

# The Heart of a Worshiper

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Lesson 4: Results of Worship (part 1)

Does anyone have anything to share from your  
“Personal Reflection” from Lesson 3?

1. From I Kings 8:6, what did the Ark of the Covenant represent? What is the significance of “beneath the wings of the cherubim”?

The Ark of the Covenant represented God's manifest presence, His holiness, and the sacred agreement (covenant) He established with the people of Israel. Its placement "beneath the wings of the cherubim" signified divine protection, the overshadowing glory of God, and His sovereign throne reigning over His people.

## Representation of the Ark

The Ark served as the most sacred object in the Holy of Holies, embodying several theological concepts:

- **The Presence of God:** It was considered the earthly “footstool” or throne of the Almighty where He chose to dwell among His people.
- **The Covenant Witness:** Containing the Ten Commandments, it acted as a physical testimony of the legal and spiritual bond between God and Israel.
- **Atonement and Mercy:** The Ark’s lid, or Mercy Seat, was where sacrificial blood was sprinkled on the Day of Atonement to seek forgiveness.

<b>Significance</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Divine Guardianship</b>	Cherubim are biblical guardians of holiness, echoing their role in the Garden of Eden to protect the way to God’s presence.
<b>Sovereignty &amp; Majesty</b>	The “overshadowing” wings represent the majesty of a King; the Ark is the throne, and the cherubim are its attendants.
<b>Refuge and Safety</b>	The wings symbolize a protective covering or shelter for the people under God’s watchful care.
<b>Absolute Holiness</b>	Being “beneath” these wings meant the Ark was concealed in darkness, emphasizing that God is transcendent and unapproachable except through specific divine order.

2. In the Old Testament, what was the temple used for? What does I Corinthians 6:19 say we are?

The temple was used as the exclusive earthly dwelling place of God and the central location for sacrificial worship to maintain Israel's relationship with Him. In contrast, 1 Corinthians 6:19 states that we (our physical bodies) are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

The Temple in Jerusalem served three primary purposes:

- **God's Earthly Home:** It was the physical location where God's personal presence, majesty, and glory settled among His people.
- **The Place of Sacrifice:** It was the only authorized site where priests offered animal sacrifices to pay for sins, express thanksgiving, and seek forgiveness.
- **A House of Prayer:** It acted as a global focal point for prayer, worship, and national gatherings during sacred festivals.

In the New Testament, 1 Corinthians 6:19 marks a major shift in how God dwells with humanity.

Old Testament Temple	New Testament Believer
Made of physical stone and gold	Made of living human flesh and blood
God's presence stayed in one static location	God's presence moves wherever the believer goes
Restricted to priests under special conditions	Accessible to every individual believer

By calling the human body a temple, the New Testament explains that God no longer lives in buildings made by human hands. Instead, the Holy Spirit lives directly inside believers, making their personal conduct and holiness deeply important.

3. What does I Peter 2:5,9 say that we are? What significance does that have for you? How do we “declare the praises of Him...?”

These verses use rich Old Testament temple imagery to describe the identity of New Testament believers:

- **Living Stones:** Individual believers who are joined together with Jesus (the Chief Cornerstone) to form a new, living spiritual temple.
- **A Royal Priesthood:** A community of believers who have direct access to God without needing a human mediator, serving both as royalty and priests.
- **A Chosen People & Holy Nation:** A group set apart by God from all walks of life, unified under His authority and called to reflect His pure character.
- **God’s Special Possession:** Individuals bought with a price, deeply valued, and owned by God Himself.

The text states that the ultimate purpose of this new identity is to "declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." According to the broader context of the New Testament, believers do this in three distinct ways:

A. Through Verbal Testimony and Worship

- **Sharing Stories:** Telling others how God has personally transformed their lives and brought them out of "spiritual darkness."
- **Corporate Worship:** Singing, praying, and praising God publicly when gathering as a community.

## B. Through Spiritual Sacrifices (1 Peter 2:5)

- Acts of Service: Offering time, resources, and energy to help others as a direct act of worship to God.
- Daily Conduct: Living a lifestyle of integrity, love, and purity that honors God's commands.

## C. Through Good Deeds in the Community (1 Peter 2:12)

- Visible Kindness: Doing good works so that onlookers—even those who do not believe—will see their actions and ultimately glorify God.

4. In Galatians 5:16-26 we are introduced to the “Fruits of the Spirit.” How can exhibiting these “fruits” declare the praises of God in everyday situations?

On the next slide we will seek to answer the above question using a table. The nine fruits, mentioned in Galatians 5, will be combined into five groups: love & kindness; joy & peace; patience & gentleness; faithfulness & goodness; and finally, self-control by itself. For each group there will be an everyday situation example, then a statement of how that group declares God’s praises.

The Spiritual Fruit	Everyday Situation	How It Declares God's Praises
Love & Kindness	Dealing with a difficult neighbor or demanding coworker.	It shows God's unconditional grace, proving that Christians love because God first loved them.
Joy & Peace	Staying calm during financial strain or unexpected hardships.	It reveals a deep trust in God's sovereignty, showing the world that security comes from God, not circumstances.
Patience & Gentleness	Responding to an angry customer or an aggressive driver.	It models God's own slow-to-anger nature, defusing tension with humility rather than matching the world's hostility.
Faithfulness & Goodness	Keeping your word when it costs you money, or helping someone secretly.	It mirrors God's reliable, unshifting character, proving that integrity is more valuable than personal gain.
Self-Control	Refusing to gossip when a juicy rumor is shared, or walking away from a fight.	It proves that the Holy Spirit is stronger than basic human impulses, showcasing the power of a transformed life.

## The Everyday Impact of Fruit-Bearing:

- A. **It Creates a Living Contrast:** Galatians 5:19-21 lists the "acts of the flesh," which include discord, jealousy, fits of rage, and selfish ambition. When a believer chooses to respond with the fruit of the Spirit instead, the contrast is stark. This lifestyle forces onlookers to notice that the believer is operating under a different authority.
- B. **It Silences Criticism:** When people see consistent goodness, humility, and self-control, it removes any valid basis for insulting a person's faith. As Galatians 5:23 notes, "against such things there is no law." No culture or society outlaws love or kindness.
- C. **It Invites Questions:** Living out these traits consistently in a stressful world causes people to ask why you are different. Answering those questions provides a direct opportunity to verbally praise God for changing your heart.

According to Jeremiah 2:4–5, Israel became worthless by straying far from God and pursuing worthless idols. The biblical text details exactly how this spiritual and moral decline happened through several key steps:

**A. They Actively Chose to Stray:** Israel's decline began with a willful, deliberate choice to walk away from their covenant relationship with God. God challenges them to name a single instance where He was unfair, unfaithful, or failed to provide for them. Because they could find no fault in Him, their decision to drift away was entirely unjustified.

**B. They Chose to Pursue “Emptiness”:** The Hebrew word used for "worthless idols" or "worthlessness" in this verse is **הֶבֶל**, which is pronounced *hevel* (or *hebel*, depending if there is a dot in the middle of the second letter).

- Literally, this translates to "breath," "vapor," or "emptiness" ...there's not really a good English equivalent. It's like smoke or vapor that you can see with your eyes but can't physically grasp or hold onto. It evades full comprehension or understanding. This word is used 33 times in the book of Ecclesiastes and is translated as "meaningless," or "vanity."
- By abandoning the living God, Israel began chasing things that had no substance, no power to save, and no ultimate value.
- They exchanged a real, life-giving relationship for empty, hollow substitutions (such as the pagan gods of the surrounding nations).

## C. They Became Like What They Worshiped:

The core spiritual principle highlighted in Jeremiah is that human beings take on the characteristics of whatever they devote themselves to. Because Israel spent their time, energy, and devotion pursuing things that were empty and useless, they naturally became empty and useless themselves. By realigning their lives around lifeless statues, they degraded their own human purpose and identity.

6. Romans 8:28-29 specifies that God's ultimate ordained plan for believers is to be conformed to the image of His Son.

### How This Leads a Believer to Feel

- **Deeply Secure:** Believing that an all-powerful God is ultimately in control brings emotional safety.
- **Profoundly Loved:** Knowing they were chosen and predestined establishes a sense of high worth.
- **Peaceful:** Trusting God's ultimate control reduces anxiety about the future.
- **Hopeful:** Looking forward to final transformation brings joy during difficult times.

## How This changes the Approach to Everyday Situations

- **Embracing Hardship:** Difficulties are viewed as tools for personal growth rather than meaningless pain.
- **Releasing Control:** Believers can let go of the need to manipulate outcomes.
- **Responding with Patience:** Knowing God is at work allows for calmer reactions to daily frustrations.
- **Seeking Christlikeness:** Daily decisions shift toward matching the character and actions of Jesus.

I would like to show you how questions 5 and 6 tie together. To do that let's examine some sample situations:

- One couple in our midst prayed for a baby and gets pregnant. Another couple prayed for a baby and remains childless. “What the *hevel?*”
- We watch so many young people grow to adulthood while a family tragically loses a child at a young age. “What the *hevel?*”.
- One person in our community is miraculously cured while another suffers and dies when no miracle occurs. “What the *hevel?*”

Remember the story of Joseph? Joseph, the favorite son did nothing more than share with his family a dream he had. He's beaten, sold into slavery, wrongfully accused of rape, unjustly imprisoned, and unfairly forgotten. He had every reason to sit in prison groaning "What the hevel?! Why is this happening to me? Life isn't fair. It's all smoke and mirrors. Why me, God? What did I ever do to you to deserve this? Why!?"

But in the last chapter of Genesis, Joseph, having been raised to a leadership position in Egypt, and having miraculously been given prophetic foreknowledge of a seven-year famine, reveals himself to his brothers. The same brothers who sold him into slavery now come and bow down to him, begging him for food. Joseph reveals himself to them. It all comes together, and Joseph sees God's hand in the "hevelish" circumstances that brought him to that moment.

As Paul might have described it:  
All things worked together for good.

How does what we have looked at so far make you feel, or what thoughts would you like to share about what this lesson has said to you thus far?

What are your answers to the last part posited in question number 6 which asks, “How will it change the way you approach everyday situations?”

“Love is an unconditional response to an imperfect person or situation.”

II Corinthians 5:14 says: “For the love of Christ impels us...” John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave...” I John 4:10-11 says, “This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” And finally, Mark 12:30-31 instructs us to love God and love people. So, the first and foremost result of worship is that **we live a life where love is the impetus for our actions.**

Secondly, from II Corinthians 4:15-18, **We Are Resilient.**

This passage contains phrases such as: "...we are not discouraged...", and "...this momentary light affliction...".

In the face of these imperfect situations, we do not give up, but as Hebrews 12:1-3 tells us:

“...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”