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Why Does The Father Desire Worshippers?

Introduction

As an individual who has lived for more than seven decades, there are spiritually enriching experiences. Two outstanding ones are the remembrance of the Lord and worshipping God the Father. When, by the gracious Holy Spirit, one is led into an understanding and better yet an appreciation of the glories of the Eternal God, it becomes so overwhelming that there is a minuscule feeling akin to that of Ezekiel (Ezek. 1:28), or John on the isle of Patmos (Rev 1:17). The Father desires worshippers and when we respond to His desire, there is opened a vista of boundless wonders concerning the excellencies, power, prerogatives, and person of God as God and the Father. The words of Isaiah reverberate through the mind with the unanswerable question, "To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?" (Isa. 40:18); or the Psalmist, "Who is like unto thee?" (Psa. 71:19). The answer sounds forth with a clarion clarity:

"Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble. To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth." (Isa. 40:21-26). Simply put, God is worthy of all worship because of who He is, the power He wields, and the unalterable purposes He pledges.

Another observation is, before a person can worship either a god or the only true God, there must be a knowledge of that individual and either their real or imagined power, and consequently a degree of awe for that god / God, something that I fear is greatly missing today. The scriptures inform us of the evident, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psa. 14:1). There are millions who say this openly as avowed atheists, but there are many who don't say it openly yet are living the atheistic lifestyle. The atheistic lifestyle is living for today and not eternity, acting as if God does not see or know, as if there will never be any consequences for that which is done. God has a resplendence, a majestic gloriousness man knows little about. Worshipping God the Father is to be in awe of His excellencies. Nothing of creation is necessary for His positioning or assist His continuance in any way. He created angels and ranks of celestial beings. He created the earth and the many "laws" which cause it to function in perfection.

We worship God because:

- 1) He is unknowable by man as the scriptures declare:
 - a) "Lo, these are parts of His ways; but how little a portion is heard of him? But the thunder of His power, who can understand?" (Job 26:14).
 - b) "For who hath known the mind of the LORD? Or who hath been His counselor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?" (Rom. 11:34-35).

Without His gracious unveiling of His Person and glories, our knowledge of the Almighty would be minuscule, if we knew anything at all. We would possibly think that there had to be a power, a wisdom and understanding behind all creation but little else. It is the Father's desire we should worship Him for our enrichment, the infinite greatness of His abilities, provision and thoughtfulness. Sometimes I look at the stars and wonder at not only the number, but the size of some of them, and in particular the brilliance of their light which travels millions of miles, and yet we see them with the naked eye. Then I consider the vastness of the distance between them and marvel at the wisdom and power of my Heavenly Father. Surely this gives comfort and is reason to worship, for surely the God who controls the earthly elements is more than sufficient to guard my life.

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- 2) We worship the Father, because he desires it.
 - a) The word “seeketh” (Jn. 4:23) is the same word as is used for Mary and Joseph when they sought the Lord (Lk. 2:45, 48); Zacchaeus when he wanted to see the Lord (Lk. 19:3); and Pilate when he wanted to release the Lord (Jn. 19:12). This not a casual, shrug of the shoulders seeking, it is an earnest longing. This is the longing the Father seeks to find from the heart of man.

- 3) Of His self-sufficiency
 - a) God is all sufficient and needs nothing, yet He does seek worshippers. Why does God seek such? We understand and are assured that God does not seek worshippers to boost His ego or have a “look at me” attitude. He is not a narcissist God who needs to be respected and held in awe for having the characteristics of depraved humanity, that is, His own imagined enhanced exaltation. God needs nothing and no one for He is all sufficient. He is not enriched by the worship of the individual for the individual is only able to worship because the Holy Spirit has enlightened the individual as to the wonder of God or the blessings of God. The worshipping individual is in fellowship with God and as such acknowledges His glory.

- 4) He desires it, for it is pleasing to him
 - a) He seeks man personally, and of their own volition, to be desirous of pleasing God. It is as it were, such an individual is giving God a gift that they are sure He would be delighted with and they are enriched by. In worshipping God the individual receives a greater appreciation of God, His values, and virtues.

- 5) He is a jealous God (Ex. 34:14).
 - a) To understand God being jealous, perhaps an illustration will help. A young man is very much in love with a young lady whom he has been courting for considerable time. Then along comes another fellow who seeks to woo her. The young man is not interested in sharing her, he wants her all to himself. Over the time they have been together he has shown his love by countless little gifts, delightful romantic dinners, and now that an intruder has come along, he being jealous of her will “fight” for her affections exclusively. God had shown to Israel his abundant kindnesses in that He had redeemed them by blood, delivered them by power, had the words of law spoken unto them, then had it written with the finger of God on tables of stone which Moses broke, and then written again by God. The people were very aware that they belonged to God and since it was a suzerain covenant, as one made in those ancient days between a superior and inferior, it was their obligation to love the Lord their God with all their heart and mind. They were not to have “spiritual” association with any other gods nor be in fellowship with any of their worshippers. God wants full unreserved devotion and conformity to Himself. Therefore, He says, “Thou shalt worship no other God: for the LORD, Whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God”.
 - b) Those who are saved are like Israel, for we also (but on a higher level) are redeemed by blood, delivered by power, and brought into a covenant relationship where God says, “I will put my my laws into their hearts” (Heb. 10:16); “I will put my laws into their mind” (Heb. 8:10). God did not say “options” or “if it is agreeable to you”. It is our obligation to worship God by the fulness of unrestricted and undivided love. This is the truth of Romans 12:1-2, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

- 6) For His bountiful provision (Deut. 26:10)
 - a) The worshipping of God in this passage is very much that of an individual showing gratitude as he recounts the history of his people, going back to Jacob going down into Egypt and the numerous blessings of God on Israel (Deut. 26:1-60). Being enslaved by Pharaoh they cried unto the Lord and

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He brought them forth with a mighty hand and outstretched arm. They were brought through the great wilderness with signs and wonders into the promised land that flowed with milk and honey (Deut. 26:9). Now having received the blessings of God in the abundance of produce and sharing it as God had commanded (Deut. 26:12-13), the individual brought his basket full and worshipped before the Lord. There was a recognition that God had provided and his act of worship was in words and material presentation.

Space forbids the developing of the following reasons to worship God the Father:

We ought to delight in worshipping God because:

- a) Of His Lordship: “So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him” (Psa. 45:11).
- b) Of His worthiness: “Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy” (Psa. 99:5), “Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy” (Psa. 99:9).
- c) Because of the unspeakable glory of His person and attributes: “Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all” (1 Chron. 29:11).
- d) From the human perspective, when we worship God we:
 - i) Enter the sphere of the eternal consequently where there is a deepening perspective of God concerning time and eternal verities.
 - ii) The liberation which God has secured by the work of Christ (Gal. 5:1).
 - iii) A greater wonder of Christ in every level:
 1. His condensation and incarnation (Jn. 1:14)
 2. His humanity (1 Tim. 2:5)
 3. His death (Rom. 5:6, 8)
 4. His resurrection (Mk. 16:9)

The blessing it bestows:

As we worship and there is opened to our hearts and minds the infinite greatness of His Being, like a shaft of light there comes a wonder at the condescending grace of God in accepting my kindergarten worship, presented in toddler’s words and childish way of expressing the incomprehensible.

.. . . Rowan Jennings

