

True Worshipers

STUDY GUIDE

BOB KAUFLIN

STUDY GUIDE FOR

TRUE WORSHIPERS

SEEKING
WHAT MATTERS
TO GOD

BOB KAUFLIN

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Study Guide for *True Worshipers: Seeking What Matters to God*

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This study guide is meant to help you benefit more deeply from each chapter of Bob Kauflin's book *True Worshipers*. Thinking carefully about the answers to these questions will aid especially in changing not only your thoughts about worshiping God but also your actions and practices. You can use this guide on your own, in a small-group setting, as part of a Sunday school curriculum, or in any context that you can find people whose passion is to seek to become what matters to God: true worshipers.

TRUE WORSHIPERS *MATTER*

WORSHIP AND REALITY

OVERVIEW

Worship (as the word is commonly understood among Christians) has become a movement, a phenomenon, even an industry. But worship is much more. We may recognize that true worship in God's presence is our eternal destiny. But what does that mean for us *now*? Does it make any day-to-day difference? In this life, what does it really mean to be a worshiper of God? We see in this chapter how Jesus guides us into answers for those questions through his encounter with a woman at a well.

KEY STATEMENTS

We should consider it the great end of our existence to be found numbered among the worshipers of God. (John Calvin, sixteenth-century French theologian and pastor)

John Calvin was right. We can have no higher goal than to take our place among those who revel—unceasingly, joyfully, wholeheartedly, and eternally—in our great and awesome God. (p. 21)¹

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1) What essential truths about worship do you observe and appreciate in the Scripture quotation immediately following this chapter's title, John 4:23?

2) How would you summarize the history of your own interest in worship and worship music?

¹All page numbers in parenthesis are to Bob Kauflin, *True Worshipers* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015).

3) The author writes that the worship of God is “never irrelevant” and “never unimportant,” and that there’s “nothing more foundational to our relationship with God and to our lives as Christians (p. 21).” How would you view the importance of worshiping God compared to other pursuits and interests in life?

4) The author encourages us to see being a worshiper of God as “our highest goal, our loftiest aim—the great purpose of our existence (p. 22).” When this is truly what we’re after, how is this fact likely to show itself in our lives?

5) Under the heading “Worship Then . . . and Now,” notice the five bulleted statements about struggles related to worship. Which of these can you most identify with? What other worship-related struggles could you add to the list?

6) In the biblical story the author retells under the heading “A Woman and a Well,” what impresses you most about how Jesus strategically guides this woman’s thinking toward true worship of God?

7) In what ways do you find you’re most like the woman Jesus was speaking with at the well?

8) *Why* is God the Father seeking those who worship him in spirit and in truth?

9) The author explains that music “was never meant to be the heart” of worshipping God. Do you agree? Why or why not?

10) How does this chapter help you better understand what it means to worship God “in spirit and in truth”?

11) Under the heading “What’s Ahead,” the author briefly previews the book’s upcoming content. Which of these issues and topics are of most interest to you and why?

12) Review the questions the author asks in the final two paragraphs of this chapter. What do you see as the best answers?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

As you think further on this chapter's content and how it helps you in being a true worshiper of God, remember to respond directly to God in prayer. Consider expressing the following thoughts and requests in your own words:

Thank you, loving Father, that because of Jesus Christ the time has come when true worshipers can worship you in spirit and in truth. Thank you for letting us know through your Son that you actually seek such people to worship you, and that you've sent your Spirit to enable us. I acknowledge that you alone are worthy of my all my worship.

TRUE WORSHIPERS *RECEIVE*

WORSHIP AND OUR INABILITY

OVERVIEW

In order for us to worship God, he must both enable us by his grace and reveal himself to us through his Word. Many of us, however, have difficulty receiving from God and connecting the worship of God with the Word of God. This chapter helps clear up common misconceptions about the gift of God's Word as it enables us to worship.

KEY STATEMENTS

The ability and desire to worship God is something that God himself gives us. (p. 39)

We can't worship God apart from his Word. It defines, directs, and inspires our worship. (p. 41)

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1) Look at the two questions asked by the apostle Paul in the Scripture quotation just below this chapter's title, 1 Corinthians 4:7. How would you personally answer these questions?

2) Think about the author's chapter-opening story of his friend. Is it hard for you to *receive* from God as well as from others? If so, why do you think that is?

3) In what ways do you understand worship to be a gift from God?

4) Think about Adam and Eve's existence in the garden of Eden as described in the section "The First Worshipers." What was their worship of God like, and in what ways is our worship of God now similar? In what ways is it different?

5) The author goes on to briefly overview biblical history in demonstrating our need for God to enable our worship. Besides those mentioned here, what other notable Old Testament stories and characters can you think of that reinforce this point?

6) "Jesus is God's ultimate statement," writes the author, "that he will provide a way for us to worship him" (p. 35). How exactly does Jesus solve the problem of our inability to rightly worship God on our own?

7) The author tells the story of how he was brought to an understanding and acceptance of God's gift of salvation. How is that story similar to what has happened in your life? How is it different?

8) Think further about this statement: “We don’t create worship; we respond to what we’ve received in Jesus Christ—eternal life. And that gift continues to be the basis upon which we come to worship God” (p. 39). Do you recognize the possibility of any other basis for worshiping God? Why or why not?

9) In what ways can what we read in the Bible help us in our worship of God?

10) In the section “Clearing Up Some Common Misconceptions,” which, if any, of the four misconceptions listed have been present in your thinking?

11) In this chapter’s final section, look closely at the lines quoted from Hebrews 10. How would you describe in your own words the “confidence” this passage speaks of, as it relates to our worship of God?

12) How does this chapter intensify your appreciation for what Jesus has done for us?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

As you think further about this chapter's content and how it helps you live as a true worshiper of God, remember to respond directly to God in prayer. Consider expressing the following thoughts and requests in your own words:

My life, my strength, my mind and heart, my relationships, my purpose and calling—all these are your gifts to me, Lord God. I possess nothing good that hasn't been given to me from your gracious hand. Teach me to more fully receive and steward these gifts, especially the gift of being able to worship you. Your Son bore my sins in his body on the cross that I might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds I have been healed—healed to worship you! Thank you for the gift of your Word that teaches me what Christ's sacrifice really means and what worshiping you is all about.

TRUE WORSHIPERS *EXALT*

WORSHIP AND HUMILITY

OVERVIEW

A particularly helpful word to capture the meaning of worship is the word *exalt*. What does exalting God really look like? This chapter offers numerous ways we can exalt God both inwardly in our hearts and outwardly in our actions.

KEY STATEMENTS

Exalt seems to be an appropriate word to sum up how God calls true worshipers to respond to him. To worship God is to humble everything about ourselves and exalt everything about him. (p. 51)

True worshipers, enabled and redeemed by God, respond to God's self-revelation in ways that exalt his glory in Christ in their minds, affections, and wills, by the power of the Holy Spirit. (p. 53)

The gospel is the greatest encouragement we could ever hope to have as we seek to exalt God through our lives. (p. 68)

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1) The author defines idolatry as “worship in the wrong direction.” He adds, “When I worship an idol, I’m saying, ‘Fulfill me. Console me. Protect me. Rule me. You are worthy of my strength, time, energy, and affections. Only you can make me completely happy’” (p. 50). What wrong directions are you drawn to in your own worship?

2) The author describes “a lengthy and painful process” in which he “came to see in a fresh and profound way that we’re redeemed to exalt God and God alone” (p. 51). In what ways is this similar to anything you’ve experienced?

3) In the section “Words of Worship,” notice the brief lists of Scripture passages. Examine these passages in your Bible; what picture do they portray of God and of our proper response to him? How do they help us understand *humbling* ourselves and *exalting* God?

4) The author asks the question, “What does exalting God look like?” How would you express the answer to that question in your own words?

5) In what kinds of circumstances is it typically hardest for you to turn your thoughts toward God? When you face such circumstances in the future, how could you more quickly become aware of God’s active involvement in your life at that moment?

6) How do you understand the connection between loving God and worshiping God? What link do you see between loving other people and worshiping God?

7) How can the reality of what God is really like be reflected in both our faith and our gratitude?

8) Notice the brief list of Psalm references at the end of the section “Through Our Gratefulness.” Look at these verses in your Bible and let them be your heart’s declaration of worship for God. Which of these passages means the most to you?

9) In what specific aspects of your daily life do you especially sense how your willing obedience exalts God and testifies to his worthiness?

10) For what things are you most likely to vocalize praise to God? For what other blessings can you become more vocal in praising God?

11) The author writes, “Every word we say is worship.” In the last twenty-four hours, how have your words exalted God? How have they exalted something or someone other than God? Are there any areas of speech in which you’re consistently drawn to worship something other than God?

12) In what avenues of service to others do you sense most acutely the gifting and enablement from God to follow Christ's example of servanthood?

13) The author writes, "Evangelism, or telling others the good news of the gospel, is simply praising God in front of those who don't know him" (p. 67). What encouragement does this give you in your own faithful witness for Christ?

14) In this chapter's concluding section, the author writes, "We need God to worship God." What does this statement mean to you? How does its truth turn our hearts toward the gospel?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

As you think further on this chapter's content and how it helps you in being a true worshiper of God, remember to respond directly to God in prayer. Consider expressing the following thoughts and requests in your own words:

Holy God, how infinitely high you are above all things! I pray that you would give me a clearer picture of your glory in Jesus Christ, so that my every thought, word, and deed would point to your excellence, beauty, goodness, and sufficiency. For all my remaining time on earth, and all the endless days in eternity, let my soul keep growing in exalting you.

TRUE WORSHIPERS *GATHER*

WORSHIP AND COMMUNITY

OVERVIEW

At times we may think that worshiping with other believers isn't worth the bother. Why not just worship God on our own at home? That kind of thinking misses God's purposes both for us and for the world we live in. In this chapter we explore those purposes as they relate to the gathering of the church. We also examine the intensified benefits of regularly worshiping together with other believers and practical ways to make the most of those benefits.

KEY STATEMENTS

Thanking and praising God in the midst of the congregation is more than a good idea. It's what true worshipers were made for and central to what God is doing on the earth. (p. 71)

Meeting together is an event to look forward to as well as preparation for the rest of the week. In a continual cycle of the church gathering, then scattering, we find the relentless grace of God empowering us to live all of life for the glory of God. (p. 83)

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1) Note carefully the description of God's people in the verse quoted just below the chapter title, Hebrews 10:25. How well does this reflect your own involvement with other believers in Christ?

2) With the example of "Steve and Sandy" in mind, what common distractions and diversions are most likely to keep you from being fully engaged in a weekly gathering of the church?

3) The author writes, “Thanking and praising God in the midst of the congregation is more than a good idea. It’s what true worshipers were made for and central to what God is doing on the earth” (p. 71). How fully have you embraced this in your own purpose for life? How committed are you—in heart, mind, and action—to this shared calling?

4) Near the end of the section “A Gathered People,” notice the brief list of references from the book of Acts. What encouragement do you see in these passages for your own involvement with other believers?

5) In the section “Benefits of the Worshiping Community,” the author calls our attention to seven of these benefits (each with its own subheading). After reviewing these seven points, which of those benefits have you already enjoyed most? Which of them do you want to experience more fully? Which of these seven are particular strengths of the local congregation that you’re a part of?

6) After citing the exhortation in Hebrews 10:24 to “stir up one another to love and good works,” the author adds, “I’m stirred up as I benefit from the different strengths, gifts, and abilities God has given to other members of my church. I need to be stirred up regularly.” How have you been stirred up through being served by people in your church?

7) The author quotes pastor and professor Iain Duguid: “There is something about corporate worship which is not present in individual worship, and that ‘something’ is a fuller expression of the reality of God’s presence” (p. 77). As the living “body” of the living Christ, how can believers together become more purposefully aware of the Lord’s presence?

8) In this chapter we see many ways we can give greater glory to God when we’re together than any of us could on our own. How does this help motivate you to more active and purposeful involvement with your church?

9) In the section “Embracing These Benefits,” the author offers six evidences of the difference it can make when we truly value meeting with God’s people. How would you evaluate yourself in each of those six areas?

10) “There are no normal Sundays,” the author states. “Just fresh opportunities to behold the glory of the Lord as we’re ‘transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another’ (2 Cor. 3:18)” (p. 83). What personal gratitude can you offer to God for these “fresh opportunities” coming your way each week?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

As you think further on this chapter's content and how it helps you in being a true worshiper of God, remember to respond directly to God in prayer. Consider expressing the following thoughts and requests in your own words:

I praise you, God our Father, for the riches of your glorious inheritance in the saints—the men and women and children you have redeemed through the blood of Jesus your Son, the people you've adopted and sealed into your family through your Holy Spirit. Thank you that these vast personal riches are something I can begin to enjoy even now in the local congregation that you've placed me in. Help me be faithful to gather with them gladly and to benefit in all the ways you intend, for your glory.

TRUE WORSHIPERS *EDIFY*

WORSHIP AND MATURITY

OVERVIEW

God wants every believer to be a means of grace to others within their local congregation. He intends to use us to strengthen, encourage, and help others, while receiving those same blessings from others. In this chapter we look more closely at four priorities involved in our edification of one another—the priorities of variety, love, intelligibility, and the gospel.

KEY STATEMENTS

It's true that worship is ultimately about God, but one of the most important ways we worship God is by building up other members of the body. (p. 85)

The best way to edify others through our serving is to build them more into Christ. (p. 94)

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1) This chapter continues to clarify that worship doesn't mean that I "block out" everything except God and myself. Instead we can actually worship God as we build others up. How fully do you trust God to use you this way in the lives of other believers?

2) The author states, "Worship and edification are two sides of the same coin." Explain in your own words what the author means.

3) When you enter a gathering of believers, how often do you ask, “How can God use me to build up others here?” When you’re not asking that question, what attitudes or preoccupations do you focus on instead?

4) In what specific areas or ways do you think your church needs you?

5) In what specific areas or ways do you need the other people in your church?

6) The author states, “You may not be able to serve in the way you *want* to serve, but there’s no question that God has given you gifts to serve somewhere.” What are some of the ways you can effectively serve in your church?

7) The author stresses “the priority of love” in our serving “because this is the way God has served us.” When love is truly present in your serving, what difference does it make? When love is absent, what do others observe?

8) It we sense a lack of love in our hearts as we're asked to serve, how can that lack be addressed?

9) This chapter concludes by emphasizing the priority of the gospel—which remains “of first importance” (1 Cor. 15:3). What are some practical ways we can individually point to the gospel when we gather as believers and thereby draw attention to Christ instead of to ourselves?

10) In your Bible, look up the handful of Scripture references given in the paragraph near the end of this chapter: Luke 22:27; Romans 8:32, 34; 12:10; 15:7; 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17; and 1 John 3:1. In which of these passages do you most fully sense God speaking personally to you at this time, as you aim to serve others in love?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

As you think further on this chapter's content and how it helps you in being a true worshiper of God, remember to respond directly to God in prayer. Consider expressing the following thoughts and requests in your own words:

Thank you for the vast and startling variety of gifts and abilities you've bestowed on the local congregation you've placed me in. What a privilege it is to see the effects of blessing, serving, encouraging, helping, and strengthening one another. Father, help me be faithful to edify others in ways that you have gifted and called me to do. Keep showing me all I can do to serve those around me, and how and when and where. Help me make the most of these opportunities, and use me to build others into Jesus Christ, the source of every blessing and the fountain of all grace.

TRUE WORSHIPERS *SING*

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

OVERVIEW

Though worship is much more than music, the Scriptures make it clear that music plays an important role in both expressing and encouraging our worship of God. In this chapter we explore a variety of reasons why God loves it when his children sing to him.

KEY STATEMENTS

The critical question is not Do I have a voice? but Do I have a song? And if you're a true worshiper, forgiven and reconciled to God through the atoning work of Christ, the answer is a resounding *yes*. (p. 98)

If you no longer have to fear eternal separation from God, if death is merely the doorway to unspeakable joy, if sin has been conquered, hell is overcome, and Jesus has saved you to enjoy unending pleasures at God's right hand, then you have a song to sing. And it's a song that no trial, no disease, no struggle, no persecution, no power on earth or in hell can stop. (p. 100)

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1) The author asks, "Does God want every Christian to sing?" What do you see as the best answer to that question?

2) "Your voice," says the author, "along with all the other voices in your church, has been redeemed by the Savior." How does that redemption help free you to sing wholeheartedly to the Lord?

3) Study the numerous Scripture quotations given in the section, “The Song of Redemption.” Why do you think God in his Word makes such a strong connection between song and his work of salvation?

4) “God wants us to sing,” the author declares, “because *he* sings.” What comes to your mind when you think of God as one who sings? How might this fact connect with other attributes of God?

5) Think carefully about Ephesians 5:18–20 and Colossians 3:15–17, the two passages that are quoted near the beginning of the section “What Singing Does.” In these verses, what do you see as the most important things God is asking us to do?

6) The author highlights six things that are accomplished by our singing to the Lord. Which of these six have you clearly observed in your life?

7) How would you summarize the relationship between the Holy Spirit and our singing?

8) How would you summarize the way God's Word should influence our singing?

9) Think of a time when you remember being *taught* as you sang together with your church. What can you do to increase the frequency of those times?

10) In our singing, how do both music and words work together to teach us—and which is more important?

11) When you sing with the church, how engaged are your emotions?

12) Is *joy* the emotion you most often experience while singing to God? How would you describe this joy when it's present in your singing?

13) What forms of physical expression do you most enjoy while singing to the Lord?

14) The author suggests four reasons for the biblical appropriateness of physical expression while we sing. For you, which of these reasons carry the most weight?

15) How have you sensed the fact that singing together expresses our unity in Christ and his gospel?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

As you think further on this chapter's content and how it helps you in being a true worshiper of God, remember to respond directly to God in prayer. Consider expressing the following thoughts and requests in your own words:

Thank you, loving Father, that you daily give me a new song to sing, a song of praise for my salvation in Jesus your Son, a song inspired by the gift of your Holy Spirit. As I grow in knowing you better, as you continue to change my attitudes and actions to better reflect your character and presence, and as you daily use me for your purposes, let my singing increasingly benefit my soul and bring you pleasure.

TRUE WORSHIPERS *KEEP SINGING*

WORSHIP AND PERSEVERANCE

OVERVIEW

With the music of our worship still in view, this chapter explores answers for some of the most commonly troubling questions believers have about congregational singing.

KEY STATEMENTS

Congregational singing isn't always easy. . . . The reality is, many Christians have a less than stellar experience every Sunday. (p. 115)

In every situation God himself enables us to offer songs of confession, praise, gratefulness, and celebration through Jesus Christ.

May we see every hindrance, distraction, and trial as a fresh opportunity to declare the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. (p. 126)

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Summarize the author's answers to the questions highlighted in this chapter (and repeated below), and explain how relevant and helpful each discussion is for you:

1) What if I can't sing?

2) What if I don't feel like singing?

3) Why do we sing so many old songs (or new songs)?

4) What if I feel like a hypocrite when I sing?

5) What do I do when I'm distracted?

6) What if the songs we sing are theologically shallow?

7) What do I do during instrumental breaks?

8) What if my new church has a completely different style or liturgy?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

As you think further on this chapter's content and how it helps you in being a true worshiper of God, remember to respond directly to God in prayer. Consider expressing the following thoughts and requests in your own words:

Lord God, you are so great, and the salvation I've received in Christ is so rich! Free me more and more to join my voice with those of my brothers and sisters in Christ in joyful praise to you. May the songs I sing give you uninhibited, undistracted, and unending praise!

TRUE WORSHIPERS *ENCOUNTER*

WORSHIP AND THE PRESENCE OF GOD

OVERVIEW

Believers too often sense that God is distant or uninvolved. But through the Holy Spirit we're enabled to actually encounter and engage with God's presence. How do we grow in our desire to encounter God's presence while maintaining an appreciation for the sufficiency of God's Word? What kind of encounters with God should we expect? Is it presumptuous to even talk about encounters and experiences with God? To help answer those questions, in this chapter we explore four ways described in the Bible for how to think about God's presence, as well as the necessary attitudes that accompany the pursuit of his presence.

KEY STATEMENTS

It can't be said often enough that the Bible is sufficient to provide all we need for a godly life. But God's presence and power aren't confined to it. Scripture speaks of a God who is near, a God who is active, a God who breaks into the present—a God with whom we can engage. A God who is personal. A God we can experience mentally, emotionally, and even physically at times. (p. 128)

It's not going too far to say that *our response to God's presence uniquely defines us as God's people*. Those who belong to God will cherish and pursue his presence. (p. 131)

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1) The author writes, "I wonder how many of us, when it comes to knowing and worshiping God, approach him like the main character of a biography. We learn what he did in the past but don't expect him to break into the present. We sing about God but don't expect to actually engage with him" (p. 128). To what extent does that description match your own expectations?

5) Think about verses in the Bible where God promises us his presence. Which of these scriptural promises are most meaningful to you?

6) As we seek God's presence, why is it always important to stay mindful of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on our behalf?

7) "How do we tell the difference," the author asks, "between actually experiencing and engaging with God's presence and simply being moved by a creative arrangement, a stunning vocal performance, a massive choir, or a beautiful melody?" In your own words, how would you express the author's answer to that?

8) "Should we hope to encounter God beyond taking it on faith that he's with us?" Again, explain in your own words the author's answer to his question.

9) The author highlights three attitudes that will help us in pursuing God's presence: *desperate dependence*, *eager expectation*, and *humble responsiveness*. How has God begun to build all three of those attitudes in your inner life?

10) How fully do your prayers for your church reflect your desperate dependence on God?

11) “We can expect great things from a great God who is dwelling in us and among us,” the author writes. What great things are you expecting and praying for in regard to your church’s worship of God?

12) How does the author describe “humble responsiveness?”

13) Near the end of the section “Humble Responsiveness,” the author writes, “Experiences of God’s presence, while important, aren’t at the heart of our relationship with God.” What *is* at the heart of that relationship, according to the author’s explanation and the quotes he gives?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

As you think further on this chapter’s content and how it helps you in being a true worshiper of God, remember to respond directly to God in prayer. Consider expressing the following thoughts and requests in your own words:

Lord God, you are truly among your people as we gather to worship you. Let your presence decisively mark us. We know we’re unworthy on our own to ask so great a thing. And yet you’ve poured out your Spirit on us through Christ, who has promised to be with us always. Father, let us know—with increasing intimacy and clarity—that you are with us. May we acknowledge our desperate need for your presence, eagerly expect your presence, and humbly respond to your presence. And may the effect of all this be an increasing devotion to Jesus in our hearts and lives, all for the glory of your name.

TRUE WORSHIPERS *ANTICIPATE*

WORSHIP AND ETERNITY

OVERVIEW

What will worship in the coming age be like? In many ways it will be similar to our worship of God on earth. But there will also be significant differences. In this chapter we explore many of those differences and also look at specific ways that reflecting on our future worship in heaven can help and change us now.

KEY STATEMENTS

No worship gathering in this life will ever rival the splendor of what's to come. (p. 145)

Words are inadequate to express the awe, adoration, and joy that fill our hearts as we consider the unshakeable, unmovable, uninterrupted confidence of heaven and the Savior who has made it all possible. (p. 157)

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1) How does this chapter deepen your understanding of heaven?

2) In the section “What Will Heaven Be Like?” the author mentions “the best part about heaven.” How fully do you agree with his explanation on this point?

3) In the section “The Same, But Different,” the author lists five main points concerning the significant differences between the worship of heaven and our worship on earth. Which of these differences are you most looking forward to experiencing?

4) What immediate value do you see in fully understanding these differences *now*, before we actually experience them?

5) In the section “What Difference Does It Make?” the author emphasizes “three specific ways that reflecting on the worship of heaven helps and changes us.” How would you assess your personal need for help and change in each of those three areas?

6) The author speaks of “the cosmic battle for true worship.” What’s involved in this battle, how does it involve you, and how important is it to you?

7) What is the relationship between heaven-inspired worship and our growth in holiness?

8) With what certainty do you expect to face suffering in the future? How can your understanding of worship in heaven help prepare you for it?

9) What grateful words can you offer God to express your genuine and eager anticipation for being united with him in heaven?

10) What are the most important ways in which reading this book has deepened your understanding so as to live out what it means to be a true worshiper?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

As you think further on this chapter's content and how it helps you in being a true worshiper of God, remember to respond directly to God in prayer. Consider expressing the following thoughts and requests in your own words:

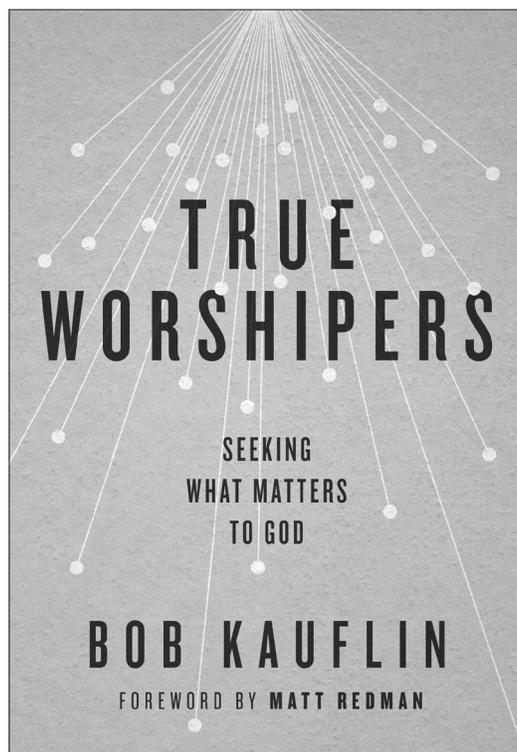
Thank you for the coming day when all those who have trusted in Christ will be in your immediate presence—when we become like you, as face-to-face we see you as you really are. What amazing love—that we can forever be called your children, worshiping in full light of your presence, reigning with you forever! I praise and thank you, Almighty God, for delivering us from the domain of darkness and transferring us to the kingdom of your beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever! Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bob Kauflin is a pastor, songwriter, and musician, with over thirty-five years of experience creating and leading music for the church. In his role as director of Sovereign Grace Music, he produces albums and seeks to equip pastors, musicians, and songwriters in the theology and practice of congregational worship. He hosts the WorshipGod Conference and serves as a pastor at Sovereign Grace Church of Louisville.

Kauflin has contributed to a number of books and is the author of *Worship Matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God* (Crossway, 2008). He and his wife, Julie, live in Louisville, Kentucky, and have six children and an ever-growing number of grandchildren.

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