



Growing in our Passion for God Pt 4: Worshipping the LORD with ALL our Lives!

September 27, 2020

Text: Genesis 22:1-14

Thoughts:

1. In Gen 22:2, we see the first use of the word “love” in Scripture: âhab. It’s interesting that the first use of “love” or “lovest” is in the context of extreme sacrifice in order to honor and obey God...
2. Also, we read the first use of the word “worship” in English Bibles in Gen 22:5.
 - In Hebrew, the word is shâchâh. It means “to bow down.”
 - Its first usage is in Gen 18:2 where Abraham sees the LORD and two angels approaching his encampment and “bows himself to the ground.”
 - In the truest sense, worship is about bowing down, submitting oneself, and rendering honor.
 - There are outward manifestations of this heart that we are used to participating in, but true worship always comes from the heart.
 - Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees, *“Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, **8** This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. **9** But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”* (Matt 15:7-9)
3. Notably, Abraham wasn’t in any sort of worship service as we would think of it; those hadn’t been invented yet!
4. Also, and very notably, Abraham’s “worship” consisted of the sacrifice of his whole world, the son whom he loved and through whom was the promise given!
 - **Hebrews 11:17-19 (KJV)** *By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, **18** Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: **19** Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.*
 - **Galatians 4:28 (KJV)** *Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.*
5. Even Sarah’s approval and love was being “sacrificed;” can you imagine her reaction if Isaac was killed? The son she didn’t think she would never have? The son of her old age? (Abraham was 100, and Sarah was about 90). The miracle son?
6. This test was “all in” for Abraham. It was his “all our” moment! He learned that to truly love God was to sacrifice everything. And he was blessed by God:
 - **James 2:23 (KJV)** *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*

7. True worship is a service, but it is more; it is a gathering, but it is more. It IS singing and praising and praying, and hearing the Word and fellowship and sacrament...but it IS more than the LORD's Day gathering. Jesus said,

- **John 4:23 (KJV)** *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

8. Yes, our worship is not just physical or emotional; it is also spiritual! Paul said,

- **Philippians 3:3 (KJV)** *"For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."*

9. And if spiritual, it is a walk; it is life! We are a spiritual house; a house is where we live!

- **Galatians 5:25 (KJV)** *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*
- **1 Peter 2:5 (KJV)** *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

A Life of Worship

1. From the beginning, God meant for our entire lives to be spent with Him. From the start, worship was life and life was worship.

- **Genesis 3:8 (KJV)** *And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.*
- This is an amazing scene. Have you ever thought about the implications?
- There were no "services;" there was however, communion. They knew the sound of His voice!

2. When God called a people for Himself (Israel), their whole lives were to be dedicated to God; He wanted their whole heart at all times!

- **Deuteronomy 4:9 (KJV)** *Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart **all the days of thy life**; but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;*
- **Deuteronomy 6:2 (KJV)** *That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, **all the days of thy life**; and that thy days may be prolonged.*
- **Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (KJV)** *I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: **20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days**: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.*

3. Even the Tabernacle set up and ordinances symbolize this “all of life” desire. In short:
- God commanded Moses to build a portable Tabernacle in the wilderness. (Ex 25-31) God wanted to travel with His people and be in the midst of them. This was His heart (and that of Moses)...
- Exodus 33:14-15 (KJV)** *And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. 15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.*
- When the people traveled and camped, guess where the Tabernacle was to be set up? In the middle! (Numbers 2) Why? Perhaps to illustrate Who (God) and what (His worship) were important?
 - Each main piece of Tabernacle furniture spoke not only to ceremonial service, but to life; of Christ’s first of all and then the people:
 - The Bronze (Brass) Altar (Ex 27:1-8) - How God feels about sin.
 - The Bronze (Brass) Laver (Washbasin) (Ex 30:18-21) - How God feels about purity.
 - The Table of Shewbread (Ex 25:23-30) - God merciful provision that sustains our lives.
 - The Golden Lampstand (Ex 25:31-40) - The illuminating Presence of His Spirit.
 - The Altar of Incense (Ex 30:1-10) - Prayers and Communion with God.
 - The Ark of the Covenant (Ex 25:10) - The need for Atonement.
 - Even God’s Law wasn’t just about temple worship; His instructions included all of life: Marriage, divorce, parenting, offerings, legal disputes, dealing with others, personal holiness standards, feasts and festivals scattered throughout the year, and more!
4. In the New Testament, Jesus is the Tabernacle who dwelt among us. He desires the same life of service and worship:
- **John 1:1-3 (KJV)** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
 - **John 1:14 (KJV)** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*
 - **Luke 9:23-25 (KJV)** *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. 24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. 25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?*
5. Gathering on the LORD’s Day for worship is commanded, but that’s not all!

- **Acts 2:42-47 (KJV)** *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. 44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. 46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, 47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

- This sounds like life, not just LORD's Day services!

- **Ephesians 5:17-21 (KJV)** *Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; 21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*

- Following these verses, commands are given for other parts of a Spirit-filled life: marriage, parenting, work, and warfare! (Eph 5:22 - Eph 6:9)

- **Colossians 3:14-17 (KJV)** *And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

- "Whatever ye do" is a life of worship! We read this heart in other places too!

- **Acts 17:28 (KJV)** *For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*
- **Galatians 2:20 (KJV)** *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*
- **2 Peter 3:10-13 (KJV)** *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

6. Friends, a life of “worship,” if you will, is the whole duty of man:
 - **Ecclesiastes 12:13 (KJV)** *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

7. Also know that heaven is all about worship as well!
 - **Revelation 5:9-14 (KJV)** *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; **10** And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. **11** And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; **12** Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. **13** And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. **14** And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.*

Conclusions on Growing in our Passion for God:

1. **We must Seek the LORD with all our hearts, Love the LORD with all our Strength, and Obey the LORD with all our Might, and Worship the LORD with all our lives! He is WORTHY of such Passion!**
2. These things should not be considered only duty or obligation (although they are that!), but rather an honor and privilege!
3. Pursuing God, Loving God, Obeying God and Worshipping God is what we do! Why? Because Christ died for us, was buried, and rose again!
4. He called us! He Chose us! He changed us! He convicted us! He gave us faith! He justified us! He adopted us! He sanctified us! He keeps us! He will glorify us!
5. Our LORD is worthy of our growing passion!
6. Our LORD never meant for passionate, vibrant, and joyful spiritual lives to be restricted to Sunday!
7. **Let us be intentional! Let us not sit back! Let us give the LORD our all!**

Father, we want more of Thee!

Psalms 63:1-8 (KJV) *A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; **2** To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. **3** Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. **4** Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. **5** My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: **6** When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. **7** Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. **8** My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.*

Amen!