

THE PRIORITY OF WORSHIP

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."
Deuteronomy 6:5 (NIV)

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment."
Matthew 22:34-38 (NIV)

❖ My First Priority is to WORSHIP GOD:

"Do not worship any other gods besides me. ⁸Do not make idols of any kind, whether in the shape of birds or animals or fish. ⁹You must never worship or bow down to them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not share your affection with any other god!"
Deuteronomy 5:7-9a (NLT)

1. Worship is showing my LOVE to God because of His LOVE for me.
We love Him because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19 (NIV)

2. Worship is GIVING myself TO God because He GAVE Himself FOR me.
Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.
Ephesians 5:2 (MSG)

3. Worship is an act of LOVE, but it also is an act of SERVICE.
"Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."

Matthew 4:10 (NIV)

❖ Reasons Why Worshipping God Becomes Secondary to Us:

1. We become SELF-CENTERED... we worship SELF.
Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing.

Romans 8:7 (MSG)

2. We buy into a SELF-CENTERED CULTURE... we worship STUFF.
Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God... Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity.

Romans 12:2a (MSG)

❖ So How Can We Prioritize Worshipping God?

Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. ³⁰And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'"

Mark 12:29-30 (NLT)

1. Worship is EXPRESSING my AFFECTION to God. – "with my heart and soul"
The LORD is my strength, my shield from every danger. I trust in him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.
Psalm 28:7 (NLT)
 - KEY TRUTH: I am to worship God PASSIONATELY.
"He is a God who is passionate about His relationship with you."
Exodus 34:14b (NLT)

 2. Worship is FOCUSING my ATTENTION on God. – "with my mind"
"Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace."
Matthew 6:6 (MSG)
 - KEY TRUTH: I am to worship God THOUGHTFULLY.
(God) You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You, whose thoughts are fixed on You!
Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)

 3. Worship is USING my ABILITIES for God. – "with my strength"
So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.
Romans 12:1a (MSG)
 - KEY TRUTH: I am to worship God PRACTICALLY.
Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people.
Colossians 3:23 (TEV)

 - BOTTOM LINE: Worship PROTECTS us from us.
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.
Romans 12:1 (NIV)
- ❖ CLOSING THOUGHT: Where is your FOCUS? God's FOCUS is on YOU!
- You have looked deep into my heart, Lord, and you know all about me. ²You know when I am resting or when I am working... ³You notice everything I do and everywhere I go.*
Psalm 139:1-3 (CEV)
1. How much time, and when, do I spend time with God in PRAYER?

2. How much time do I spend in God's WORD?
3. How much time do I spend in CORPORATE WORSHIP with others?
4. How much time do I spend SERVING others in ministry?
5. How much INCOME do I set aside to GIVE to support God's work and ministry?