

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## MObedience MOmentum, Part 4

November 19, 2006

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Toys For Joy** - Can you donate new, unwrapped gifts for needy children this year? Or how about help at the Toys For Joy event on Friday, December 15? Drop off your toy(s) in the wrapped boxes dispersed throughout the church. To man a booth at the event, contact Mark Richardson at [markr@therocksandiego.org](mailto:markr@therocksandiego.org) or 619.226.7625 x293. For more information, go to <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/2320/>.
- **Calling all Women** - Please join the women of the Rock for a night of special music, a guest speaker, time to meet other women, and delicious dessert on Friday, December 1, 7 PM. Tickets (\$5) are on sale at the Rockpile or SISTERS on Wednesdays. For more information, go to <http://www.therocksandiego.org/ministries/womens/christmasevent/>.
- **For all other Rock Events**, please go <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.* Ecclesiastes 5:5

### SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – MO THANKS AND MO GIVING

*“God, I’ll think about that later. Right now I have to think about...”*

*“God, I know I need time with you but the Charger game starts in an hour.”*

*“I can’t pray about that, I need to get a babysitter for....”*

*“But I don’t want to do that right now, I need to generate more business.”*

*“God, I really want to focus on my Christmas shopping list.”*

*“I’ll get back to you tomorrow God; I only have an hour until I have to leave.”*

I’ve actually said things like this to God; some of them even as I worked on these questions. Let me give you a glimpse into my life right now: Our “new” home is in the final stages of remodeling. Built in 1964, my husband has been working on our home every night after work to give it a once over and a few upgrades. I’m working on reestablishing my business in a new location. I have an 18 month old who doesn’t always sleep through the night (despite trying everything), and I am 7 months pregnant. If I’m truly honest with you, sitting down to think about worship isn’t really high on my priority list. “We are countertop-less at the moment!” I tell God. “Doesn’t that seem a little more pressing?”

“Well,” God says, “It’s not.” And I can hear Him continue to say, “All of those things you listed are legitimate concerns and pressures, but they are not your god, nor are they in control of your life. **Let’s realign, refocus, and readjust.** If you don’t think about your home, family, and business through the lens of My perfect purpose and plan for you, you will always be frustrated, angry, and unsatisfied.”

## Getting Started

1. Think about your own life for a moment. What are the things about life that keep you from focusing on God and His plans for your life? What are the things that distract you from Him? What is making you frustrated, angry, and unsatisfied right now?

**Forecast:** Today in small group we want to give you the opportunity to realign, refocus, and readjust so you can understand your life from the perspective of continual worship. We are going to examine the definition of worship, a lifestyle of worship, and how we can make adjustments in our life to view every aspect of our lives as an act of worship to God.

## Digging Deeper: “What is Worship Any Way?”

Dictionary.com has it partially right:

**Wor·ship** (wûr'shĭp) *n.*

- The reverent love and devotion accorded a deity, an idol, or a sacred object.
  - The ceremonies, prayers, or other religious forms by which this love is expressed.
  - Ardent devotion; adoration.
2. Consider a few of these verses that help us understand a lifestyle of worship. What do they say about the appropriate approach to worshipping God?
    - Romans 6:13, 12:1-2
    - I Corinthians 10:31
    - Galatians 2:20
    - Isaiah 43:20-21 (pay special attention to V. 21)
    - I Peter 2:9; 4:11
    - Ephesians 5:8-10
  3. What vital concepts of worship did Dictionary.com omit in its definition? How would you define worship? Based on these verses, what are some of the most important elements of worship?

## Digger Deeper: “A Lifestyle of Worship”

4. The above verses show us that we were created to live a lifestyle of worship. But if you are like me, your work, family, recreation, finances and friends tend to squeeze God out of your life. Look back again at 1 Corinthians 10:31 and 1 Peter 4:11 and then answer the following questions:
  - a. How does worship connect to the daily grind?
  - b. What does it mean to live a lifestyle of worship?
  - c. How is it possible to love and value God in the details of living?
5. To me, worship permeates and drives the daily grind. It’s not outside of what we do; it’s what powers us to complete the tasks and responsibilities we are obligated to complete. Worship becomes the vehicle for everything else we do. Does this idea resonate with you? If this is true, how might it change the way you approach your day?

## Bringing it Home: “Making the Changes”

So here’s the big question. How do we let worship not just influence us, but propel our lives? Consider this quote...

*Glorifying and enjoying God are two sides of the same coin. They are two ways of describing the same activity. John Piper has made this clear by tweaking the answer through substituting a preposition for the conjunction: **man’s chief end is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever.***

*This is what John Piper means when he says that God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him. Our satisfaction in Him displays His worthiness to a watching world. Having Him is more satisfying than health, wealth, painlessness or ease. Yet, such satisfaction in Christ does not come automatically. We must fight to obtain and maintain it. That fight is a fight of faith—a daily war to reject lies and to believe the truth; to receive what God has for us in Christ. Living by faith in the promises of God—that is how we will glorify God in all things! - [http://wwwFOUNDERS.org/FJ56/editorial\\_fr.html](http://wwwFOUNDERS.org/FJ56/editorial_fr.html)*

### Take a minute to reflect:

- What thoughts and feelings do you experience that get in the way of enjoying God?
- How does enjoying God allow us to worship Him?
- When is it hard for you to enjoy God?
- Why is it important that Christians delight in and enjoy God?
- What is one thing that you can do tomorrow to adopt a lifestyle of worship?