

Bhakti Yoga: The King of All Yogas

written by Bhaskarananda | June 22, 2026

If you've ever wondered why the world has so many "yogas" – karma-yoga, jñāna-yoga, dhyāna-yoga – and why Bhakti-yoga stands above them all, this will make everything click.

This is not a modern interpretation. This is Krishna's own conclusion in the Bhagavad-gītā, supported by Śrīla Prabhupāda and the entire bhakti tradition.

Let's go.

Why Bhakti Is the King of All Yogas

Every yoga has a center – a motive.

Karma-yoga:

The center is **sense enjoyment**, purified and regulated. "I'll do my duty and enjoy the results."

Jñāna-yoga:

The center is **liberation**. "I want freedom from birth and death."

Dhyāna-yoga:

The center is **mystical powers and deep concentration**. "I want mastery over the mind and subtle energies."

But Bhakti-yoga?

Bhakti-yoga:

The center is **Krishna Himself**.

Not enjoyment. Not liberation. Not powers. Just Krishna.

And because Krishna is the source of everything, Bhakti naturally includes:

- karma (service)
- jñāna (knowledge)
- dhyāna (meditation)
- AND devotion

All harmonized. All balanced. All centered on the Supreme Person.

That's why Bhakti isn't just another yoga. **It is the king – the sovereign path that contains all others.**

Why Balance Matters – And Why Bhakti Gives It Automatically

Here's the problem with isolated yogas:

- Service without knowledge becomes sentimental.
- Knowledge without service becomes dry and proud.
- Devotion without knowledge becomes unstable.
- Meditation without devotion becomes self-centered.

But Bhakti is different.

In Bhakti, you can **start anywhere** – chanting, reading, serving – and gradually all three grow together:

- Service awakens knowledge.
- Knowledge deepens meditation.
- Meditation strengthens devotion.
- Devotion inspires more service.

It's a **complete system**, not a fragmented one.

Even if the growth is slow or incremental, it is **holistic**.

Because Krishna is in the center.

Bhakti Connects You to Krishna – Not Just His Energies

Most people approach spirituality to tap into Krishna's **energies**:

- peace
- strength
- clarity
- prosperity
- protection

But Bhakti is not about exploiting Krishna's energies.

It's about connecting with **Krishna Himself**.

Think of Duryodhana in the Mahābhārata. He asked Krishna for His **army** – His energy. Arjuna asked for **Krishna** – the Person.

And we all know who won.

Bhakti means choosing Krishna over His gifts.

Because when you have Krishna, everything else follows

naturally.

Bhakti Means Knowing Krishna More and More

Bhakti is not blind emotion.

It is:

- knowing Krishna's teachings
- knowing His pastimes
- knowing His qualities
- knowing His names
- knowing His devotees
- knowing His heart

The more you know Krishna, the more you love Him. The more you love Him, the more you want to serve Him. The more you serve Him, the more He reveals Himself.

This is why Bhakti is the king of yogas:

It is a relationship, not a technique.

Krishna's Final Verdict (Gītā 6.47)

After describing all yogas – karma, jñāna, dhyāna – Krishna ends the Sixth Chapter with a thunderbolt:

“Of all yogis, the one who worships Me with devotion is the highest.”

This is Krishna's own conclusion.

Not a commentator's opinion. Not a philosophical debate. Not a cultural interpretation.

Krishna Himself declares the bhakta as the topmost yogi.

That settles it.

The Final Truth

Karma-yoga purifies your actions. Jñāna-yoga purifies your intelligence. Dhyāna-yoga purifies your mind.

But **Bhakti-yoga purifies *you*** – the eternal soul – and reconnects you with Krishna, the Supreme Person.

That's why Bhakti Yoga is the king of all yogas.

Because every other yoga is ultimately trying to reach what Bhakti gives from the very beginning:

A direct, loving connection with Krishna.