



---

## Willow Creek:

**“We made a mistake”**

### **Philosophy of Ministry**

- 1. The church creates programs & activities**
- 2. People participate in these activities**
- 3. The outcome of participation is spiritual maturity**

**Conclusion...Spiritual growth, becoming a disciple of Jesus, does not happen best by becoming dependent on elaborate church programs but through age old spiritual practices of bible reading, meditation, prayer, relationship, worship.**



# Meditation & Worship

---

Meditation is not just reading the Bible...it is pondering, mulling over, letting it percolate in you heart and mind in an unhurried manner, until God becomes so real to your heart that you delight in His presence, are drawn to Him in prayer, are changed in attitude & life

## Psalm 145....Meditating on Name of God

**145:5** *“On the glorious splendor of your majesty and on your wonderful works I will meditate”*

Mediation on God leads to worship because you discover great worth in Him....your heart finds Him glorious, praiseworthy



# Meditation & Worship

---

## Meditating on the glorious splendor of....

- **God's Greatness**      **(145:3-6)**
- **God's Goodness**      **(145:7-9. 13-17)**
- **God's Rule**      **(145:10-13a)**
- **God's Faithfulness**      **(145:13b-20)**







# Meditation & Worship

---

## God's Greatness (145:3-6)

- In Creation
- In Rescue

### The Old Testament Exodus

*Exodus 19:4* You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

### The New Testament Exodus

*John 17:3* Now this is eternal life: that they may know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.



# Meditation & Worship

---

## God's Goodness & Love (145:7-9, 13-17)

- God's goodness & love to His people

**Psalm 138:8** The LORD will fulfill *his purpose* for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever-- do not abandon the works of your hands.

- God's goodness & love to all creation

**Matthew 5:44-45** *44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*

**Luke 6:35** ... *because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.*



# Meditation & Worship

---

## God's Rule/Kingdom (145:10-13a)

The kingdom of God is the good news of the renewal of all creation by the re-entry of God's ruling power through Christ's life death & resurrection

### **Meditate on God's Kingdom....**

- **When you experience evil against you**
- **When your heart is broken by evil in the world**



# Meditation & Worship

---

## God's Faithfulness

....made known in His promises (145:13b-20)

**Psalm 145:13** *The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.*

**Psalm 145:17** *The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made.*

- The reason the Lord is faithful to all His promises is because He must do what is right
- What is more right than for God to honor His Name by accomplishing all He has promised

**2 Corinthians 1:20** For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.



# Meditation & Worship

---

Psalm 145:2

Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

**Everyone worships every day!!!**

When you trust and entrust your life to the crucified & risen Christ  
He begins writing a new worship story in your life

*You will still struggle with treasuring other things besides Christ...  
...placing great worth on other things in the belief that to have them is  
to have life, joy, well-being*

You grow a life of right worship by the “Means of Grace”  
...Meditation on the character of God who is for you in Christ



