

## Layer 2: Grow in Love for God

When we begin to understand the amazing depths of God's love for us, as shown through the Gospel, we can't help but love God in return. Expressing that love for God is called *worship*. Worship is not just the singing segment of a church service; it is a choice we make in our heart to honor God above all else—to love Him because He first loved us. We worship in prayer, singing, reading our Bibles, but also in how we treat one another, how we spend our money, and how we prioritize our time.

It is all too common in churches to perform spiritual activities out of guilt or fear.

There is often an implied belief that penance is necessary to be spiritual; that in order to keep God happy, we must behave and perform; that manipulating the external will fix the internal. In fact, the exact opposite is true. The only way to truly bring about the external change is to allow the love of God to transform what is internal first.

The only true motivation for a healthy spiritual life is the love of God.

As we grow in our love for God, we begin to desire to know Him more. We enjoy time spent in prayer. We hunger for His word. We become thirsty for His presence. Times of corporate worship are not tedious, but enthralling and passionate. Obedience is not a chore, but a joy. These activities are not performed out of a desire to be religious, but are the natural actions of one who has surrendered to the love of God and His Gospel.

You cannot love God and not love the one He sent, Jesus. You cannot love Jesus and not love who He loves, namely the Church and the lost. You cannot love Jesus and not accept His word as truth. Loving God is the catalyst for everything in the Christian life.

## **Part 2: The Elements of Worship**

What is truth? What is faith? How can I know God's way?  
How do I live the Christian life? How do I grow?

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### **Why Being Authentic in Worship is Important:**

- 1) Be Yourself
  
- 2) Be Engaged
  
- 3) Be Transformed

### **Personal Worship: Tools for Growing in Your Love for God:**

- 1) The Holy Spirit
  
- 2) Prayer
  
- 3) God's Word
  
- 4) Corporate Worship

### **Corporate Worship: Why we do what we do here at Grace**

- 1) Both the traditional and modern (style is not sacred)
- 2) Both the head and the heart (spirit and truth)
- 3) Both vertical and horizontal (to God and about God)
- 4) Both internal and external (reflective and expressive)
- 5) Both casual and passionate

## SCRIPTURES

### General Discipleship:

1 Corinthians 9:24-27  
2 Corinthians 5:9-10  
Galatians 5:16-26  
Ephesians 2:8-10  
Ephesians 4:1-16

Philippians 2:1-16  
Colossians 3:1-17  
1 Timothy 4:7-8  
Titus 2:11-14  
1 Peter 1:13-16

### Holy Spirit:

Ezekiel 36:26-27  
John 14:15-31  
John 16:5-15  
Acts 2 (and the rest of the book)  
Romans 8:1-17  
1 Corinthians 12-14

Galatians 5:16-26  
Ephesians 4:29-32  
Ephesians 5:15-21  
Philippians 3:1-3  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-21  
2 Timothy 1:13-14

### Prayer:

Matthew 6:5-15  
Matthew 7:7-12  
Luke 6:12  
John 15:5-8

Philippians 4:6-7  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18  
James 4:1-3  
James 5:16

### Word:

Deuteronomy 6  
Joshua 1:8  
2 Kings 22  
Psalm 1:1-2  
Psalm 119  
Luke 4:1-13

2 Corinthians 4:1-2  
2 Timothy 2:15  
2 Timothy 3:16  
Hebrews 4:12  
1 Peter 1:23-25

### Worship:

Psalm 95  
Psalm 100  
Psalm 150  
John 4:23-24  
Acts 16  
Romans 12:1-2  
Romans 15:5-13

Galatians 2:20  
Ephesians 5:19  
Colossians 3:16  
Hebrews 12:28  
Revelation 4  
Revelation 5

Questions for personal reflection:

1. Offer a quick explanation of the chocolate milk illustration and tell of how it relates to you.
2. Pastor Mike gave some specific ways that we worship corporately at Grace. Which one(s) do you struggle with the most? Which one(s) do you relate to most? Why?