

A Heart Of Worship

Tim Coen

“In Him we live, and move,
and have our being.” Acts 17:28

“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

“Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the
desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4

**ALL OF OUR LIFE IS INTENDED TO BE
DELIGHTFUL WORSHIP!**

God didn't have to create all the diversities and varieties of taste, texture, smell and color.

Food could have been functional without them!

But He created the pleasure in it, because He is good and He delights to give good gifts to His children!

Because we live in physical bodies in a fallen world where good and evil are mixed, our ability to experience the joy and pleasure He intends for us is severely limited.

DELIGHT

Anticipation

Disappointment

Longing

Diminishment

Need

Disgust

**This fallen world is the closest the child
of God will ever experience to Hell.**

**And it is the closest the lost will ever
experience to heaven.**

If we receive the good in things joyfully as an expression of God's goodness, we will delight in the generosity and love of our Father, and seek to know more of His heart through His good gifts, and we will find that eternal life has begun for us already.

Our capacity to receive the pleasure He intended for us will keep growing until it triumphs over and forgets all the pain.

If we seek good things independently for ourselves, we'll keep grabbing, hoarding, manipulating, and corrupting, taking our attention further away from from our Father, and we will find that hell has begun for us already.

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**A heart trained by worship can rejoice
even in hardship, grief, and loss.**

**It can rest in the promise that God is working all things together
for good, so even this is a good gift from His perfect hand.**

**He is with us in it, so there is grace for us in it. It pushes us
closer to our Father and deepens our connection to Him and
appreciation for Him and ultimately grows our delight in Him.**

**The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Blessed be
the name of the Lord.**

“God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other.

That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about [relationship with Him].

God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there.”

CS Lewis

**You have made us for yourself, O Lord,
and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.**

St Augustine

What blessings from God help you be more aware of and thankful for his presence, his generosity, and his love?

Which blessings from his hand most easily distract you from his face and tempt you too focus on the gift more than the giver?
Same list? Or different? Why?

Jesus says that when our eyes are good—fixed on Him—our whole life will be full of light, but if our eyes are bad—focused on the gifts instead of the giver—even the light that is in us will turn into darkness, so you can learn a lot about whether your focus is in the right place from paying attention to whether the joy and worship in your heart is growing through the good gifts your Father has given you, or the frustration and sadness in your heart are growing instead.

Give an example of each from your experience.

Pause to thank God for His blessings!

We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit.

All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

Colossians 1:9-10