**Spiritual Practices – Lifestyle of Worship – Session 1**

1. **Introduction - “Our mission at New Song Church is to lead people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus”**

Follower of a master, Luke 6:40, 1 John 2:6

“A disciple of Jesus is one who has come to Jesus for eternal life, has claimed him as Savior and Lord, and has embarked upon a life of following him.”

The goal of every disciple is to be conformed to the image of Jesus.

Romans 8:29 (ESV), “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,”

1. **Abides in God’s Word**

John 8:31-32 (ESV), “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

1. **Loves as Jesus loves**

John 13:34-35 (ESV), “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1. **Bears Fruit**

John 15:8 (ESV), “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

* The tool that God uses to conform us to the image of his Son is his Word! John 17:17

**4 Spiritual Practices**

1. Lifestyle of Worship
2. Growing in God’s Word
3. Developing a Personal Prayer Life
4. Stewardship: Time, Talents, and Resources

**Lifestyle of Worship**

1. **First Commandment**

Exodus 20:3 (ESV), “I am Yahweh your God - You shall have no other gods before me”

Matthew 22:37–38 (ESV), “And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment.

We were created to glorify God and to Enjoy him forever! We Glorify God ‘BY’ enjoying forever. God is most glorified in us when are most satisfied in him!

1. **Worship is always the response of all we are to the revelation of all He is!**

* It is an affair of the Heart –

Matthew 15:7–9 (ESV), “‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; 9 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ”

* God is Seeking Worshippers in Spirit and Truth

John 4:23–24 (ESV), “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

1. **Essence of all worship is the act of Honoring God, recognizing his honor, feeling the worth of it, and ascribing it to him in all the ways appropriate to his character.**

Psalm 96:6–9 (ESV), “Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. 7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! 8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! 9 Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

1. **Worship is the Ultimate Focus of the Church!**

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the Church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever. Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal of missions. It’s the goal of missions because in missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white hot enjoyment of God’s glory. The goal of missions is the gladness of the peoples in the greatness of God. “The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!” (Ps 97:1). “Let the peoples praise thee, O God; let all the peoples praise thee! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!” (Ps 67:3-4). But worship is also the fuel of missions. **Passion for God in worship precedes the offer of God in preaching. You can’t commend what you don’t cherish**. Missionaries will never call out, “Let the nations be glad!” who cannot say from the heart, “I rejoice in the Lord…I will be glad and exult in thee, I will sing praise to thy name, O Most High” (Ps 104:34, 9:2). Missions begins and ends in worship”—John Piper, “Let the Nations Be Glad”

1. **Defining Worship**
2. Worship refers to the appropriate responses to the revelation of the Holy God of Glory. Christian worship, whether individual or collective, is the structured and ordered expression of the proper response of the people of God to the revelation of God in Christ.
3. Worship OT, (hishtakhawah), ‘Bow oneself low to the ground’ Gen. 22:5, Job 1:20, Exo. 24:1, Exo 33:10, 2 Chron. 7:3.
4. Worship NT, (proskuneo), ‘Bow down, kuneo-kiss’ Matt. 2:2, 8, 14:33, 28:9, John 4:24, Rev. 4:10, 5:14, 19:4. Also (sebomai), ‘giving reverential homage’ Matt. 15:9.

* To Bow down before someone, King/God, is to show adoration, devotion, submission, and service.
* To worship is to act as an inferior before a superior…when I worship God I am saying by my actions, “God you are better than I am… You are bigger than I am…you are more than I am…” When you are in his presence you recognize that you are in the presence of one who is worthy of more honor than you …he is more important than anyone else in the universe!

1. **Proper Responses to Worship**
2. When we face up to the glory of God we soon find ourselves face down in worship. When a worshipper is so captivated by the Almighty…the only appropriate response is to bend low in true and total surrender
3. Pattern in heaven, Rev 1, 4 and 5
4. When it comes to worship, the throne always sets the tone…in worship we come to the very throne of God…every kingdom has a king and every king has a throne, he is the king of all kings and has a throne above all thrones…there is no higher seat of authority, power and splendor in the universe…
5. Honor, Submission, Surrender, and Offer

Christian worship must contain both cross and crown…Lion of the Tribe of Judah and the Lamb who was slain! He comes with severity and kindness, with tenderness and toughness…rebuking the hard heart yet welcoming the broken sinner…

1. WE need this mysterious tension always before us, he is the God of the INIFINITE and the INTIMATE - Both INTIMACY and AWE
2. He is Worthy – “Worth – Ship”

* His Sacrifice Deserves Ours!

1. **Gospel – Centered Worship**
2. **Preach the Gospel to Yourself Everyday**

“Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’” Mark 1:14-15

The Gospel is the good news that God’s kingdom power has entered human history through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we repent and rely on his righteousness instead of our own, his kingdom power transforms us and we become participants in the restoration of God’s world.

The three aspects of the gospel are the kingdom, the cross, and God’s grace.

* + The gospel of the kingdom is life with God under God’s rule
  + The gospel of the cross is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus by which God accomplishes our salvation, rescues us from his wrath, incorporates us into his people, and inaugurates his reign in the world.
  + The gospel of grace is the wonderful news that God accepts us, shares his life with us, and adopts us as heirs of his kingdom not because we have earned it or deserve it, but because God chooses to give all of this to us freely at Christ’s expense.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**“**The Gospel is the news that Jesus Christ, the Righteous King, died for our sins and rose again, eternally triumphant over all his enemies, so that there is now no condemnation for those who believe, but only everlasting joy.”—John Piper

Therefore, the gospel is not what God requires. The gospel is what God provides! The gospel is not an imperative, demanding things you must do. The gospel is an indicative, declaring things that God has done. The gospel is not about human action. The gospel is about divine achievement. The gospel is not a moralistic Do! The gospel is a merciful Done!

The gospel informs, controls, and energizes all we do here at New Song Church. Our ministry values—worship, prayer, discipleship, community, and mission— are all the fruit of the grace that God has given us in Jesus

**“**We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared to believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever hoped”—Tim Keller

* **Preach the Gospel to Yourself Everyday**

1. **Based on Who God is and What he has done our behalf, his sacrifice deserves ours!**

* **Sacrifice of Thanksgiving**

Psalm 50:14, 23 “Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High… 23 The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!”

* **Sacrifice of Praise**

Hebrews 13:15 (ESV), “Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

* **Sacrifice of Surrender**

Romans 11:33–12:3 (NRSV), “O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?” 35 “Or who has given a gift to him, to receive a gift in return?” 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen. 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 6:13–14 (ESV), “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (ESV), “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

**Fire only Falls on Sacrifice**

1. Proof, Daniel Montgomery, 23 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)