

WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN IN WORSHIP

Isaiah 6:1-8

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: No doubt what some call a "worship service" is anything but that. It seems that many Christians don't have the slightest idea of what "worship" is all about. Sadly, many pastors don't either nor do the "worship" leaders or music directors. "Worship" has lost its original meaning. Compare what is called "worship" today with the experience Isaiah had. Let's read *Isaiah 6:1-8*....Isaiah had a life changing encounter with God and what happened to Isaiah needs to happen every time a Christian goes to a worship service.

I. THERE MUST BE A DEEP AWARENESS OF GOD

1. *vv. 1-4*
2. One of the most significant things in true, real worship is to focus one's attention on God.
3. Becoming aware of God causes one to become overwhelmed at the majesty of God.
4. Genuine worship starts with God.
 - Worshipers become aware of His presence
 - When worshipers become aware of God's presence, they remember God's qualities.

II. THERE MUST BE AN HONEST RECOGNITION OF ONE'S OWN TRUE SELF

1. *v. 5*
2. For a person to be in the presence of God and know it, it causes one to become aware of his/her sins and makes one uncomfortable.
3. Isaiah became aware like never before of his personal sinfulness and he cried out "*...Woe is me...*"
 - He was made aware of his "lostness" and his "unclean mouth (lips)."
 - He acknowledged his heart condition.
 - He realized and acknowledged that he didn't measure up to God's expectations.
 - He became aware of the fact that everyone was sinful as well as he was.
 - "*...I live among a people of unclean lips...*"
 - One will always become aware of his/her unworthiness when he/she comes into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - God has something else in mind other than wanting each person to recognize his/her sins, He wants each person to do something about his/her sinful life.

III. THERE IS FORGIVENESS THAT COMES FROM GOD

1. *vv. 6-7*
2. As soon as Isaiah became painfully aware of his sins, God began to move toward forgiveness of Isaiah's sins.
 - God wants to take care of the sin problem in one's life.

3. Isaiah experienced God taking away his iniquity and purging of his sins.
 - When sins are removed, God gives a complete pardon.
 - Every person needs God's gift of forgiveness.

IV. ONE MUST HAVE A WILLING SPIRIT TO SERVE GOD

1. v. 8

2. Isaiah was not in "church" when he encountered God but his experience led him to serve God among his people.
 - There were all sorts of needs where Isaiah lived.
 - People needed the Lord
 - God wants to help people with their needs.
3. To help people with their needs, God uses other people.
 - God asked Isaiah "*...Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?... "*
 - God was asking for volunteers.
 - Isaiah volunteered.
 - Isaiah's worship led him to be of service to God.
 - There is something God has for every Christian to do.
 - Are you doing anything for the Lord?

CONCLUSION:

1. When a Christian misses a worship service, he/she never knows what kind of remarkable experience he/she may be missing.
2. Not everybody will have the same degree, the same kind of experience with God that Isaiah had, but every person who worships God truly and sincerely will have a very special experience with God.
3. Think about what YOU call "worship." Is it REALLY worship? Or is it just time spent in a Church building with some other people, singing, hearing a sermon, waiting till the preacher gets through and then hurry out the door? Nothing gained because nothing was given.
4. God is waiting for His Children to focus their attention on Him and come to Him recognizing that He is God and that they are sinful people and need to have their sins forgiven and that they are to be of service to Him.
5. So, has anything significant happened to you in a recent "worship" time?