

Table of Contents

School of Discipleship Overview	2
Worship Driven.....	7
Worship in Heaven	8
What Is Worship?	9
The Trinity	13
What is Praise and Worship?.....	16
The Purpose of Praise and Worship.....	18
The Object of our Worship.....	19
The Attributes of God	20
What the Bible tells us about Worship.....	24
Seven Words for Praise	28
The Hallowed Names of God	29
Characteristics of God.....	29
Scripture References	30
People of Worship in the Bible	32
All Roads Lead to Jesus	35
Worshipping in Spirit and in Truth.....	39
Worship in Action	40
Music and Worship	44
References	47

School of Discipleship Overview

“21st Century Church, First Century Power”

Worship Driven
Spirit Led
Prayer Dependent
Grace Centered
Kingdom Obsessed

As we go through the School of Discipleship we are prayerfully seeking to learn to Worship God with the same power and passion as the 1st Century Christians.

Worship Driven

Being Worship Driven can be described as living our lives focused on the recognition of who God is and of who we are in relation to Him. Based on that knowledge we endeavor to live our lives in a manner that honors God. Worshipping God is a very humble, reverent and deliberate action. The New Testament gives many examples of people who worshiped the Lord.

1st Century

Once they believed who he was they devoted themselves to worshipping him:

When Peter preached to the crowd Peter’s words convicted them deeply and “Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church - about three thousand in all. They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord’s Supper and in prayer. Acts 2:41-42

Worshipped in all circumstances:

“22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. 23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 ¶ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.” (Ac 16:22-25 NIV)

Lived life as if God was worth more than anything or anyone:

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is

your spiritual act of worship.” (Ro 12:1 NIV)

Spirit Led

Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is filled with the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that guides us into all truth. "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. (Joh 16:13 NIV)

1st Century Christians
Were obedient to the Holy Spirit

“The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it. "30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. 31 "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.” (Ac 8:29-31 NIV)

Were led by the Spirit

“6 ¶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. 9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.” (Ac 16:6-10 NIV)

Being led by the Spirit should be a normal part of a Christian’s life. Every time we walk into a room we should ask God if there is anybody in the room you want me to stand next to. Is there anything you want me to prompt to do or say?

Prayer Dependent

The Church is supposed to be a group of people who pray.

- We are to pray continually.
- Prayer should be a vital part of our lives
- We should pray and seek God for what he is doing in our lives
- We should pray about everything

1st Century

Joined together constantly in prayer. The early Christians were always praying.

- Acts 2:42 Devoted to prayer
- Acts 4:24 Raised their voices in prayer.
- Acts 12:12 - Angel unlocks Peter from jail. Peter went to the house where many people had gathered and were praying.

Prayed as whole families

“But when our time was up, we left and continued on our way. All the disciples and their wives and children accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to pray.”
(Ac 21:5 NIV)

Grace Centered

Grace is God’s generous gift of forgiveness. It is the unmerited favor of God. There is nothing we can do to make God love us more and there is nothing we can do to make God love us less. Jesus wiped the slate clean and gave us a chance to start over, we are forgiven forever. It is solely on the basis of God’s **mercy** that we are delivered from the penalty of our sins. It is the work of the Holy Spirit, who in a moment makes a person new by the cleansing of regeneration (the new birth). This new nature is the grounds for living the Christian life and performing good deeds.

1st Century

The book of Titus is a good example of Grace in action. Titus was left on the isle of Crete to shepherd a church that was influenced by all manner of evil outside of the church and false teachings inside the church. Yet, Paul admonished him to shepherd and extend grace (forgiveness/patience) to them.

Paul instructed Titus to exhibit Grace to the people of Crete

“3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace,

we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.” (Tit 3:3-8 NIV)

Paul instructed the Christians at Thessalonica to be gracious

1 Thessalonians 5:12-19 NLT
12 Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord’s work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. 13 Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. **And live peacefully with each other.** 14 **brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.** 15 See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people. 16 Always be joyful. 17 Never stop praying. 18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. 19 Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. 20 Do not scoff at prophecies,

Kingdom Obsessed

To be Kingdom Obsessed is to seek the Spirit of God *now*, the presence of God *now* and everything that he has to break through in our lives *now*. The Kingdom was Jesus’ number one topic and it was the early Christians number one pursuit. There are about 175 references to the Kingdom of heaven in the Gospels

1st Century

Jesus told us to seek the Kingdom

Matthew 6:25-33

“25 ¶ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? 28 “And

why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**" (Mt 6:25-33 NIV)

Those who seek the Kingdom are those who believe there is something out there of value to find

"44 ¶ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it." (Mt 13:44-46 NIV)

WORSHIP DRIVEN

What drives us to Worship the Lord above all other things in heaven or on the earth? I believe that as God continually show us glimpses of himself in subtle and obvious ways our reaction is to Worship him. Worship has been defined in so many ways but one of the definitions that I can associate with is “Worship is the recognition of who God is and of who we are in relation to Him.” A few Biblical examples are Isaiah 6:5 when Isaiah saw the Lord this is how he described that experience “So I said: “Woe *is* me, for I am undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”” (Isa 6:5 NKJV). When Isaiah saw the Lord it made him aware of his unworthiness. His response was to worship God.

To live a Worship Driven Life we must recognize that Worship is an action word and the practice of worship is always in motion. The act of worship is not exclusively confined to a Worship service or even personal worship time. We are to worship God with our very lives. The Bible tells “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.” (Ro 12:1 NIV) Our reasonable service is an intelligent, rational and deliberate response to God. Worshipping or responding to God can come in many forms prayer, giving, singing, the Sacraments, corporate worship, worshipping God all by yourself and living a life that honors God.

True worship isn’t showy. It does not call attention to or glorify the worshipper, it honors only God. It is an affair of the heart, characterized by the conviction of the Holy Spirit, fervent prayer and open hearted reading of God’s word. God shows he is pleased with our worship by being present with us.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP IN HEAVEN

Praise and worship is constantly ministered around the throne of the Almighty. Angels, elders, cherubim, seraphim and other living creatures are gathered around His throne and continually singing songs of worship and adoration to God and declaring His Love and Lordship. Let's look at a few Scriptures that give us a glimpse of worship in Heaven.

- Job 38:7
- Isaiah 6:1-3
- Revelation 4:8
- Luke 2:13-14
- Revelation 19:1-8

Praise and worship is the one thing that will be done forever in heaven. The goodness and greatness of the Lord will be heralded throughout all eternity. Jesus admonished the disciples to pray, "May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). We clearly see that passionate praise is always given in heaven. In that same way, we here on earth must make praise and worship our passion and paramount priority.

During our time together we are going to focus on our quest to become Worship Driven. We will explore the worship of our Triune God from many aspects, historically, modern day worship services, examining real people in the Bible and how and why they worshipped God all in an effort to embrace worship as a lifestyle.

What is Worship?

Many attempts have been made to find the one phrase, the one sentence or the one paragraph that defines worship. The list below although not exhaustive lists how some have described worship.

- Worship is paying tribute to God
- Worship is a ceremony of ritual establishing the highest honor and reverence being given to God
- Worship is first and foremost an encounter with the living and Holy God
- Worship is a time when we pay deep, sincere, awesome respect, love and fear of the one who created us
- Worship is the recognition of who God is and of who we are in relation to Him
- Worship is our reaction to the knowledge of who God is
- Worship is the obligation of God's creation to give to Him all honor, praise, adoration and glory due Him because he is the holy and divine creator
- Worship is a conversation between God and man, a dialogue that should go on constantly in the life of a Christian
- Worship is giving to God and involves a lifetime of giving to him the sacrifice he asks for; our total selves.
- Worship is our affirmative response to the self-revelation of the triune God. For the Christian, each act of life is an act of worship when it is done love that responds to the Father's love. Living should be constant worshipping, since worship may be said to provide the metabolism for spiritual life.
- Worship was the outcome of the fellowship of love between the Creator and man and is the highest point man can reach in response to the love of God. It is the first and principal purpose of man's eternal calling.
- Worship is one's heart expression of love, adoration, and praise to God with an attitude and acknowledgement of his supremacy and Lordship
- Worship is an act by a redeemed man, the creature, toward God, his Creator, whereby his will, intellect and emotions gracefully respond in reverence, honor and devotion to the revelation of God's person expressed in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, as the Holy Spirit illuminates God's written word to his heart.
- Worship means "to feel in the heart." Worship also means to express in some appropriate manner what we feel.
- True worship and praise are "awesome wonder and overpowering love' in the presence of our God.
- Worship is the ability to magnify God with our whole being - body, soul and spirit.
- Homage rendered to God which it is sinful (idolatry) to render to any created being.

- The heart of true worship is the unashamed pouring out of our inner self upon the Lord Jesus Christ in affectionate devotion.
- Worship is fundamentally God’s Spirit within us contacting the Spirit in the Godhead.
- Worship is the response of God’s Spirit in us to that Spirit in him whereby we answer, “Abba Father,” deep calling unto deep.
- Worship is a ceremony or ritual establishing the highest honor and reverence being given to God.
- Worship is the ideally normal attitude of a rational creature properly related to the Creator.
- Worship is extravagant love and extreme obedience.
- Worship essentially is an expression of our awareness of who God is; it is honoring him and praising Him for Himself.
- To bow down, to prostrate oneself
- Paying religious homage to God in thought, feeling or act without the aid of symbols and rites
- Worship is our highest calling
- Worship is about celebrating events. Worship celebrates God’s saving acts in history
- Worship is a time when we pay deep, sincere, awesome respect, love, and fear to the one who created us.
- Worship is to glorify and exalt God—to show our loyalty and admiration to our Father.
- The worship of God has been described as ‘the honor and adoration which are rendered to Him by reason of what He is in Himself, and what He is to those who render it.’ It is pre-supposed that the worshipper has some relation with God, and that the order of service or worship is prescribed.
- Worship is the reverent love accorded to a deity, idol, or sacred object . . . to honor or love as deity.
- Worship is the definite act of the creature in relation to God.
- Worship is to give honor to a superior being
- To worship God is to offer something to Him, to prostrate ourselves before Him with a sense of awe, honor and homage.
- Ultimately worship is an earnest desire to give God, and primarily involves adoring and glorifying Him for what He is and has done.
- Worship is an act of the will and the heart, which manifest in physical demonstration such as giving, praying, bowing and submitting.

How many of the descriptions of worship listed above do you associate with?

What words or phrases are significant to you in describing worship?

When you think of Worship do you envision Worship at particular times or in specific places?

If you were asked “What is Worship?” how would you respond?

Have you ever thought about the fact that when you get Heaven you will see Jesus in all of His glory? If you have what do imagine it will be like? What do you imagine you will do? If you haven’t take some time to think about it and write down your thoughts.

The Trinity

I once heard a discussion about the Trinity on the radio. One of the speakers was commenting that he has written a book for teens to try to help them understand the Trinity. It's called "The Trinity Makes My Brain Hurt." I could immediately relate to that because for years I have been trying to think about how to describe the Trinity, I know some pretty good examples: H₂O and Time but they just don't seem to adequately describe the Trinity.

Group discussion: Has trying to understand the Trinity ever made your brain hurt? How do you think of the Trinity?

How have you heard the Trinity described?

Trying to worship God as the Trinity can generate a lot of questions. We believe in God, the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. But how do we worship God as one God in three persons? How does worshipping the Trinity work? Do we worship all three? Do we worship only the Father or only the Son or only the Holy Spirit? If we do worship all three, do we have to always be careful to worship God the Father only for things concerning creation; God the Son for only things concerning Salvation; and God the Holy Spirit only for things concerning the indwelling of His Spirit, teaching and revealing truth to us?

The word "Trinity" does not appear in the Bible, but the Trinity is nevertheless a Bible-based belief. The word "Trinity" is used to explain the eternal relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The doctrine of the Trinity is the Christian belief that God has revealed himself in three separate, equal and distinct persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and these three persons are the one God. The three are called persons because they relate to one another in personal ways. Although this is difficult to comprehend it is nevertheless what the Bible tells us and it is the closest the

finite mind can come to explaining the infinite mystery of the infinite God. Scriptures tells us that there are three distinct persons who are called God.

God the Father is God	Peter refers to the Saints “who have been chosen according to God the Father.” (1 Peter 1:2) “One God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4:6
The Son is God	When Jesus made a post resurrection appearance to doubting Thomas, Thomas said “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28). Moreover, the Father said of the son, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.” (Hebrews 1:8)
The Holy Spirit is God	In Acts 5:3-4 we are told that lying to the Holy Spirit is equivalent to lying to God.

It may appear that the doctrine of the Trinity contradicts the truth that there is only one God. While it is certainly true that there is only one God, we must allow the Bible to define what this means. And, the Bible makes it quite clear that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct persons:

- The Father sends the son (Galatians 4:4; 1 John 4:14)
- The Father sends the Spirit (John 14:26; Galatians 4:6)
- The Son speaks, not on his own, but on behalf of the Father (John 8:28; 12:49)
- The Spirit speaks, not on his own, but on behalf of Jesus (John 16:13-15)
- The Father loves the Son, and the Son loves the Father (John 3:35; 5:20; 14:31)
- The Father and Son count as two witnesses (John 5:31-37; 8:16-18)
- The Father and the Son glorify one another (John 17:1,4,5), and the Spirit glorifies Jesus the Son (John 16:14)
- The Son is an Advocate for us with the Father (1 John 2:1)
- Jesus the Son sent the Holy Spirit, who is another Advocate (John 14:16, 26)
- Jesus Christ is not the Father, but the Son of the Father (2 John 3)

Scripture also ascribes divine attributes to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Divine Attribute	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Eternal	Romans 16:26, 27	Revelation 1:17	Hebrews 9:14
Creator of all things	Psalm 100:3	Colossians 1:16	Psalm 104:30
Omnipresent (Everywhere at all times)	Jeremiah 23:24	Matthew 28:20	Psalm 139:7

Omniscient (All Knowing)	1 John 3:20	John 21:7	1 Corinthians 2:10
Holiness	Revelation 15:4	Acts 3:14	John 16:7-14
Wills and acts supernaturally	Ephesians 1:5	Matthew 8:3	1 Corinthians 12:11
Gives live	Genesis 1:11-21; John 5:21	John 1:4; John 5:21	Roman 8:10,11; John 3:8
Strengthens believers	Psalm 138:3	Philippians 4:13	Ephesians 3:16

More than 60 Bible passages mention the three persons together. Below are a few of the more familiar passages. Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; and Titus 3:4-6.

Since worship is our response to the knowledge of who God is, we worship God as he reveals himself to us in the revelation or action that compels us to worship him. During our experience in this course we are going to worship God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit as equals because that's what they are, we worship the Trinity.

In Psalm 139 we see King David worship God for who He is. Compare Psalm 139 1-18 to the Divine Attributes of the Trinity. How many Divine attributes of the Trinity compelled Him to worship God in this Psalm?

Praise and Worship

Have you ever heard the term Praise and Worship and wondered “what is the difference?” How do I know when I’m praising God and how do I know when I’m worshipping God.

WHAT IS PRAISE?

We find this word praise used all through the Bible. Praise is to declare the works, deeds and the promises of God. According to Psalm 22:3, praise is the Habitation of God.

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Worship is paying tribute to God. Worship begins when we establish God as the highest and most important Being in our present and future lives. It is an act of the will and the heart, which manifest in physical demonstrations such as giving, praying, bowing and submitting.

Worship is also a ceremony or ritual establishing the highest honor and reverence being given to God. We experience ceremonial or ritual worship in our church services.

A good Scripture reference that distinguishes Praise from Worship is Psalm 95. In the opening verses, the psalmist invites praise:

Verses 1-2

“Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Only after praise has been offered does the psalmist invite worship:

Verse 6

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Praise prepares us for worship. It is a prelude to worship praise extols the acts of God. Worship extols the person and character of God. We praise God for what He does; we worship God for who He is.

In Psalm 150 King David commands the people of God to let everything that has breath praise the Lord. King David not only tells the people to praise the Lord, but he also tell the: who; what; where; why; and how of praise.

Read Psalm 150 and fill in the following:

Where to praise him _____

Why praise Him _____

What to praise Him with _____

How to praise Him _____

Who shall praise Him? _____

THE PURPOSE OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

The purpose of praise and worship is to create an environment for the presence of God to be manifested. After Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden, God needed to provide a way to have fellowship and communion with His most precious and greatest creation-man.

God created the Garden of Eden and placed man in it. It was the perfect environment for God to have fellowship with these created beings, made in His own image. When Adam sinned he could no longer stay in the Garden of Eden. Adam contaminated himself with sin and was no longer fit to live in this Garden of perfection and Holiness.

Man needed a vehicle that would bring him back into to the presence of his creator. God created that vehicle by instituting the ministry of Worship. This ministry was constituted by, obedience, sacrifices, pure motives, and the shedding of blood. From the days of Adam and his sons, Cain and Able, to the days of Moses and Aaron the bible gives us accounts of several glimpses of worship experiences that God honored or dishonored.

When God brought the Children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt He gave a detailed pattern of how to attract and maintain His presence. The construction of the Ark of the Covenant and the worship rituals performed in the Tabernacle give us a true picture of how serious God is about protecting His presence.

The combination of thanksgiving, praise, sanctification and worship allowed the High Priest to go from the outer courts, to the inner courts, to the Holy place and finally to Worship, the vehicle that transports us into the presence of the Almighty God.

Praise and Worship are a natural reaction when we pay tribute to our wonderful God. And, praise and worship transport us into the very presence of God. "Lord how I long to be in your presence and behold your glory."

The Object of our Worship

“Why it is Necessary to know God”

It is important to know that worship is reserved only for God. Only He is worthy and not any of his servants. (Rev. 9:10). When God gave the Ten Commandments to the Hebrews He stated in no uncertain terms that He is a Jealous God and He required them to worship Him above every created thing. He must be paramount in our lives. He will not permit any created thing in the heavens, in the earth, or under the earth to take credit for what He alone has done.

We are not to worship saints, prophets, statues, angels, any false gods, or Mary, the mother of Jesus or preachers. Sometimes a preacher is held up on a "pedestal" and idolized. When some preachers leave a congregation, some people become devastated. It seems their world has fallen in around them. Because of this some will even quit the Lord or go elsewhere. We should never idolize a man.

It is important that Christians continue to grow in the knowledge of God so we can worship him only. Below are a few more reasons that we should know God.

The Bible Commands It

- [Psalm 46:10](#)
- [1 Chronicles 28:9](#)

Eternal Life Depends Upon It

- [John 17:3](#)

It Can Help Us Love God

- [Jeremiah 9:23,24](#)

We Experience Spiritual Growth

- [2 Peter 3:18](#)
- [Philippians 3:10](#)

True Worship Can Be The Result

- [Romans 11:33-36](#)

There is The Realization of Judgment to come

- [Hosea 4:6](#)

Attributes of God

What is God Like?

Since we worship God based on what we know about him how do we know what he is like? What are the Attributes of God (God’s Perfections)? What does the Bible say about the character of God?

We are able to know certain things about God’s attributes from nature. From looking at the natural world we can see that God is a loving Creator - making all things fit perfectly together. However, our knowledge of the attributes of the God of the Bible is mainly found in Scripture. In the Bible God’s character is specifically revealed to us. While nature gives us insight into God’s character, it is the revelation of Scripture that explains who He really is and what He is like. We do not attribute these characteristics to Him, He reveals them to us. Therefore, apart from divine revelation we would know next to nothing about the character of God.

It is important to get our ideas about the attributes of God from the Bible since we are not to worship false gods. All other ideas about God are, according to the Bible, false gods. They are from the imagination of mankind. By learning the attributes of God, you may praise God for who He really is and for how each of His attributes impacts your life in a positive way. The attributes of God speak of His essential being. God would not be God unless He was righteous, holy, infinite, and all knowing.

- The attributes of God are true for each member of the Trinity.
- We should not think of His attributes as separate parts of His being.
- The attributes are closely related to each other
- We should not pit one against the other (or they are not mutually exclusive)
- We do not know how many attributes there are
- We have limitations on human language
- We discover the attributes by analogy

Attributes of God with Scripture References

Attribute	Scripture Reference
Eternality	Eternality
<p>Eternal: In some ways, this fact about God is similar to His self-existence. God always has been and will forever be, because God dwells in eternity. Time is His creation. It is why God can see the end from the beginning, and why</p>	<p>Exodus 3:14 Psalm 102:12 Hebrews 13:8 Revelation 1:4</p>

<p>He is never surprised by anything. If He were not eternal, God’s promise of eternal life for those who follow Jesus would have little value.</p> <p>Self-existence: When Moses asked who he was talking to in the burning bush, God said, “I AM THE ONE WHO ALWAYS IS.” God has no beginning or end. He just exists. Nothing else in the entire universe is self-caused. Only God. In fact, if anything else had created Him, that thing would be God. This is a difficult concept for our minds since everything else we will ever encounter comes from something other than itself. The Bible says, “In the beginning, God.” He was already there.</p>	<p><u>Exodus 3:14</u> <u>Psalm 90:2</u> <u>John 1:1-5</u> <u>John 5:26</u> <u>Colossians 1:15-17</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Goodness</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Goodness</p>
<p>Goodness: “The goodness of God is that which disposes Him to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of good will toward men.” This attribute of God is why He bestows all the blessing He does on His followers. God’s actions define what goodness is, and we can easily see it in the way Jesus related to the people around Him.</p>	<p><u>Exodus 34:6-7</u> <u>Psalm 25:8</u> <u>James 1:17</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Grace</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grace</p>
<p>Gracious: God enjoys giving great gifts to those who love Him, even when they do not deserve it. Grace is the way we describe that inclination. Jesus Christ is the channel through which His grace moves. The Bible says, “The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”</p>	<p><u>Psalm 145:17</u> <u>Romans 1:5</u> <u>Romans 3:24</u> <u>Romans 5:15,20</u> <u>Ephesians 4:7</u> <u>Hebrews 4:16</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Holiness</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Holiness</p>
<p>Holiness: This is the attribute that sets God apart from created beings. It refers to His majesty and His perfect moral purity. There is absolutely no sin or evil thought in God at all. His holiness is the definition of that which is pure and righteous in the entire universe. Wherever God has appeared, such as to Moses at the burning bush, that place becomes holy just for God having been there.</p>	<p><u>Exodus 3:5-6</u> <u>1 Samuel 2:2</u> <u>Psalm 99:2-3</u> <u>Isaiah 6:3</u> <u>Revelation 4:8</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Immutability</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Immutability</p>
<p>Immutability: This simply means that God never changes.</p>	<p><u>Malachi 3:6</u> <u>James 1:17</u> <u>Hebrews 13:8</u></p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Justice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Justice</p>
<p>Justice: The Bible says that God is just, but it is His character that defines what being just really is. He does not conform to some outside criteria. Being just brings moral equity to everyone. When there are evil acts, justice demands there be a penalty. Since God is perfect and has never done evil, no penalty would ever be necessary; however, because of His love, God paid the penalty for our evil deeds by going to the cross Himself. His justice needed to be satisfied, but He took care of it for all who will believe in Jesus.</p>	<p>Genesis 18:25 Exodus 34:6-7 Nehemiah 9:32-33 Romans 9:14-33 Psalm 99:4 Romans 1:32 1 Peter 1:17</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mercy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mercy</p>
<p>Mercy: “Mercy is the attribute of God which disposes Him to be actively compassionate.” Since God’s justice is satisfied in Jesus, He is free to show mercy to all those who have chosen to follow Him. It will never end since it is a part of God’s nature. Mercy is the way He desires to relate to mankind, and He does so unless the person chooses to despise or ignore God at which time His justice becomes the prominent attribute.</p>	<p>Psalm 6:4 Hebrews 4:16 Romans 9:23,24 Ephesians 2:4 Titus 3:5 1 Peter 1:3</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Omnipotence</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Omnipotence</p>
<p>Omnipotence: Literally this word means all-powerful. Since God is infinite and since He possesses power, He possesses infinite power. He does allow His creatures to have some power, but this in no way diminishes His own. “He expends no energy that must be replenished.” When the Bible says God rested on the seventh day, it was to set an example for us and our need for rest, not because He was tired.</p>	<p>Romans 11:36 Ephesians 1:11 Hebrews 1:3 Mark 14:36 Jeremiah 32:17 Matthew 19:26 Psalm 115:3</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Omnipresence</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Omnipresence</p>
<p>Omnipresence: This theological term means “always present.” Since God is infinite, His being knows no boundaries. So, clearly He is everywhere. This truth is taught throughout the Bible as the phrase “I am with you always” is repeated 22 times in both the Old and New Testaments. These were even Jesus’ words of assurance just after giving the challenge to</p>	<p>1 Kings 8:27 Job 11:7-9 Jeremiah 23:23-24 Psalm 139:7-10</p>

<p>His disciples to take His message to the entire world. This is certainly a comforting truth for all who follow Jesus.</p>	<p>Psalm 90:1-2</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Omniscience</p> <p>Omniscience: “God possesses perfect knowledge and therefore has no need to learn. God has never learned and cannot learn.” Omniscience means all-knowing. God knows everything, and His knowledge is infinite. It is impossible to hide anything from God.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Omniscience</p> <p>Psalm 147:5</p> <p>Ezekiel 11:5</p> <p>Acts 15:18</p> <p>Romans 11:33 1 John 3:20</p> <p>Hebrews 4:13</p> <p>Romans 2:16</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sovereignty</p> <p>Sovereignty: This is “the attribute by which He rules His entire creation.” It is the application of His other attributes of being all-knowing and all-powerful. It makes Him absolutely free to do what He knows to be best. God is in control of everything that happens. Man still has a free will, and is responsible for his choices in life.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sovereignty</p> <p>Genesis 14:19</p> <p>Exodus 18:11</p> <p>Psalm 115:3</p> <p>Matthew 10:29</p> <p>Romans 9:15</p> <p>Ephesians 1:11</p> <p>1 Peter 3:17</p>

What the Bible Tells Us about Worship

Human beings were created to worship. To worship is to ascribe ultimate value to an object, person, or God-and then to revere, adore, pay homage to, and obey by ordering the priorities of our lives around that which we worship. The Bible teaches that God alone is worthy of our worship.

1. We worship God alone because he alone is worthy of our utmost devotion.	➤ Psalm 96:4
2. Worship is the recognition of who God is, and of who we are in relation to him.	➤ 1 Chronicles 16:29 ➤ Psalm 145:3 ➤ Exodus 34:8 ➤ 2 Kings 17:36 ➤ Isaiah 66:1-2
3. God meets with his people in a powerful way when they worship him together.	➤ Exodus 29:43
4. Public, corporate worship gives God's people an important opportunity to hear his word proclaimed and learn about God and his ways.	➤ Deuteronomy 31:11 ➤ Micah 4:2
5. Worship is a fitting response to God's holiness, power, and grace.	➤ Psalm 5:7 ➤ Isaiah 6:3
6. Our worship of God is a foretaste of heaven.	➤ Revelation 4:9-11
7. We must worship only God! --No matter how awed we are by how God uses others or no matter how great the pressure, we must never worship angels or any other gods.	➤ Exodus 20:2-4 ➤ Genesis 35:2-3 ➤ Deuteronomy 11:16 ➤ Revelation 19:10 ➤ Revelation 22:9 ➤ Daniel 3:8-20
8. When we enter God's presence in worship, we should recognize that we are standing on holy ground.	➤ Exodus 3:5
9. Our worship should include praise and giving thanks to God for what he has done.	➤ Psalm 35:18
10. Worship can take the form of a joyous celebration with	➤ 1 Chronicles 13:6-8

instruments of music.	
11. Kneeling and bowing are appropriate postures for worship.	➤ Psalm 95:6
12. Holy fear and awe should accompany thanksgiving as our attitude in worship.	➤ Hebrews 12:28
13. Public worship is worse than useless if done without sincerity and the fruit of righteous living.	➤ Amos 5:21-24 ➤ Isaiah 1:10-17
14. In the Old Testament, worship was accompanied by sacrifice, which was the means by which people formed and maintained their relationship with God.	➤ Genesis 35:1
15. God meets with his people in a powerful way when they worship him together.	➤ Exodus 29:43 ➤ 1 Kings 8:10-11 ➤ 2 Chronicles 7:1
16. Public, corporate worship gives God's people an important opportunity to hear his word proclaimed and learn about God and his ways.	➤ Deuteronomy 31:11 ➤ Micah 4:2
17. Worship is a fitting response to God's holiness, power, and grace.	➤ Psalm 5:7 ➤ Psalm 47:7 ➤ Psalm 95:1 ➤ Psalm 100:1-4 ➤ Isaiah 6:3
18. Christ is worthy of our worship.	➤ Matthew 14:33
19. Our worship of God is a foretaste of heaven.	➤ Revelation 4:9-11 ➤ Revelation 5:11-12
20. Our worship should include praise and giving thanks to God for what he has done.	➤ Psalm 9:11 ➤ Psalm 35:18 ➤ Hebrews 13:15
21. Singing is an important part of our worship to God.	➤ Psalm 30:4 ➤ Psalm 147:1 ➤ Ephesians 5:19
22. Musical instruments have an important role to play in our worship.	➤ Psalm 33:2 ➤ Psalm 71:22 ➤ Psalm 150:3-5
23. Worship can take the form of a joyous celebration with instruments of music.	➤ Deuteronomy 31:12-13 ➤ 2 Chronicles 20:13 ➤ 1 Chronicles 13:6-8
24. A choir can aid in worship.	➤ 1 Chronicles 15:16
25. Worship leaders can help guide	➤ 1 Chronicles 16:4-6

God's people in worship.	
26. Public prayer is an important part of corporate worship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hebrews 12:28 ➤ 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 ➤ 1 Timothy 2:8
27. Worship should be accompanied by giving God our all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Matthew 2:11
28. Worship must be in spirit and in truth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Acts 2:46
29. The Lord's Supper is both an act of worship to God and an act of fellowship among believers. -- Worship in the early church included fellowship and regular sharing of Communion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ➤ Acts 2:42-47
30. Everyone has something valuable to contribute to public worship, but all things must be done in good order. -- Our worship is to be orderly and not chaotic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 Corinthians 14:26 ➤ 1 Corinthians 14:33
31. Worship is a response to the holiness of God and therefore should be respectful and reverent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Leviticus 10:1-3
32. True worship involves both kneeling in humble adoration and rejoicing in celebration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Psalm 95:1-7 ➤ Matthew 2:11
33. From ancient times, music has always played a central role in worship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 Chronicles 6:31-32

Group Activity:

1. Read the Scriptures about Worship
2. Do you have additional insights about worship based on the Scriptures
3. Do you know additional Scriptures where the Bible tells us about Worship
4. Select a spokesperson for the team and discuss the team's insights with the larger group.

Additional Insights:

Additional Scriptures:

Seven Words for Praise

- Yadah** Worship with extended hands; to throw out hands in surrender to one greater than oneself. Open hands to receive power and direction.
- Scripture References: Psalm 7:17; 9:1; 2 Samuel 22:50; 1 Chronicles 25:30; Psalm 18:49; 1 Chronicles 16:4; 23:30, Nehemiah 11:17
- Todah** Extend cupped hands in Thanksgiving. “God I thank you before the victory.”
- Scripture References: Psalm 26:7; 69:30, 42:4; 56:12; 50:23; 50:14; 56:12, 107:22; Jeremiah 17:26; Amos 4:5
- Shabach** Commend, address in a loud tone; to shout.
- Scripture References: Psalm 47:1; 1 Chronicles 16:35; Psalm 63:3; 145:4; 117:1; 147:12
- Halal** To laud, to extol, to boast, to rave, to celebrate. Calls upon bodily movement, clap hands, stomp feet, jump for joy.
- Scripture References: Genesis 12:15; 1 Kings 20:11; Isaiah 41:16; 1 Chronicles 16:10; 2 Chronicles 23:13; 41:18; Job 12:17; Psalm 5:5; Ecclesiastes 2:2
- Zamar** To pluck with strings of or strike and instrument. To make music, to praise in song.
- Scripture References: Psalm 26:6; 30:4; 57:7; 2 Samuel 22:2; Psalm 47:6; 68:32; 21:13; 33:2; 98:5
- Barak** To bow in a rocking motion in reverence to God. To declare God the origin of power for success, prosperity and fertility.
- Scripture References: Genesis 9:26; Deuteronomy 1:11; Jeremiah 2:4; Genesis 24:24; Joshua 22:33; 1 Samuel 25:32; Psalm 41:13

The Hallowed Names of God

YAHWEH/JEHOVAH/ADONAI	LORD
JEHOVAH TSIDKENU	JEHOVAH OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS
JEHOVAH M'KADDESH	JEHOVAH WHO SANCTIFIES
JEHOVAH SHALOM	JEHOVAH IS PEACE
JEHOVAH SHAMMAH	JEHOVAH IS THERE
JEHOVAH-ROPHE	JEHOVAH HEALS
JEHOVAH JIREH	JEHOVAH'S PROVISION SHALL BE SEEN
JEHOVAH NISSI	JEHOVAH MY BANNER
JEHOVAH ROHI	JEHOVAH MY SHEPHERD
JEHOVAH ELYON	THE LORD MOST HIGH
JEHOVAH OLAM	GOD, THE EVERLASTING ONE
JEHOVAH ELOHIM	THE MAJESTIC GOD WHO IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP
EL SHADDAI	THE ALMIGHTY GOD
EL ELYON	GOD MOST HIGH
JESUS	SAVIOUR

Characteristics of Our God

Almighty	The only wise God
Alive For Evermore	Lamb of God
Alpha and Omega	Messiah
Ancient of Days	Physician
Which is, Which was and Which is to come	My Refuge
Beginning and the End	Rod of the stem of Jesse
Creator of the Ends of the Earth	Strong tower
Wonderful	The truth
Counselor	True witness
The Mighty God	The Word
The Everlasting Father	Sure foundation
The Prince of Peace	Good Master
Faithful and True	Key of Knowledge
Everlasting Light	The High Priest
Living God	Image of the Invisible God
Guide	Omnipresent (Everywhere)
Healer (Rophe)	Omnipotent (All Powerful)
Shepherd (Rohi)	Rock of my salvation
Lord of Peace (Shalom)	King of Kings

Righteous (Tsidkenu)	Lord of Lord
Faithful	Merciful
Sanctification (M'Keddesh)	King of Glory
Savior (Jesus)	Deliverer
Forgives Sins	Rose of Sharon
Conqueror	Lilly of the Valley
Always There (Shammah)	Lamb of God
Self-Existent	Creator
Eternal	Father
Immutable (Unchangeable)	Everlasting
Omniscient (All knowing)	Redeemer

Tehillah	To sing a song of praise. Sing a new song unto the Lord. Scripture References: Psalm 22:3; 98:1; 148:14; 1 Chronicles 16:35; Jeremiah 17:14; 2 Chronicles 20:22; Nehemiah 12:46; Psalm 71:8; Isaiah 48:9; 62:7
----------	---

Scripture References

Worship	God's Faithfulness
Psalm 66:4	Deuteronomy 7:9
Psalm 96:6	Deuteronomy 4:31
Psalm 99:9	Psalm 105:8
John 4:24	Numbers 23:19
Rev. 4:10-11	Hebrews 10:23
Psalm 84:11	2 Timothy 2:13
Psalm 139:14	2 Peter 3:9
Deuteronomy 7:9	1 Kings 8:56
Psalm 37:39	Psalm 9:10
Psalms 32:7	Psalm 119:89-90
Psalm 48:14	1 Samuel 15:29
Psalm 111:5	2 Corinthians 1:20
Isaiah 25:1	Psalm 89:34

Scripture References

Word of God	Prayer
Romans 1:16	Matthew 7:7-8

Revelation 1:3	Matthew 21:22
2 Peter 1:19	Isaiah 30:19
Hebrews 4:12	I John 5:14-15
Psalms 119:130	Jeremiah 29:12
Proverbs 6:23	Isaiah 65:24
Psalms 119:105	John 15:7
John 5:39	James 5:16
Romans 10:17	Matthew 6:6
I Peter 2:2	Isaiah 58:9
I Peter 1:23	Psalms 50:15
2 Timothy 3:15-16	Psalms 34:17
Joshua 1:8	Psalms 145:18-19

PEOPLE OF WORSHIP IN THE BIBLE

Enoch (Genesis 5:24)
Noah (Genesis 6:9)
Abraham (Genesis 15:6)
Joseph (Genesis 39:3)
Moses (Exodus 3:10)
Joshua (Joshua 1:5)
Samuel (1 Samuel 7:15)
David (1 Samuel 13:14)
Solomon (1 Kings 4:29)
Elijah (2 Kings 2:11)
Elisha (2 Kings 2:9)
Daniel (Daniel 5:7, 29)
Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-13)
Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:5)
Jesus (Matthew 3:17)
Paul (Acts 26:16)
John (Revelation 1:19)
Mary 1:46-56
Anna - Luke 2:36-38
Hannah - 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Deborah - Judges 5

What can you tell us about the person(s) and the situation (background).

Why did they worship God?

How did they worship God?

What was their emotional state happy, sad, in distress, reacting to God's revelation of himself, etc.

Was their worship to God, about God, or a combination of both?

Was the Worship of God confined only to his acts or revelation in that instance or did they worship God for prior knowledge or experiences?

From the information given in the Bible, was there a lifestyle change in that person after this revelation of God?

All Roads Lead to Jesus

Worship in the Old and New Testaments

God's eternal law was first expressed in the old covenant (the Ten Commandments) and ultimately revealed in the sacrificial life of Jesus Christ. The Law of Moses is encompassed by his covenant. The detailed laws of worship are far from an arbitrary test of faith. Every holy day, every form of sacrifice, and every ordinance of the priesthood relates in some way to the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The Jews were told why, how, when and where to worship:

The **why** was based on their deliverance from Egypt, the promised forgiveness of sins through animal sacrifices, and the revealed nature of God. The Holy God would curse those who broke His laws, and bless those who kept them.

There was only one **how** of worship, the way that God had commanded. Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu were condemned for offering strange fire. They thought nothing of substituting their own fire for the fire provided by God (Lev. 10:1-3). A short time later Aaron's surviving sons Eleazar and Ithamar burnt all of the sin offering instead of saving the portion designated to be eaten. Moses was angry. Aaron explained that because of the disobedience of Nadab and Abihu, he had felt too unworthy to have communion with God through this sin offering. Moses was satisfied (Lev. 10:12-20). Nadab and Abihu did not respect the holiness of God; Eleazar and Ithamar had such great respect that they felt unworthy to have fellowship with Him. Worship was not an end in itself, but rather an expression of the attitude of the heart.

The **when** of worship was very detailed. There were morning and evening sacrifices, and double these sacrifices on the Sabbath. There was an elaborate calendar of worship for the whole year. The Sabbath, and all the holy days, months, and years were a symbol-picture of Jesus and His work of grace. The Sabbath called the people to trust and depend upon God. God was a loving Creator who had created mankind to share in His first rest. More than that, God was a loving Deliverer who had rescued a people from slavery so that they might once more share in His rest through trust and dependence upon Him (faith). The New Testament fulfillment is God as the ultimate Deliverer, rescuing us from slavery to sin by grace through faith. The Passover was a shadow-picture of Christ's sacrifice (I Cor. 5:17). The wave-offering of the sheaf of the first fruit occurred the third day of the Passover as a picture of Christ's resurrection (Lev. 23:10-11; Rom. 11:16; I Cor. 15:23). Fifty days later came the wave-offering of the "firstfruits," the one grain sacrifice that called for leaven (Lev. 23:16-17). The church began on Pentecost, reconciled to God, declared righteous in Christ, but always tainted with the leaven of sin (I Cor. 16:15; James 1:18). In the same way, all the detailed **when** of the Jewish calendar relates in some way to Jesus and his work of grace.

The **where** of Old Testament worship centered for the most part around the tabernacle (and subsequent temple). This is where God symbolically dwelt among His people. Yet the tabernacle was surrounded by a white linen fence, representing the holiness of God, and only those priests who were ceremonially clean could serve in His tabernacle. Once a year the High Priest was commanded to enter into the Most Holy place, but never without blood. How blessed are we, who have been cleansed by the blood of Christ. We are free to approach the ark and mercy seat - God's throne of grace -with confidence. More than that, we are God's temple, and the Holy Spirit dwells within us. Jesus has promised us that "where two or three are gathered in My name, there I will be with them" (Matt. 18:20).

As the Jews willingly obeyed God's why, how, when, and where of worship they were honoring Him as the Holy God. They were trusting in His mercy and forgiveness. They knew that fellowship with God was only possible through the worship that God had commanded. What the Jews could not know was the deeper purpose of these detailed laws. All the ordained worship symbolized some aspect of Jesus and his work of forgiveness (grace). It is a great mistake to look for another code of worship in the New Testament. The Old Testament worship taught that we must approach God on His terms if we are to be acceptable to Him. The New Testament equivalent is not a new set of laws of worship, but rather the fulfillment of the symbolism of the Old Testament laws of worship. We must approach God on His terms, by surrendering our lives to Christ and trusting and depending upon His forgiveness. There is only one way to God and that is through the atoning blood of our Lord Jesus.

Old Testament worship was never intended to be an end in itself, but the expression of great trust and dependence on the Lord of Israel (faith). Today, believers can know their God in a way impossible to Old Testament Jews. The fathomless depths of God's holiness and love are revealed in Christ Jesus. Knowing God as both Just and Justifier, and trusting in His love and forgiveness causes us to love Him and our fellow-man. It is significant that the only New Testament "ordinance" of worship centers around the sacrifice of Christ. I am speaking here of the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper was inaugurated at the Passover, but it is related also to the shewbread in the tabernacle and the portion of sacrifice given to the priests. To take the Lord's Supper worthily we must recognize the body of Christ, that is, his church, and act in love toward our brother (I Cor. 10:17; 11:29). We recognize the body of Christ, not by defining it in terms of new "laws" of worship that do not exist in the scriptures, but by accepting one another in Christ.

It must be said that even the "ordinance" of the Lord's Supper is not so much a law, as a gift. The King has invited us to his feast, and He has promised to be there with us. Would we be honored if the President of our country invited us

to tea? How much more eagerly should we approach our Saviour's table, not out of fear of punishment, but because we love Him. It would have been supremely easy for Jesus to tell us the day and frequency of the Lord's Supper. Instead He said, "Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me" (I Cor. 11:25)... We know that the early Christians met (at least once, and probably on a regular basis) on the first day of the week to share in the Lord's Supper. God calls us to love our brother, and we are to meet regularly to encourage one another and good deeds. The first day of the week reminds us of our Lord's resurrection, but the Lord's Supper was never limited to that day. Paul clearly tells us to accept our brother who esteems every day, as well as the one who esteems one day above another (Rom. 14).

Jesus has given us the elements of the Lord's Supper. We do not add lamb to the Lord's table, because we recognize that animal sacrifices cannot adequately reflect the supreme sacrifice of Christ. We do not replace the elements with cookies and kool-aid because Jesus has given us bread as His body, and fruit of the vine as His blood. We are not having a party of our own, but are joining our Saviour as honored guests at His table. We eat what He offers us.

New Testament Worship Summary

Under the New Testament we do not offer animal sacrifices as the Jews did under the Old Testament; but we give Him our lives in service to Him as a living sacrifice. In doing this we must give Him our all. Anything we do for God must be our very best.

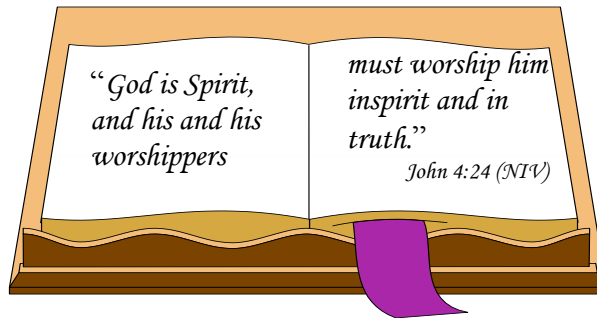
Based upon the doctrine of Christ and the apostles, we reiterate the following truths (which we found initially in the Old Testament):

1. God is the only proper recipient of worship.
2. Mankind must worship according to the means prescribed by God.
3. It is unlawful to amend or alter the worship prescribed by God in his word.

In contrast, with the Old Testament, we note the following changes made by the Lord in the New Testament:

1. There is no longer a central place for worship. The temple ordinances have reached fulfillment.
2. The ordinances of public worship are no longer conducted by the Levitical priesthood.
3. The church no longer observes sacrificial ordinances. The New Testament ordinances are simpler and fewer in number.

Worshipping in Spirit and in Truth

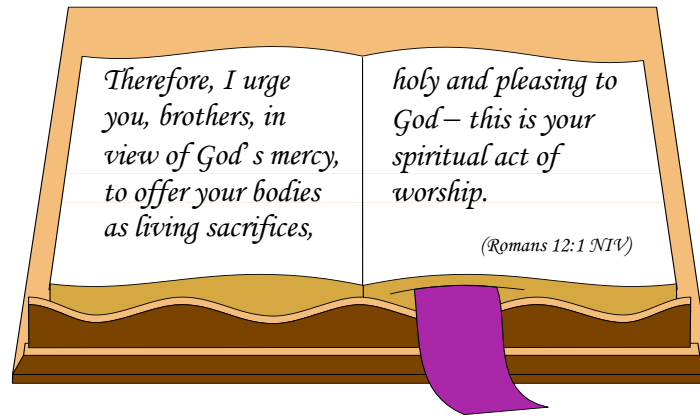


Worshipping God in Spirit means that it must be done from the heart. Worshipping God in truth means that it must be done as God has specified in the Bible. Worshipping God in Spirit and Truth is a serious matter which must not be taken lightly.

We can find comfort in Jesus' words that true worshippers worship in "Spirit and in truth", but we must also recognize that New testament instruction also commands "acceptable" worship, with reverence and awe, as our God is a consuming fire. Worshipping God "in spirit" means with reverence, attentiveness, and having the right purpose of honoring God, while understanding what we are doing.

To worship God in truth means you worship according to the whole council of God's word, especially in light of New Testament revelation. It is to worship God according to the revelation which He has been pleased to give of Himself. It's not worshipping God 'in truth' if we worship Him simply as 'a great God,' 'our maker,' or as 'a great king above all gods'. He has revealed Himself in another light as 'Father' to those who are His. They enter into His presence in the spirit of sonship, and in the sense of the love which has given them a place before Him in Christ, as sons according to His good pleasure: the sense of this love, and the good pleasure of God in having us before Him in Christ, is the spring of worship. The Father and Son are known, the Father's will is that the Son should be honored as revealing the fountain of love, and the Son leading the hearts of the many sons into the Father's love.

Worship in Action “A Lifestyle of Worship”



There are five formal acts which constitute worship of God: These acts are: singing, praying, preaching, giving, and the Lords Supper:

- a. Ephesians 5:19 and Col. 3:16 exhort us to sing praises unto the Lord. Singing vents the soul, and good scriptural songs do much in communicating the truths of Gods word to the participants. Our music we offer in our worship services should be special music used only to worship the Lord.
- b. Our Lord has taught us to pray in Matt. 6:7-15. and I Thess 5:17 to, "Pray without ceasing." Prayer humbles us, and helps us to discern the will of the Lord for our lives. It also exhorts, edifies, strengthens, and instructs fellow members who hear the prayers.
- c. The Lord taught generous giving in Luke 6:38 and it is re-emphasized in such passages as II Cor 9:6, 7 and I Cor. 16:2. Giving conquers covetousness and greed. It gives victory over greed and selfishness. It makes us masters over our money, instead of our money being master over us. It sets the proper relationship to God one of thanksgiving and dependency on Him.

Giving of ourselves - "And let us not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." (Heb. 13:16) The other sacrifice mentioned in this verse is "doing good." This phrase refers to ministry--performing deeds of loving service to other people as representatives of Christ. When we relate to the people God brings into our lives with Christ-like, sacrificial love, God regards this as an expression of our worship to him. " . . . walk in love, just as Christ loved you, and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice as a fragrant aroma."

God is pleased by this kind of life-style not only because he wants to love people through us, but also because this demonstrates that we are living with

an attitude of trust in his love for us. We are motivated to love others because we understand and believe in the love that God has for us (1 Jn. 4:16-19). Every day, God gives us dozens of creative opportunities to say "thank you!" to him in this way-- serving our spouses, caring for our children, performing deeds of service for those in need, showing and sharing the love of Christ to our neighbors, those at work or school--the examples are endless.

d. Jesus' ministry was one of preaching to Israel. About preaching God said in I Cor. 1:21 says, "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

II Tim. 3:15-4:5 gives several of the values of preaching. Preaching is a time for communicating the truths of Gods word in a powerfully persuasive way. It is a time of instruction, correction, rebuking, and exhorting. Preaching gives the child of God the spiritual food he needs to grow.

e. In *Matt. 26:26-29* Jesus instituted the Lords Supper, and told us to keep it as a memorial unto His return. *I Cor. 11:23-26* tells how the Lords Supper is designed to call our attention to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, how that He shed His blood, and His body was broken for us, and how that He is coming again. It is most especially a time of self examination...that we properly understand and discern what a great price Christ had to pay for our sins.

The Lifestyle of Worship

One of the biggest stumbling blocks to Christian maturity is the common belief that our lives are divided into two areas - sacred and secular. The sacred areas are praying, Bible reading, hymn singing, church attendance, quiet time with the Lord and other acts that spring directly from faith. Secular acts include ordinary activities of life eating, sleeping, working, looking after the needs of the body, recreational activities, etc. We acknowledge God's presence in our sacred areas but somehow in our secular areas we forget his omniscience.

Where's God found? He's found wherever you are. He surrounds us. God is not localized, nor can you localize God. So often in our minds we make that mistake of localizing God. How glorious it is to gather tonight in the presence of God here in the sanctuary. Well, that's true in a sense, but yet, in another sense, God doesn't just dwell here in the sanctuary. God dwells in your car as you're driving to the sanctuary. God dwells in your house as you're yelling at your kids getting ready to go to the sanctuary, because they're not getting dressed fast enough. We need to become more conscious of the all-prevailing presence of God wherever I am. God dwells in the hearts and in the lives of every child of God, and He surrounds us all. In Him we live, we move, we have

our being. God is a spirit, and if you want to worship Him, you've got to worship Him in spirit. The result of spiritual worship should produce Godly living.

Worship, if genuine, should make a difference in the way we treat one another seven days a week. This is another principle we see throughout Scripture. How should we worship? Micah asks the question and gives the answer:

With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:6-8)

Hosea also stressed that interpersonal relationships are more important than the mechanics of worship: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings" (Hosea 6:6). We are called not only to praise, but also to do good works (Ephesians 2:10).

Our concept of worship must go far beyond music, days and rituals. Those details are not nearly as important as the way we treat our neighbors. It is hypocritical to call Jesus Lord if we do not also seek his sense of justice, mercy, and compassion.

Worship is much more than outward actions—it involves a change of behavior, rooted in a total change of heart, a change produced in us by the Holy Spirit. Instrumental in this change is our willingness to spend time with God in prayer, study and other spiritual disciplines. The transformation does not happen by magic—it happens through time spent in fellowship with God.

Paul's expansive view of worship

Worship involves all of life. We see this especially in the words of Paul. He uses the terminology of sacrifice and worship in this way: "I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship" (Romans 12:1). All of life is to be worship, not just a few hours each week. Of course, if all of our lives are devoted to worship, this will most definitely include some time each week with other Christians!

Paul uses more words for sacrifice and worship in Romans 15:16 when he speaks of the grace God had given him "to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit." Here we see that preaching the gospel is a form of worship.

Since we are all priests, we all have the priestly duty of proclaiming the praises of the One who called us (1 Peter 2:9)—a worship any believer can do, or at least participate in by helping others preach the gospel.

When Paul thanked the Philippians for sending him financial support, he used words for worship: "I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God" (Philippians 4:18).

Financial help given to other Christians can be a form of worship. Hebrews 13 describes worship given both in words and in works: "Let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (verses 15-16).

We are called to worship, celebrate and glorify God. It is our joy to be able to declare his praises, to share the good news of what he has done for us in and through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Personal Reflection:

List the sacred activities in your life?

List the secular activities in your life?

How can you meld the two into life a lifestyle of worship?

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

It is easy to see that music is important to God. It is mentioned in the bible over 800 times. Each time we read about a heavenly experience by one of the prophets of God we see that music is heard around the throne of the Almighty. This music is never passive or soft; it is always loud and strong enough to shake the atmosphere around the throne. There are massive groups of angels and living creatures all around the Holy One singing and playing instruments. In the model prayer that Jesus taught His disciples, He prayed, "...let it be done on earth as it is in heaven..." As we have noticed in the accounts of the prophets Isaiah, Daniel and John, there was constant music in the presence of God. Music is the vehicle that carries out praises into the presence of the Father. When we consecrate our lives and bathe our praise and worship in music we know that we know that we are in a position for the favor of God.

The scriptures show us by example and tell us over and over again that music is important to the Almighty. See, for example, Psalm 30:4; 81:1; 100:1; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Psalm 98:4-6; 126:1-3; Ezra 3:11; Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 5:9-11;

USES FOR MUSIC

Throughout the bible music and references to music are made. Music was used for festivals and celebrations, temple and tabernacle worship, weddings, funerals, war rallies, private entertainment, parties and sinful delights.

VICTORY CELEBRATIONS

Exodus 15:1—The people sang after being delivered from the Egyptian army.
Judges 5:1—Deborah and Barak sang after victory over the king of Canaan.
1 Samuel 21:11—People sang about David's victories in battle.

TEMPLE WORSHIP

2 Chronicles 5:13—The priest and the musicians sang and played until the presence of the Lord filled the Temple.
1 Chronicles 15:28—Singers and musicians proceeded before the Ark Of Covenant

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

1 Samuel 16:23—Music was used to drive away evil spirits when David played the harp before King Saul.
2 Chronicles 20:21—Singers and musicians went out before the military declaring the mercies of God.

PROPHETIC WORSHIP

2 Kings 3:14-15—It was common for prophets to call for minstrels to play on the instruments before they spoke the Word of the Lord.
Revelation 8:2—Seven angels with trumpets sounded their horns and the events

of what was to come were revealed.

MAJESTIC WORSHIP

Revelation 5:8-9—The Elders and living creatures around the throne of God worshipped with harps and singing.

MUSIC FOR DEDICATION

Nehemiah 12:27—When the walls and gates of Jerusalem were rebuilt the people dedicated the wall with singing and thanksgiving.

MUSIC FOR OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES

2 Chronicles 29:25-30—King Hezekiah ordered music to be played as the priest presented the offerings and sacrifices to the Lord.

SONGS OF DELIVERANCE

Acts 16:25—When Paul and Silas were in jail they sang and worshipped until God delivered them by an earthquake.

AT THE TIME OF CREATION

Job 38:7—At the time of creation the morning stars sang together.

MUSIC USED TO BRING GLORY TO GOD

1 Chronicles 16:5—King David placed great importance on music in his offerings of praise and worship to God. Most of the Psalms were written or commissioned by him. He appointed excellent and skilled musicians in the tabernacle for the sole purpose of ministering music before the presence of God.

2 Chronicles 20:12—King Solomon produced elaborate and expensive ceremonies for the dedication of the Temple. When the singers and the musicians were as one, God honored their worship by filling the house with the cloud of His presence, so much that the priest could not continue ministering.

HUMAN VOICE

Psalms 150:6—King David declared that everything that has breath should praise the Lord. The greatest musical instrument of all is the human voice. All of the other musical instruments can only make beautiful harmonies, melodies and joyful noises. The human voice not only makes harmonies, melodies and noises, but it can declare the Lordship, Majesty, and all of the great attributes of our magnificent God.

Do you find that music enhances your worship experience?

What types of Worship music speak to your heart, i.e., Gospel, Hymns, Anthems, Modern Praise and Worship music, Christian Rock, etc.? Why is this particular type of music special to you?

Think of songs that drive you to praise and worship God. Think about the words or phrases that touch your heart. Can you think of a scripture or attribute of God in the Bible in which the song originated?

Words to the Song	Scripture of Attribute of God in the Bible

References

What the Bible Says About Worship
Barbour Publishing

The Pursuit of God
A. W. Tozer

Exploring Worship
Bob Sorge

Rediscovering the Missing Jewel
Robert E. Webber

A Brief History of Christian Worship
James F. White

Every Woman in the Bible
Sue and Larry Richards

Basics of the Christian Faith
David Jeremiah

The Complete Book of Bible Answers
Ron Rhodes

The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict
Josh McDowell

The Genesis Made Easy
Mark Water

Worship is a Verb
Robert E. Webber

Learning to Worship with all Your Heart
Robert E. Webber

The Worship God is Seeking
Davis Ruis

The Holiness of God
RC Sproul

Wycliffe Bible Dictionary

Charles F. Pfeiffer, Howard F. Vos, John Rea
Editors

Bible Teacher's Commentary
Lawrence O. Richard

Who's Who in the Bible
Paul D. Gardner, Editor

Word Meanings in the New Testament
Ralph Earle

Smith's Bible Dictionary
Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville

Study Bible Notes

Ryrie Study Bible

The Reformation Study Bible

The Defenders Study Bible

Bible Software

Illumina Bible Software articles

Logos Bible Software articles

Internet Articles

Why It's Important to Know God

CD Bible Teaching Series

How Great is Our God
Charles R. Swindoll

What the Lord Expects of Us
Charles R. Swindoll