

Rebuilding Your Worship: Finding Your Way Back to God

When God leads us back home after we've been running or living in darkness, the question becomes: "Now what?" Once we've made the decision to return to God, one of the most important things we need to do is rebuild our worship. This is exactly what the Jews did in Ezra chapter 3 after returning from exile.

What Does It Mean to Rebuild Your Worship?

Worship is more than just singing songs—it's a deep part of communing and connecting with the Lord. For the Jews returning to Jerusalem, rebuilding worship wasn't just about constructing a physical temple; it was about renewing their hearts toward God.

They gathered in the seventh month (Tishri), a significant time in the Jewish calendar that included the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles. This wasn't coincidental—they deliberately chose a time that would help them renew their hearts back to the Lord.

Why Is Unity Essential When Rebuilding Worship?

The text tells us they gathered "as one man to Jerusalem." When God begins a fresh work in His people, unity is always evident. In Acts 2, the church was gathered in unity when the Spirit fell, and the world was changed.

One reason we may not see revival in our land is because the church is disunified. We get caught up in preferences and criticizing believers who are different from us. As Augustine said, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, diversity; in all things, charity."

Lesson #1: Prioritize unity because together in Christ, you're better off than you are individually.

How Do I Start Rebuilding My Worship?

The Jews began by rebuilding the altar—not the entire temple, which would take time, but the altar could be set up quickly. The altar was where sin was confessed and sacrifices were made.

When you want to get back on track with God, you don't start with a new program or church. You start at the altar in your heart, saying, "Lord, I'm coming back to seeking You first above all things."

Lesson #2: Rebuild the altar—that place where sin is confessed and your heart is wholly dedicated to God.

What Should Guide My Worship?

Notice that when they built the altar, they did it "as it is written in the law of Moses." They weren't making up their own way of worship or establishing a new site. They returned to God's Word and let it direct their worship.

In our culture, there's a temptation to leave the pattern God intended in worship to connect with new people. Some churches incorporate secular songs or spiritualize movies instead of teaching the Bible. While relevance in ministry is important, it shouldn't negate biblical foundations.

Lesson #3: Your worship must be done in spirit and in truth—align with God's Word with sincerity and surrender in your heart.

How Do I Worship When I'm Afraid?

The text mentions that "fear had come upon them because of the people of those countries," yet they still built the altar and offered sacrifices. Even when you're fearful of your circumstances or what others might think, go forward and worship boldly.

There's a misconception that we need perfect circumstances to worship God. The reality is that there will always be trials and battles. Make the choice not to let these dictate your relationship with God.

Lesson #4: Don't let fearful circumstances or enemies keep you from worshipping the Lord.

How Do I Make Worship a Lifestyle?

The Jews didn't just have a one-time worship event. They kept the Feast of Tabernacles, offered daily sacrifices, and observed all the appointed feasts. This was a reset in their lifestyle pattern.

Establish new habits of worship based on God's Word. This might include morning devotions, worship music during your commute, or regular times of prayer throughout the day. The pattern doesn't have to match someone else's—find what works for you.

Lesson #5: Establish new habits of worship that become part of your daily life.

What If I Don't Have It All Together?

The text notes that they began offering sacrifices "although the foundation of the temple of the Lord had not been laid." Even if your foundational aspects aren't totally set, keep worshipping the Lord.

You may not understand everything theologically, but if you know what Jesus did for you, that's worthy of worship. God will help build that foundation as you continue to worship Him.

Lesson #6: Let grace lead, because rebuilding your worship doesn't mean you have it all together.

How Should I Respond in Worship?

When the foundation was laid, there were mixed responses: the younger people shouted with joy while the older ones wept, remembering Solomon's temple. Both responses were valid expressions of worship.

Worship has a way of bringing out our heart's stance before God. Some come to worship rejoicing because God is doing great things in their lives, while others come broken and weeping. Both are appropriate responses.

Lesson #7: Give space for different responses as you rebuild your heart of worship.

Why Is My Worship Important to Others?

As the Jews worshiped loudly, "the sound was heard afar off." Their worship became a witness to the nations around them. Your worship becomes a witness to those watching, even when you don't know what words to say to reach someone.

When Jesus is lifted up in our praise, people are lifted out of their pain. The world is full of hurt and chaos, and worship points to something greater than our current circumstances.

Life Application

This week, commit to rebuilding your worship life by implementing these seven lessons:

1. Prioritize unity in the body of Christ
2. Start at the altar with simple confession and communion
3. Keep worship biblical and sincere
4. Don't let fear keep you from worship
5. Form new habits of worship that define your lifestyle
6. Let grace lead—don't wait until you have it all together
7. Give space for different responses in your worship

Questions to ask yourself:

- Where is my altar? Do I have a specific time and place where I meet with God daily?
- What fears or circumstances am I allowing to hinder my worship?
- What new worship habit can I establish this week?
- Am I looking back at "the good old days" or anticipating what God wants to do next?

Remember, worship isn't just about singing songs—it's about offering your whole life to God. As you rebuild your worship, you'll find that God not only removes your fears but replaces them with joy as you see Him truly high and lifted up.