

Discuss question.

## Responding to God

What do the following two passages teach us about what responding to God looks like?

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. ...And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Revelation 7:9-10

### [Feedback]

- Worship is a response to God's mercy → 11 chapters of what God has done, etc.
- Worship is offering our entire lives to God → burning point
- Worship is part of the transforming of our minds → transform us even as directed to God. Come back.
- Worship is expressed particularly in times of active focusing on God
- Worship is a corporate act for all believers
- something for every believer. do together. carry on in New Creation.

True Worship is focussing on and responding to God

as revealed in word in all of life, highlighted in particular lives.

in this morning part of series on s.d.s. new does worship fit in?

Previous s.d.'s not ends. Read bible not for sake. Text not for sake.

Worship is the end of spiritual disciplines

Read bible to hear God, engage with. To focus. Similarly looking...

- Spiritual disciplines are part of worshipping God

→ We focus on him in reading, memorizing and meditating on scripture; as we pray, fast, study. → is worship ultimate

○ We respond actively in the moment

○ We respond daily as we are transformed

Met s.d.'s draw to focus on God as part of worship. Worship in the end.

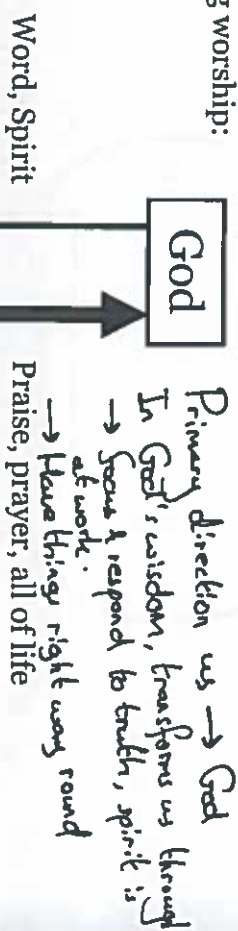
And yet:

→ Worship is itself a spiritual discipline

God transforms us through worship

- God transforms us as we worship
- God uses us to transform others as we worship

During worship:



separate section? "What does worship look like as a word of wisdom?"

As worship is both ends and means of worship: ask how intentional are you to committing to and cultivating worship?

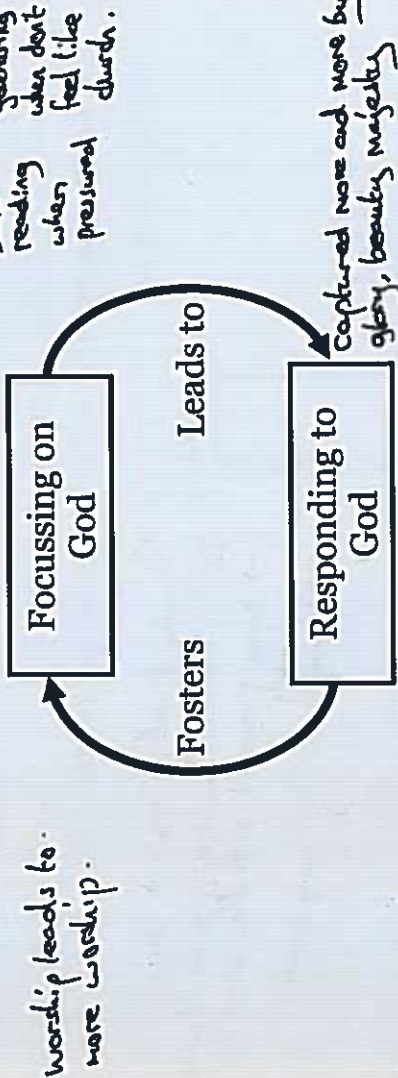
- In your private life
  - Actively in spiritual disciplines
  - As you read the bible tomorrow morning
- In all of life
  - see as work
  - focus
  - respond
- In corporate gatherings
  - Help one another to focus and respond
  - Saved to be a people who worship

God is also transforming through each other, in spiritual gifts → set aside some time to prepare → praise, pray, think encourage.

If worship is a s.d., it is something in which we must be disciplined:

Worship is something in which we must be disciplined

- • Worship is not a feeling, a shiver down your spine or something you need to be in the mood for
- • Worship is a focussing and responding, and since the God we focus on does not change, the response need not change. *There are times we don't engage. ups & downs. Problem: lose focus! Can be hard to refocus: don't give up! God is worthy of worship regardless of how you feel!*
- As we worship, we grow in our desire to worship *how you feel!*



- We were created to worship, and find our joy in worship *Rev, Psalms, all bible: worship is a joy!*
- Be committed. Be cultivating. Be focussing on and responding to. Be worshipping.*

How does thinking of worship as "focussing on and responding to God" add to or change how you think about your daily bible reading? *the idea of*

How do each of the songs, prayers, and sermon we engage in on Sundays contribute to worship?

# Spiritual Disciplines: Worship

How would you define 'worship' in one sentence?  
What does it mean for worship to be a spiritual discipline?

"...a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

John 4:23-24

Worship is focussing on and responding to God

## Focussing on God

Revelation gives insight to time face-to-face  
Full of worship as ppl, angels, all creation focus on God

- We focus on God: as creator and sustainer *Rev 4: representatives of God's ppl*

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

*Rev 4: representatives of God's ppl*  
*Focus on creator + sustainer*  
*→ different category: worthy of worship*

Revelation 4:11

- We focus on God: as redeemer *later, Rev 5, angels say ...*

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!" *Focus on Jesus as redeeming sacrifice*  
*→ Giving of self*  
*→ Victory over death & sin*

Revelation 5:12

worship is focussed on God. Exploring him.

In Rev: see God. For us? Bible.

- God has revealed the truth of himself in scripture

→ • The word should be at the centre of our worship → at centre of our lives

→ • We worship according to who he says he is → our meeting

worship begins with mercy + justice

focus on real God ← love + wrath ← not who we want or imagine him to be

## TheoB next week - Fellowship