

# Lesson 8

# WORSHIP



# 1. WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Worship is a ministry of giving to God spiritual offerings and sacrifices.

“The reverence or veneration tendered to a divine being or supernatural power; also: an act, process, or instance of expressing such veneration by performing or taking part in religious exercises or ritual (all worship is an effort of the individual to realize...the real presence of the divine—W.W. Comfort)”

The Hebrew word for worship, **shachah** (shaw-khaw), means to depress, i.e. prostrate (especially reflex, in homage to royalty or God) – bow (self) down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship.

The most commonly used Greek word translated as worship is **proskuneo** (pros-koo-neh-o). It literally means “to kiss, like a dog licking his masters’ hand; also to fawn or crouch to; i.e. (lit. or fig) prostrate oneself in homage (do reference to, adore).

Another Greek word translated as worship is **latreuo** (lat-ryo-o). This word means to ministry to God by rendering religious homage. It also means to serve, do the service and worship.

*Ye also, as lively stones are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ (1Peter 2-5)*

## 2. IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OLD COVENANT AND NEW COVENANT WORSHIP?

Yes. Under the Old Covenant, God's people worshipped Him in temples. To them, he was a God who was outside of them. In the new Covenant, we become the temples of God and God dwells in us by the Holy spirit. Some basic differences between the two covenants are:

A. Under the Old Covenant, a few men were chosen as priests (Levites) and one has a high priest. In the New Covenant, we are all priests and our worship is made acceptable to God by our high priest, Jesus Christ.

***Unto him that loves us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him by glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen***

B. Under the Old Covenant, only the high priest could enter God's actual presence and then only once a year. Under the new covenant, we all have access into His presence and God comes to live within us.

***Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh. (Hebrews).***

C. Under the old covenant, the blood of bulls and goats covered sins for a time but this sacrifice had to be repeated again and again. In the new Covenant, the blood of Jesus Christ takes away sin forever and frees our conscience from the remembrance of sin.

***But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sin. (Hebrews 10:3,4)***

***How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:14)***

D. Under the Old Covenant, God required the sacrifices of animals and birds for sin. In the new Covenant, there is no sacrifice for sin since Jesus Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for us. In turn, we offer ourselves as living sacrifices in joyful service to God.

***By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifices of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (Hebrews 13:15, 16).***

E. Under the Old Covenant, the will of God was written on tablets of stone and imposed from without. In the New Covenant, God puts the desire to please Him within us.

***And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony. (Exodus 25:22)*** [Taken from Understanding God and His Covenants by Patricia Beall Gruits].

### 3. HOW DOES GOD COMMAND US TO WORSHIP HIM?

God is a Spirit, therefore we must worship Him IN SPIRIT (we, by the Holy Spirit with in us, worship God) and in TRUTH (according to the word of God). It is essential to be baptized with the Holy Spirit so we can worship Him in Spirit. [Read Ephesians 5:18,19)

***But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23,24).***

***For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh (Philippians 3:3).***

## 4. WHAT IS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP THAT PLEASES GOD?

We must not simply be spectators expecting that a certain few will meet the requirements of God in performing acts of worship on our behalf. We are called upon to participate as a body of believers, with each individual contributing that which the Lord has blessed him with.

*How is it then, brethren? When ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying (I Corinthians 14:26).*

## 5. WHY DOES GOD ONLY WANT SPIRITUAL WORSHIP?

Natural man cannot please God. He has given us the gift of His Spirit to give us a spiritual language and an entrance into his presence.

***For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. (romans 8: 6-8)***

***But the natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (I Corinthians 2:14)***

## **6. HOW DO WE ENTER INTO GOD'S PRESENCE?**

We come into the presence of God with songs, hymns and psalms of thanksgiving. As the Spirit of God moves upon the service, the worship becomes a spontaneous expression of high praise to God.

***Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His Name. (Psalms 100:4)***

***...I will declare Thy Name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto Thee. (Hebrews 2:12).***

***But thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. (Psalm 22:3)***

## 7. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS OF WORSHIP TO GOD?

- A. Singing – Psalm 9:2,11; Psalm 40:3; Mark 14:26; Psalm 8:4.
- B. Audible Praise – Psalm 103:1; I Corinthians 14:”15; Revelation 19:1,5
- C. Shouting – Psalm 47:1; Isaiah 12:6
- D. Lifting hands – Psalm 63:4; Psalm 134:2; I Timothy 2:9
- E. Clapping – Psalm 47:1
- F. Musical Instruments – Psalm 150:3-5; Revelation 14:2
- G. Standing – II Chronicles 20:19; Revelation 7;9, 10
- H. Bowing – Psalm 95:6; Revelation 7:9-10
- I. Dancing – Psalm 149:3
- J. Rejoicing and Laughing – Philippians 4:4; Psalm 126:2
- K. Extravagant Giving – Matthew 26:6-13; Luke 21:1-4

## 8. HOW DOES GOD RECEIVE TRUE WORSHIP?

God loves true spiritual Worship and lives in the midst of it. When we worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth, He reveals Himself to us. [Read Psalm 22:3 and Acts 13:2]

## 9. WHAT DOES TRUE WORSHIP DO FOR US?

- A. Brings the Revelation of God's presence – Acts 13:2
- B. Causes us to be strengthened – Psalm 8:2; Matthew 21:16
- C. Brings Deliverance – II Chronicles 20:22; Acts 16:25,26
- D. Brings Healing – Romans 8:11
- E. Brings Joy – Psalm 46"4; Psalm 71:23; Philippians 3:3.

## 10. HOW DO WE LEARN TO PRAISE GOD?

We learn to praise God as we join others in blending our voices in a great chorus of praise to God.

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Colossians 3:16).*