

PRAYING THE PSALMS

Bridging Intimacy With God

Study 12

Praying our Worship

Psalm 95



WORSHIP

1. The Expression of Worship
2. The Reasons for Worship
3. The Challenge of Worship

CLOSER LOOK

Psalms 95:1-5 (ESV) Oh come, let us sing to the
Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation!

2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of
praise!



GOD GIVEN RESPONSE TO GOD

Exodus 15:1 (ESV) Then
Moses and the people of
Israel sang this song to
the LORD, saying,

“I will sing to the LORD,
for he has triumphed
gloriously;

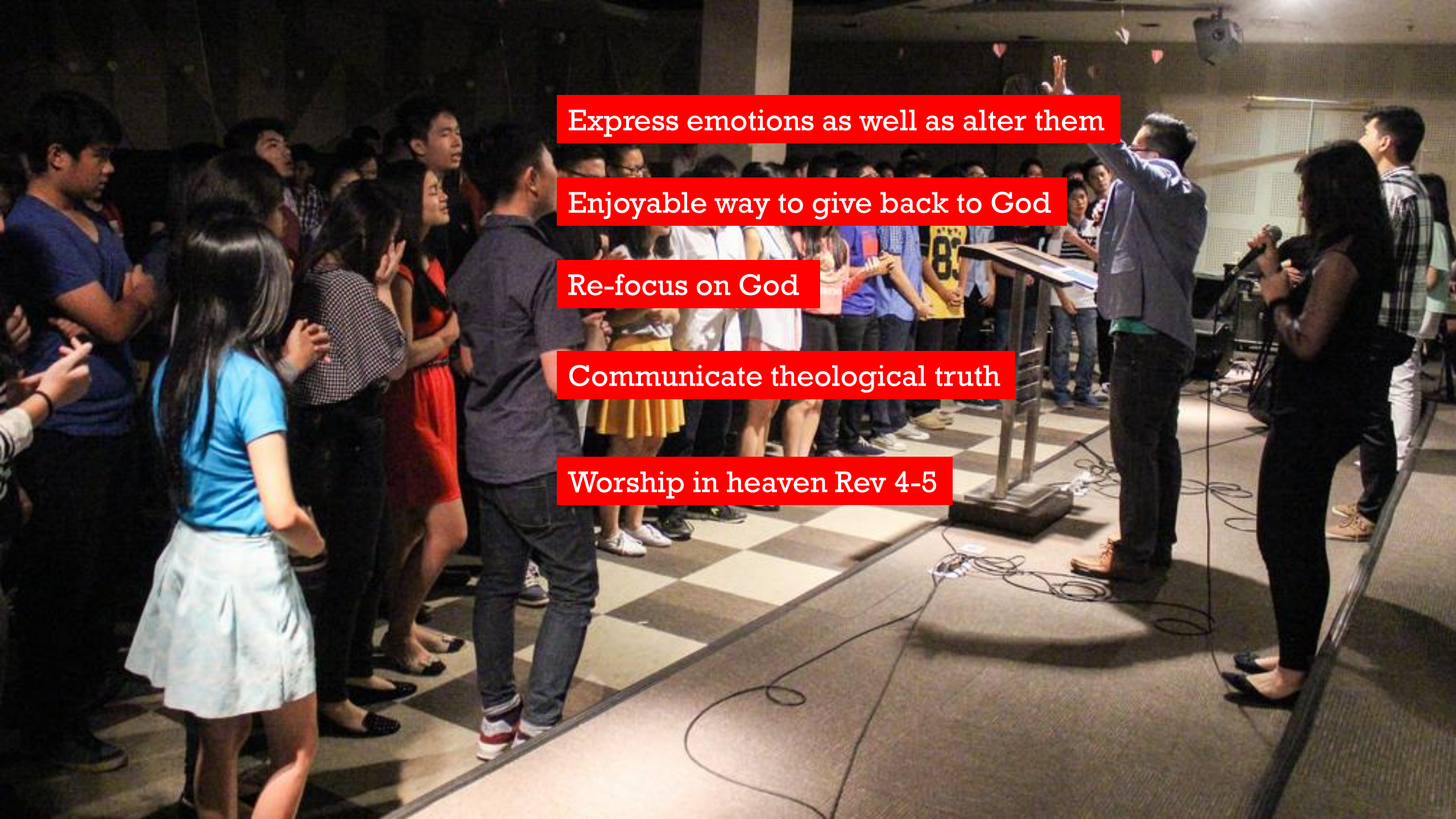
the horse and his rider he
has thrown into the sea.

Ancient Levites
worship with
music



SPIRIT FILLED ACTIVITY

Ephesians 5:18-19 (ESV) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart



Express emotions as well as alter them

Enjoyable way to give back to God

Re-focus on God

Communicate theological truth

Worship in heaven Rev 4-5

WHAT IS WORSHIP

“It is the act of ascribing ultimate value to something in a way that energises and engages every aspect of your being “

Tim Keller

“God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in him”

John Piper



CS LEWIS

I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment... the delight is incomplete till it is expressed

COMING INTO HIS PRESENCE

Psalms 95:1-5 (ESV) **Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us** **Isn't God everywhere?** **Isn' He in us?** **the rock of our salvation!**

2 Let us **come into his presence** **with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**



COVENANTAL INTERACTION WITH GOD

God

He speaks to us
by His word
His Spirit

Us

We respond
Prayer
Songs
Noise
Thanksgiving

A group of people are singing and worshipping on a stage. In the foreground, a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a striped shirt, is singing into a microphone with his right hand raised. Next to him, a woman in a black dress with white polka dots is also singing. To the right, another man with long hair and a woman are singing. In the background, a drummer is visible. The stage is lit with blue light, and the audience is visible in the foreground.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP EVENING

come and enjoy the
evening...the Group will
lead us right into the
throne room of God..."

Problem?

Music



Emotion

Feel good about
the music



Interpretation of
spiritual realities
I am in the presence
of God

The presence of
God is
determined by
the feelings
generated

PRESENCE OF GOD?

Present

Absent?



THE PRESENCE OF GOD= FAITH IN JESUS

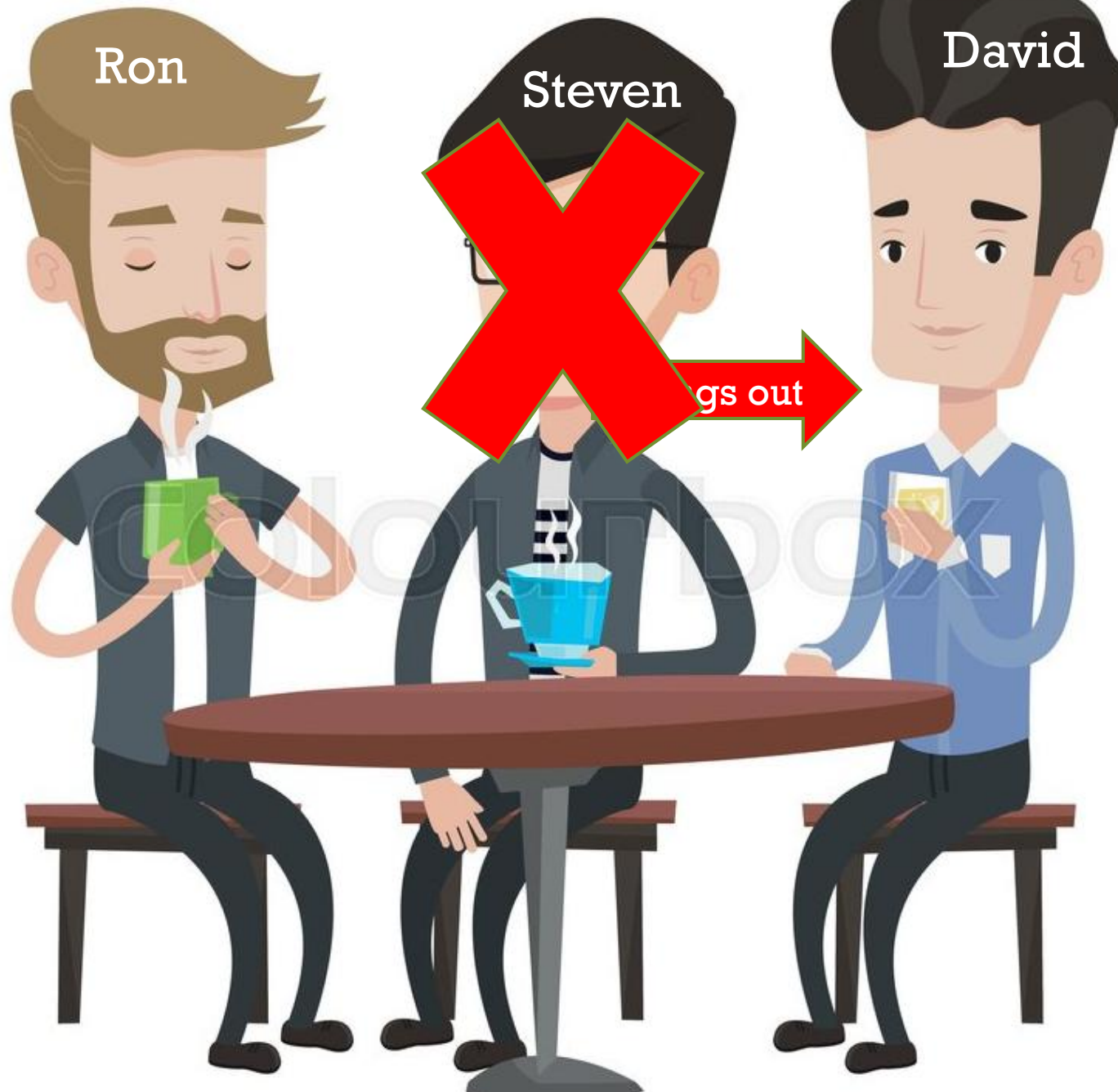
Hebrews 10:19-22 (ESV) Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water

THE FOCUS IS ON CORPORATE PARTICIPATION

Psalms 95:1-5 (ESV) Oh come, let us sing to the
Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation!

Not worship at home alone

2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of
praise!



Silly
Cracking jokes
Reckless behavior

CORPORATE WORSHIP

Ephesians 3:16-19 (ESV) he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have **strength to comprehend with all the saints** what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

THE FOCUS IS ON JOY

Psalms 95:1-5 (ESV) Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

A photograph of John Piper, an older man with glasses and a black shirt, speaking and gesturing with his right hand. The background is dark.

JOHN PIPER

“Truth without emotion produces dead orthodoxy from people who are and a church full of artificial admirers. On the other hand, emotion without truth produces empty frenzy and affections for God rooted in truth are the bone and marrow of Biblical worship.”

QUIET EXPRESSION



Psalms 95:6 Oh
come, let us
worship and
bow down;
let us kneel
before the LORD,
our Maker!



HILLSONG



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



WORSHIP

1. The Expression of Worship
2. The Reasons for Worship
3. The Challenge of Worship

THE REASONS



His Greatness



His Grace

THE GREATNESS OF GOD

Psalms 95 3 For the LORD is a great God, and
a great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

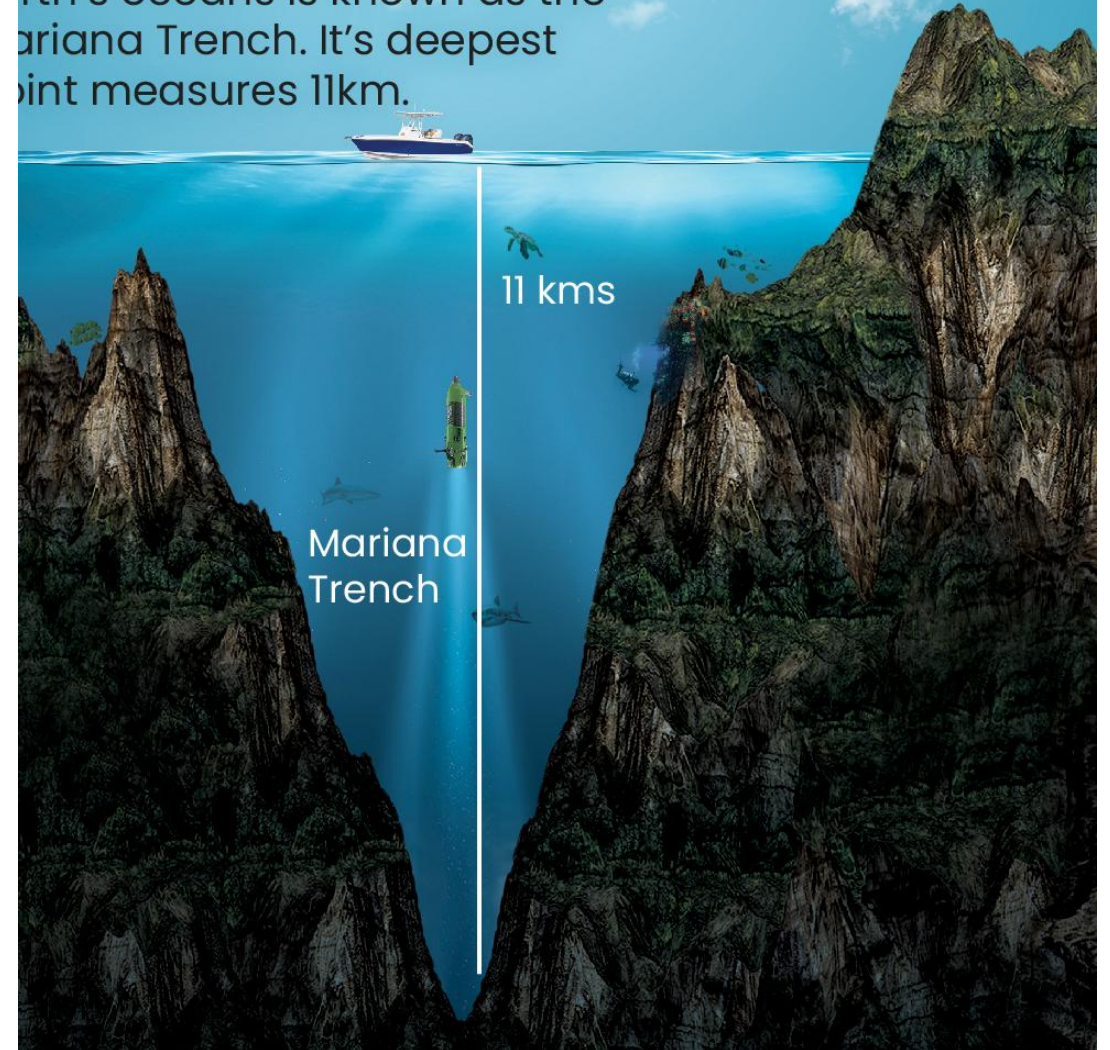
5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.



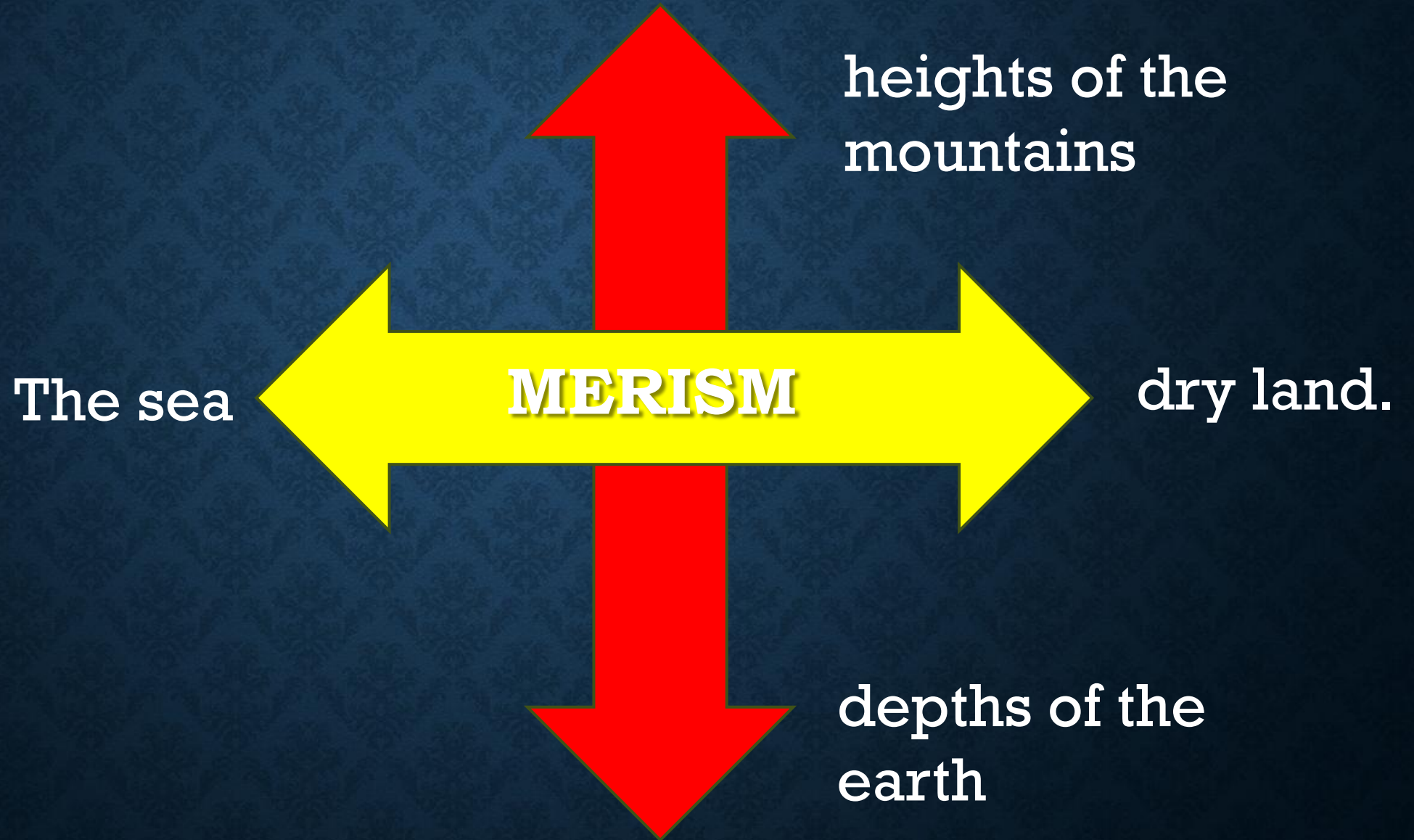
The deepest known area of the Earth's oceans is known as the Mariana Trench. Its deepest point measures 11km.



Cambridge Assessment
International Education
Cambridge International School











UNDER HIS CONTROL

Nothing is independent of Him



SENSE OF AWE

- Sense of God's greatness
- Experiencing the greatness of God
- The insignificance of you

A photograph of a family of three lying on a bed. A man with a beard and a woman are looking down at a baby who is lying on its back. The man is on the left, the woman is on the right, and the baby is in the center. The text "SENSE OF AWE" is overlaid in the center of the image.

SENSE OF AWE

Ascribe glory to someone

- Reality of awe is the pervasive tone of your life
- Dominant tone of your life
- Experience the people and world
- Presence and power of God

HIS GRACE

Psalms 95:1-5 (ESV) Oh come, let us sing
to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to
the rock of our salvation!

2 Let us come into his presence with
thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise
to him with songs of praise!

GODS GRACE FOR HIS PEOPLE

Not only is He great but He is your God

Existential reality of this is your God

Those who really worship Him are those convinced
they are His people

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

7 For he is our God, and we are the people
of his pasture,

and the sheep of his hand.

OLD TESTAMENT PEOPLE SALVATION EVENT

Exodus 20:1-2 (ESV) And God spoke all these words, saying,
2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

OLD TESTAMENT PEOPLE CONSEQUENCE

Exodus 19:5-6 (ESV) my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

DISPOSITION OF LOVE

Galatians 2:20 (ESV) I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me

WHAT IS WORSHIP

It is the act of ascribing ultimate value to something in a way that energises and engages every aspect of your being

Tim Keller

Beauty, Perfection , glory

A photograph of a crowd of people in a church or worship setting, with many hands raised in the air. The image is dimly lit with a blue tint. The text "WHY AREN'T WE EXCITED ABOUT WORSHIP?" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, serif font.

**WHY AREN'T WE EXCITED
ABOUT WORSHIP?**

A woman with long reddish-brown hair, wearing a green dress with a red flower on the back, stands on a dirt path. She is looking towards a yellow sign with a black double-headed arrow. The path splits into two directions, leading into a vast field of golden wheat under a bright blue sky with wispy clouds and several birds flying. The scene is symmetrical, with the woman and the sign acting as a central point of focus.

Revelation

A God that disagrees with you
Challenges you
Awes you
Forces you to sacrifice

Intuition

A God that you can handle
You can bargain with
You can bribe
Who needs your worship
Who is all about you



SUN WORSHIP

CAREY'S FANS BRAVE STORM

KUALA LUMPUR: Mariah Carey's concert at Stadium Merdeka last night saw no shortage of Malaysian fans who came dressed like the American

They g
um's cor
5pm, say
ly wait to

"I am a
Internati
Pacita To

Her so
Robinson
is someth
ing for al

It had
an hour

By **DENNIS CHUA**

time the crowd started arriv-
ing at the stadium, the rain
was reduced to a drizzle.

Promotional posters of Carey
were all over the stadium, as
were scarves and stickers at
stalls promoting her concert.

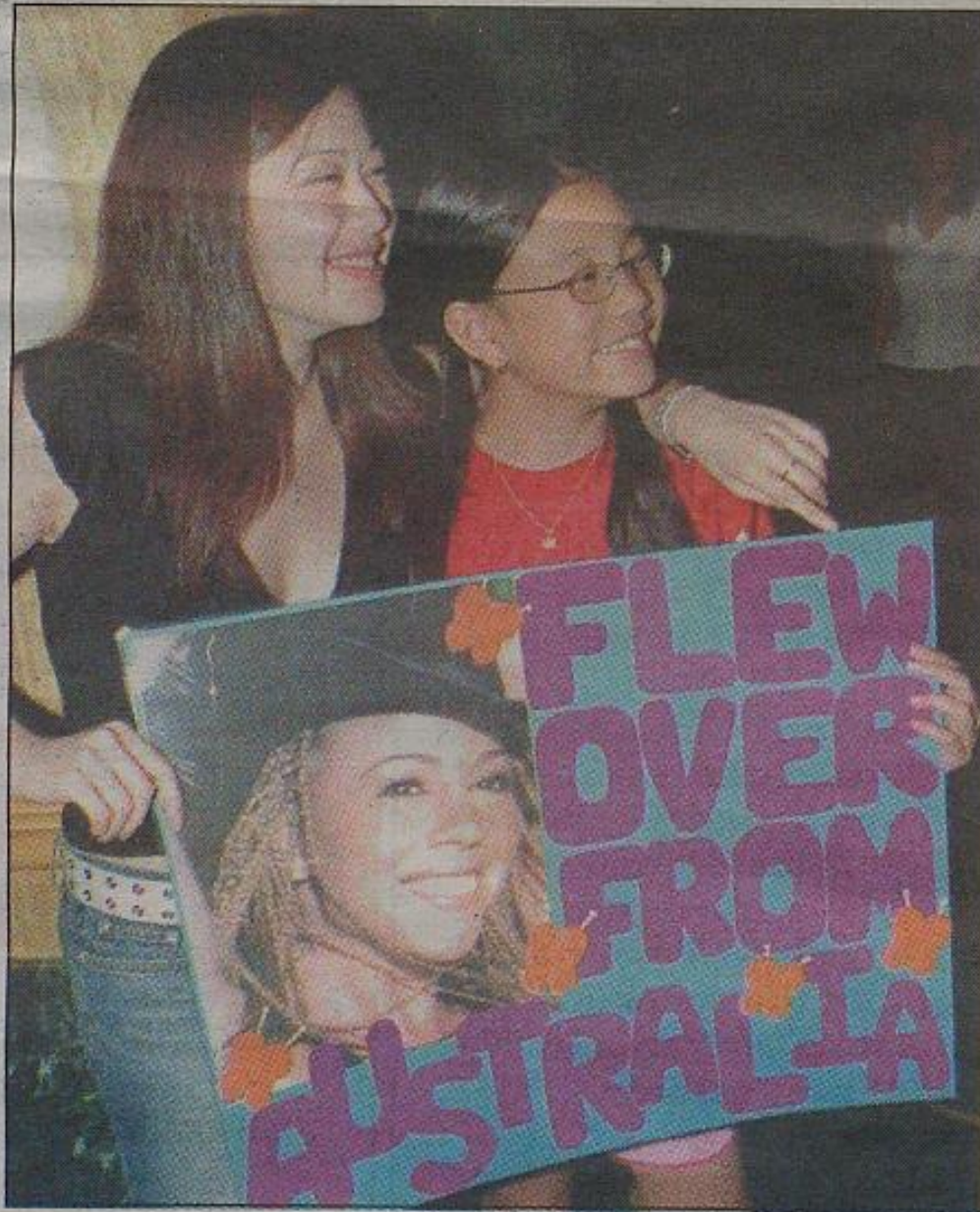
Another fan of Carey, iden-
tified as Nurmah, said:
"I speak to her
and she has a great
star appeal.
If possible, I
would like to shake her hand
and take a photo."

But too is not
easy and among
the fans, waiting and feel-
ing the excitement to attend her
concert is a dream that can come true.
"It can be mir-
aculous to believe."



WANNABES: (From left) Students Christine Okumori, 14, Georgina Robinson, 15, Gabriela Robinson, 15, and Amy Chatterton, 15, waiting to enter the stadium

Picture: MOHD HARIS IBRAHIM



DIEHARD FANS: Michelle (left) and Jessica with a poster they made for the diva

Sisters spend RM10,000 to attend concert

KUALA LUMPUR: They waited at the Mandarin Oriental in Jalan Pinang here yesterday, holding notebooks and cameras, some came as early as 7am, hoping to catch a glimpse of Mariah Carey.

Two of these fans were Michelle Loke, 25, and her sister, Jessica, 13, from Perth, Australia. They said it was worth spending RM10,000 to fly here just to attend Carey's concert at Stadium Merdeka last night.

Michelle, a fan of Carey for more than a decade, and Jessica had been sitting at the hotel lobby's lift area from 8am, waiting for the pop diva to descend from her presidential suite on the 30th floor.

"We have seen her dancers, her stylists and even her back-up singer Trey Lorenz and I got to hug him too," said an excited Jessica.

Michelle said she planned the trip months ago, and even booked a room at Mandarin Oriental because Carey would be staying there.

"I attended the concert when she performed in Australia and it was fantastic. So I just could not miss out on her show in Malaysia. I own more than 200 of her albums and collected magazines in which she was featured," said Michelle.

So determined was Michelle in wanting to meet Carey that she (Michelle) tried to befriend members of the superstar's entourage.

Michelle said she hoped to hand some gifts she had bought – cuddly stuffed toys in the shape of a dolphin,

lamb and Koala bear – to her idol.

"Dolphins and lambs are Carey's favourite animals, and I included a koala because I am from Australia," she said.

"We heard that Carey's only going to come down to the lobby about 5pm but it's really interesting watching members of her entourage going in and out. My sister and I certainly don't want to miss seeing Carey."

The Loke sisters' game plan for the concert was to exchange their seats for better ones upfront by paying extra to people willing to trade.

"We bought VIP seats but only managed to get the eighth row, so we are trying to find those with front row seats who are willing to exchange them for a price," said Michelle with a grin.

Among the other young fans of Carey who were at the hotel since morning were Chia Sook Mei, 23, her sister Soo Kim, 18, and Soo Kim's schoolmate, Yesohta Taramarajah, 18.

Sook Mei, who took a day's leave from work as a secretary, said: "We don't even own a single copy of Carey's albums but we felt it would be thrilling to see her up close before watching her perform at the concert."

The *Malay Mail* learnt that the hotel decorated Carey's RM16,000 a night presidential suite in pink as they knew it's her favourite colour.

On top of that, the hotel also left her a pink robe complete with her initials, and a silk shawl in – what else? – pink. – **By JANIS SEET SU-MEI**

Mirror of Erised



ALFRED ADLER (1870-1937) PSYCHOLOGIST

INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGIST

people ascribe ultimate worth...motivational desires

Approval

Needs to be validated
Adored or praised

Control

Needs to be in control
and always fear loss of
control

Power

Needs status and
influence must get
their way and be in
charge

Comfort

Runs away from
difficulties or
challenges and strives
to build a fortress of
safety and pleasure
protecting at all costs

DAVID FOSTER WALLACE-WE ALREADY WORSHIP SOMETHING

..is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough, never feel you have enough. It's the truth.

**CREATURES ARE NOT BORN WITH DESIRES
UNLESS SATISFACTION FOR THOSE DESIRES
EXISTS. (CS LEWIS)**



If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. CS LEWIS

Desires are only signposts to God

Comfort

Approval

earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy
it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing

Acts 17:26-27 (ESV) And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that **they should seek God**, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.

TRUE WORSHIP IS A TRANSFER



Created things

The diagram consists of two large red ovals on a dark blue background. The left oval contains a red rounded rectangle with the text 'Created things'. The right oval contains a green rounded rectangle with the text 'GOD'. The ovals are positioned horizontally, suggesting a transfer or relationship between the two concepts.

GOD

WORSHIP

1. The Expression of Worship
2. The Reasons for Worship
3. The Challenge of Worship

CALL TO THINKING—LISTEN , UNDERSTANDING

Psalms 95:7-11 (ESV) Today, if you hear
his voice,

8 do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

9 when your fathers put me to the test and
put me to the proof, though they had seen
my work.

CALL TO THINKING—LISTEN , UNDERSTANDING

10 For forty years I loathed that generation and said, “They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways.”

11 Therefore I swore in my wrath, “**They shall not enter my rest.**”

40 Years Of Wandering



WE NEED GOSPEL SABBATH REST

Hebrews 4:4-10 (ESV) And God rested
on the seventh day from all his works.” 5
And again in this passage he said,
“They shall not enter my rest.”

WE NEED GOSPEL SABBATH REST

6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience,

WE NEED GOSPEL SABBATH REST

7 again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.”

WE NEED GOSPEL SABBATH REST

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

A dramatic landscape at sunset or sunrise. In the foreground, a large, dark, rough-textured stone sits on the ground, with a bright, glowing light emanating from a circular opening in its center. In the background, a hill rises with three wooden crosses standing on its peak. The sky is a mix of deep blue, purple, and orange, with the sun low on the horizon behind the crosses. The overall mood is solemn and spiritual.

SABBATH REST

TIM KELLER



If you don't understand gospel
rest and then we will turn
worship will be another work
If I worship well then I will be
accepted. If I pray or fast then I
will be accepted and God will
bless me . Instead of being
transformed . Then it will be
one more burden

Emotion

Thinking

Will



TRUE WORSHIP