

In Him, For Him, Through Him – Part 2 Worship Brings Rest

Worship Defined:

- **To worship simply means to give, priority and deference to.**
- **Whatever holds your attention, your devotion, your priorities, and your commitments, that is the object of your worship.**

*“He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples, and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. **He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need.** From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. **For in him we live and move and exist.** As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’”*
Acts 17:24-28 (NLT)

*From one man **he created** all the nations throughout the whole earth. **He decided** beforehand when they should rise and fall, and **he determined** their boundaries.*
Acts 17:24-28 (NLT)

Three Keys:

- **He created.**
- **He decided.**
- **He determined.**

“His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. For in him we live and move and exist.”
Acts 17:27-28a (NLT)

The Purpose:

- **To seek Him.**
- **Move toward Him.**
- **Find Him.**

How do I know that I am truly worshipping, the true and living God? Very simply, I entered His rest!

- **True worship is entering His rest.**

Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. Remember what it says: “Today when you hear his voice, don’t harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled.” And who was it who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Wasn’t it the people Moses led out of Egypt? And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn’t it the people who sinned, whose corpses lay in the wilderness? And to whom was God speaking when he took an oath that they would never enter his rest? Wasn’t it the people who disobeyed him? So we see that because of their unbelief they were not able to enter his rest.
Hebrews 3:12-19 (NLT)

The Cultures Understanding of Rest:

- **Seize from activity.**
- **Find a behavioral escape from life.**

The Lord’s Rest is Different:

- **Rest is a permanent condition of the soul.**
- **Seeking escape from stress is different from entering into rest.**

What is Biblical rest?

- **Biblical rest is not a punctiliar action in the timeline of life, but a gift the Lord gives to you.**

Now since the same promise of rest is offered to us today, let us be continually on our guard that none of us even looks like failing to attain it. For we too have had a Gospel preached to us, as those men had. Yet the message proclaimed to them did them no good, because they only heard and did not believe as well. It is only as a result of our faith and trust that we experience that rest.

Hebrews 4:1-3a (J.B. Phillips)

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:7 (NKJV)

But when the Father sends the Comforter instead of me—and by the Comforter I mean the Holy Spirit—he will teach you much, as well as remind you of everything I myself have told you. “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn’t fragile like the peace the world gives. So don’t be troubled or afraid.
John 14:26-27 (LB)

- **Biblical rest has to do with contentment and satisfaction rather than the absence of activity.**

*It is only as a result of our faith and trust that we experience that rest. For he said: 'So I swore in my wrath, they shall not enter my rest'; not because the rest was not prepared—it had been ready since the work of creation was completed, as he says elsewhere in the scriptures, speaking of the seventh day of creation, 'And God rested on the seventh day from all his works' **Hebrews 4:3-5 (J.B. Phillips)***

*How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. **Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.** I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. **Philippians 4:10-12 (NLT)***

*These people always cause trouble. Their minds are corrupt, and they have turned their backs on the truth. To them, a show of godliness is just a way to become wealthy. **Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it.** So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. **1 Timothy 6:5-8 (NLT)***

- **The Lord never stops working, and He is always at rest.**

- **Biblical rest is not dependent on contexts, but it is a condition of the soul.**

And in the passage above he refers to "my rest" as something already in existence. No, it is clear that some were intended to experience this rest and, since the previous hearers of the message failed to attain to it because they would not believe God, he proclaims a further opportunity when he says through David, many years later, "today", just as he had said "today" before. "Today, if you will hear his voice, do not harden your hearts'. For if Joshua had given them the rest, we should not find God saying, at a much later date, "today". There still exists, therefore, a full and complete rest for the people of God. And he who experiences his real rest is resting from his own work as fully as God from his. Let us then be eager to know this rest for ourselves, and let us beware that no one misses it through falling into the same kind of unbelief as those we have mentioned.

Hebrews 4:5-13a (J.B. Phillips)

*Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker, for he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care. If only you would listen to his voice today! **Psalms 95:6-7 (NLT)***

*The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception. **Proverbs 14:8 (NIV)***