

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

By George Geise



Scripture is clear that we are a people responsible to worship our Lord. In the Old Testament, we are exhorted, "Come, let us bow down in worship" (Psalm 95:6), and "We are to worship the Lord in gladness" (Psalm 100:2). There is no question that worship honors and demonstrates our deepest respect for the God that created all things. We worship in different ways but always to pay the greatest honor and respect. Generally, our respect and honor stem from the fact that He, our God, is worthy of all honor, praise, glory and worship, and in heaven God is honored at the throne continuously (Revelation 5:8-13).

"We are exhorted that we must worship in the Spirit", (John 4:24). It is not some superficial act, but an act of deep devotion resulting from a spiritual sense that tells us that He is worthy of all worship and honor. It is an understanding and is spiritually motivated, "it is our spiritual act in view of God's mercy, to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God" (Rom 12:1). Who do we worship? "Then said Jesus unto him, get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shall you serve." (Matthew 4:10).

What is worship? What does it look like? How does it feel and what does it feel like to us? Is it great prayer or deep suffering, bearing the pain that He suffered? Is it great joy and love for the God that knew us in our mother's womb? Is it the great satisfaction knowing that some day we will see Him and be like Him? Or, is it all these things and a number more that we can't be specific about. Since it is spiritual, do we have to be in a prayer closet or can we reach our God in a simple but sincere word that glorifies Him and His great majesty for who He is and what He has done for all men and for us personally? Is worship something unique to each of us and can we worship in our own way or do we have to be led in worship? Is it a song we sing or a series of songs led by a worship leader of some sort? Is it contemporary worship or are the worship songs written by the great leaders of our past? We have many choices.

The Dictionary describes worship as:

- Worthiness, repute, respect, and reverence tendered to a divine being: an act of expressing such reverence.

Worshipping, is described as:

- An act to honor or reverence as a divine being or supernatural power:
- to honor with extravagant respect, honor or devotion: to perform or take part in worship or an act of worship.

Examples of Worship

Exodus 4:31 - "And the people believed: and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their afflictions, then they bowed their heads and worshipped."

Exodus 33:10 - "And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door; and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man at his tent door."

2 Chronicles 7:3 - "And when the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord upon the houses, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the Lord, saying, For He is good; for his mercy endures forever."

Nehemiah 8:6 - "And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting of their hands; bowing their heads and worshipping the Lord with their faces to the ground."

From these scriptures we can deduce that worship is the soul bowing itself in adoring contemplation before the object worshipped. The root of the Hebrew word "worship" translated in the Old Testament means to bow down.

**In worship,
we are
occupied
with Him.**

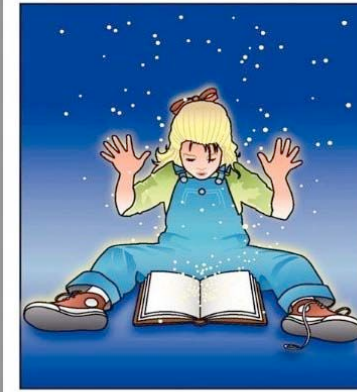
Dr. R. A. Torrey writes in his book *What the Bible Teaches*, "Listening to a sermon is not worship, praying is not worship; it may be and should be, accompanied by worship; but it is not worship. Singing is not necessarily worship." Dr. Torrey describes worship as a definite act of a character very clearly defined in the Bible. It is the soul bowing before God in adoring contemplation of Himself." He writes, "In prayer we are occupied with our needs, in thanksgiving we are occupied with our blessings, in worship we are occupied with Himself."

The place we worship in is not important (John 4:19-23), but how we worship is. "We must worship by the Spirit of God, (Philippians 3:3), and have no confidence in the flesh." "God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth," (John 4:24).

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Wisdom For Young Hearts

By Pattie DeLea



Volume 1 - Wisdom's Foundation

Wisdom for Young Hearts (Volume 1) is now available for purchase. If you are a home-schooler, parent, grandparent, or a children's church instructor with young children (K - 6th grade) and would like to teach your children biblical wisdom, then this is the first in a series of 4 books geared just for you. Pattie and I are excited about making this series of books available to you and helping you impart the type of wisdom into your children's hearts that will stay with them through life's journey.

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What is Worship (continued)

The Spirit alone leads to worship in truth, and in reality, as we empty ourselves of the cares of this world and contemplate on who God is and what He has done for us.

The results of worship:

- Brings true satisfaction from the Father, (John 4:23) "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father seeks such to worship him."
- It also brings great satisfaction to the worshipper to know that we have come into His very presence, (Psalm 16:17), "In thy presence is fullness of joy."
- It empties us of pride, and reveals our weakness, (Isaiah 40:31) "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings of eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."

As we worship God, His power flows into us (and through us), we become changed in His presence and become more like Him. Choose to become a worshipper.

POEM TO GOD

**Holy fiery One
Let Your love embrace
Holy fiery One
Let Your love encase
Holy fiery One
Bring me to the place
Where all I need is You.
Holy, Holy, Holy
My heart cries out to
The Eternal.**



To those of you who stand with us, we say a humble, "Thank You." To those who may read this newsletter but have never had a share in supporting this ministry, may we ask you to seek God on what He would have you do to help us. We need your support as never before.

