



Worshippers Whom God Seeks

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John 4:23-24 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. **24** "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

I. Language Of Worship: A Noun Or Verb:

When you say, "I'm going to worship"? Do you mean, "I'm going to a place where worship occurs", or "I'm going to participate in worship of my God with my people"?

- If a noun, people are going to a place where worship occurs, but the word doesn't define the action a person is going to take.
- Worship is to be an action – you can't worship without doing something
- **Definition-** The complete & voluntary capture of one's entire attention and being on an object or person.
- Worship isn't just religious – people can worship all manner of things; things people look to as a source for their needs.
- Biblical worship – you being absorbed completely in God and what He intends to be in our lives.
- When you worship, what does it look like? Sound like? Worship is ACTION

II. Location Of Worship; God Finding People vs. 23b

- Woman Jesus is speaking to had no idea of true worship. She was a descendent of the mixed people that remained of Israel after the Assyrian conquest.
- She looked back to the patriarchs giving the significance of this well. Jesus pointed out that "location" is not the issue. Jesus was bring a moment of definition to how worship should be done. People thought that locations where God manifested Himself made those places of appearance important; worship was centered in those places.
- But when you begin getting with God, He seeks you. It's easier to be found by God than to find Him. The goal: to be a people that God wants to be with Him.
- By being one who "worships in Spirit and in truth", God seeks those people out and makes Himself known. Wherever we are, the magnet of worship will attract Him to us. We don't need to go to a particular place; He will seek after you. "Worship Me in Spirit where you are and I'll find you..."
- If you aren't finding God on a regular basis, and encounter Him only at certain times or a place, that indicates something is lacking in your personal relationship, your WORSHIP of God.
 - God is in this location at GCC because we "bring Him" – He accompanies people who choose to work with Him, follow Him, seek Him.
 - Good to have folks with us on Sunday, but God wants the reality we experience here to be experienced by all of us every day, at the place we live.
 - When it comes to worship, make it easy for God to come to you & find you.

III. Limitations On Worship; vs. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth."

- We must figure out how to express love – express worship – as God wants to be worshiped. We have to ask Him to show us.
- God shows us how He wants to be worshiped. Ignorance when information is offered leads to "stupidity"
- The Bible tells us how God wants to be worshiped.

A. Spirit Inspired "Breath" ("spirit" Greek. word: "pnuema")

1. When we worship Him, we do so with our "breath" – with ALL of our life!
2. All that allows us to conduct our life affairs is to be what we worship Him from

B. Spirit Inspired Truth;

1. Integrity; **Ps 15:1-2** O LORD, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? 2) He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart.
 - a. God intends to be worshipped out of the integrity of our hearts – that we are consistent in our beliefs and action
 - b. There is to be no distance in your life between what you "believe" and what you "do" – people are to be able tell what you believe by what you do.

- c. That we know how to repent – to seek forgiveness so as to be reconciled; repentance is your decision, your choice NOT to do what is wrong again
- d. Repentance precedes forgiveness – "...repentance FOR the forgiveness of sin." God intends change to come about in our hearts, lives, actions
- e. Integrity is to be the foundation of our lives upon which a true life of worship can be built
- f. Integrity is the "gateway" by which we can enter into God's presence and DWELL with Him. The goal is not to "visit", but to "dwell" – abide – with Him
- g. Integrity is the starting place for so much.

2. Feet

a. Move The Body To Church; Ps 122:1-2 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD. " **2** Our feet are standing Within your gates, O Jerusalem –

- 1. Worship is not simply an emotion – it is expressed in action; that we set our feet on the path of righteousness; we express worship with dancing.
- 2. We worship God with the direction we move – where we move ourselves in God's purpose is an expression of worship.

b. Move The Body In Church; Ps 150: 4 Praise Him with timbrel and dancing;

3. Voice

a. Singing; Ps 33:1 Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright..

- 3. Singing is "sustained speech"; He desires singing because it allows us to meditate on words longer.
- 4. It allows us to set our attention & focus on Him for a period of time

b. Shouting; Ps 32:11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

c. Encouraging; Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

4. Hands

a. Clapping; Ps 47:1 O clap your hands, all peoples; Shout to God with the voice of joy. – A way of affirming value by expressing praise with the sound of clapping. God may have instituted clapping as a way of expressing worship.

b. Lifting; **Ps 63:4** So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. Is a way that demonstrates our "reaching out for" God; as a child reaching up to be held by a parent.

c. Serving; **Gal 5:13b** ...but through love serve one another.

d. Taking Notes; **Deut 17:18** "Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests.

5. Mind

a. Take Thoughts Captive; **2Cor 10:5** We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

b. Ruminates on His Word; **Ps 1:1-2** How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! **2** But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

6. Ears;

a. Listening Intending To Obey; **Matt 7:24** everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

b. Listening For Needs; **Pr 21:13** He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be answered.

7. Finances;

a. Tithe & Offering; **Mal 3:10** "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, " says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

b. Bless Saints; **Rom 12:13** contributing to the needs of the saints..."

8. Gifts/Disciplines;

a. Spiritual; **1Cor 14:1** Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

b. Natural; **Ps 150:3-5** Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre. **4** Praise Him with timbrel and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe. **5** Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with resounding cymbals.

III. Latent Worship? vs. 23a "But an hour is coming, and **now** is..."

- A.** Is your worship "latent" – NOW is the time for worship. We must not rationalize or excuse ourselves as being "that way" – reserved, quiet, etc.
- B.** Worship is to be expressed as the Bible tells us of how God desires to be worshipped.
- C.** We must "do" the way God says it is to be done. Its not a matter of patterning our form by what we see others do, but by what God tells us in His Word.