

John 4: Spirit & Truth

“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:23-24

Key Idea: God desires our worship in spirit and truth, which is Christ centered under the power of the Holy Spirit.

What is Worship?

- The Greek word for worship in the passage is *proskuneo*, which denotes bowing or prostrating oneself in *submissiveness* and *reverence*. The outward posture reflected an inner attitude of humility and respect.

Can Worship be False?

- It is an attitude of totally and unconditionally *surrendering* to the One we call our Master, our Lord, our God. Mere words are not enough! Many *call* Jesus "Lord, Lord," yet He will claim not to know them, for their actions are not those of one who really knows Him (Matthew 7:21-23) or has totally submitted to God and His way.
- “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”
 - Matthew 4:9; Romans 1:29

"No one should come into the presence of the God of glory in a flippant and cavalier manner. If we really understand who God is and that we're in His presence, we will be on our faces before Him, giving Him the honor and the magnificence that He deserves."-R.C. Sproul

Spiritual Worship: God's Spirit empowers us to worship/surrender our lives.

- “we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.”
- “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”
 - Romans 8:15; Ephesians 2:18; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 3:3

Worship in Truth: God's Truth revealed in Christ should motivate worship/surrender.

- Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” (John 14:16-17)
 - Acts 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 2:5; John 1;17

The Spirit Reveals the Truth

- “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees

him nor knows him. You know him, for *he dwells with you and will be in you*" (John 14:16-17).

- "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, *he will bear witness about me.*" (John 15:26)
- When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. *He will glorify me...*"

Pursue a lifestyle of Worship of God's Truth by His Spirit

- For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (Hebrews 12:18-24)