



Last week we saw how as Christians **WE ARE ROOTED IN WORSHIP**. Jesus in John 4:23-24 said to the Samaritan Woman then & to us today, *“A time is coming & has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit & in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is Spirit, & His worshippers must worship Him in the Spirit & in truth”*. In Spring Harvest (SH) the **WORSHIP** theme was called **“UNRIVALLED”**.

The main teacher was Doug Williams, Senior pastor of Emmanuel Community Church in East London & Principal of the School of Worship (see www.schoolofworship.org.uk). Always curious re the background & experience of speakers & with what authority they talk about certain subjects, I did some research to find Williams’ worship school. I discovered that they offer *“a range of experienced Teachers, Worship Leaders, Songwriters, Musicians & Pastors who deliver teaching & practical sessions in 3 areas of: the theology of worship, an historical review of it, & the practice & management of it”*. Looking at their teaching curriculum (on P2) I was surprised to not find any particular music genre nor *“how to lead / sing / play...”*. In fact only 4 of 24 modules seem to have a music focus. Instead, there is a holistic approach concentrating on the God that we worship, the salvation story, the role of intercession & the prophetic in worship, plus things such as warfare & mission. Hmmm... heady stuff this worship business! As Williams & several other speakers said, **for too many people across the denominations worship has been lost to the musicians**. Worship is much more than a song.

As we are obedient to Jesus’ words in John 4 to *“worship Him in Spirit & in truth”*, one of the very helpful quotes that Williams used & that various other teachers picked up on

was from former Archbishop of Canterbury Wm Temple who said, *“Worship is the submission of all of our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose--all this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable & therefore the chief remedy for that self-centeredness which is our original sin & the source of all actual sin.”* (1939). Breaking this down into 7 small statements will help us *‘worship in Spirit & in truth’*

1. Worship is the submission of all of our nature to God – it is not just about our voices or our hearts, but about every bit of our existence. We cannot worship God freely if we hold on to some of our old self-centred nature or for e.g. if we have secret sin.
2. it is the quickening of the conscience by His holiness – our inner being realizes its fallen nature, tainted & dirty when set against His purity.
3. the nourishment of mind with His truth – God’s Word is His truth. When we read & understand it, and we accept it & be obedient to it & to the standards for all types of living that it clearly sets out (for e.g. for marriage, for family, for morals...) then it quickens our minds. We become people who influence those around us, even our culture. If we don’t then culture influences & shapes us negatively. We begin to gloss over or ignore significant Bible truths, our minds & thinking become cloudy, and our faith shallow.
4. the purifying of imagination by His beauty – as our spiritual eyes see *“the Son as the radiance of God’s glory”* (Heb 1:3) so this positively affects how we see everything around us, things both seen & unseen, as per 2 Cor 4:18 *“we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. What is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal”*.
5. the opening of the heart to His love – which can be difficult for some people who have been or are carrying hurts, but when we allow His Presence & His Peace to come into our hearts, they flow over us in wave after wave of emotion & gratitude & love.
6. the surrender of will to His purpose – our desires are subjugated to His, for His ways & plans are so much greater than ours. A song from SH several years ago, from Bethel Music called *“Have it all”*, has lyrics that summarize this part of William Temple’s quote. *“Oh the joy I’ve found, surrendering my crowns at the feet of the King who surrendered everything. You can have it all, Lord, every part of my world, take this life & breathe on this heart that is now Yours. There is no greater call, than giving You my all, I lay it all down”*.
7. all this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable – none of this is about us, but rather about our undivided adoration of God, who we begin to *“worship in Spirit & in truth”*.

The God We Worship: The Father	The God We Worship: The Incarnation	The God We Worship: The Witness	Harp & Bowl: The Place of Intercession in Worship
Salvation Story: Genesis; Beginnings	Salvation Story: Romans; Grace	Preparing for His Presence 1	Preparing for His Presence 2
Worship: God's Desire; Fellowship	Worship: Man's Destructive Pursuit; Idolatry	Elements: The worship Set; Pre-rehearsal , Rehearsal and Delivery	Flowing in the Prophetic
Worship: Our Devotional Priority; Transformation	Festivals and Sacred Calendars	Spiritual Songs	The Case for Hymns and Psalms
Prophetics in the Local Church	Staying Connected to the Prophetic	Singing the Psalms	The Devotional Habits of a Worshipper
Mission Worship Part 1: Worship and Warfare	Mission Worship Part 2: Worshippers Who Partner in God's Mission	Learning to Worship Extravagantly Part 1	Learning to Worship Extravagantly Part 2

Communion zoom during Ramadan: Jesus the risen Saviour of the world

Sunday
2 p.m.



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