

Worship is the fuel and the goal of missions.

Missions exists because worship does not. Missions is not God's ultimate goal; worship is.

Psalm 96:4 says, "Declare his glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods."

The most important thing to God is His own glory. The word "glory" means the same thing as "name" or "reputation". It is who God is. God is top priority in His own affections. This may sound self-centered at first, but for God this is not selfish and it is not sinful. If God looked to anyone else in the universe to worship, He would no longer be God. He would be an idolater. And He is not an idolater. God loves his own glory more than anything else. He wants His name and His glory and His reputation to be praised and exalted among all the nations in the world.

If God is the only one who can fully and eternally satisfy the human heart, why would it not be the most loving thing for God to exalt Himself above anyone or anything else? If we have tasted of this infinite satisfaction would it not also be the most loving thing we could to help others to "taste and see that the Lord is good"?

When we follow Him in pursuit of His glory, which is infinitely pleasurable, He is glorified and we are satisfied. Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." We cannot pursue God out of a sense of duty alone. If all our efforts are motivated by duty with no delight, then we sin. This is the essence of true worship. Coming to God, not for what we can bring or give to Him, but because we are poor and needy. He is the mighty giver of grace and we are the needy "getters". Matthew 5:3 says, "Blessed are the *poor in spirit* for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven". The deepest thirst in our hearts will be quenched by the glory of God. Psalm 42:1 says, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God." The more we come to God as a beggar, the more we are rewarded by Him and the more glory He gets.

Worship is when we crawl starving and thirsty to a banquet table that he has prepared for us, we pull up the chair and we feast on all that God has for us, the incredible riches of His grace and mercy, and we push back from the table absolutely full and satisfied in Him alone.

When we see God this way, it will change how we do missions. Why wouldn't we want to pursue even more joy in the joy of watching the Holy Spirit open other people's eyes to see Jesus as the all-satisfying treasure of the universe? Missions will flow out of a heart that is obsessed with Christ. We will want to see the nations value Christ if we value Him.