Worship: What Do You Bow Down To?

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Abstract
"I've been reflecting on what I worship."

Posting about evaluating our priorities from In All Things - an online hub committed to the claim that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ has implications for the entire world.

http://inallthings.org/worship-what-do-you-bow-down-to/

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Comments
In All Things is a publication of the Andreas Center for Reformed Scholarship and Service at Dordt College.
Worship: What Do You Bow Down To?

My mother considered all of her thoughts, deeds, actions, and attitudes as a form of worship. Whether it involved guiding her children for twenty-four years from a wheelchair due to multiple sclerosis, meeting with a neighbor friend to study Scripture, or giving her undivided attention to numerous unwed mothers she mentored in our home, she worshipped God in every aspect of her life. I’ve often thought but never shared with anyone out loud, “If you really heard yourself complain, you would embarrass yourself because you really don’t have much to complain about.” Why would I only think this versus sharing this out loud? Frankly, I think this in my mind periodically because we all have idols in our lives. It is a daily temptation to separate ‘this or that’ from its place under God’s dominion. In my mother’s situation, she could have kept ‘idols’ such as:

• An evening walk with her spouse around the block
• Water skiing around a resort lake
• Fishing in a mountain stream
• Shopping at the local mall
• Attending a concert
• Working 8-12 hours a day
• Planting a garden
• Going to coffee with a good friend

Not that these are wrong, but my mom just couldn’t do anything remotely like the above because of her physical disability. I’ve often thought her life was richer because she lived so simply. She didn’t bow down to very much on this earth because she didn’t have access to very much. Somehow, though, she did live Christianly in her daily life choices. She worshipped by considering others more important than herself. She gave her undivided attention away every day. Although she couldn’t kneel, she would bow often in her heart to pray for others. She saw herself as a caretaker and shepherd of others.

Now that my wife has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis too, I’ve been reflecting on what I worship. Now that I’m in my second lifetime experience of having a family member stricken with this disease, I’ve re-evaluated my priorities. I’ve become more cautious about kneeling down to seek praise from others, looking for happiness through ‘things’ or believing that joy is found in earthly pleasures.

A friend of mine recently wrote a few books on achieving one’s full potential in service and worship to God. These books list some suggestions about how to achieve this potential, including reading more and developing new friendships so you can be challenged to develop into your full potential. Many distractions in life prevent us from feeding our minds and guarding our hearts. As you evaluate your tendencies of worship, what would you be willing to give over to God because he is sovereign?

Prayer: God, forgive us when we have a blurry focus and displaced priorities. It is so easy in your kingdom to think that some items are okay to worship and some items aren’t worth worshipping. In reality,
everything we do is a form of worship. Call us to honor you in all we do. Amen.