

# In Unison



The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the Lord.  
2 Chronicles 5:13

## On Being Complete

### Our Own Good

What does a perfect, complete and holy God gain from people worshiping Him? Can we even know? Is it even possible to imagine what our worship contributes to an omnipotent Deity?

Somehow—in ways we may never comprehend until our resurrection—God is pleased with our worship of Him. More than that, He actively seeks it out.

The shepherd searches diligently for every lost lamb. He does so for its own protection. The shepherd may gain some comfort by the lamb's presence, some companionship over the late-night hours, but mostly he searches the lamb out and gathers it into his fold for its own good.

### The Essence of Praise

Yet Thou art holy, O Thou who art enthroned upon [or dost inhabit] the praises of Israel. Psalm 22:3 nasb

God lives in His praise. In the process of worshiping and praising His name we move physically closer to Him. He desires our worship, but He also desires us. Notice that the passage in the Gospel of John does not say that the Father seeks worship; Jesus says that the Father is not

seeking as much the *act* of worship as He is the *person* who worships.

God the Father desires a relationship with those who call upon His name. More than that, as the verse says, He desires an honest, truthful relationship. He wants to spend time with those who truly and honestly love Him.

Our heavenly Father desires our worship; that, in itself, is reason enough. We should find our joy in bringing joy to the One who has given us life, who sustains us and has promised us an eternity with Him.

But like the good shepherd wanting only the best for his sheep, the Father also wants us to worship Him because it is there—deep in the holy temple of praise and adoration—that we find Him. He knows what is good for us. He knows that what we really need, for our own good, is to spend time with Him.

God the Father knows that without that intimate, personal time of communion, it will be each of us—not Him—who will be incomplete.

*J*esus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Luke 4:8

It is not an easy concept to understand—that God desires something from mere mortals. It makes Him sound incomplete, even egotistical.

Nevertheless, God the Father wants people to worship Him. He not only wants it, He seeks it out. His Spirit roams the earth searching for people who are willing to worship Him.

"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers." John 4:23 nasb

“To admit the existence of a need in God is to admit incompleteness in the divine Being. Need is a creature-word and cannot be spoken of the Creator. God has a voluntary relation to everything He has made, but He has no necessary relation to anything outside of Himself. His interest in His creatures arises from His sovereign good pleasure, not from any need those creatures can supply nor from any completeness they can bring to Him who is complete in Himself.

*“Teach us, O God, that nothing is necessary to Thee. Were anything necessary to Thee that thing would be the measure of Thine imperfection: and how could we worship one who is imperfect? If nothing is necessary to Thee, then no one is necessary, and if no one, then not we. Thou dost seek us though Thou dost not need us. We seek Thee because we need Thee, for in Thee we live and move and have our being. Amen.”* (A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*)

*I* t takes away nothing from the absolute holiness and grandeur of God the Father to learn, in His Word, that He is more than the sum of this world’s vain suspicions regarding Him.

If God—even as Spirit—is more human than this world gives Him credit, He loses none of His deity. If God is tougher, grittier than this world understands, He loses none of His purity. God the Father is all of this and more—and more than mortal man will ever comprehend. We need not waste time and energy recreating or adding to God from our temporal toolkit, for He is already more multidimensional and complete than we can ever imagine.

Because I worship a complete God, I need not worry about His ability to keep His promises, answer my prayers, or deal with my foes. Because He is perfectly complete, He is perfectly *capable* of doing anything He has said He will.

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Romans 11:33-12:1



## Scripture

And God spoke all these words: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."  
Exodus 20:1-7

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth gen-

eration." Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.  
Exodus 34:6-8

When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. Fear the Lord your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; for the Lord your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land.  
Deuteronomy 6:10-15

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Sa-

tan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. Matthew 4:8-11

Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."  
John 4:21-24



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The God of Abraham Praise (*ben Judah*)

The God of Abraham praise,  
At whose supreme command  
From earth I rise, and seek the joys  
At His right hand.

Holy, Holy, Holy (*Heber*)

Holy, Holy, Holy! Tho' the darkness hide Thee,  
Tho' the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

My God, How Wonderful Thou Art (*Faber*)

How wonderful, how beautiful,  
The sight of Thee must be,  
Thine endless wisdom, boundless power,  
And awful purity, and awful purity!

How Great Thou Art (*Hine*)

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art.

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