

**Alderwood Community Church**  
**May 30, 2010**

**Begin with Adoration**

Talking With God – Part 3

Matthew 6:9-10

*“From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.”*  
Psalm 113:3

Praise- originally meant, “*to set a price on; appraise*” and then it came to mean “*to commend the worth of, express approval or admiration. To glorify*”

Adoration- “*worshipping or paying homage; great love, devotion, respect, and esteem*”

**Read Text: Matthew 6:5-15** (pg. 960)

**1. Why should we begin our times of prayer with Adoration?**

A. Jesus instructed us to begin our conversation with God with adoration.

*“This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name”* Matt. 6:9

B. Adoration sets the tone for our entire conversation with God.

It reminds us whom we are addressing, whose presence we have entered, whose attention we have gained. Too often our problems and trials and needs seem so pressing that we reduce prayer to a wish list. But when we commit ourselves to beginning all our conversations with God with adoration, we have to slow down and focus our attention on God.

C. Adoration reminds us of God’s character and his heart.

As we rehearse his character traits, lifting up his character and personality, we reinforce our understanding of who God is.

When we begin our talk with God with something like, “I worship you for being omnipotent.” When I say that, I’m reminded that God is able to help me, no matter how difficult my problem may seem to me. I also worship him for his omniscience. He does not have to scratch his head about anything I say. I worship God for his omnipresence, wherever I am praying- in the air, in my car or in my den at home, I know he is present with me.

You can praise God for being faithful, righteous, just, merciful, gracious, willing to provide, attentive, unchanging. When in a spirit of adoration you begin going through God’s attributes,

you will soon say from the heart, “I am praying to an awesome God!” And that motivates me to continue praying.

D. Adoration purifies us when as we declare His worth.

When you have spent a few minutes praising God for who he is, your spirit is softened and your agenda changes. Those burning issues you were dying to bring to God’s attention may seem less critical. Your sense of desperation subsides as you focus on God’s greatness, and you can truly say, “It Is Well With My Soul”.

E. God is worthy of our worship. (Adoration)

*“For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all other gods.”*

Psalm 96:4

*“You alone are God.” Nehemiah 9:6*

(1) Worship is our response to God’s self-revelation. (Creation, Scripture, Holy Spirit)

(2) Worship involves:

(a) Focusing my attention on God.

*“Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10*

(b) Expressing my affection to God.

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”*

Matthew 22:37

(c) Using my abilities for God.

I love the words of the song by Jon Bauer, *“May my life be my worship, my life be my song. May I praise you my savior, all the day long.”*

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Colossians 3:23-24*

*“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10*

*“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10*

## **2. Practically, how do we adore God?**

### A. Verbally declare his character traits.

- Sometimes you may focus on several different attributes..it just flows out of you.
- Sometimes you may want to focus on one attribute.. and meditate on that quality of God.
- When facing a major decision, you may want to concentrate on his guidance.
- When suffering from a feeling of inadequacy or guilt, you might want to praise him for his mercy and forgiving spirit.
- When in need, you may worship him for his providence or power.

#### (1) Create a list of God’s character traits.

Lord, I praise you today because you are...

Sovereign (2 Sam. 7:22,28; Psalm 71:5, Psalm 73:28; Colossians 1:1)  
 Holy (Exodus 15:11; Lev. 11:45; Psalm 29:2, 30:4, 77:13, 111:9; 1 Peter 1:15)  
 Loving (Jeremiah 31:3; Psalm 6:4, 26:3, 36:5, 51:1; Lam. 3:21-23; Rom. 8:37-39)  
 Gracious (Psalm 86:15, 145:8; Romans 8:32; Ephesians 1:6, 2:8-9; John 1:14)  
 Forgiving (Psalm 32:1-5, 51:1-10, 103:1-14; Ephesians 1:7, 1 John 1:9-2:3)  
 All powerful (Psalm 147:5, 150:2; Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 28:18)  
 All knowing (Psalm 139:1-16; Isaiah 40:27-28; Matthew 6:31-32)  
 Always present (Psalm 16:8, 34:18, 139:1-16; Jer. 23:23-24; Joshua 1:9; Heb. 13:5)  
 Unchanging (Psalm 90:2, 102:25-27; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17)  
 Good (Exodus 33:19, 34:5-7; Psalm 25:7, 31:19, 34:8, 135:3; Mark 10:18)  
 Giving (Psalm 29:11, 146:8; Matthew 7:7-11; James 1:5, 17)

#### (2) Write out a scripture or two for each trait.

All powerful

*“Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.” Jeremiah 32:17*

All knowing

*“Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, ‘My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God’? Do you not know? Have you not heard?*

*The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.” Isaiah 40:27-28*

Good

*“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1:17*

- B. Choose a Psalm of praise or other scripture and say it back to him. Personalize it and put yourself into it. (Look at Psalm 96 and 23 for example.)
- C. Sing to the Lord. (Look at Psalm 92:1-7)

Practice:

1. Begin each time of prayer this week with adoration.
2. Choose one character trait of God each day and focus on that all day long.

Ministry Fair:

Take the time to walk the hallways this Sunday, May 30 and next Sunday, June 6 and visit the people at the ministry tables to learn and discover a ministry in which you could also serve and use your abilities as worship and adoration of God, which you were created to do! (Eph. 2:10)