**Glorify God**

Who is at the center of your universe?

What would you think if I were to tell you that the whole universe revolves around me?

Would you consider this to be a normal though for most people?

In reality we all think this way. We define everything in life around what we need, where we’re at, how we feel and how we think and everything and everyone else revolves around those images.

We define what is good or bad based on ourselves. Most people would consider themselves “Good” and people worse than us are “bad” and people better than us are just plain showing off or over achievers. Does that sound about right.

People who don’t talk to use are stuck up and people we don’t talk to are not worth our time.

My Pastor once told a story about a great basketball player who made 90% of his shots, most of them were slam dunks, and scoring more than 40 points a game. He was excellent at stealing the ball from his opponents and blocked over 80% of their shots.

In light of what I just said, you would probably agree he was a great basketball player, but if I told you he was a 15-year-old boy playing with a 6’ high basket against other kids on his block that were all younger than him, he might not sound so great. If we compared him to a collegiate basketball player he might not even look average and if we compared him to an NBA star like LeBron James he wouldn’t even come close.

This is a picture of all of use. When we look at ourselves or even compare ourselves in our own little world we are sometimes tempted to think we are really great or at least not all that bad. But when we compare ourselves to God we come nowhere close to his greatness and goodness.

It is difficult to glorify God when we are trying to be at the center of all glory and praise ourselves.

Have you ever wondered why an Almighty God would need us to worship Him? It does not seem right for an Almighty God, The Creator of the universe, to need little ol’ me to tell him how great he is. Is He insecure in some way?

The bible teaches us that we should be humble

* 1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.
* Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

But we are to exalt, praise and worship God

John 4:23-24 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Doesn’t God seem needy' especially when we are required to be humble and then you here that He requires us to worship Him?

There was a time when I did not understand why God required me to worship, glorify and praise him but yet it was wrong for me to seek the praises of others.

**Side Note**

Any time you do not understand something about God the best thing to do is pray about it. God wants you to seek him and to know him so he will revel himself to you if you ask.

Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

So I went to God in prayer and asked him to show me why my pride was wrong but I needed to worship him and as always I found my answer.

**Focusing on What is important:** It is not about God Almighty needing anything from us. He is bigger and greater than everything. It is about us, and where we put our attention. When we magnify God in praise and worship, He becomes the focus of our attention, bigger than any problems or fears we have, and all our issues become smaller.

If you think about it: The sun is about 400 times larger than the moon, but the moon can completely block out the sun during a total eclipse. Because it is closer to us, the moon can appear bigger than the sun.

Problems work much the same way. When you focus on your problems, they will grow bigger and bigger, and soon you will not be able to see God. When you praise God, focus on Him and His word, then He will grow bigger, and your problems will grow smaller.

**Why do we need to praise him?**

Remember In the end, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of All (Philippians 2:11).

But God does not want people to praise him because they feel like they have to. God is always looking at the heart.

When a painter or a sculptor creates a magnificent piece of art we praise him for it. His art reflects who he is and glorifies its creator.

2 Corinthians 3:18 tells us that as the spirit of the lord works within us we become more like God and reflect His glory. Just as a painting or sculpture reflects the glory of its creator, we reflect the glory of our creator

If we were to praise the canvas or the paint or the brush our praise would be misdirected because it was the painter who truly created the work and without the painter the masterpiece would not exist. If we praised someone or something else for the work, how should the creator feel?

Have you ever done something you were really proud of but someone else received the recognition for it? When you take credit for something God has done how should He feel?

**🡪People praise those things they find value in**.

We give more attention to things we find value in. We give a Dimond more attention and appreciation than a penny.

We praise people for all sorts of achievements that we give value too. We praise the people we love and admire. We praise great athletes, music and Movie stars but in reality, it is God who has given all these people the capabilities that we are praising.

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above ….

So, it is God who really deserves the praise. If we truly value God we should desire to Praise him above all else.

Praise and worship are natural responses to an appropriate understanding of value and therefor God who holds more value than anything or anyone deserves our praise & worship.

* **Worship should not be a reluctant humility before an attention starved God.**

We should also know that Praise and worship is not just singing in Church. It is giving all that we are for all that He is and does. It is a lifestyle where everything we do should glorify God.

The King James Bible talks about Praising God 256 times

* **By praising God we show that our focus is on heavenly things and not worldly things**

Colossians 3:2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

God is completely self-sufficient and doesn't need our praise and worship. However, He does deserve it.

Acts 17:25 He is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, He himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else

*C.S. Lewis wrote in Reflections on the Psalms that “God created us for His pleasure (just as we create delightful things for our pleasure)… Praising God—acknowledging His goodness, love, perfection, and all the incredible things He has done for us—brings Him pleasure. If/when you have children; you (will) know what a beautiful thing it is to have them praise you. You also know the pain of having them selfishly take you for granted and ignore you.* The right response from us toward God is praise because He deserves it. This is not a difficult command to follow, for when we truly love Him; our praise will flow naturally from that love.

So is it wrong to receive praise? No. When we do good things it is ok to receive praise but we should not do good things just to receive praise.

C.S. Lewis put it best: “**True humility is Not thinking less of ourselves but thinking of ourselves less to put others first”**

If we receive praise for something we do, we should turn that praise toward God because he is the one who enables us to do all things.

There was a great painter who created a magnificent painting. It far surpassed anything ever painted before. A painting worthy to be hung only in the best museum guarded by the best security guards to protect it. But the painting ended up lost and sold for a just few dollars where and ended s up in a back-street pool hall where the smoke dims it and it is chipped and marred by people knocking it about till it no longer reflected its original beauty and splendor. But then the creator found it and bought it back at a great price (Even though it had little value) and restored it back to its original splendor and He presented it before all to see.

This is a picture of what God has done for us. He created us but we wandered away and became filthy with sin but he purchased us back at a great price – he gave his own son so that we may be restored to him.

We should never be worried or ashamed about what other people around us think of us when we are praising God. Our praise should be between us and God. But if others do see use praising God then it should be a testimony to God and we should let our light shine before all men that others may see our good works and give glory to our Father who is in heaven (Mathew 5:16)

So now I am here to boldly say that I am a child of God. It is by God’s grace that I am saved. I have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus and that’s enough for me to praise God every day of my life for eternity. Praise you Father, Thank You Jesus!!!

So, if you agree say

* Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD. (Psalm 150:6)

**Part 2**

**So How do we worship and Glorify God**

**Psalm 29:2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness**

The word Worship means “to give honor, reverence, respect, adoration or praise to a superior being.” God expects us to worship Him as an expression of reverence and thanksgiving to Him.

Several key elements are important in worship:

1. **Praising God**. Giving honor and glory to God with words, songs and music.

Psalm 95:1-11 Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

1. **Acknowledging God**: We can worship God by acknowledging who God is (holy and good) and who we are (sinners). This means admitting our faults, and accepting God's authority over us, giving him the Glory for all that is good

Psalm 115:1 Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

1. **Talking to God**. We worship God in our prayers by what we pray and how we pray. When we pray we are speaking directly to God about how we feel, our concerns and giving thanks. Prayer is not just telling God what we want.

How much of your prayer is about you and how much of it is about God? God wants us to share everything that is going on in our life but, like any relationship, he also wants us to get to know Him better. If you look at what Jesus taught us to pray in the lord’s prayer you will see he starts with God.

Matthew 6:5-13 And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: “**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name**. (Holy is your Name) **Your** kingdom come, **your** will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (The “Me” Part) Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

An important part of talking with God is Giving thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Psalm 100:1-5 A Psalm for giving thanks. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

1. **Listening to & Obeying God**. Prayer is not just us raddling off a bunch of words we need to be willing to listen for God’s response. God’s voice can be heard in many ways but God speaks mostly through his word (the Bible) but sometimes we can also hear his voice through fellowship with other believers when we attend Bible studies, Church services, Youth groups or just hanging with Christian friends.

John 8:47 Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”.

John 10:27-28 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

John 4:24 says that we worship God in "spirit and in truth." How can we ever worship God without understanding who He is? When we read our Bibles, we learn about God and his power, love and sacrifice for us. We learn the truth about God!

John 4:23-24 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Obeying God:We worship God when we obey him**.** So, it is more than just listening we have to follow and do what God ask of us.

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

John 15:10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have

**Part of obeying God is Giving and sharing our Faith**

* **Giving:** An important part of obeying God is Supporting those who spread the gospel and helping others through Giving. If you want to know what is important in your life, look where your money goes. **We are to surrender all that we are and all that we have to God**

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

* **Share your faith.** God wants every person to worship him but to do that they first need to know him.

Romans 10:13-14 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

**One final note**

We can choose to make our life and the things we do every day glorify God. We can praise and worship God in any circumstance. Not just when things are going our way. In a Philippian jail, while their backs were still oozing blood from the beating they'd received, Paul and Silas still worshiped

Acts 16:20-25 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks**. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,**

* The deepest level of worship is praising God in spite of Pain and Suffering
* You will never be worthy to come before the Lord on your own, but Christ has made you worthy.
* Don’t let what is wrong with you keep you from worshiping what is right with God
* When God is at the center of your life you spend each day in worship and not worry
* We thank God for what he does but we praise and worship him for who he is!

Story out of the Bible

When a vast enemy army gathered together with the intention of raiding Judah, King Jehoshaphat did not know what to do. They were heavily outnumbered and there seemed to be no way that they could stand against the three kingdoms preparing to attack them. So, Jehoshaphat turned to God in desperation, he called for the city to fast and prayed. Then…

2 Chronicles 20:20-22 Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful.” After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of His holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: “Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.” As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

So, when Jehoshaphat saw God as their only hope he put the praise team out in front of his army. When they began to sing and praise God, their enemies became confused and attacked each other. Then Israel spent three days picking up all of the enemies’ possessions

When faced with an impossible circumstance, do not forget your most important weapon: Prayer and Praise. When you do not know what to do, turn to the One who does. **Start** by praising God. Don’t wait for him to act. Just have faith Praise him, in all circumstances, for what he is about to do!!

**Additional Scripture supporting How to Worship**

John 4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must **worship in spirit and truth**.”

Psalm 95:6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; **let us kneel before the Lord**, our Maker!

Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Colossians 3: 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, **do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks** to God the Father through him.

Isaiah 12:5 “**Sing praises to the Lord**, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.

Psalm 95:1-6 Oh come, **let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise** to the rock of our salvation! **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving**; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. ...