



Worship with our Minds

Read Romans 12:1-2

How are our minds to be engaged in our spiritual act of worship?

What are patterns of the world that might creep into our thoughts as we are involved in private or corporate worship?

What patterns plague you when you are trying to engage your mind in worship?

How can we overcome these thought patterns?

What should we think about?

Read Colossians 3:16

What is to be in our heart while we are singing songs to God?

Read I Thessalonians 5:18

When are we to be thankful?

Who do we thank?

Here are some things we can be thanking God for as we sing songs to Him?

Read I Timothy 6:17

What things have been provided by God that you “richly enjoy?”

Read James 1:17

What good gifts in your life has God given you?

Read Psalm 126:3 and Psalm 143:3

What has God done for you in your life? (answered prayers, healings, open doors, divine appointments, etc.)

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

What is this passage sharing in a nutshell?

Can your experience with God be compared to this passage? How?

Read Colossians 1:9-14 (esp. verse 12)

What guidelines does this passage give us for thanking God?

Briefly share your salvation experience.

Read II Corinthians 3:3

How are you a letter from Christ?

What has the Holy Spirit written on the tablet of your heart?

Write out a prayer of thanks based on this passage.

Read I Corinthians 1:4-9

What aspect of our inheritance in Christ can we thank God for from these verses?

What spiritual gifts can you personally thank God for in your own life?

Read Galatians 4:6-7

Describe what it means to be a son or daughter of God. (Go deep here. Remember “Abba” is a very intimate term—like our term “Daddy!”)

What are we heirs of? What is our inheritance?

Read Psalm 136

What did God do for the Israelites?

What has God done through the ages since Creation?

Read Revelation 19-22

Summarize briefly these passages?

How does this relate to our future?

Read II Peter 3:10

What will it be like when Christ comes back?

How can this affect our worship?

Read II Corinthians 5:8

Where would Paul rather be?

Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

Read Ephesians 1:9-10

What will happen to all authorities, powers and dominions?

When will this happen completely?

Read Jude 24-25

What will Jesus do for us personally between now and the end of the age?

Read Galatians 2:20

What does this verse mean to you personally?

Read Philippians 3:8-14

What is Paul's goal in his relationship with Jesus?

Do you have the same goal? Why or why not?

How can you pursue knowing Jesus?

Read Ephesians 3:4-19

Describe the Love of God?

How much have you experienced?

What is amazing about God's love to you personally?

Read II Peter 1:3-4

What does this passage teach about God's promises?

How can thoughts of God's promises affect our worship?

List some of your favorite promises.

Application:

Evaluate your thought life during praise and worship. Where are you strong? Weak?

How can you grow in worshipping God with your mind?



Worship with our Minds

We worship God with our minds. We show love to Him with our soul, mind, strength and heart. We have to retrain our minds to focus on Him during Praise and Worship in the congregational setting and often in our personal devotional times as well. Our minds have been taught by our culture to be entertained, so we seek out entertainment. When we feel bored or under-stimulated, our minds wander to other things. It is amazing the depth that our minds can sink to in times of corporate worship. We may be lifting our hands on the outside and lusting in our minds on the inside. A homemaker can be writing up her grocery list for the following morning. A businessman can be finalizing a deal for the upcoming week. Or we may be evaluating the clothing or behavior of those around us. All these things do NOT glorify God and keep us from giving a sacrifice to God as worship.

We start out with thankful thoughts and progress from there. Colossians 3:16 inspires us to sing with gratitude in our hearts to God. There is so much to be thankful for.

We thank God for all the blessings He's given us! Every good and perfect gift comes from Him. We could spend hours making long lists of His blessing in our lives: health, sight, shelter, food, family, friends, chocolate, music, nature, beauty, money, and fun. The Lord keeps all promises that are given in His Word. His promises are amazing and wonderful. God gives us financial gifts, vacations and surprises of all sorts. He even blesses us with trials that require perseverance or spiritual warfare, both of which build godly character in our lives. God gives us hopes and dreams. He gives us a church family, pastors and leaders to care for us, brothers and sisters to nurture us, and younger siblings to disciple.

We thank God for what He's done for us! Those prayers that were answered last month are something to thank Him for today! I try to thank God for prayer answers over and over again, just like I pray about things over and over again. God intervenes in our life regularly: opening doors for

us to walk through, giving us favor, or allowing us to be used by Him in exciting ways. How many times have you been healed physically or emotionally by the Lord? Think back to colds, bouts with the flu, broken bones, hurtful words, divisive relationships, or other injuries that God has restored and healed you from. God meets our financial needs. He gives us joy for mourning! He heals our broken hearts and gives us wisdom for life. How many times has God forgiven you? If you're like me, that's a long list. God does so much in our lives that we can praise Him for as we enter His courts.

We thank God for our salvation! We get to spend forever with Jesus because of what He has done on the cross. Jesus Christ died so we could live eternally with freedom from sin and despair. We have JOY and HOPE and LIFE! God is amazing! Our salvation is amazing! Our sins are wiped away, separated from us as the east is from the west. We each have a testimony that includes what we were like before Christ; how God opened our eyes; when and how we accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord; and how God has changed our lives since we've been born again.

This testimony is a great reason for "thanks-giving" to God!! We will spend eternity praising God for our salvation!! And the wonder of it all will not fade away. Fifty trillion years from today we will still be amazed that God love us and saved our souls! Best of all, RIGHT NOW we enter the Presence of God through the blood of Jesus.

We thank God for our inheritance in Christ Jesus! We have incredible blessings because of what happened on a bloody cross by the King of the Universe. Heaven is part of our inheritance. Holiness and freedom from sin belong to those of us in Christ. We rule and reign with Christ Jesus both in this life and the one to come.

We have been given the Holy Spirit as a deposit of what is to come to come in the future. The Holy Spirit also gives us gifts. We are used by God to build one another up. Jesus gives us authority to make disciples of all the nations! God is our Daddy! Our beautiful inheritance is one more thing to praise God for and give us a thankful heart.

We thank God for what He has done for Israel, the Church and throughout the ages! God has revealed His love and power throughout history! He causes nations to rise and fall. He has upheld the cause of faithful prophets and saints through the ages in miraculous ways. He led the nation of Israel through the Red Sea. He allowed Israel to defeat her

enemies with His help in various dramatic ways. The Lord brought the captives back to rebuild Jerusalem's temple and wall. Jesus' birth, teachings, miracles, life, death, and resurrection were amazing! Look at the book of Acts or read books of church history and you will find numerous things to thank God for. Remember this before you begin to sing! God is the Author of History and the Ancient of Days!

We thank God for the glorious future that we will be a part of!

What exciting times lay ahead when Satan is defeated and there is a new Heaven and a new earth! Alleluia! How wonderful to have a future home in Heaven, a place where God's glory brings light rather than the sun or moon. What beauty, elegance, and wonder awaits our eyes! What sweet music and worship awaits our ears! Oh, how glorious to see the Lord face to face!!!! And should we live until His return, what a thrilling adventure awaits us as we meet our dear Lord Jesus in the air! We are so blessed! Thank you, Lord for our future!!!

There is so much to be thankful for!!!! Look back over all the amazing things we have to be grateful to God about. Lift up your eyes to God and pour out gratitude for at least some of them as you enter the Presence of the Lord. Thankfulness is the beginning of worship, the start of praise! It opens our spirits to God, our Father, Savior and Holy Spirit.

We cannot bypass thankfulness. It is like trying to enter a room without opening a door and banging our head against a wall, trying to create an opening. Thanking God is how we start our time or worship.

Gratitude changes our perspective of God, ourselves, and our circumstances. We enter His Presence knowing that **WE ARE BLESSED** because **HE** has blessed us!

Our minds seek to know Jesus! We think about who He is. As we start thanking God for what He has given to us and done for us, we naturally move toward hungering to really **KNOW** God. We want to know the Giver of the gifts and the Shepherd who has cared for us.

Our hearts and minds wander to Jesus, who He really is. We begin to think of Him by His different names and what they reveal about Him. God is: Redeemer, Shepherd, Savior, Lord, King, Counselor, Creator, Judge, Prince of Peace, and Mighty Warrior. We think of God's nature, His love, His holiness, and His reign.

Let your mind ponder Jesus. Meditate on who God is. This quiet contemplation allows you to unlock depths of your spirit and releases you to

pure worship. This whole process can begin with thinking about who God is.

Our minds seek to know and understand His love for us! His love is immeasurable. Who can understand how wonderful this love is? Thinking about the love of God is easy. It is so big and so amazing. Our Heavenly Father is lavishing us with love and Our Heavenly Bridegroom is the Perfect Lover. He pursues us with passion and devotion. God's love is tenderhearted and gentle as He holds us in His arms.

He is the perfect Father, delighting in us and urging us to live lives worthy of His Glory! His love is demonstrated by priceless sacrifice, relentless pursuit, and faithful devotion. He is faithful and true, even when we are unstable. His extravagant love is lavished, poured out and freely dispensed on all of us, His beloved children.

When we are in the midst of a unified Body of Believers worshipping God, it is often possible to experience God's love in a deeper way than at any other time. We can even understand His love to its width, height, length, and breadth. It is unexplainable, but you can experience it!

Our minds think about the promises of God! God gives us everything we need to escape corrupt living and experience fruitful lives through His promises. They are blank checks that we can cash in at any time.

There is an aspect of praise and worship called "Declaration" where we exalt God by declaring Who God is, who we are in Christ, and His promises to us. His promises are spoken and sung aloud to God, ourselves and one another. This pleases everybody!

Meditating on God's promises can take us to other places in worship. As I think about different promises, I might thank and praise God. As we ruminate on various promises, we might find ourselves understanding God Himself or His love in a new way.

We also can "cash in" God's promises during praise and worship, resulting in breakthrough and freedom. Meditating on God's promises can lead to hearing the voice of God and flowing in the spiritual gifts, often occurring during praise and worship.

Our minds are instruments of worship. Most of us need to intensify the training of our minds to worship our Heavenly Father, His Glorious Son and the Holy Spirit!