

*Why We Worship  
And  
Different Aspects of Worship*

**“We Were Created to Worship”**

Would anyone agree with me when I say, “We were created to worship God?” It seems to be that the heart of man will eventually worship something or someone.

If you search the scriptures the entire Bible underscores the fact that worship of God is expected and it is the proper response of a people who truly know God.

Worship is seen from the very beginning of the Bible and mentioned throughout it to the very end. We see it from Genesis to Revelations.

**Gen 22:5** And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and **worship (shachah)**, and we will come back to you."

**Rev 4:9-11** Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, **the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship (proskuneo) Him ...** and cast their crowns before the throne saying: "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and where created. KJV

Worship is an absolute! We cannot do without it! It is the integral component in truly knowing God.

**Exodus 20:1-7** In the Ten Commandments God commanded worship. The first 4 commandments deal proper worship of God and Him only.

**Ex 20:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Then God gave the people all these instructions:

<sup>2</sup> I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.

<sup>3</sup> You must not have any other god but me.

<sup>4</sup> You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind.

<sup>5</sup> You must **not bow down to them or worship them,** for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God...

<sup>7</sup> You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Scripture reveals that **we are created to worship God.** John 4:23 The Father is looking for those who will worship Him...

Let's look at **Eccl 12:13**. The book of Ecclesiastes was written 1000 years before the birth of Jesus! But none the less, it is still relevant to us today!

Solomon was seeking the meaning in Life. What is life all about? What makes life worth living?

In Solomon's search for the meaning of life he did not deny himself anything his eyes desired nor withheld any pleasure his heart wanted. Solomon lived in sheer indulgence with women and wine; and had success with many accomplishments.

But Solomon found no fulfillment in any of this. His famous saying is: "**Vanity of vanities, says the preacher, all is vanity!**" He declares that it is all a chasing after the wind! Life in itself is futile, vain, pointless and meaningless!

But Solomon has a moment of revelation and truth! As Solomon concludes his story he makes a wonderful exhortation that all of us need to abide by today!

#### **Ecclesiastes 12:13**

All has been heard; the end of the matter is: *Fear God [revere and worship Him, knowing that He is] and keep His commandments*, for this is the whole duty of man *[the full, original purpose of his creation]*, the object of God's providence, the root of character, *the foundation of all happiness*, the adjustment to all inharmonious circumstances and conditions under the sun *and the whole [duty] for every man!*

Summing this up: Scripture is saying to Worship and Obey God is the foundation for our existence!

**Isaiah 43:7** ... everyone who is called by My name, whom *I have created for My glory*, whom I have formed, whom I have made.

Now this scripture says we were created for God's glory.

**So how do we best glorify God?** We best glorify, exult and bring honor to God by living to the fullest **THE LIFE** that God created us to live. Living it completely; living it to please Him; living it joyfully unto our LORD! This is a life of "true worship" and "obedience" to God!

**So what is Worship?** Is worshiping singing praise songs to the Lord at church on Sunday? Yes, it can be if our heart is in the right place. Is it more than this? **Answer: It is this and so much more!**

A look at some definitions:

**English Dictionary:** To worship - The feeling or expression of reverence or adoration for a deity.

The English word for worship comes from the Old English word “weorthscipe”, meaning “worthiness.” It implies that God is totally worthy of our respect and love.

The Hebrew and Greek words are much more graphic:

**Predominate Hebrew word for “worship” is “shachah”:** Its meaning is “to bow oneself down, to sink down, to prostrate oneself before anyone out of honor.”

**Exodus 34:14** You must **worship (shachah)** no other gods, for the Lord, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about His relationship with you.

**Psalm 95:6-7** Come, let us **worship (shachah)** and bow down (barak: bless /bend the knee). Let us kneel before the Lord our maker, for He is our God.

The corresponding Greek word for worship is “proskuneo.” Its literal definition is **“to kiss” the hand of in a token of reverence; In the NT: to crouch to; to prostrate oneself in homage, do reverence, to adore, worship.**

**1 Cor 14:25** As they listen, their secret thoughts will be exposed, and they will fall to their knees and **worship** God, declaring, “God is truly here among you.”

These physical acts of bowing down and prostration imply a submission, reverence, humility and devotion to God.

Worship goes further than a simple bowing down; it has depth to its devotion.

The second most common word for worship in the Hebrew and Greek are both translated **“to serve”.**

The Greek word “latreuo” translates “serve” or “worship”; i.e. to offer service to God; to serve Him; to do work for Him.

**Matthew 4: 10** Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “you shall worship (proskuneo) the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve (latreuo).”

The Hebrew word “abad” also translates “serve” or “worship”; i.e. to offer your service unto the God.

**Exodus 9:1** .... Let my people go that they may **worship/serve** (Hebrew: abad) me. KJV uses (serve); NIV uses (worship); NLT uses (worship); ESV uses (serve)

Both words translate “to render service of homage”; to serve or minister to, to perform sacred duties, to be of use and to labor.

It is important to see that first worship involves humbling ourselves before God; then, in reverence and love, we express our worship of God by dedicating ourselves to **His use or His service**.

**Hebrews 12:28** Therefore let us be grateful ... let us offer to God acceptable **worship** (latreuō/service), with reverence and awe.

“To worship” or “to serve” God cannot be separated. They go hand in hand. Our genuine worship of God is expressed through a life devoted to honoring and serving Him. This is a life that faithfully lives to please and obey the LORD.

#### Apostle Paul’s definition of worship expresses this idea completely

**Rom 12:1 NLT** And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give **your bodies to God** because of all He has done for you. Let them be **a living and holy sacrifice**—the kind He will find acceptable. **This is truly the way to worship Him.**

**Romans 12:1 AMP** I appeal to you therefore, brethren, *and* beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, **to make a decisive dedication of your bodies** [presenting all your members and faculties] **as a living sacrifice**, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, **which is your reasonable ... service and spiritual worship.**

Paul says that worship at its fullest is a giving up of our lives entirely to God for His service; doing that which pleases Him and of course that which will glorify Him. We now live for God and to please God. This is Worship! Everything we do is with HIM in mind! We surrender all we are; that is our energies, our talents, our intellect, our abilities, our capabilities, etc. unto God for His will and His plans.

We evaluate all we do in the light of obeying, pleasing and serving Him. “Here I am Lord; use my life for Your glory and Your purposes.” This is a life of worship.

No matter what our work may be from day to day it can be done with the heart of worship. It can be offered to Him. With the right heart - purity, thankfulness, praise - our work can become an act of worshiping God.

No matter what the task is: caring for our children, performing a surgical procedure as a doctor, greeting people in church; if it is done with honor and love for the LORD it is part of a life of Worship!

**Col 3:23-25** And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; **for you serve the Lord Christ.**

**A Look at Old Testament Worship:** Under the OT Law worship unto The Lord was given in the minutest detail. Men could only approach God by means of the tabernacle, priesthood and sacrifices. This was the only means of worship. Specific sacrifices were to be offered morning and night by the priest for the community at large. Individuals would bring their burnt offering to the priest, slaughter, dismember it, and the priest would sprinkle its blood on the alter and set on fire as a sweet smelling sacrifice unto The Lord. This was an integral part of Israel's worship.

O.T. worship involved religious ceremonies and laws of sacrificial offerings.

*Israel kept the outward motions without true devotion for God. They kept to the letter of the Law without truly worshiping God. It was a show of outward religion but their hearts were sinful and distant from God! Beware lest we do the same thing! The Pharisees in Jesus time were notorious for this!*

### **Isaiah 1:10-17**

<sup>10</sup> Listen to the Lord, you leaders of "Sodom."

Listen to the law of our God, people of "Gomorrah."

<sup>11</sup> "What makes you think I want all your sacrifices?"

Says the Lord.

<sup>11</sup> I am sick of your burnt offerings of rams...

I get no pleasure from the blood

Of bulls and lambs and goats.

<sup>12</sup> When you come to worship me,

Who asked you to parade through my courts with all your ceremony?

Stop bringing me your meaningless gifts; ...

**They are all sinful and false...**

**<sup>16</sup> Wash yourselves and be clean!**

**Get your sins out of my sight.**

**Give up your evil ways.**

**<sup>17</sup> Learn to do good.**

**Seek justice.**

**Help the oppressed.**

**The nature of worship God desires is the humble prostration of our souls before Him in contrite submission, then and only then are our deeds of service and acts of worship acceptable before God.**

Worship is essentially a matter of the heart. Repentance of sin; purity of heart; and a purpose to please God are of supreme essence. Our worship is to be expressed through a pure love and reverence for God. Worship is to come from the inside on out.

**Jesus Teaches Us How To Worship.**

**John 4: 19 -24** The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup> **But the hour is coming, and now is, when the "true worshipers" will worship the Father in "spirit and truth"; for the Father is "seeking" such to "worship Him". God is Spirit and those who worship Him "must worship" in spirit and truth.**" NKJV

There is true worship and false worship! God is seeking for true worship from true worshipers!

**N.T. Worship in Spirit and Truth** is basically worshiping God from a heart that has been born again of the Spirit and one that is living according to God's Word.

**Spirit:** The Spirit man or the unseen part of man's existence (that which animates his body) must be "born again" by accepting Jesus Christ as Savior before that which is seen outwardly is acceptable to God. Worshiping God in spirit is only possible when the Holy Spirit in us causes our spirit to become alive to God through the "new birth" (John 3:7). We do not even have the ability to acceptably worship God in spirit outside of the Holy Spirit; otherwise, it is a dead act of man and formalism.

Worship can only spring forth from a spirit that has been made alive in God.

**Ephesians 2: 18** now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

**To worship in Truth:** You must personally accept the Truth, who is Jesus, believe the Truth, who is Jesus Christ; and must walk in the "Truth", which is His Word before you can worship in Truth. Your life must be a living demonstration of God's "Truth." No hypocrisy...!

Your faith in Jesus Christ and His Word must be a living reality for your worship to be in Truth.

**John 14:6** Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me."

## **Old Testament and New Testament Worship through Sacrifices**

### **O.T. "Animal Sacrifices" vs. N.T. "Spiritual Sacrifices"**

When God gave Moses the 10 commandments He also gave him an exact pattern and instructions on building the Tabernacle which would be the house of worship. He also

gave him specific designs for each article in the tabernacle. Everything must be according to God's exact plan and pattern and no variations were allowed, under penalty of death! This is where God would dwell amongst His people.

When the Book of Leviticus opens the Tabernacle has been built but God now gives specific instructions for the kind of worship that would be pleasing to Him. A very regulated set of sacrifices offered through the priesthood would be the means of worshiping God, along with specific feasts to be observed by Israel.

God tells Moses how to instruct the people to have personal access to Him. It was through the offering of five different types of sacrifices. This was the only way God could be approached in worship.

Then God gives Moses instructions for the priests on how they were to assist the people with each of these five sacrifices that were to be offered. The animals (bulls, goats, sheep) offered would be male with no defects. Only the best would be brought before God.

Up to this point in man's worship of God, people such as Noah, Abraham, Job and other godly individuals were allowed to offer their own personal sacrifices to God. But now Aaron is the God appointed High Priest and the Levitical priesthood is ordained by God to take on the responsibility of offering the sacrifices for the people.

The continual offering of sacrifices through the priest, day after day, provided the only way for Israel to have access to God and to have acceptable worship. It was the only way to approach God and to restore relationship with Him.

There were 5 different offerings which included: Burnt Offerings - Grain Offerings - Peace Offerings - Sin Offerings - Guilt Offerings. Depending on the offering that was sacrificed it would either make payment for sin or express gratitude and honor to God.

The Priest's primary function was to carry out the worship of God by offering these sacrifices for the people and for themselves.

1 Peter 2:5 teaches that now all Christians are priests unto God.

1 Peter 2:5 "And you are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple. What's more, you are His holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, YOU offer SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES that please God.

The New Testament tells us that Jesus has fulfilled the Old Testament sin and guilt offerings through His death and we no longer need to have animal sacrifices to offer.

**Heb 10:11, 12** Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins.

But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then He sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand.

We as Christians who have benefited from Jesus' bodily sacrifice have the privilege to express gratitude and worship to God through offering "spiritual sacrifices."

**1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...NKJV

We, believers in Christ, now as the chosen priest of God can discover in the scriptures several different "spiritual sacrifices" that express our worship to God.

1. **Romans 12** Paul talks about being a "living Sacrifice" unto God. We are the "sacrifice" and we offer up our energies, abilities, talents, time, gifts, and possessions unto God to be used in a way that pleases Him and brings Him glory. We are to be a living 'thank offering' to God!

**Rom 12:1-2** And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

**Vs 6-8** After urging us to present our lives to God as an act of worship Paul goes on to urge us to express that worship through the use of our spiritual gifts.

**Rom 12:6-8** In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

As we discover our spiritual gifts and exercise them regularly in the service of others, giving God praise for the fruit of that ministry we will discover an aspect of worshiping God that is uniquely fulfilling and brings glory to God.

2. **Hebrews 13:15** "Through Christ then, let us continually offer up a "sacrifice of praise" to God, that is, the fruit of the lips that "give thanks" to His name.

Here is a "spiritual sacrifice" which pleases God: praising and thanking Him for all He has done and all He promises to do. Sometimes it is more of a sacrifice to praise and thank Him than at other times. To praise and thank Him in the midst of a trial can be quit trying. But none the less, it is to our benefit that we are to offer the sacrifice.



This continual attitude and practice of thankfulness to God is stressed over and over again.

**Ps 92:1-2** It is good to give thanks to the Lord, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;  
To declare Your loving-kindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night,

**1 Thess 5:18** in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**Ps 79:13** So we, your people and sheep of Your pasture, will give You thanks forever;  
We will show forth Your praise to all generations.

Paul 's emphasis here is that we should worship God through the “Sacrifice of Praise” “continually”. We have the privilege to draw near to Him in this way at all times: in the morning when we wake up, on the way to work, during the busy day, when we are together with other Christians, all alone with God, etc. Praising and thanking Him is a necessary aspect of Worshiping God.

3. Hebrews 13:16 “And let us Not Neglect DOING GOOD and SHARING, for with SUCH SACRIFICES God is pleased.

Paul touches on two more ways in which we can worship God: Doing Good and Sharing.

Doing Good refers to ministry; it refers to Serving One Another with the Love of God. It refers to “deeds of loving service” to other people as representatives of Jesus Christ. When we relate to family and other people that God brings into our lives with Christ-like love, God regards this as an expression of our genuine worship of Him.

**Ephesians 5:1-2** <sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

God is pleased by this kind of life-style. We are to be motivated to love and serve others because we love and desire to serve/worship God.

Every day, God gives us dozens of opportunities to “worship” Him this way--- helping our spouses, caring for our children (grandchildren), doing acts of ministry for those in need; visiting the sick; calling and remembering someone who is lonely. We should daily seek practical ways to express our “worship” to God through doing good to others.

**In the End-Time 's Judgment of the Nations: Matt 25:37-40** “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty

and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, '**Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.**'

Doing Good to others is called a “spiritual sacrifice” and can be considered as an expression of worship to God for we are honoring and obeying God by walking in love. Such love for others glorifies God by reflecting our love for Him. This is perhaps especially true when we serve and help our brothers and sisters in Christ. The Lord likens it to serving Him. This demonstrates an aspect of our worship/service unto the Lord.

4. **Hebrews 13:16** And let us Not Neglect DOING GOOD and **SHARING**, for with **“Such Sacrifices”** God is pleased.

“Sharing” probably refers to the giving of our material resources to God’s work and to the needy. Paul mentions this as a “sacrifice” that pleases God in Philippians 4:18.

**Phil 4:18-19** Paul says: At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a **“sweet-smelling sacrifice”** *that is acceptable and pleasing* to God. And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

Paul says that giving is a privilege (2 Cor. 8:4) and something that we should do generously (2 Cor. 9:6), as an expression of our commitment to God (2 Cor. 8:5)

**When we give of our finances to God by supporting the Church and other Christian Ministries along with helping the needy, God regards this as “spiritual sacrifices” and therefore is an offering to Him. It is considered worship! This is just as much an aspect of our worship as praising Him, praying, fasting, or going to church on Sunday.**

We know that giving of our money represents a giving of ourselves, since money represents the time and effort that we have invested in order to gain it. It also represents our trust in God to continue to provide for our needs.

We should view worshipping God as the most important priority in our Life. **Worshipping God is something that can be lived out day by day;** certainly not on Sundays only but day in and day out, continually, in all we do.

***We must not fail to develop a lifestyle of worship; that is, a wholehearted commitment to live for God.***

***Our Praise and thankfulness; our regular practice of our spiritual gifts; a heart to serve others; a willingness to use our resources to benefit the Kingdom and those in***

*need are pleasing sacrifices and acceptable worship unto God! Let's live the Life!  
Let's Worship Him; for He is Worthy!*