

Worship

On your works, I will meditate, and shall sing aloud of your greatness.

A. W. Tozer wrote that what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. And C.S. Lewis wrote what God thinks about us is of eternal importance. It is the difference between life and death.

Ps. 145 gives us some concrete terms to what comes into minds of true believers when they think about God, and (when they listen) what God thinks of them:

- Great
- mighty and powerful
- glorious
- awesome
- wondrous
- majesty
- good
- righteous
- gracious and merciful
- slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love
- glorious king
- His mercy is over all that he has made
- The Lord preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy
- His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom
- The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them

Deuteronomy 32 provides sharp contrast to the above, showing what God thinks about those who rebel against Him – those who “desert the Rock.”:

- He is **angry** at them. VERY angry. There is a fire kindled that burns to the realm of death below
- They are people without sense who abandoned Him for false gods and idols
- He will avenge and repay his enemies for their sins

Both are encapsulated in the term “**The Fear of the Lord.**” Enemies should rightly be horrified by his wrath, but most live in denial thinking that God is not one to be feared (as do many Christians!), and his true children are horrified at the *idea* of being separated from His Love.

By God’s grace, he rescues those who, when they think of God and see themselves as his enemy, cry out realizing only Jesus can save them.

True worship flows out of the knowledge that God *will never leave or forsake His Children!*

Practical helps for learning authentic Worship

The most important thing that reflects the Fear of the Lord in worship (vs. selfish ambition) is your frame of HEART and MIND. Specifically:

- **Devotion to God is not a duty. It’s an ADVENTURE.**
- **Acts of devotion (Learning Scripture, Praying, meditating, and even singing, alone and in community) are not duty, they elements of a great TREASURE HUNT in growing closer to Father God.**
- **A great place to *start* is to learn to worship God for who He is. (We will address worshipping Him for what He’s *done for us*, in a separate lesson).**
- **The disciplines of worship help us become so comfortable in our 'new skin' that loving God isn't forced but comes naturally even in the daily rhythms of work, sports, play and screen time. Experiencing the joy of being with Jesus keeps the worship focused on Him and not the things we do, *and* creates deeper love for others.**

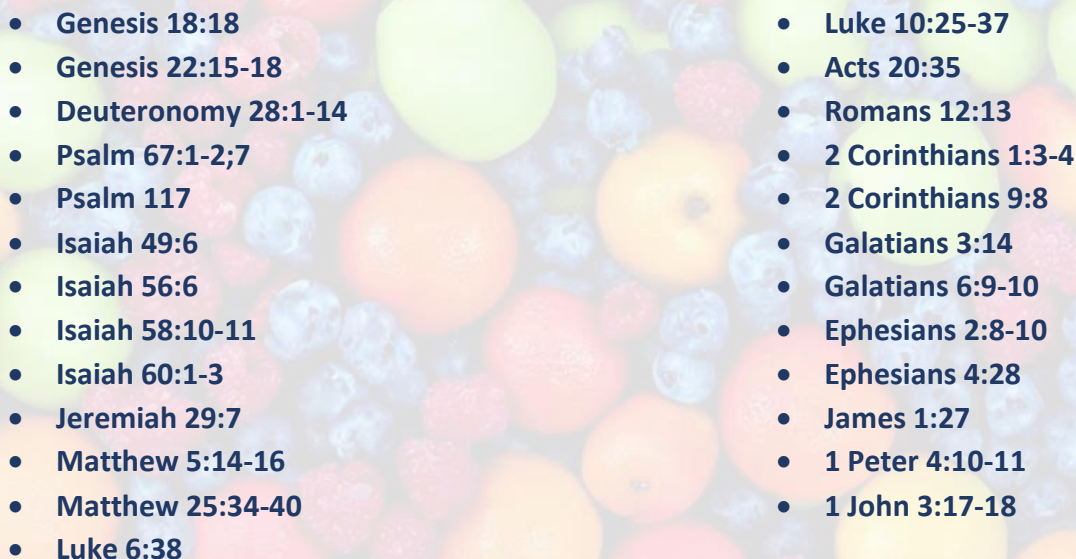
See the Stories below on the next page.

A great place to **start** the treasure hunt to see how God fulfills the description of Him in Psalm 145 is in the Old Testament with some key events and grand summaries of His works

- God's calling of Abram (Gen. 12)
- God's testing of Abraham (
- God's rescue of His people (Summarized beautifully in Deuteronomy 6-8)
- God's settling His people in the Promised land (Summarized beautifully in Joshua 24)
- God's faithfulness for those who trust him (see list on following page)
 - David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
 - Elijah on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:16–46)
 - The Lord Appears to Elijah (1 Kings 19:1-18)
 - God's Army (2 Kings 6 and 7)
 - The LORD speaks to Job (Job 38-41), and Job's answer (42:1-6)

These are *some* highlights taken from thousands of stories of God and His people that show His worthiness of worship. Worship is the cyclic process of *knowing-creates-hunger* to *know-more-to-be-closer* to God. And all of these stories anticipate the amazing Grace of God in that Jesus ANSWERED that desire by creating a way to restore relationship with God.

And of course, the FRUIT of worship is to Love God more, and extend His love to others. That is God's people are blessed ***to be a blessing!*** (which of course is an ACT of WORSHIP!!) Here are a few verses to help remind us of that 😊

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- **Genesis 18:18**
 - **Genesis 22:15-18**
 - **Deuteronomy 28:1-14**
 - **Psalm 67:1-2;7**
 - **Psalm 117**
 - **Isaiah 49:6**
 - **Isaiah 56:6**
 - **Isaiah 58:10-11**
 - **Isaiah 60:1-3**
 - **Jeremiah 29:7**
 - **Matthew 5:14-16**
 - **Matthew 25:34-40**
 - **Luke 6:38**
 - **Luke 10:25-37**
 - **Acts 20:35**
 - **Romans 12:13**
 - **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**
 - **2 Corinthians 9:8**
 - **Galatians 3:14**
 - **Galatians 6:9-10**
 - **Ephesians 2:8-10**
 - **Ephesians 4:28**
 - **James 1:27**
 - **1 Peter 4:10-11**
 - **1 John 3:17-18**