

SUNDAY SERVICE MESSAGE
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**THEME: WHAT IS REQUIRED OF INTERCESSORS AND PETITIONERS IN
ABANDONED PRAYER AND WORSHIP**

SCRIPTURES; Philippians 3:7-8 “But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ, Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.”

1Timothy 2:1 “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

Romans 8:26; “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Ephesians 6:18 “Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

INTRODUCTION; On Friday night we learnt about the power of abandoned prayer and worship. Today we will be looking at the requirements of intercessors, petitioners and prayers warriors in abandoned prayer and worship. The Lord want us to create an intimate relationship with him to be able to intercede for others and become prayer warriors ourselves because abandoned worship is an unmeasured, uncalculated, unconditional expression from the heart directed to and/or expressing your passion for the Lord. You are saying, “I love you for who you are. I cannot contain it. What more can I do for you.”

As we conclude the series on abandoned worship today, I want us to reflect on the stories of Hezekiah who was pushed to the corner with compromise but swiftly remembered he had a God who listens, Secondly I also want us to remember Daniel who fasted, prayed and petitioned God for his people and within that moment, God Showed up. Before these people did that, they met the requirement.

WHAT ARE WE REQUIRED TO POSSESS FOR AN ABANDONED WORSHIP?

The word “abandon” means

- To forsake; desert. (So we are required to forsake or desert our carnal minds)
- To surrender one’s claim or right to; to give up. (giving up your will power)
- To yield (yourself) completely, as to emotion. (Let the Holy spirit lead)

As we study Philippians 3:7-8, we realize that the Apostle Paul felt, it was worth everything to forsake his will, ways, life to gain Christ. Intimate fellowship with Christ was the only thing that mattered for him. That sounds pretty radical and reckless. However, i believe that’s what got him that far in his walk with Christ. Paul’s lifestyle of abandoned worship was the source of his intimacy with Jesus and powerful

ministry. I don't know if I can say that my One desire is to gain Christ even if it means to lose everything else in life... Yet. However, it's certainly something that I desire to have and pursue daily. I realized that in order to abandon our will, ways, life, we need something that's worth living/dying for. In other words, is gaining Christ worth every breath, time, and money? As for Paul, everything is crap comparing to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. As far as I know, Jesus certainly chose to abandon His will/life for our sake by submitting to the will of the Father.

This must be a daily thing. Especially if we want to impact the world around us. We can only release what we carry, and if we're not consciously making abandoned worship as our lifestyle, we won't release much of the Kingdom. I want to submit to you this morning two of many beautiful pictures of abandoned worship that can be found in 2 Samuel 6:14-16 and Luke 7:37-38. First one is where King David was dancing as the ark of the Lord enters into the city of David. Such a shameless picture of abandoned worship from a King (think about that.) Second one is where this lady anoints Jesus' feet with her hair and ointment. What was socially and culturally unacceptable, she expressed abandoned worship to Him.

Then, what does "happy place" have to do with abandoned worship? "Abandoned worship" gives us more of a negative image than a positive one. But I see it as a "happy place." It's a place where our destiny is fulfilled. It's a place where we find His joy as we pursue intimate fellowship with Jesus. Ultimately, this place of abandonment becomes our enjoyment!!

We're too comfortable. Let us renew our minds with the truth and pray that we'll be willing to do whatever it takes to have intimacy with Him today. Let us worship him with awe. The bible tells us in **Hebrews 12:28-29** that "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. Awe is defined as an overwhelming feeling of reverence, admiration, or fear. It's produced by something or someone that is grand or extremely powerful.

CONCLUSION

Worship is a verb; it's something you do. Worship isn't something you watch, despite what you see from many people who attend church. We see a stage with lights and chairs facing it and receive worship guides with an outline of the "show." So we think every part of church is put on for us. But here's a wakeup call for all believers. Worship is a participation activity not a spectator sport. Worship isn't something we attend, like a sporting event or a concert. Worship is something we enter into with everything we've got. Some of you might say that's not your personality, but believe it or not, you know how to lose yourself in worship.

Just look at the way people respond at a concert or a sporting event. People go nuts when a team makes a great play, or a band plays their favourite song. Those are all great acts of worship, only to a not so great god. We know how to worship with abandonment but for some reason not to the one and only true God. The Bible has so many examples of how to worship with abandonment. Here's just a few:

Shout to God! Clap your hands! Lift up your hands! Stand in awe! Bow down! Dance before Him! Make a loud noise!

Psalm 100: 1-2

1 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Psalm 149:3

3 Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp.

When you know who God is and you embrace what He's done, your only reasonable response is to worship. Worship in awe that we even get to be in his presence. Worship with abandonment, losing ourselves in the presence of God.

True worship is a whole-life response to God's greatness and glory. The only fitting response to all He has done is to give back to Him all that we are. Worship is not determined by what we say but how we live.

All of us leave a trail with our action. At the end of that trail sits a throne. You don't get to the throne by talking about what's there. You get to the throne when you follow the trail and find where you put your passion, energy, time, and money. And at the end of the day, you may get to the throne and find your job sitting there. Maybe it's your brand-new car. Or maybe you follow the trail of your achievements and social media and find yourself sitting on that throne.

Maybe you think you are a worshipper of God. You listen to worship music sometimes, go to church a few times a month, and even go to a small group every now and then. When you look at all the bread crumbs on your trail, and you follow them - the passions, the energy, the time -- you get to the throne of your life and realize: "I am a great worshipper. But the thing I worship is me." You worship what you find most valuable, and it's usually not what you tell people you worship. Worship is not found in your words, but in your way of life. That will tell you the story of what you worship.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:21" For where your treasure is there your heart will be also

Today we have a great opportunity to follow our treasures and evaluate the object of our worship, the god sitting on our throne. And I don't know about you, but I want to do whatever I can to make sure that on the throne of my life is the One and only God. One day our time on earth is going to be through. And when that time comes, we are going to stand face to face with a Holy God to give an account of what we did with the time and life God gave us. I want to be able to say that He was on the throne of my life.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU