

***Question: Why does God demand that people praise and worship him so much? Isn't that a bit egotistical?***

From a human viewpoint God may seem egotistical, especially if one imagines him as a god seated on his throne in a far-off heaven demanding that those on earth worship and adore him. However, a closer look at the Bible reveals a different picture of what is happening when we worship our Heavenly Father. In truth, the Bible rarely speaks of God commanding us to worship and proclaim his greatness. Instead, it describes how those who had come to know of the unlimited power, wisdom, presence and majesty of God could not help but praise him. For them, worshipping God was as natural as breathing. Instead of the Bible telling us that God asks us to praise him, it records the praises of those who have come to know the goodness and majesty of God and who invite others to join them in worship of our great God (Psalm 95).

However, I do believe that God does want us to come into his presence with praise. But he does not want our praise because of some egotistical need we may imagine that he has. He wants us to worship him for our own good. By humbly drawing near to God in faith, obedience and worship, we allow him to enter into our lives in wonderful ways. We empower him in our lives so that he may empower us to live victoriously in a world that would destroy us. After reminders of God's greatness, the prophet Isaiah said:

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.  
He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.  
Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;  
but those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary;  
they will walk and not be faint (Isaiah 40:28-31 NIV).

No, God our Father is not some kind of egotist demanding our flattery. On the contrary, he is the majestic God of infinite wisdom, power, love and grace who would do almost anything to have a relationship with us. He sent his one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on a cross that we might have forgiveness and eternal life (John 3:16). Although unseen to our physical eyes, this great God is not far from any of us; he is very near (Acts 17:27-28). How can we not say with the Psalmist:

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations (Psalm 100:1-5 NIV).

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