

The Book of Acts: 5 Practices of the Church: Worship

Acts 2:42-47 - All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

The early church worshipped together.

Psalms 145:1-3 – I will exalt you, my God and King, and praise your name forever and ever. I will praise you every day; yes, I will praise you forever. Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness.

John 6:68-69 – Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.”

Awe can stimulate some of the greatest joys in our lives. And misplaced awe will keep us dissatisfied and draw us away from our worship of God.

Our awe of God is easily replaced by awe of self.

Psalms 19:1-4 – The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or a word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world.

Every element of the gathered worship of God's people is intended to give people their awe back again

Hebrews 12:28 – Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshipping him with holy fear and awe.”

Revelation 5:11-14 – Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. And they sang in a mighty chorus: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered—to receive power and riches and wisdom and glory and blessing.” And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang: “Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever.” And the

four living beings said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped the Lamb.

The call for us to return to our first love is a call to reorient our awe.

Matthew 6:19-21 – don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

When our worship is contingent on what he does instead of who he is we begin to make worship about self.

Job 1:20 – Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship.

Worship in the presence of God has the power to undecieve us.

1 John 1:8-10 – if we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. IF we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.