



Brother Lawrence 1611-1691

The Fact of God



"That leafless tree 'first flashed in upon my soul the fact of God,' and a love for God that never after ceased to burn."

- Brother Lawrence

The Fact of God



"As often as I could, I placed myself as a worshiper before him, fixing my mind upon his holy presence, recalling it when I found it wandering from him."

Brother Lawrence



How Do I Relate to Worship?

- Is it just about making it to church each Sunday?
- Is it just singing songs and hymns?
- Is it something that made sense for ancient societies, but not so much today?
- Is it just something you're supposed to do, but I rarely feel connected to God when I do it?

How Do I Relate to Worship?

"As I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you." (Acts 17:23)

How Do I Relate to Worship?

"The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything." (Acts 17:24-25)

How Do I Relate to Worship?

"He made from one man every nation...that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for 'In him we live and move and have our being.' As even some of your own poets have said, 'We are indeed his offspring.'" (Acts 17:26-28)

How Do I Relate to Worship?



"Men invent means and methods of coming at God's love, they learn rules and set up devices to remind them of that love, and it seems like a world of trouble to bring oneself into the consciousness of God's presence..."

How Do I Relate to Worship?



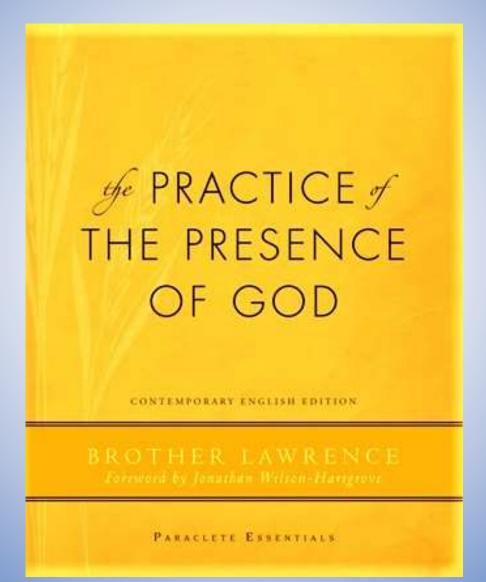
"Yet it might be so simple. Is it not quicker and easier just to do our common business wholly for the love of him?" – Brother Lawrence

How Do I Relate to Worship?



"How can we pray to him without being with him? How can we be with him, but in thinking of him often? And how can we think of him often, but by a holy habit which we should form?"

- Brother Lawrence



The Practice of the Presence of God



"The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer. And in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling..."

The Practice of the Presence of God



- "...for different things, I possess God in as great a tranquility as if I were upon my knees at the blessed sacrament."
- Brother Lawrence

What Does It Mean to Worship?

- To bow down
- To serve
- To praise
- To adore
- To sacrifice
- To confess
- To remember
- To declare

What Does It Mean to Worship?

- "You shall have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3)
- "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve." (Luke 4:8)

What Does It Mean to Worship?

"[The scribe] asked him, 'Which commandment is the most important of all?'

Jesus answered, 'The most important is, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."" (Mark 12:28-30)

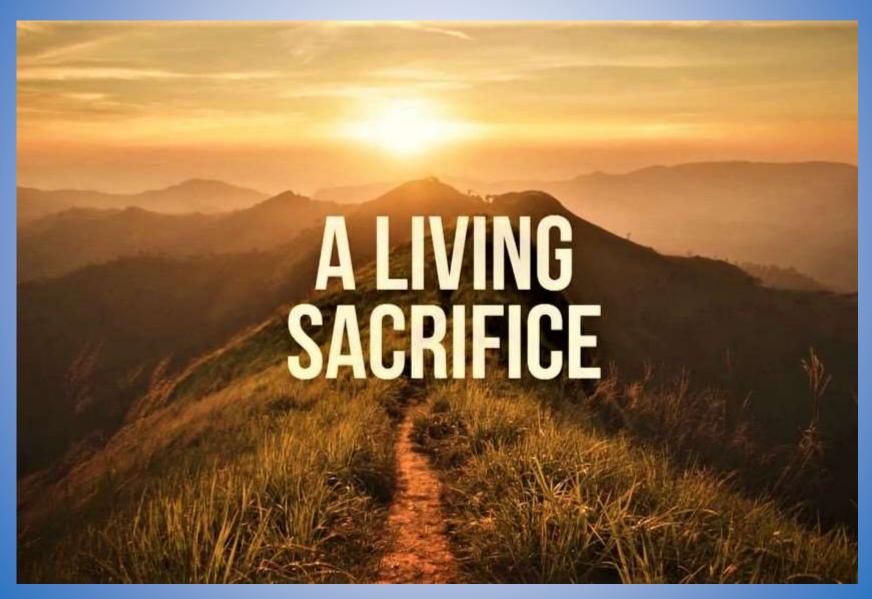
What Does It Mean to Worship?

"The scribe said, 'You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

(Mark 12:32-34)

What Does It Mean to Worship?

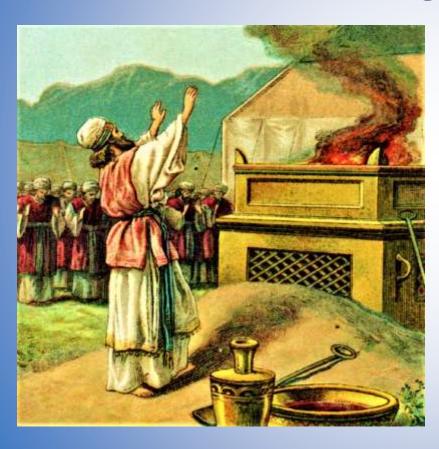
"When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." (Mark 12:32-34)



A Living Sacrifice

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Romans 12:1)

A Living Sacrifice



"The life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life." (Leviticus 17:11)

A Living Sacrifice



"Every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins..." (Hebrews 10:11-12)

A Living Sacrifice



"...by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified."
(Hebrews 10:14)

A Living Sacrifice



"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"
(Revelation 5:13)

A Living Sacrifice



"Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5:2)

A Living Sacrifice

"Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:15-16)

A Life of Worship



"God has infinite treasure to bestow, and we take up with a little sensible devotion, which passes in a moment. Blind as we are, we hinder God, and stop the current of his graces."

A Life of Worship



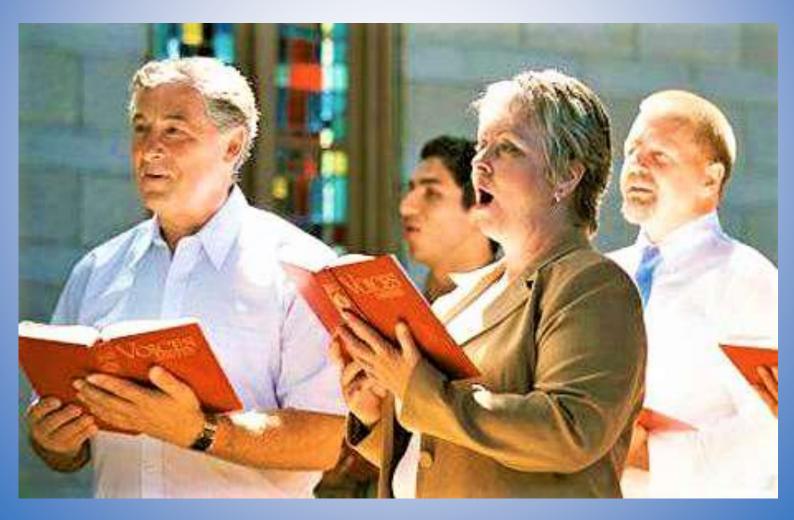
"But when he finds a soul penetrated with a lively faith, he pours into it his graces and favors plentifully."

- Brother Lawrence

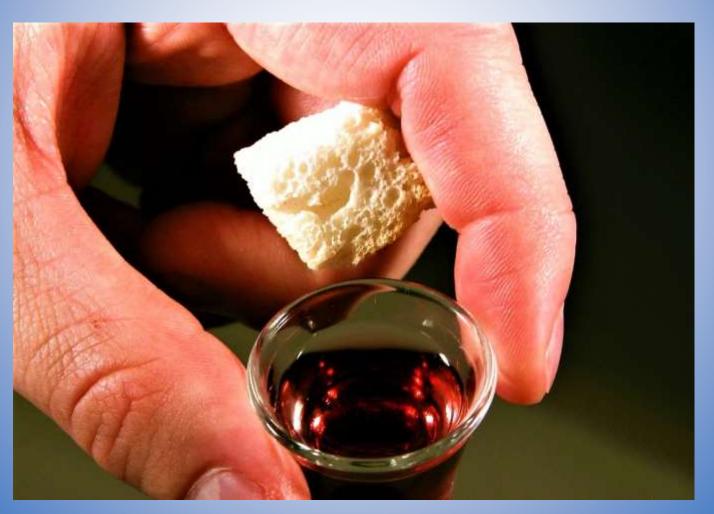
A Life of Worship

"Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)

A Life of Worship



A Life of Worship



A Life of Worship



A Life of Worship



"We can do little things for God. I turn the cake that is frying on the pan for love of him, and that done, if there is nothing else to call me, I prostrate myself in worship before him, who has given me grace to work."



- "Afterwards I rise happier than a king. It is enough for me to pick up but a straw from the ground for the love of God."
- Brother Lawrence









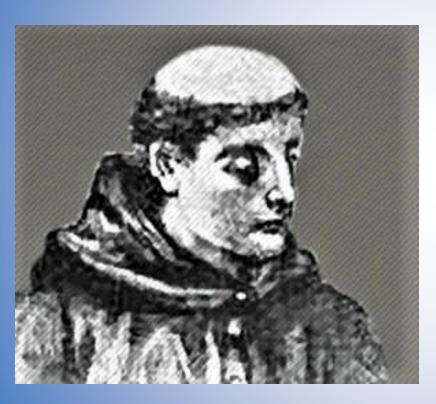








A Life of Worship



"Spend the remainder of your life only in worshiping God. He requires no great matters of us—a little remembrance of him from time to time. A little adoration."

A Life of Worship



"Sometimes to pray for his grace, sometimes to offer him your sufferings, and sometimes to return him thanks for the favors he has given you, and still gives you, in the midst of your troubles..."

A Life of Worship



"Lift up your heart to him...The least little remembrance will always be acceptable to him. You need not cry very loud. He is nearer to us than we are aware of."

Brother Lawrence

