

The Spiritual Realm - Lesson 10: The Multidimensionality of Prayer and Worship

Prayer and worship are cross-dimensional acts—spiritual entrance into God’s presence from within a three-dimensional world.

- Jesus was fully physical and fully spiritual.
- The Gospels record multiple instances of Jesus withdrawing to pray:

Matthew 14:23 *And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.*

Mark 1:35 *And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.*

Mark 6:46 *And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray.*

Luke 6:12 *In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.*

- Prayer is access to God’s throne room.
- Abraham consistently built altars and offered sacrifices before calling on the Lord:

Genesis 12:8 *From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.*

Genesis 13:3–4 *And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD.*

Genesis 26:24–25 *And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, ‘I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham’s sake.’ So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the LORD and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac’s servants dug a well.”*

The tabernacle and temple: physical pictures of spiritual approach

Exodus 40:34–38 *Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle... For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.*

Rules for the priest accessing the Holy Place or Holy of Holies:

1. **Strict access rules**
2. **Priest’s preparation (personal atonement first)**
3. **The incense cloud (protection from God’s glory)**
4. **Blood on the mercy seat**

Christ opens full access

- Jesus’ blood satisfies God’s requirement for sin.
- We can now enter into God’s presence spiritually at any time.
- We can have communion with God physically and spiritually because the Holy Spirit (God) indwells the believer.

Hebrews 4:16 *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Ephesians 2:18 *For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.*

The Holy Spirit connects the believer to God

Romans 8:26–27 *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

- 1. Pray in God's presence.**
- 2. Practice daily prayer with God.**

Worship — entering God's presence in spirit and truth

Worship and prayer are linked together, both are built upon the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Genesis 22:5 *Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.'*

- Worship is placing God first - bowing down to Him and praising Him

The church gathered is indwelt by the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit indwells and fills the church when they gather for worship and teaching.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 *Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.*

Ephesians 2:22 *In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

Worship is spiritual by nature

John 4:23–24 *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.*

- The Holy Spirit that dwells within the believer's spirit has a trans-dimensional connection to God's throne room, and the believer has immediate access to the intimate and sacred throne room of God because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Worship through singing and music

- The OT saints incorporated singing and music in their feasts and worship to God.
- The Book of Psalms is essentially Israel's worship song book.
- The NT church sang as part of their worship and gatherings.

Why do we sing as part of our worship service?

- Congregational singing is unified corporate participation, not observation or a shared word or act.
- Singing creates an audible unity physically and spiritually.
- Singing corporately unifies the church as they declare truths and praises to God and about God.
- Singing penetrates the mind and goes to the heart. Songs stick with us.

Worship through surrender and sacrificing ourselves to God

Romans 12:1 *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.*

New Testament worship includes:

- Obedience, submission, service, surrendering our desires, dreams, our will to God

3. How am I participating in worship at my church?