This retreat will be a call to examine our personal worship of God. It will be a call to perhaps a radically different type of thinking and living. It will be a call to a newly consecrated life that purposes to worship God only and not just at appointed times - Sunday or on Easter or Christmas, but to live to worship our Creator through a consecrated life wholly devoted to Him 24/7.

This kind of worship is not just songs sung from our lips - not lip service, but a consecrated life of service devoted to Him unceasingly.

Perhaps our worship of God in some way can more closely reflect the 4000 plus worshipers who King David assigned to give praise and thanks and honor to God 24/7 before the Ark of the Covenant when it was brought to the new capital, Jerusalem. 1 Chronicles 15-16

Could we possibly emulate that kind of continual 24/7 worship; and understand that our calling by God is to be a worshiper as well?

Did you know that there is continual worship around the throne in heaven - day and night, night and day? Creatures are crying, “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty…and saying, You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; for you created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” Rev. 4:8-11

Let me give worship my definition of worship; worship - (not a dictionary definition) but true non the less can be defined as a strong and intimate “Love Relationship” between you and God that is expressed and enjoyed
continually in multiple ways; ways that genuinely exhibit your reverence and love for God.

There seems to be a challenge with mankind, for the heart of man if not a true worshiper of God seems to worship something or someone one way or another. Even an atheist worships. He worships himself! Money, fame, entertainment, success, etc. can all become idols to worship. Self-esteem, self-fulfillment, self-glory, self-recognition can become number 1 in life and therefore take God’s place.

**Colossians 3:5** Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater worshiping the things of this world. Yikes!

Israel had trouble worshiping only God. They worshiped a golden calf and even a brazen serpent until King Hezekiah destroyed it.

**Romans 1:21** Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks...23And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

Jesus knew well the inclination of man’s heart to worship things outside of God. Jesus’ response to Satan’s temptation proves this.

**Luke 4:8** Jesus replied, “The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve HIM ONLY.'”

If you search the scriptures the entire Bible underscores the fact that worship of God is our expected end and the heart response of a people who know and walk with the Lord.

Worship is seen from the very beginning of the Bible and mentioned throughout it to the very end. We see it from Genesis to Revelation.
Genesis 22:5 And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship (shachah-bow down) and we will come back to you."

Revelation 5:13,14 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Worship is not optional. It is to be ‘The Absolute Priority’ in a Christians life.

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

Ex 20:1–7
Then God gave the people all these instructions:
2 "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.
3 "You must not have any other god but me.
4 "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind …..
5 You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God …
7 "You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 6:4–5 is also a call to worship. Jesus quoted this and called it the greatest commandment; affirming that worship is the universal priority by God.

Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.
This is true worship at its best - truly loving God with every facet of our being.

Scripture reveals to us that we were CREATED TO WORSHIP God.

Luke 19:10 Jesus came to seek (out, for the Father) and save that which was lost.

John 4:23 The Father (through Christ) is seeking for those who will worship Him in spirit and truth.

The Father’s heart is searching and desirous of genuine worshipers.

Let’s look at Ecclesiastes 12:13

**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 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!

**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 AMP**

All has been heard; the end of the matter (the conclusion) is: Fear God [Worship Him with awe-filled reverence, knowing that He is almighty God] and keep His commandments, for this applies to every person.

**AMPC** 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 of man [the full, original purpose’ of his creation, the object of God’s providence...,the foundation of all happiness, ...and the whole [duty] for every man!

**Summing this up:** Fear and Obey God = Being an obedient Worshiper of God is the very reason we exist.

Now hear this:

**Isaiah 43:7** Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth - 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. It does not say “to worship and obey” but glorifying God and worshiping God are like the two sides to one coin. You can’t have one without the other.

Let’s consider the connection here between being created to be a worshiper and being created for God’s glory.

So how do we best and completely glorify God? Or how do we best ascribe to God all glory and honor and praise due Him?

**Psalm 29:2** “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness”

We best glorify God and give Him Glory by living our life holy and wholly unto the Lord. This is worship!

**Chronicles 16:28,29** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name, bring an offering ... worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

LIVING our LIFE holy unto Him - a life of unadulterated love and devotion glorifies God and in turn becomes a life of worship.
So what does true worship involve? Is it singing praise songs, bowing down before God, giving thanks, bringing offerings, etc.... Yes, It can be this if our heart is in the right place. Is it more than this? Yes, It is this and so much more!

A look at some definitions:

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

Our English word for worship comes from the Old English word “weorthscipe / weorth-scip”, meaning “worth - the condition of” - The condition of worthiness; simply to give “worth” to something. Of course, we cannot give worth to God but we acknowledge that God is totally worthy of all honor, respect and love.

**Hebrew and Greek words for “Worship”:**

**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.

**Predominate Greek word for “Worship” is “proskuneo.”** Its meaning is to crouch; to prostrate oneself in homage, do reverence, to adore, worship. Its literal definition is “to kiss.” Representing a bowing down and kissing the feet of an honored one.

*Matthew 2:2* “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”
These words for worship suggest the willingness to make all necessary physical gestures of obeisance. Of course, worship goes further than a simple bowing down; it must spring from a heart of love and devotion. These physical acts of bowing down and prostration imply a submission of heart, reverence of attitude, humility of mind and devotion to God.

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

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/worship. (latreuo)"

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

Ex: 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 for the Lord.

It is important to see that worship involves a humble heart that honors God; then in reverence and love, we express our worship of God not just by physical gestures of obeisance but 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” God or “to serve” God cannot be separated. They go hand in hand. Our genuine worship of God is expressed through a holy life devoted to glorifying and serving Him. It is “whole-life” worship. It touches every area of our life.

This is a life-style that faithfully lives to honor, please and obey the LORD. Herein, you become a worshiper, not just someone who worships now and then!

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 an offering up of our lives entirely to God for His service which means living for His honor and glory; doing that which honors and pleases Him and is acceptable to Him.

We now live and breath and serve God continually; living to bring glory and honor to His name and to please God. This is Worship at its best!

Everything we do is with HIM in mind! We surrender all we are and all we have: that is our energies, our talents, our intellect, our abilities, our capabilities, our time, etc. unto God for His will and His plans. Our Friday nights, our Saturday nights and our Sunday mornings are all to be times of worship...devoted to pleasing, honoring and serving God.
A True Worshiper: Evaluates all that is done, in every area of her life, in the light of glorifying, obeying, pleasing and serving Him. “Here I am Lord; use every area of 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 should be offered to Him. With the right heart of humility, purity, thankfulness, praise - our work can become worship unto God.

No matter what the task is: caring for our children, performing a surgical procedure as a doctor, weekend entertainment, Sunday morning church; if it is done to the honor of God; to bring glory to God; and shows love for the LORD it is therefore an acceptable sacrifice and becomes a lifestyle 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 O.T. 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 and the tabernacle was designed only for worship. It was where God met His people. There were no seats in the tabernacle. People went there to worship and not to attend a service or be entertained.

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 it would be set on fire as a sweet smelling sacrifice unto The Lord. This was an integral part of Israel’s worship.
Israel kept the outward motions without true devotion for God. They kept to the outward letter of the Law without truly worshiping God. They performed religious acts but they were not worshipers of God. It became 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 1:11–17

11 "What makes you think I want all your sacrifices?"
Says the Lord.

"I am sick of your burnt offerings of rams…
I get no pleasure from the blood
Of bulls and lambs and goats.
12 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…
16 Wash yourselves and be clean!
Get your sins out of my sight.
Give up your evil ways.
17 Learn to do good.
Seek justice.
Help the oppressed.
Defend the cause of orphans
Fight for the rights of widows.

The nature of worship God desires is a life style of obedient love towards Him and others. A submission to His Word Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, etc. then our individual outward acts of worship become acceptable worship before God.
Repentance of any sin is seriously important; purity of heart; and a passion to please God are of supreme essence. Worship is to come from the inside first and then work its way out in a life of obedience and service.

**Jesus Teaches Us About Worship as He speaks to the Samaritan Woman at the Well.**

*John 4:23* 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

The Samaritan woman was full of religion. Her life was a mess, but she could tell you when and where and the times to worship. Jesus corrected her religious beliefs telling her worship is to be “in spirit and truth.”

There is true worship and false worship!
There is acceptable worship and unacceptable worship!
God is seeking for true worship from true worshipers! No hypocrisy.

N.T. Worship in Spirit and Truth is basically worshiping God from a heart that has been born again of the Spirit because of faith in Christ and a life that is living according to God’s Word or revealed Truth.

**Worship in 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 having the Holy Spirit; otherwise, it is a dead act of man and formalism.

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.

Worship in Truth: You must personally accept the Truth, who is Jesus Christ, believe His Truth, which is His written Word; and must walk in the “Truth” that is, to live a life conformed to His way of living to truly “Worship in Truth.” Your life must be a living demonstration of God’s “Truth”… His way of living. Again No hypocrisy!

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

Worship is not confined to rituals, set times, set places but is a life consecrated 24/7 living to honor and obey the Lord.

2nd Session
Offering Spiritual Sacrifices of Worship as Priest unto the Lord

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.

Aaron now 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 - (atonement) Grain offerings (free will offering) - 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. This is how they worshiped God.

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

Under the N.T. all believers in Christ are now 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 for us through His death.

**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 and responsibility to express gratitude and worship 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 we give to God that express our life of worship to God.

1. **Romans 12: 1** 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 burnt-offering unto the Lord or a life totally consumed with living for God! This is worship at its best**

**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: Thanking and praising
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 thank and
praise 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, or 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 important ways in which we 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 and service, God regards this as an expression of our genuine worship of Him.

Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 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-worship. We are to be motivated to help, bless, love and serve others because we love and desire to serve / worship God. Every day, God gives us dozens of opportunities to “worship” Him--- 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” of 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.’

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 own material resources to the needy and to God’s work in the kingdom. The sharing of our substance and what we possess is referred to here. It defines this as a “sacrifice” that pleases.

**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 it is worship of God.**

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. **Worshiping God is something to 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 love and commitment to live for God 24/7.**

The giving of ourselves to God, our regular practice of our spiritual gifts; our praise and thankfulness; a heart to serve others; a willingness to share and use our resources to benefit the Kingdom of God and to give to those in need are pleasing sacrifices and therefore are worship unto God!

Let’s live the Life! Let’s Worship Him; for He is Worthy!
Dear Friends,
My earnest prayer for us is that we will become true “Worshipers” of God. I pray we will be desirous of worshiping God in every aspect of our life. May every act, every deed, every moment of our day bring greater glory to God than ever before. God is searching for those who will purposely dedicate themselves to worship Him in spirit and truth. I pray we will remember to incorporate an attitude of thanksgiving in all things; an attitude of praise, honor and obedience in our day to day living. May the grace of God strengthen us for His service and may we discover the true joy there is to be found in living everyday life as an act of worship to our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ! God Bless You Richly as you live wholeheartedly to worship Him!

Love and Joy in Christ,

Pr. Diane Waghorne
Glory to Glory Life Ministries
www.glorytoglorylife.com
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