

“I Will Meet You”

In these last five words in *Exodus 30:6* God explains His whole intent and purpose for worship.

I will meet with you. God was and is saying, “I want to meet with you, and I believe you want to meet with me, therefore proper worship will be the pathway for my children to meet with Me.”

On top of that, Jesus promises in Matthew 18:20 to show up and meet with us every time two or three of us gather together in His name.

In week one, we gave you several things to do to prepare yourself to meet with Jesus.

Next Life Transformation Step: Every time we worship together, before the first note is sung, I commit to Come Clean, Still My Soul, Pray, Bring the Anointing, and Expect to Meet Jesus and Hear Jesus Speak to Me.

In **week two**, we talked about seven different ways songs are used to help us meet and experience Jesus, and then in **week 3**, we talked about how to worship Jesus without music.

In **week 4** We talked about X-Formational Praise and practiced biblical forms of praise together!

On **Father’s Day** we discussed the danger of letting our Hearts get Hard to the presence of the Lord, and I encouraged you to break up the fallow ground of your heart. Repent, Remember, Refocus, and Refuse!

Week 6 brought us to the Altar of Christ Jesus, the only place where our lives can be altered!

Of course, last week we celebrated how God is working in the hearts of our Young Worshipers.

Today I want to conclude this X-Formational Worship Series with an exhortation to remember and understand that “Worship” is More Than Words.

Lip Service

Mark 7:1-8 The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ² and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?” ⁶ He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁷ They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’ ⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

Two Things to Note Here:

1. Our Worship will be in vain, if we let it become nothing more than **human rules**. “You’ve got to do it this way, you can’t do it that way.” Rules, rules, rules.
2. Worship according to God’s commands or God’s way and don’t hold on to your worship traditions from the past, human **traditions**.

But let’s focus on verse 6 today. *These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.*

Worship cannot be merely lip service. We can’t, “thank you Jesus, praise his holy name, glory to God, here at church and then go home and live a totally different life style. **Worship Is More Than Words!**

We can’t give God lip service in His presence and then allow our hearts to be far from Him.

Next Life Transformation Step: Every day this week, I will repent of giving Jesus lip service, and I will truly surrender my heart to Him, come close to Him, and meet.

Worship as a Lifestyle

I’ve heard Pastor Joe say over and over, “Worship is a way of life, not just what we do on Sunday mornings or Wednesday nights.” We are worshipers all the time. At church, work, home, we live a life of worship!

1. Worship is Relational

God created us to have relationship with Him, and we must worship Him as our loving father, our incredible Savior, and amazing Holy Spirit that dwells within us.

One of the Five Purposes of Believers Church is “Worship” “Love the Lord Your God”

In his historical story about Jesus, Matthew quotes Jesus. *Matthew 22:37 Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’*

- This worship includes prayer, praise, adoration, private worship and corporate worship.
 - *Matthew 4:10 For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’*
 - *Psalms 34:3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together.*

Worship should be an expression or a natural overflow of our love for God.

- Now loving God is not something that you only do on Sunday morning.
- You don't just love God when your favorite worship song comes on the radio.

No, you love God all the time! I exist, you exist, and the Church exists to love and worship God.

Transformational worship is more than words, it includes obedience, sacrifice, serving, and becoming like the one you love and worship!

“The heart of God loves a persevering worshiper who, though overwhelmed by many troubles, is overwhelmed even more by the beauty of God.” Matt Redman

2. Worship is Transformational

As we enter this love relationship with God our WORTH METER is rescaled.

- Things that use to matter to us don't mean that much to us anymore.
- We realize that this relationship with Jesus is worth more to us than anything else in this world.
- You now realize that worship is really Worth-Ship.
 - Worship is declaring what you think something is worth.
 - **To Worship is to Ascribe Worth. Worth-ship is given to what matters most.** We worship what we value most.
 - It is what fuels our actions, becoming the driving force of all we do.

Worship is a natural out flow of a transformed heart. Jesus said in *Luke 6:45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.*

As we live a life of worship, other people will begin to see this Life Transformation that has taken place.

Acts 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

3. Worship is Missional

In having relationship with Him, we can't keep it to ourselves! We can't expect to be transformed and live a life of worship and never share about Christ. Every day presents the opportunity to share our story and encourage others to come and worship, to meet with God as well.

Isaiah 6:1-8 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” ⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. ⁵ “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.” ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

I was a man of unclean lips, living among people of unclean lips. I met with God, had a life changing worship experience with Him. I was forgiven and cleaned, entered a relationship with the Lord, transformed, and now I WANT TO BE SENT TO TELL OTHERS!

4. Worship is Reproducible

Others learn to worship and praise Him from us, the worship leaders.

As a result, they do the same and worship their Father in Heaven.

This is discipleship; disciple making.

May we seek ways to increase our areas of influence to teach others how to worship in Spirit and in Truth.

Jesus and The Woman at The Well

John 4:23-26 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” ²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

If your circle of influence is a couple of friends or family, and no other extended relationships or outsiders, you may want to consider increasing your circle of influence. Be aware of your surroundings.

Follow My Lead Six times in the Apostle Paul's writings he told people, "Hey if you want to know how to be a follower of Christ Jesus and to live a life of worship... then do what I do.

Philippians 4:9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Can you say this about your life? Can you tell your family and friends to follow my example of what being a Christ follower is all about?

Philippians 3:17 Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

1 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore I urge you to imitate me.

Now before you get discouraged, understand that Paul wasn't saying he had arrived and was perfect. He was just inviting them to join him in his quest.

Balance this statement with what Paul had told them earlier in Philippians 3:12-14.

Philippians 3:12-14 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

This leads us to our final truth about life style worship.

5. Worship is Formational

Isaiah 64:8 Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hands.

A lot of scripture refers to our spiritual formation like the forming of pottery.

When we worship the living God, we are all indeed changed and formed for the best, what we were created for in worshiping the Lord. Remember transformation is a process. Our spirit man is 100%, totally changed at salvation and then our soul, our mind, will, and emotions, begin a transformation process to be conformed into the image of Christ Jesus!

Next Life Transformation Step: Today I submit myself to God and ask Him to continue the Worship Formation in my life. I don't want Transformation Worship to end here. I want it to continue in me.

Life App Group and Family Devotional Application

1. God's desire and purpose is for us to meet with Him, and Jesus has promised to always show up (Matthew 18:20) when we come together to worship Him. How have your meeting times with Jesus gone this week? Any helpful suggestions for the rest of us?
2. What are your normal worship habits or practices?
3. How do you encourage yourself and others to live out their praise habits? Remember, where there is no vision, the people perish.
4. Give a past experience or worship testimony of how God really moved in your life and got a hold of You for His worship and purpose.