

# Extravagant Worship Part 8

## There's Only Plan 'A'

**Super Bowl Joke-** A man goes to the Super Bowl but his tickets are for the upper tier. He spots an open seat on the 50-yard line and grabs it.

The guy sitting next to him says, "Actually, this seat belongs to me. I was supposed to come with my wife, but she passed away. This is the first Super Bowl we haven't been to together since we got married in 1967."

"I'm sorry to hear that," says the first man. "Couldn't you find a friend or relative to come with you?" "Nope," replies the second guy. "Everyone's at the funeral."

If you are thinking about **taking steps toward Christ** today, if **you have come to Christ but don't feel very successful in your life**, or if you are **following Christ with all your heart and understanding but want to grow deeper** I want you to listen to this message today. As we teach about our expression of worship toward God.

### Here's God's Desire For You- Return To Eden

***"<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?""***

**Genesis 3:8-9**

These **three simple words** that state a question can echo like thunder in our hearts. God created Adam and Eve in a perfect environment with an opportunity to make their own choices. And **their choices caused them to actually hide** behind what they were responsible to work on and develop. They hid among the trees.

Adam and Eve had an incredible relationship with God. **Key Statement:**

**There was a freedom in knowing God  
because there was a freedom in serving God.**

### Our Ultimate Goal

- **Our ultimate goal is to live generously, openly and freely before our God.** This is only plan 'A'!
- This life of worship is **not a short attempt at living right**, nor is it a **short spurt of physical worship**.

### Conflicts of the Journey

#### 1. **Preference Vs. Obedience**

David says in his prayer:

***"Help me to prefer obedience to making money!"***

**Psalm 119: 36**

**One of the greatest conflicts in our submission to God is when our personal preference collides with the desire or direction of God. See, we**

**view things as right and wrong, but God views it as obedience and disobedience.**

**There is a freedom in knowing God  
because there is a freedom in serving God.**

Often, if the issue that God is dealing with us in our heart is not a sin, we may compromise the voice of God and choose what we would **prefer** to do rather than what God has **asked** us to do.

**Our ultimate Goal: To live generously, openly and freely before our God.  
This is plan 'A'!**

**“Forgiveness is God’s act of love toward us, but living for Him in loving service is our act of saying thank you!”**

- Obeying your **fear** is rebellion to God’s **call**. (Twelve Spys)
- **A Conflict in our journey is when Preference gets in the way of Obedience. Because our ultimate goal is to live generously, openly and freely before our God.**

## **2. Obedience Vs. Submission**

**“If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land.”**

Isaiah 1:19

- **III-** It’s like the child sitting in the corner with his lip sticking out mumbling, “I may be sitting down on the outside, but I’m standing up on the inside!”
- You may feel like you are compliant to what is required or expected of you. But you have never actually submitted, you have only played your cards for your own benefit. Submission is not becoming so empty that there is not continuity, but that your “person”, all it’s gifts and talents, dreams and goals are totally and freely given to God
- **Our ultimate Goal: To live generously, openly and freely before our God.  
This is plan 'A'! There is no plan 'B'.**
- Dr. Earl D. Johnson- *‘Leadership in the New Testament’*

He tells of a meeting where the facilitator was counseling a young husband and wife about a problem they were experiencing in their church. After listening, the facilitator remarked, “You have not been submitted to the authority over you.” “Yes I have!” the young man retorted.”

The facilitator continued, “***You have been obedient, but you have not been submissive...you have been obedient to do what has been asked of you, but you have not been submitted to the authority in your heart.***”

**A Conflict in our journey is when:**

- **Preference gets in the way of Obedience.**
- **Obedience is not tied to Submission.**

- **Because our ultimate goal is to live generously, openly and freely before our God.**

### **3. Submission vs. Action**

**There is an important factor that you must not only submit, but you must step out on “faith” for God to work.** If our ultimate goal is to live generously, openly and freely before our God we have got to move out of a state of security that we often think is a submitted position. A great hindrance to us living in the generous, open and free before God is because we are tied down to fears and baggage that causes us to take a position in the rear.

**Believing in God and trusting in God are two totally different things.**

It is not a matter of thinking, “Yes, I believe there is a God, or some spiritual being of some type. I believe there is a God, if that is what you want to call Him.”

**Most people who have come to church today believe in God or a God of some type.** You might even consider yourself “spiritual” and in some sense a “worshiper”. But it’s possible that the majority of people in this church who say they “believe in God” do not truly “trust in God.”

**There is a freedom in knowing God because there is a freedom in serving God.**

It’s possible that many of us are what we would call “saved” but we are not living in the freedom of the **Kingdom of God**.

**Since our ultimate goal is to live generously, openly and freely before our God. We have got to deal with the issues that distract us of the freedom that God wants us to experience.**

**So, a lot of us are “saved”, maybe “worshippers” but we are not living in the power of that relationship with God in the Kingdom of God.**

**Jesus Confronts The Pharisees:** Jesus confronted an angry group of Pharisees because some of them did not wash their hands properly in Matthew 15:8-10, and he quotes **Isaiah 29:13**

***“They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.”***  
Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:7

It is possible to worship God in vain and here is how, that you obey teachings that are only rules taught by men not the Words of God. Jesus had a problem with this and so should we.

**Two Occasions Of Worshipers of God Becoming Followers of Christ**

#### **1. Philip and the Ethiopian- Acts 8:26-39**

Ethiopian eunuch, the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, reading the **Isaiah 53:7-8**. But the Acts tells us a little more about what the Ethiopian was doing there:

*"This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship..."*  
Acts 8:27

**When Philip asked if he knew what he was reading and he responded that it didn't make any sense to him**, even though it was a prophetic passage concerning Jesus Christ coming to earth. So Philip explained that passage and told him the good news about Christ. The eunuch had an unusual response. He had a heart to lay down his **preference** and desired **obedience, submission** and then **action**:

*"<sup>36</sup>As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" <sup>38</sup>And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him."*  
Acts 8:36-38

**The Ethiopian automatically understood that obedience moved to submission and then action. He had the freedom of knowing God because he had the liberty and found freedom in serving God.**

**Baptism is more than a commanded action, it is a physical act acknowledging a new perspective of belief.** Now, the Ethiopian was a worshiper, but he was worshipping in vain following the teaching of men. Now he is following Christ.

## **2. Paul and Lydia- Acts 16:13-15**

Paul plans to spend some time in prayer down by the river when he comes across some women who had gathered there. One of them was Lydia, a dealer of purple cloth... **"who was a worshiper of God."** (Vs. 14) But something was missing in her life. There was an incomplete part of her life and she didn't know what it was.

*"...The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. <sup>15</sup>When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house."*  
Acts 16:14c-15

**Believing God was not a problem for Lydia because she was a worshiper of God.** She probably spent time at the synagogue often, and obviously talked to people often about God, but she was not, in her own terms, **"a believer in the Lord."** And in her response to this revelation of the message of Paul's what does she do? Your right, she and the members of her house were baptized, then invited them to her home.

**Lydia understood as Paul shared the message and she moved in obedience into a role of submission and then she moved into action. She had the freedom of knowing God because she had the liberty and found freedom in serving God.**

## A Believer Verses A Worshiper

A simple description of the difference between a worshiper of God and a believer of God is:

- **A Worshiper believes there is a God**
- **A Believer activates what he worships**

There is a freedom in knowing God because there is a freedom in serving God.

Our ultimate goal is to live generously, openly and freely before our God.

### Responding Correctly To God-

- Moving in obedience into a role of submission and then into action.

***"Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods."***

Psalm 40:4

### Three responses to being blessed:

1. **Makes the Lord his trust**- He/she is convinced that THIS God is THE God! There is no confusion as to where he turns if there is a confusing, desperate, everyday situation that comes his way, God is always the solution. See, if you always have a plan B, plan A is sure to fail. Your relationship with God cannot be a wishy washy relationship. God is your source of strength or He is not. God is your answer or He is not. You cannot have an idea to try God, you must believe that He is:

***"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."***

Hebrews 11:6

*<sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup>But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.*

*<sup>7</sup>That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup>he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.*

James 1:5-8

2. **Does not look to the proud**- Looking for **someone** with confidence. It is so easy to realize that proud people and confident people both act alike.

**Difficult Decision: It is the next decision that you have to make without any prior experience or education in a particular area needing addressed.**

How likely is that to happen in the next year? That could be your next decision.

3. **Who turn aside to false gods**- Looking for **something** else

*<sup>5</sup>Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare."*

Psalm 40:5

The testimonies of those whose Lord is God are many. There are many stories when people have absolutely allowed God to be their one and only source. All the things that God has taken your life through and how that has affected other people, there are too many stories to tell.

### Reality of Worship- There is no plan B

- There is a freedom in knowing God because there is a freedom in serving God.
- Our ultimate goal is to live generously, openly and freely before our God.
- Moving in obedience into a role of submission and then into action.

***"<sup>6</sup>Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced..."***

**Psalm 40:6a**

### Bond-servant:

*"<sup>5</sup> But if the servant declares, 'I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,' <sup>6</sup> then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life."*

Exodus 21:5-6

### What God Really Wants

***"<sup>6</sup>Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require."***

**Psalm 40:6**

**God is not after your stuff, He is after you.** He knows when you are in relationship with Him and when you are not. He is constantly contending for your heart. He loves you and desires to have you.

- There is a freedom in knowing God because there is a freedom in serving God.
- Our ultimate goal is to live generously, openly and freely before our God.
- We must move in obedience into a role of submission and then into action.

### An Unusual Discovery

It was not until David had the revelation of becoming a "Bond-servant" that God's real directive for him was realized and he saw his own prophetic, Biblical calling in scripture.

***<sup>7</sup>Then I said, "Here I am, I have come— it is written about me in the scroll."***

**Psalm 40:6-7**

**There is a supernatural connection between you and the word of God that you find yourself part of a prophetic promise to this earth when you have become the ultimate sacrifice laid upon the altar!**

***"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**

## Arrested By God

**"<sup>8</sup>I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."  
Psalm 40:8**

## Perspective of the Journey

**"<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."  
I Peter 2:9-10**

### I. Who You Are-

#### 1. Chosen People

- **Chosen-** *eklektos* 1588- *select, favorite: chosen, elect.*
  - From 1537 *ek-* origin: from (place or time) and 3004 *lego-* "to lay forth, relate, ask, bid, call"
- **People (generation)-** *genos* 1085- *born, country, generation, offspring. A "chosen race", where we get the word "genesis" from.*

#### 2. Royal Priesthood-

- **Royal-** *basileios* 934- *Kingly (in nature): royal*
- **Priesthood-** *hierateuma* 2406- *The priestly fraternity, or order- the priesthood*

#### 3. Holy Nation-

- **Holy-** *hagios* 40- *Sacred (physically pure, blameless or religious, consecrated) saint.*
- **Nation-** *ethnos* 1484- *A race, tribe; (where we get our word "ethnic" from)*

#### 4. (Peculiar) People-

##### ***Peculiar-* eis peripostesis**

- *Eis* 1519- To or into (indicating the point reached or entered) of **place, time or purpose**
- *Peripotesis* 4047- *Acquisition; preservation: obtain, peculiar, possession, saving*

**People-** *laos* 2992- *A people, "bound together socially". These are a particular people.*

### II.What You Do

- **Declare the praises of Him!**

### III.Why You Do It

- **Because He has called us out of darkness into His wonderful light.**

### IV.How We Do It

- **Once we were not a people of God, but now we are because of the mercy of God!**