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Worshippers and the Will of God
Joni Coursey

John 9:31

We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.

God listens to the worshiper of God that does His will.

I want to first talk briefly about doing God's will, then spend the rest of the time talking about being a worshiper of God.

Everyone wants to do God's will. They talk about it, pray about it, but often don't do anything about it.

You don't have to wait to hear God's audible voice, or a message in the clouds or in your cereal bowl to find out what God's will for your life is.

I finally realized that doing God's will is being in the right place, doing the right thing, at the right time to receive the right opportunity.

The Right Place

Church is a right place to be.
Here I know I'm going to be challenged with the Word.
I will be trained and disciplined here.
I will be looked after.
I will be held accountable.
I will grow.
I will learn.
I will develop into who God has called me to be.

I didn't need a college to give me a list of ministries to randomly choose from to tell me what God's will for my life is.

I just kept turning up to church.

Doing the Right Thing

Sometimes when you don't know what to do, just do what you know is right to do.

Reading your Word.
Praying.
Worshiping.
Giving of your tithe and offerings.
Coming to church.
Being a man/woman of your word.

So I've just tried my best to keep doing those things.

The Right Time

When is the right time?

Every time the doors are open. Whenever possible.
Sunday AM/PM, Weds PM, Leadership Training, Wealth Producers, Meet the Pastors.

These are all great times to knit with the church. Find your place.

The Right Opportunity

Opportunities are all around us. We have opportunities each week to serve in the church, (Kid's church, ushering, fellowship) to give into the church, to pray for each other, or to meet a new person.

But you have to grab those opportunities, not wait till you see something you like better.

When you're in the right place, doing the right thing, at the right time to receive the right opportunity, and you do this diligently, one day you look around and realize you're going the right direction. You're in God's will. He's not only listening to you, but you're listening to Him, to His desire, His purpose.

How do I know God is listening to me?

Well the Word says, 'but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.'

God listens to him. Listens.

Have you ever been talking with someone, and you know that they hear you, but they're not listening? They are not paying attention to what you're saying. You've asked them to do something and you walk away unsure if it's actually going to happen?

It's not a good feeling.

Have you ever been in prayer, and felt like God wasn't listening? You feel like if maybe you pray a little louder, or more often then you'll be heard?

But God listens to the worshiper who does his will, in other words, His true followers. So that means if you're a true follower of Christ you can walk away from your pray time, every time, and be assured that your prayers have been heard and not only heard, but God has paid attention to it.

He has listened.

What an amazing concept to grasp... God listens to you.

Now as we see from this scripture, God will not listen to everyone.

I think there's this common belief that no matter the condition of our heart God hears every pray, every time.

But it says He will not listen to the sinner, but it's the worshiper of God who does His will that He will listen to.

We've talked about doing His will, now let's talk about be a worshiper of God

I think worshipers of God don't have a problem doing His will. Because when you have a heart of worship that honors and loves the Lord, you want to please Him.

You want to serve Him.

You want to give to Him.

Serving and giving becomes a privilege, not a chore.

You realize it's suddenly not about what you're doing, but why you're doing it, and for Whom you're doing it.

God is looking for worshipers.

John 4:23

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

He's looking for a people who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. He seeks for such a people.

Seeks. He searches out, He longs to find that people with arms wide and hearts abandoned that will lift up His name.

I love the song we sang during worship Weds, The Stand. It says, I'll stand with arms high and heart abandoned, in awe of the One who gave it all.

A True Worshiper

A true worshiper can stand in the awe and wonder of Christ and all that he has done.

A true worshiper of God abandons all that they have carried all day, all week and surrenders it before God.

A true worshiper of God comes to church prepared to worship.

I love worship.

See worship for me is more than standing here singing songs, lifting and clapping my hands. For me it's about honoring and loving God. It's expressing my devotion to Him.

When I don't have the words or a way to articulate the joy I have for Him, I can lift my head, raise my arms and worship Him.

I lend my heart, my mind, and my soul, my everything, to Christ at that moment of time. I'm fully engaged and am aware of His presence.

Worship should be that for you.

It's your time to honor, love, and show devotion to God.

And it's more than just the simple words love and devotion. I think love and devotion can be used too easily to describe other things in our life. We love our family; we're devoted to work.

But the dictionary defines worship as reverent love – it's a love that's respectful and in awe, amazement. It says it's ardent devotion – or passionate devotion.

Where Worship Starts

Worship doesn't start when our worship team comes up on stage and plays the first note.

It starts in your heart.

It starts in your quiet time, when no one else is looking.

Worship is this intimate, special time that you only ever give to God.

God said worship no other gods before me.

Matt 4:10

*"You shall **worship** the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."*

Nothing else should ever get our worship. Should never get our reverent love and our ardent devotion.

Why Worship has been so good.

That's why we experienced what we did last Sunday night during worship, and what we did Weds night, and today. Cause we have hearts of worship.

God has begun to work in our hearts. He's been visiting the intimate parts of us, we've been fasting and praying and we've been allowing Him to stay and move among us.

It's because we don't have a worship band, we have a group of passionate Christians worshipping while leading us.

It's because God seeks true worshipers, and He has found them here.

Never take for granted our time of worship here.

It is so precious, it is so vital to who we are as a church.

We're a church who wants nothing more than to be the people that God is seeking to find.

When we come together as true worshipers of God, in spirit and truth, we get His attention.

So it's important that we as a body, in our quiet time at home, or at work, school, wherever, we worship.

Don't save it for church.

It has to start in you out there, so you come prepared to bring it in here.

Next time it comes time to worship here at church, don't ever let it be the same for you.

Don't ever let worship time be that buffer that allows you to show up 10 minutes late and leave 5 minutes early, cause as long as you just make it in time to hear the sermon it's ok.

You should be getting here early so you don't miss worship. You should get here early on Sunday and Weds nights so you don't miss prayer.

Don't come here needing to be pumped up or coerced into worship.

Come ready; prayed up; with worship in your heart.

What you do in worship in church should be a manifestation of what you've been doing all week long.

We should be coming together celebrating, and bringing the fruit of the work Christ has been doing in us and through us.

Having worship in your heart prepares you for opportunities for Christ to speak to you and work through you.

Acts 16:14

One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

Her heart was prepared to receive the word Paul had.

If we come in here with worship in our hearts the Word just seems to become alive to you and in you a whole new way.

You never know when it will be your day to receive a Word from God.

Worship can prepare you

Lk 2:37-38

She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

She worshiped with fasting and praying, and when her opportunity came, she was ready, willing and able to share Christ with others.

Worship shows gratitude.

The man who said, in John 9:31

'We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.' was a sinner; a blind man that Jesus had just healed, and it wasn't until after he healed him, and after the man professed this statement to the Jews, that Jesus approached Him, and saved him.

The former blind man says in verse 38, 'Lord, I believe,' then it says he worshipped Him.

The first instinct, the first act as a saved man, a man just healed of blindness he had his whole life, was to worship Jesus.

Us here today

I know there are many of us here today who once were blind.

Who once were lost.

Who once had no hope.

No future.

But now we see.

Now we're found.
We have a hope and a future through Christ.

We no longer are going to hell. But by the grace and calling of God we will spend eternal life with Him.

No longer do we live in fear, but walk victoriously with boldness and courage.

No longer do we have to walk in shame and guilt in a past of sin and regret, but live whole lives, proud of who we are.

We should remember whom it was Christ saved us from being every time we worship.

See, that's why I love worship so much.

I may not always feel like it. I even sometimes forget why I do it, and what it means.

But then, I remember...

I was just a sinner, totally depraved/separated from God, unable to do good, lost in utter darkness, with no hope.

But God gave, He choose, and He saved, me.

He looked at me a broken life, made by my own bad choices and decisions, and loved me while I was still a sinner. He saw me and said, 'you. Joni Coursey, I have called you out of the darkness. You are not to live the way you are. Come follow me, you silly girl.'

And I did. My sin is gone. I have been set free.

My reverent love and my ardent, passionate devotion are to Christ. I worship Him for what He did in my life.

I owe Him everything. I can't repay Him, but I can worship Him, and I can do His will.

I can rest assured that I'm no longer a sinner, who He does not listen to, but a follower of Christ who He does listen to.