- A surrendered heart shows up best in relationships...
  - You don't demand your rights
  - You aren't self-serving
- The perfect example of surrendering is Jesus...
  - Mark 14:36 NIV
    - 36) "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."
- Notice how Jesus didn't simply ask for it to be taken away

- A surrendered heart says,

*“Father, if this problem, pain, sickness or circumstance is needed to fulfill your purpose and glory in my life, then please DON’T take it away.”*

- Think about how hard that would be to say...

- But, think of the blessings...

- You will finally find true peace...

- Job 22:21 NIV

21) “Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you.

- You will find victory

- The paradox of surrender is:

- Victory comes through surrender to God

- Surrender doesn’t make you weak

- Surrender strengthens you

- Everyone eventually surrenders to something

- To your own pride

- To your lusts

- To the expectations of others

- To your ego

- Surrender to the one who designed you to surrender to Him

- Surrendering really is the ONLY way to live

- The greatest hindrance to God’s blessings in your life is not others... But yourself

- You self-will, your stubborn pride, your personal ambition

- If God is going to do his best work with you... It will only begin when you surrender

- So give it all to God

- Your past problems

- Your past regrets
  - Your fears
  - Your dreams
  - Your weaknesses
  - Your habits
  - Your hurts
  - Your hang-ups
- Remember... You are a Living Sacrifice...
    - The problem with a Living Sacrifice is that it can crawl off the altar
  - You may have to re-surrender yourself 50 times a day
    - It's not a one-time event
  - You must take up your cross DAILY and follow Christ

**POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT THIS WEEK:**

*The Heart of Worship is Surrender.*

**VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:**

*“Surrender your whole being to God.” – Romans 6:13*

**QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:**

*What area of my life am I holding back from God?*