

# SPIRITUAL WORSHIP

John 4:21-24

Jesus spoke of a time when worship would be more than just an outward religious obligation. He said we would worship the Father in Spirit and truth.

In our passage we learn that God is Spirit—The Holy Spirit! And the Holy Spirit is involved in true worship.

Learn about Spiritual worship: WHO WE WORSHIP // WHY WE WORSHIP // HOW WE WORSHIP

## **I. SPIRITUAL WORSHIP IS ABOUT A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP – “WHO WE WORSHIP” (VERSE 21)**

### **1. Relationship over religion.**

- i. “Effective prayer is the fruit of a relationship with God, not a technique for acquiring blessings.” - D. A. Carson
- ii. *Luke 11:13<sup>13</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!*”
- iii. “Abraham is such a fascinating figure. Three world religions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - all claim him as a patriarch. He was raised in a religious home. And yet he rejected religion in order to pursue a personal relationship with God.” - Anne Graham Lotz

### **2. Do you have a relationship with God as your *Father*? Have you stopped looking for answers in religion or other relationships? (like the woman here)**

- i. *Romans 8:15–16*<sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

## **II. SPIRITUAL WORSHIP IS ABOUT A RIGHT UNDERSTANDING – “WHY WE WORSHIP” (VERSE 22)**

### **1. We worship God because he is the only one worthy of worship**

- i. “The English word ‘worship’ is derived from Old English worthscipe, meaning ‘worthiness’ or ‘worthship.’ So in its simplest concept, worship is to give worth to something.”
- ii. The Hebrew word translated “worship” (Shachah) means to bow down. As we go lower, we lift God higher.
- iii. *Genesis 18:2* He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself (Shachah) to the earth
- iv. *Psalms 95:6* Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
- v. “I’m comin’ back to the heart of worship // And it’s all about You // It’s all about You, Jesus” – Matt Redman, Heart of Worship

## **III. SPIRITUAL WORSHIP IS ABOUT RIGHT APPLICATION – “HOW WE WORSHIP” (VERSES 23-24)**

**1. Spirit & Truth. Spirit: Experienced in our hearts. A passion for God. Truth: According to the Bible. A knowledge of God.**

- i. "I should think myself in the way of my duty to raise the affections [emotions] of my hearers as high as I possibly can, provided that they are affected with nothing but truth." – Johnathan Edwards

**2. Worship as an expression in music and singing**

- i. 1 Chronicles 16:23 *Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.*
- ii. Psalms 150 *Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!*
- iii. Acts 16:25 *Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.*
- iv. Hebrews 2:12 *saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise."*
- v. Ephesians 5:19 *addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,*

vi. *Psalm 134:2<sup>2</sup> Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, And bless the Lord.*

### 3. **Worship as a lifestyle in how we are living**

i. *Romans 12:1 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.*

ii. *1 Corinthians 10:31<sup>31</sup> Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

#### Growth Group Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think so many people find it easier to belong to a religion about God than to be in a relationship with God?
- There are many different Churches and styles of Worship throughout the world. What do you think is the right balance of music, emotion, and outward expression when it comes to the worship service?
- We are called to worship in Spirit and truth. Can you think of some ways that we neglect one or the other in our worship services? (For example, when we worship with truth and not Spirit, or Spirit and not truth) What is the result, and how can we fix it?
- Romans 12:1 talks about surrendering our lives as living sacrifices. Do you think it's necessary to be totally surrendered to God in order to experience worship by the Spirit of God? Why or why not?
- What are some of the biggest hindrances to our worship and worship expression?