

## REAL WORSHIP

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**Romans 12:1-2 , 2 Cor. 3:12-18**

We are living in a world where attending church, like most things in life, is optional. When one wants to worship they can watch TV, stream, or spend time on ones own. There are a plethora of churches all over America. People attend church for many reasons; seeking to meet a variety of needs. Some want to be intellectually as well as emotionally involved. Others merely want their pain anesthetized so that they can go out and face another day.

But the question is when do you know that you have truly worshipped? Is it when you feel convicted? When your questions are answered? What is the gauge for real worship? You do understand that there is a purpose for worship in our lives. If it was only about us, we turn God into our servant rather than serving him... There is no denying that there are personal blessings that come from worshipping God.

You will know that you have been engaged in real worship when there is a change in your life. When you rub shoulders with the holy, you have to come out holy. There is no way that you can continue to worship and go back to business as usual. When you are in the presence of God, his divinity becomes a part of who you are. So, it really doesn't matter where you worship. It is not a one time experience. It is a change and a process that takes place over time.

Biblical transformation is not an instant change like a microwave, it takes time. In Rom 12:1-2, the Greek word used for transformed means to be changed completely, not cosmetically. Any change that occurs on the outside is a natural expression of a change that has already taken place on the inside. Real change takes place from the inside out. There is another Greek word in this text that talks about external change (conformed) as in masquerade. 2 Cor. 11:13 Mat. 23:25, 27-28. People do it all the time. We date, marry, and make business arrangements with persons who look one way, but act another. Time will tell who they really are.

There are lots of people in the world who give the appearance of being saved. If all the people are saved who say they are saved, if there are so many Christians in the world, why is the world in the state that it is in? Someone ought to act differently. We have to be clear that God is not into appearances. God is into transformation. You are either a masquerade or you are going through a metamorphosis. 'The transformed and the transformer live by the power within, but the conformer lives by the pressure without' – Wiersbe.

The people all around us make subtle comments about the way we live for Christ. The culture makes it easy for us to conform and fit in. It's not easy to be positive when everything around you is negative. It's not easy promoting excellence when everyone else is content to be blasé. But now that we are saved, we don't think the same way the world does. We are to be shaped by the revelation of God in the scriptures. That's why we come to worship.

Worship is not just what we do while we are in church. Worship is what we do everyday of the week and every moment of the day. Worship is not just an event, worship is a lifestyle. Worship is the way that we

handle ourselves in the boardroom and classroom. It's the way we play golf; the way we speak to people, the way we look at folk. Worship is the way we carry ourselves in the midst of a storm; with your head held high. We were created to worship Him.

The word for worship used means to serve. We are priests offering spiritual sacrifices. The first sacrifice is our bodies. God doesn't want a dead body like in the Old Testament, he needs a living body. God needs for us to use the mind he has given us so everyone will know that you are not the average, you are the exception. We are not our own, we have been bought with a price. Worship may start in the sanctuary, but it doesn't end there. Paul says that we are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices. The world in which we live is dark, but God has called us to be light in the world.

Another key to becoming transformers is to offer our minds.

The mind fell when creation fell in sin, but God will renew it and make it brand new. He wants to give us understanding and insight. He wants to give us the ability to discern his will. We had power and authority before Barack Obama became president. He is the president because we got it like that. Get excited about something. We like to watch fires burn, but we don't like to get in. God renews minds through his word. God teaches us his word through the Holy Spirit. God's word is written on our hearts. But We have to put the word into practice, James 1:19,22. As we submit to him in the doing of the word, God transforms us by his glory and we begin to radiate God's Glory. 2 Cor. 3:18

The Old Covenant was written on stones and it brought death to people who couldn't keep it. But now the glory has been revealed in Jesus Christ. That glory brought us into a new covenant where the word is written on our hearts. The glory that is revealed on our faces is radiance from within. When you have radiance, you don't want to cover it up. It takes discipline, determination, and diligence to live this life. What do you want? That which is temporary? Nothing on this earth lasts forever. God's glory is eternal and Christ's glory is in you. The hope of Glory.

The word of God for the people of God.

Peace.

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