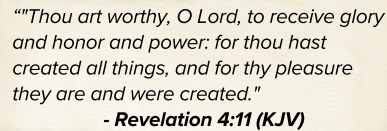


Q:

Does God Want Us to Worship Him?

The obvious answer is - Yes. Because scripture instructs us to do so.



"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."
- Revelation 4:11 (KJV)

But what does the Bible tell us to do?

No Bible verse tells us we will be judged on our worship skills. None.

What if worship is something God actually never asked for?

This question has troubled me since my first memories of church. As only the second question in Book of Big Questions Vol:1, it written just below the phrase:

"On the road back from Damascus."

For I had been summoned, called to account. An urging I can only describe as unquestionable had determined my pre-dawn mornings would be spent with Scripture from that day on.

WORD ON THE WORD: TThe Hebrew word "SHACHAH" (pronounced "shaw-KHAH") is to prostrate; to throw oneself down. Shachah happens on the floor, face to the ground. But it also means to surround oneself with water; to be immersed; swallowed up.

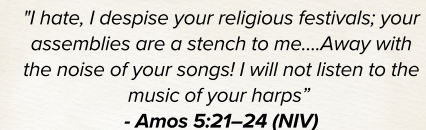
To me, the word worship always had a pagan tone. Primitives dancing around a raging fire in bright costumes preparing sacrifices to appease their stone idols. Performative theater by a paranoid cult with an insecure god.

We ask ourselves:

- Why would an omniscient God, possessor of everything who needs nothing, want to create anything?

- Was the creation of the heaven and the earth God's ultimate demonstration of divine freedom?

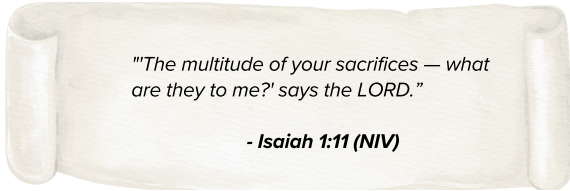
- And yet, isn't the asking itself a form of worship?



"I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me....Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps"
- Amos 5:21-24 (NIV)

C.S. Lewis once openly stated: "I just couldn't understand why God would continually come to me and command that I worship him and tell him how great he is."

And what could we possibly offer Him in worship that would be acceptable or worthy?



"The multitude of your sacrifices — what are they to me?" says the LORD."

- Isaiah 1:11 (NIV)

But what if worship wasn't for Him at all?

What if it's for US?

A way to remind ourselves always and often of our fallen state, our imperfect nature, our frail condition.

Q:

Does God Want Us to Worship Him?

*"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care."
- Psalm 95:6-7 (NIV)*

Worship doesn't ask God to look toward us in gratitude. It points US toward Him – the true and only living God.

It is a form of focus. A constant reorientation toward the face of our Creator.

The question then is not: Is our worship worthy?

*"... 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 (NIV)*

The real question is: Are WE worthy of worship? Are WE in fact, acceptable to God?

Am I fit to approach Him? Is my heart, mind and all my strength directed at Him and dedicated to Him?

*"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own?"
- 1 Corinthians 6:19 (KJV)*



- NOTHING LIVES FOREVER APART FROM **GOD**.
(THIS IS TO BE UNDERSTOOD 2 WAYS.)

AND SO THE STORY GOES...

GOD MADE A GOOD WORLD.

GOD MADE MAN IN HIS IMAGE TO RULE IT WITH HIM.

GOD OFFERED MAN A LIFE WITH HIM, THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE.

MAN CHOSE HIS OWN LIFE OVER LIFE WITH GOD.

MAN TURNED AWAY FROM GOD.

MAN MUST NOW DEAL WITH THE RESULT - DEATH.

THE BIBLE WRESTLES WITH THE QUESTION...

Q. HOW WILL **DEATH** BE RESOLVED?

A. SACRIFICE

- LOVE IT OR HATE IT.
- ACCEPT IT OR REJECT IT.
- FIND IT BARBARIC OR PERFECTLY REASONABLE.
- ABHOR IT OR ACKNOWLEDGE IT,...

IT REMAINS TRUE.

GOD SURRENDERED HIS BELOVED SON TO BE SACRIFICED,

but,... **JESUS** CHOSE TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF
FOR US WILLINGLY.



the living, ...
aware, ...
conscious, ...
alive, ...
feeling, ...
knowing, ...

Lamb
of **GOD**.

- LIFE AFTER DEATH with God = ETERNAL FREEDOM

WHY WE WORSHIP.