

WHOLLY GIVEN
WORSHIP THAT PLEASES GOD
By Dr. Steve Daily

The story is told of a man who went to a psychiatrist, who offered a free consultation, because the man felt he was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. When the doctor ask the man what his problem was, he responded, I can't sleep at night because I always feel like there is someone under my bed. At first I hear someone moving around, then I begin to hear a voice, and occasionally when I get the courage to look under the bed I see a dark figure with eyes of fire. I can't sleep in my own bed. The psychiatrist said, I can cure you, but it will take 6 months of weekly appointments at \$150 a session. The man left, saying, I'll think about it. Three months later the doctor saw the man on the street and said, "why didn't you come back, how are you handling your problem?" The man replied, I just didn't have the money, and when I told my bartender of my dilemma he offered to cure me for \$10. And how did he do that? asked the skeptical doctor. He had me saw off the four legs of my bed.

Sometimes simple common sense trumps all the years of training and graduate school that doctors endure. And the same is true when we talk about worship that pleases the King of Kings. A simple, humble, hungry heart is far more pleasing to God than the most elaborate forms of worship that lack these characteristics. Our title this morning is "Wholly Given: Worship that Pleases God." This title implies that there is much that passes for worship that is not pleasing to God. And the Bible is full of just such examples. A classic illustration of this in the Old Testament is found in Isaiah 1:11-14. God says, "Your convocations and assemblies are detestable to Me." These were expensive worship services and gatherings that involved extensive preparations and rituals. Yet, God says, they make me sick, I can't stand to attend them. This is no isolated passage, the Old Testament prophets were always providing such warnings from God.

And we find similar statements in the New Testament, particularly aimed at the last day church. In 2 Timothy 3:1-5 Paul warns that "in the last days" many of God's professed people will be "lovers of self" ... "proud" ... "unholy" ... "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." He says, "have nothing to do with them." Nothing grieves the heart of God more than his professed believers who misrepresent Him. Again, regarding His last day church, He says, "Because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor

cold – I am going to vomit you out of My mouth” (Revelation 3:16). As we have noted before, lukewarm water is produced by the mixing of hot and cold together. The condition of this church results from the mixing of the covenants, trying to live under the Old and New Covenants at the same time. Trying to live under law and grace at the same time. It is only a formula for frustration and confusion.

When we have a distorted view of the gospel of the kingdom, it is impossible to truly please God or to truly worship God. That is why knowing God, and embracing His true gospel of the kingdom, are the first two fruits on our kingdom life tree. True 24/7 prayer, which is our third fruit, must be built on this foundation of knowing God through His kingdom gospel. And the same is true for 24/7 worship, which is our fourth fruit, and our subject this morning. Anything that separates the notion of worship from our everyday life, can produce a spiritual schizophrenia, which is the very double-minded existence that James warns us against (James 1:8). We connect faith to one segment of our lives, but disconnect it from other aspects of life. James says, that the person caught up in this kind of lifestyle “receives nothing from God” (James 1:7).

In other words, I can enter into rapturous worship with God in the early morning, I can experience His presence and power from 6 to 7 every evening, I can feel Him speaking through me during our Thursday night street ministry, and I can soar into the heavens praising His name in our Friday night and Sabbath morning worship services. But, if I am not submitting to His will in the difficult relationships of everyday life, and the circumstances that cause me the greatest suffering and frustration, I am living a double-minded existence and failing to worship Him in Spirit and truth. So this morning as we think about 24/7 worship, wholly given worship, worship that truly pleases God, I want to make three points from Scripture that I hope will make a practical difference in our everyday lives.

1. To truly, and fully, worship God we must be wholly given to God.

God calls all of us to the Romans 12:1 offering, to offer ourselves to Him as “living sacrifices.” Two weeks ago we looked at the topic of twenty-four seven prayer, and I stated that the primary target of Paul’s admonitions to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17), and “pray in the Spirit always” (Ephesians 6:18), was the corporate body of Christ. It was first to the church, not to individuals that God gave these commands. But, there is a sense in which we can individually apply these words as well. It is God’s

will that we learn to walk in the Spirit, to be continually walking in His will, in all the thoughts, words and actions of our daily lives. As Brother Lawrence put it, it is God's will for us to practice His presence in all the circumstances of life (and if you haven't read his classic work, *Practicing God's Presence*, I strongly recommend it). This was not a monk who spent his days in ethereal intercession and worship, but in menial tasks like doing dishes and cleaning up after others. I'm trying to learn to worship God while I'm cleaning toilets, just as surely as when I'm praising Him with uplifted hands. In this regard I want to introduce you to a great saint that I may not have quoted in one of my sermons before.

Her name is Jeanne Guyon, often referred to as Madame Guyon, and she was a seventeenth century mystic, who had a profound influence on men such as Watchman Nee, John Wesley, Hudson Taylor, and many others. In what was probably her greatest book, *Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*, she writes about the notion of being wholly given to God. In the preface she says, "I have written this book with the desire that you might wholly give yourself to God" (p. xi). I had this book in my library, but hadn't read it much until my son came home from college with his own copy and talked about what a difference her work had made in his life, and how he had given several copies of the book away to others. This motivated me to read it through in three mornings, and I have been on a spiritual high ever since. There is no greater blessing than to have your own children light your spiritual fires.

The whole book is filled with Scripture. She breathes the Word of God as naturally as she inhales oxygen. The first way we learn to worship Jesus as a lifestyle is to walk in His Word, to just start filling our minds with His promises. I loved what Larry shared a few Friday nights ago about the thousands of promises God has given us in this Book. Paul tells us that we can claim and depend on every one of these promises in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 1:20). They are all "Yes" in Christ Jesus. To pray these promises throughout each day is the key to contentment, happiness, joy, peace and a faith-building experience with God that will change our default browser. I keep getting a message on my computer at home that pops up and says, do you want to change your default browser. Companies want to get you to make their product your automatic search engine, just like the devil wants to control your intellectual home. When we function in the natural mind he will manipulate our thought processes.

I heard Pastor Carolyn talking last week about how the Lord is moving her into a worry free zone. I want more of that. He is calling us as kingdom people to live in a doubt free zone, a lust free zone, a gossip free zone. But, this can only happen if we truly desire to offer ourselves to Him as living sacrifices and to experience the renewed minds (Romans 12:2) or Spirit-controlled minds (Romans 8:6) that He promises us. When I think of the term “Wholly Given” today, I think of Heidi Baker. Here is a woman who has given herself fully to God. The name of her school in Mozambique is “The Wholly Given School of Ministry.” She is teaching others to give themselves fully to God by modeling this in her own life. She chooses to be led by the Spirit no matter how offensive it is to the natural mind. The first time I paid good money to hear her speak, she laid on the platform groaning, totally offending my natural mind, until the Spirit took over.

I once waited for her nearly an hour after a meeting to speak with her about my son who was serving as one of her missionaries in Mozambique at the time. She was so drunk in the Spirit that she couldn’t walk by herself or talk coherently. That is offensive to the natural mind, which is why the natural mind needs to be crucified. “Thy Word have I hid in my heart,” David says, “that I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:11). “I will meditate on Your Word both day and night” (Psalm 119:147-148). God is raising up a generation who are in love with His Word, who sing it, pray it, and claim it 24/7. Young and old alike, I am so blessed by the 6-7 pm worship time that Pastors Jason and Jenelle have established, and for the new participants they have been getting to lead. God is raising up a generation of seekers who appreciate the contributions of the past saints, as much as the modern saints. We love Madame Guyon as much as Heidi Baker. We love Bernard of Clairvoix as much as Bill Johnson. We love our anointed hymnal as much as our modern worship songs. If you want to read a book that combines this past and present heritage like no other, it is John Crowder’s, *The New Mystics*. To truly, and fully, worship God we must be wholly given to God.

2. To truly worship God, we must worship Him in our suffering. Again, I want to refer to Jeanne Guyon and have us think about the following words together for a few minutes.

“You must utterly believe that the circumstances of your life, that is, every minute of your life, as well as the whole course of your life – anything, yes, everything that happens – have all come to you by His will and by His permission. You must utterly believe that everything

that has happened to you is from God and is exactly what you need. ... Such an outlook towards your circumstances and such a look of faith towards your Lord will make you content with everything. Once you believe this, you will then begin to take everything that comes into your life as being from the hand of God, not from the hand of man” (p. 32).

But, pastor, this doesn't sound like 24/7 worship, it sounds like some form of Christian fatalism, or even masochism. Whatever happens to you, must be accepted as God's will, no matter how terrible or revolting. Isn't this what the Hindus teach? We must be resigned to our fate and never question it, regardless of our caste in life. No, there is a big difference between fatalism, determinism, or pre-destination, and what Madame Guyon is talking about. First of all, we must recognize that if we are not functioning under law as Christians, we are functioning under the Spirit. This means that we are being Spirit-led as Christians, that we are praying and living the prayer our Lord taught us. “Thy kingdom come” (Matthew 6:10). How? “Thy will be done” (Matthew 6:10). We are praying for His will to be done in our lives, moment by moment, just as Jesus did (John 5:19).

This is what Jesus is referring to when He says, “On earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). I believe it refers to living in God's perfect will for us, moment by moment. Did His perfect will include suffering, for Jesus, yes it did. But, Jesus glorified His Father on Calvary, just as much, if not more than He did on the Mount of Transfiguration. Jesus did not say, “I will not be flogged, because there is no flogging in heaven.” “I will not be put on a cross, because there is no crucifixion in heaven.” We must not misunderstand kingdom theology to say, that since there is no cancer in heaven it is never God's will to allow cancer to exist on earth. Or by that same token, we have to pray that God will reverse the aging process in every geriatric person we meet, because there is no old age in heaven.

No, “on earth as it is in heaven” refers to praying for God's will and living in God's will even when we do not understand it. It involves praising Him, thanking Him, and worshipping Him, not because bad things are happening to us, but because we know we are His and He tells us that everything that happens to us, including what we perceive to be bad, He is working for good according to His perfect purposes for us (Romans 8:28). This does not include deliberately sinning against Him, because Romans 8 is written to those who are walking in the Spirit. But, even when we do mess up, and

function foolishly in the flesh, if our heart is towards Him, if we are growing in our hunger for Him, our humility before Him, and our faith in Him, we can say with Paul, “thanks be to God who gives me the victory in Jesus Christ” (Romans 7:25).

True kingdom theology does not lead us to believe that everything in our lives here in this sinful world should be the way that it is in heaven. It does not lead us to believe that every sick person we pray for should be healed or there is something wrong with their faith or our faith. I liked the stories about William Branham that pastor Garry was sharing, a couple Friday nights ago, because they illustrated this point very well. God would show Branham pictures of things to come, and when he recognized the situation he would pray God’s will into existence, on earth as it is in heaven. On one occasion God showed Branham a picture of an accident on a mountainside where a young man was thrown over a cliff and William went down, prayed over him and saw him healed. The trouble was that Branham didn’t recognize the mountain, so he had to just patiently wait for the situation to materialize.

That didn’t happen until a few years later when Branham was traveling in Switzerland and suddenly recognized the scene from his vision. He stopped, went down the mountainside to the place where he saw the young man lying, prayed over the dead body of the accident victim, and saw him raised from the dead right before his eyes. Word of this miracle spread everywhere and so the parents of another young man who was in desperate need of prayer asked Branham to come and pray for their son, that he might be healed. But, Branham explained to them that while he was glad to pray, his prayers apart from God’s direction and revelation were only his prayers which had no power on their own. Later God did reveal His intention to heal this young man and Branham obediently became His instrument in that healing. But the key was God’s leading and direction. That is why, when I pray for healing, if God has not revealed to me that He is going to heal the person, I pray for His perfect will to be done.

On another occasion the Lord showed Branham a picture of a person, in need of healing, lying on a bed with two men sitting in the room. When Branham came upon the scene he saw that everything was in place, except that the two men were not sitting in the room. Therefore, he chose not to pray at that time, despite the concern of those present, and sat and waited on the Lord until the two men arrived. Once they were seated where he had

seen them in the vision he prayed and the healing took place. This is what we mean by “On earth as it is in heaven.” God reveals His will and we act on it. If you want to read many more examples like this from the life of William Branham I recommend, his amazing biography written by Gordon Lindsay, entitled, *A Man Sent From God*. Branham is just one of many individuals whom God raised up during the last century, that were forerunners of the last day anointing and revival that the Lord is about to release over His Bride.

John G. Lake was another anointed healer who moved under the power of God’s direction to act as God’s miraculous hand for tens of thousands. In fact, his healings became so astounding that in a five year period his ministry was carefully followed, and during that period more than 100,000 miraculous healings were documented. For years he worshipped the Lord by listening to His voice and doing what God told him to do. If you want to learn more about his miraculous ministry, I recommend the book, *Your Power in the Holy Spirit*. You have heard me talk a lot about Smith Wigglesworth, who was another one of these forerunners who lived a lifestyle of worship by being Spirit-led. If you want to read a great book that briefly introduces you to the amazing lives of a whole bunch of these forerunners, I recommend, *God’s Generals*, by Roberts Liardon.

And what you will find in their stories is that as long as these gifted giants maintained their worshipful walk with God, they accomplished great things for His kingdom. But, in several cases, these anointed saints were distracted or discouraged by the enemy, or victimized by their own pride or suffering. This book tells the whole story, just like the Bible. As Paul put it, “These things occurred as examples” to keep us from making the same mistakes that they did (1 Corinthians 10:6). When things go wrong we need to have a theology that will keep us from discouragement or deception. We need a theology that will protect us from the enemy’s guilt darts and doubt darts, that would cause us to question our God or take us down into darkness. Which leads me to my third point.

3. The purpose of seeking healthy theology is worship not knowledge. I believe that Paul provides us with such a theology in Philippians 3:10, “To know Him, the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His suffering.” The key is to know Him. To know Him is to know His gospel, to know that He is good all the time and that because we have given ourselves to Him, His blood has freed us from all condemnation. He has

forgiven all our sins, past, present and future. That is what 1 John 1:9 is saying, when we come to Him wholly given, we confess all our sins, and He cleanses us from all unrighteousness. How much is all? He takes us out from under law, out from under the realm of condemnation. To know Him is to keep pressing in for more of Him, we can never get enough, ever increasing hunger for Him, ever increasing humility before Him, and ever increasing faith in Him. This will ultimately result in the baptism and gifts of the Spirit. This will result in the Spirit living in us to greater and greater degrees. Paul says, to know Him is to know the power of His resurrection, this isn't just talking about doing miracles, it is talking about becoming a living, walking miracle ourselves.

Which leads me to Pastor Garry's favorite text, Romans 8:11, "And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you." God is raising up a whole generation of Wigglesworths, Branhams and Lakes, and all of us are called to be a part of this generation. The enemy sees it coming and he is desperate to try to stop it. His strategy is to use bad theology to discourage us, to condemn us, and to alienate us towards God. If we are suffering as kingdom people, he wants us to blame ourselves, or to blame God. After all, there is no suffering in heaven, so why am I suffering here? What am I doing wrong, or why is God letting me down. No, if we know Him, we will know His power, and the fellowship of His suffering.

As Madame Guyon often said, we must learn to love the cross. "He who does not love the cross, does not love the things of God" (*Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*, p. 38). That is true even if you are the head disciple of Christ. Peter believed that he was a wholly given worshipper of Jesus. He makes this clear in Matthew 26:33, "Peter answered and said to Him [Jesus], 'Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.'" I am the one follower You can depend on Jesus. Everyone else may crash and burn, but I am going to follow the Lambrover, wherever You go! Really Peter? Why don't we reverse the tape, back to Matthew 16:22, when I was talking about going to the cross and suffering many things. Do you remember what you said then Peter? "Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, 'Far be it from You Lord; this shall not happen to You!'"

Do you remember that conversation Peter? Do you remember my response to your rebuke? “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men” (Matthew 16:23). It is Satan who speaks through us when we preach a theology that allows no place for human suffering in the will of God. He who does not love the cross, does not love the things of God. Most popular theology appeals to the prejudices of sinful human nature. Even Peter was caught up in this trap of being more attracted to the thinking of men than the will of God. It was unthinkable to him that Jesus should suffer, just like it is unthinkable to many Christians today that we should be called to suffer. Hey, I thought Jesus took all that suffering stuff on Calvary. He bore all our pain, so we don’t have to bear any. That is not what Jesus says in my Bible. He says, in the very next verse, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (Matthew 9:24).

And the parallel version of this passage makes it clear that this is not a one time thing. Here Jesus says, “Take up his cross, daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23). How many of you feel that every day contains challenges and suffering that you cannot handle unless you’re “In Him,” that you cannot survive without Him? I know this is true for me. The good news is that we are never without him (Hebrews 13:5). The good news is that we are in the grip of His grace and He will not let us go (John 10:28). Even if we do not feel like we are wholly given, if our hearts are hungry for more of Him this morning, He sees us through the perfection of His Son (Hebrews 7:28). If our hearts are toward Him, we have been “perfected forever.” Do you want all of Him this morning? Just bow your heads and raise your hands if that is so. Then in His eyes you are wholly given.