



Monday, March 20th Devo

When you think of worship, what comes to mind? Songs? Hymnals? Fancy Lights? Smoke Machines? Youth Conferences? Hillsong? All of us could come up with a different definition for worship and what we enjoy or look forward to when it comes to worship. What if I challenged you to remove your definition of worship today? What if I told you that everything you have learned about worship might be incorrect, wrong or faulty?

Worship can be a wonderful thing, a weekly, sometimes twice a week opportunity for you to sit with fellow Christians and praise God. However, corporate worship (weekly church services) can also become a mindless tradition of memorized songs and forced expressions to achieve given expectations. How do you as a student know the difference between genuine and fake, authentic or forced? The reality that we find in scripture is that worship services were just a small portion of what made up worship in the lives of biblical characters and the early church. When looking at the book of Acts we learn about aspects of the early church that are extremely valuable to this conversation.

Read Acts 2:42-47 (NIV): “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Reflect: This passage tells us how the early church worshipped. Spend a few moments writing out the ways in which the early church worshipped. Interestingly enough, songs are only mentioned once when it says they were praising God. If you take a step back, remove your previous ideas of what worship is, you start to realize that worship is much more than weekly worship service, it is a lifestyle. A lifestyle in which every aspect of your life points others towards Jesus and His role and authority in your life.

Reflect: Spend a few moments journaling the aspects of your life that do not reflect Jesus' authority in your life and create a plan to make your lifestyle as worship Jesus.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.