One life-changing encounter with God can change you for the rest of your life.

[2 Corinthians 3:18]  
And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

1. Worship is a response to a revelation.

[Ephesians 1:17]  
I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you
may know him better. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you,

[Ezekiel 1:28]
All around him was a glowing halo, like a rainbow shining in the clouds on a rainy day. This is what the glory of the LORD looked like to me. When I saw it, I fell face down on the ground, and I heard someone’s voice speaking to me.

“He’s bigger than we can imagine!”

[Luke 5:8]
“When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.” For he was awestruck…”

“We cannot truly sing of what we have not seen…worship is the reflex of a ransomed soul.”

2. Worship is transformational (we become like the object of our worship).

[2 Corinthians 3:14-18]
But the people’s minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ.
15 Yes, even today when they read Moses’ writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand.

16 But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

[Psalm 135:15-18, TPT]
The unbelieving nations worship what they make. They worship their wealth and their work. They idolize what they own and what they do. Their possessions will never satisfy. Their lifeless and futile works cannot bring life to them! Their things can’t talk to them or answer their prayers. Blind men can only create blind things. Those deaf to God can only make a deaf image. Dead men can only create dead idols. And everyone who trusts in these powerless, dead things will be just like what they worship—powerless and dead!

3. We worship “in view of God’s mercy.”

[Romans 12:1, AMP] Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical and intelligent) act of worship.
Social Media shoutout—

“If it wasn’t for God’s mercy, where would you be?”

- “Somewhere broken and addicted”
- “Filled with anxiety, God set me free this year!”
- “Angry, broken and blaming everything on others instead of owning and overcoming”
- “Still being abused by my ex”
- “like my biological father, in prison, or my mother...a drug addict”
- “still feeling like I could never be enough in a false religion”
- “I would be dead... literally, I should have died from a suicide attempt”
- “probably just like my biological dad... cheating and beating women, Praise God! By His grace, I never have”
- “um... Bakersfield?”
- “probably dead... depression would have taken me out”
- “I can’t even imagine, but boy does this question bring tears of gratitude!”

[Ephesians 1:17-18, AMP]

“I always pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may grant you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation that gives you a deep and personal and intimate insight into the true knowledge of Him [for we know the Father through the Son]. And I pray that the eyes of your heart [the very center and core of your being] may be enlightened [flooded with light by the Holy Spirit], so that you will know and cherish the hope [the divine guarantee, the confident expectation] to which He has called you.”
For Monday—
1. Consider, verbalize and write down what the mercy of God has done in your life
2. Think of some new ways and make some commitments of how you will:
   “...dedicate all of yourselves, set apart as a living sacrifice”

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What are some things that, through obsession, people start to reflect? (celebrities, money, addictions, etc.) (even good things good things can end up being worshipped)
2. What elicits an emotional, passionate response from you? What calls you to action?
3. When have you had a head knowledge of something but had a revelation when you actually had the hands-on experience?
4. In the biblical narrative, how did people experience God? How can we invite God to do the same in our lives?
5. How has your life changed through worship?
6. What are some things that blind us from seeing God? [2 Corinthians 3.14-18] What happens when the spirit of wisdom and revelation helps us see the unseen?
7. Who are some folks in your life who have been transformed because of an encounter with God? How did their attitude, behavior, and countenance change?
8. If it weren’t for God’s mercy, where would you be? Take time this week to think of your salvation: what Jesus has freed you from, where has He taken you, and what He’s doing in you now.