



SERIES: JANUARY – BECOMING SPIRITUALLY FIT

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Wednesday, 01/19/2022

Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-5

TITLE: Developing the Heart of Worship

Periodically, I have the privilege of teaching at a Bible college in Mexico. Many of the students are the most unlikely of students. They come from lives of thievery, drug-dealing, pimping, and so on. But they are people who have been saved and radically transformed by Jesus Christ.

So when they worship, they get down. They sing. They shout. They dance. It's like a scene from *The Blues Brothers*. But how they worship is different from any worship experiences I see. What makes them different? They have developed the heart of worship. How can we develop the same heart? Let's turn back to the Bible for the answer.

Paul writes this in Ephesians 2:1-5 (CSB),

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!”

Think about what Paul just said. We were dead in our sins. We aren't born good. We aren't born basically good. We are born spiritually dead because of our sin. We walked according to the ruler of the power of the air. So, were we living for astronauts or pilots? Ha. No. We were children and followers of Satan. Our allegiance when born belongs to Satan.

We were by nature at birth, children under God's righteous wrath.

And then in verse 4 we find two of the greatest words in all the Bible. “But God.” But God who is rich in mercy and full of love for us, he made us alive through Christ. Purely as a gift.

This is why my friends in Mexico worship like they do. They recognize they were dead in their sins. They were drowning with no hope of rescue, but Christ reached out and grabbed their bodies. He pulled them to shore and said, “live.”

This is how we develop a heart for worship. We acknowledge, believe, and live the grace of God. In reasons we'll never know Jesus saved us by grace through faith. We couldn't buy it. We couldn't earn it. We couldn't win it. It was a gift.

When we acknowledge our brokenness and totally depend upon God, it changes everything. Even how we worship.

So here's my challenge for you today: develop your heart for worship. Take time and recount how God saved you. Remember what God saved you from. Embrace what God saved you for. We are recipients of unmerited and unmatched grace. So, develop your heart by remembering and embracing this grace.

When we do this, we will win the day.