

8-25-2024, COTR Texarkana

Title: The God Connection, pt-14

Purpose: Provoke people to worship God by the way they live to honor God and practice Biblical expressions of worship to God in church services.

Truth for Today: We worship God by the way we live and with Biblical expressions of worship in church services.

Text: Acts 16:16-30

Topic: Holy Spirit, Worship, Praise, Lifestyle

Series Title: The God Connection...The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

Series Purpose:Provoke people to (1) Develop a vital relationship with the Holy Spirit, (2) Allow Him to work in us, (3) Have faith to let Him work through us supernaturally using spiritual gifts.

## The God Connection, pt-14

### I. Introduction

A. Review: Today we conclude the series: The God Connection, The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Today is part 14.

B. Main points: (1) I've tried to encourage Christians to experience a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit. (2) The Book of Acts is more than a history of the early church; it's a model for church life today and the 'gifts of the Spirit' are for today. (3) The Holy Spirit is 'with us' before conversion convicting us; 'in us' at conversion beginning a process of sanctifying/ changing us; He 'comes upon us' after salvation by baptizing/ filling us to give us spiritual power to witness for Christ. Jesus, [Acts 1:8 (NLT) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere...] In the Book of Acts, it was all Christians, not just apostles, that prophesied, had dreams and visions from God, cast out demons, healed the sick, spoke in unlearned languages and had the Holy Spirit communicate with them and guide them. Messages and notes on the App.

II. Today we'll look at worship in Acts 16 and answer 3 questions about worship: (1) Who/ what do we worship? (2) What is worship? (3) How do we express our worship to God personally and in church services?

III. We worship God by (1) the way we live and (2) through Biblical expressions of worship.

A. Looked at passage before re. deliverance, [Acts 16:16-30 (NLT) One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future....<sup>18</sup>...Paul...said to the demon within her, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And instantly it left her. <sup>19</sup> Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered...<sup>22</sup> A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them...beaten with wooden rods. <sup>23</sup> They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison...<sup>24</sup> So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks. <sup>25</sup> Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake...All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off...<sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup>

Then he brought them out and asked, “Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?**”] Paul worshipped God by serving, praying, suffering, singing and reaching people.

IV. **Who/ what do we worship?** *Vs 25 Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God*

- A. We worship the One, true God, [Exodus 20:3–5 (NLT) “**You must not have any other god but me.**”] **Heaven,** [Rev. 5:11–14 (NLT) “...I heard the voices of... millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. <sup>12</sup> And **they sang in a mighty chorus: “Worthy is the Lamb** who was slaughtered... <sup>13</sup> And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth... **They sang: “Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever.”** <sup>14</sup>...And the twenty-four elders **fell down and worshiped the Lamb.**”]
- B. We can also worship idols, [1 John 5:21 (ESV) Little children, **keep yourselves from idols,** (NLT) **anything that might take God’s place in your hearts.**] A God-substitute, anything that takes the place of God in our life, e.g., more than statues but material possessions, money, hedonism (the pursuit of pleasure and self-indulgence.)

V. **What is worship?**

- A. Def. worship: (1) To bow, kneel or lie stretched out on the ground before God as an act of reverence, respect<sup>2</sup> and allegiance.<sup>1</sup> This is a heart attitude of awe and honor expressed by our posture and resulting in our obedience. (2) Ministry and service to God.<sup>5</sup> This is a lifestyle expressed by our service to God. Paul and Silas were on a mission spreading the gospel, *Vs 16 One day as we were going down to the place of prayer.* (3) Expression of adoration of God.<sup>3</sup> *Vs 25 Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God; “lifting up” or “exalting” God with praise.* Summary: Worship is an attitude, bowing our heart before God, An expression, lifting Him up in praise, and a lifestyle of serving Him. (4) In the OT much of their worship consisted of ceremonial acts, sacrifices and religious duty. In Jesus day worship had degraded into an outward form rather than heartfelt.

VI. **How do we express our worship to God personally and in church services?**

- A. We worship God by the way we live, i.e., our lifestyle. *Vs 16 One day as we were going down to the place of prayer.* When we serve Him, e.g., Paul or volunteering in KZ it is an act of worship; When we obey God’s commands and live a righteous life we are worshipping; when we give our money to His work we are worshipping; When we share our faith it is an act of worship. When we suffer for righteousness, it is motivated by our worship/ allegiance to God. We worship God by the way we live.
- B. We worship God in private and in church services with Biblical expressions of worship. *Vs 25 Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God.* Their worship was expressed out loud and unashamedly in front of others. **\*\*\*App church participate, don’t just watch.**
1. **Singing.** [Ephesians 5:18–19 (NLT) “...be filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>19</sup> **singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs** among yourselves (AMP *offering praise with voices and instruments*), and **making music to the Lord in your hearts.**”]

2. Clapping and loud praise. [Psalm 47:1 (ESV) **Clap your hands**, all peoples! **Shout to God with loud songs of joy!**] Clapping and shouting or singing loudly is a way we express our joy and appreciation to God.
  3. Lifting/ raising hands, [Psalm 134:2 (NIV) **Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord.**] Raising your hands in worship or prayer symbolizes a heart attitude of honor, submission, trust...
  4. Bowing or kneeling. Psalm 95:6 (NIV) Come, let us **bow down** in worship, let us **kneel before the Lord our Maker.**] Bowing or kneeling expresses adoration, reverence and submission to God.
  5. Standing Psalm 135:1–2 (ESV)...give praise, O servants of the Lord, <sup>2</sup> **who stand in the house of the Lord...**] Standing expresses honor to God. // dignitary/ honor
  6. Dancing and musical instruments. [Psalm 149:3 (NLT) **Praise his name with dancing, accompanied by tambourine and harp.**]
- C. In the OT much of their worship consisted of ceremonial acts, sacrifices and religious duty. In Jesus day worship had degraded into an outward form rather than heartfelt. It can be the same today. Our expressions of worship can be Biblical but not true worship. The most important thing is a heart that adores and honors Him.

VII. **Conclusion:** We worship God by the way we live and with Biblical expressions of worship in church services.

- A. Pentecost, [Acts 2:41–47 (NLT) Those who believed what Peter said were baptized... about 3,000...<sup>42</sup> All the believers **devoted themselves** to the **apostles' teaching**, and to **fellowship**, and to **sharing in meals**..., and to **prayer**.<sup>45</sup> They sold their property and possessions and **shared the money** with those in need.<sup>46</sup> They **worshipped together** at the **Temple each day**, **met in homes** for the **Lord's Supper**, and **shared their meals** with great joy...<sup>47</sup> all the while **praising God**...And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being **saved**.] They worshipped God by the way they lived and in church services as they fulfilled the Great Commission.
  1. These people changed their whole life after they became a follower of Jesus. They did this as an act of worship to God, expressing their love, devotion and gratitude to the **one who saved them** and **gave them the promise of eternal life**.

## VIII. Response

- A. Prayer:
- B. Souls

IX. **Bibliography/ Resources:** Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Swanson, J. (1997). In *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Logos Research Systems, Inc.
2. Zodhiates, S. (2000). In *The complete word study dictionary: New Testament* (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.
3. Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). **Worship**. In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 2, p. 2164). Baker Book House.

4. Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). [Worship](#). In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 2, p. 2164). Baker Book House.
5. Strongs 3301

## X. Supplemental Material

- A. The 1500 years from the days of Abraham to the time of Ezra (c. 1900–450 bc) saw many great changes in the form of worship in ancient Israel. Abraham, the wandering nomad, built altars and offered sacrifice wherever God appeared to him. In Moses’ time the tabernacle served as a portable sanctuary for the Israelite tribes journeying through the wilderness. Solomon founded a lavish temple in Jerusalem which lasted more than three centuries until its destruction by the Babylonians in 586 bc. When the Jews returned from exile they built a new temple which, though less splendid than its predecessor, at least until Herod the Great renovated it, has served as the center of Jewish worship to this day. Though all the temple buildings were destroyed by the Romans in ad 70, the foundations remained, and by the western (wailing) wall the Jews still pray. **If the form of worship changed with times and situations, its heart and center did not.** God revealed himself to Abraham, promising that his children would inherit the land of Canaan. Abraham demonstrated his faith through prayers and sacrifice. Throughout the biblical period listening to God’s Word, prayer, and sacrifice constituted the essence of worship. The promises to Abraham were constantly recalled as the basis of Israel’s existence as a nation and its right to the land of Canaan. Modern people tend to restrict worship to what happens in church on Sunday. Ancient Israel had a much broader concept of worship, offering worship in the home as well as in the temple several times a day, not merely on the sabbath and at great festivals. Worship involved both the individual family and the whole nation.<sup>4</sup>
- B. **Worship is the awed response to the saving acts and praiseworthy character of God.** Worship is the reverential response of creation to the all-encompassing magnificence of God ([Isa 6:1–6](#); [Exod 15:11](#); [Psa 148:1–14](#)). In the ot, worship encompassed a variety of activities. Bringing forward an offering to God was an act of worship (קָרַב, *qārab*). Bowing down in the presence of God was an outward display of an inner attitude of reverence before the Creator (הָוָה, *hāwā*). The verb רוּם (*rûm*) could indicate that a person was “lifting up” or “exalting” God with praise. Together, these last two terms provide a rich image of worship: People both bow before God and lift him up in praise and wonder. The verb הָלַל (*hālal*) could be used to designate the act of celebrating God. The word “hallelujah” is derived from the Hebrew phrase הַלְלֵי-יְהוָה (*halēlû-yāh*), meaning “praise Yahweh.” This praise could

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c. about, approximately

Bc before Christ

Bc before Christ

AD *anno Domini*

involve זָמַר (*zāmar*, “singing”). Worship could also be described as “serving” (עָבַד, *‘abad*) God. The ritual life of devotion was emblematic of a whole life given over to God.

- C. Jesus to Samaritan woman [John 4:23, But the time is coming—when **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth**. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. <sup>24</sup> For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”] So, what is worship?
- D. [1 Corinthians 14:26 (NCV) So, brothers and sisters, what should you do? When you meet together, **one person has a song**, and another has a teaching. Another has a new truth from God. Another speaks in a different language, and another person interprets that language. The purpose of all these things should be to help the church grow strong.