

WHAT IS WORSHIP

Worship is translated from the Hebrew *shahah* which means bow down or prostrate, and the Greek *proskyneo* which means to prostrate or do obeisance to. The English word means “worship” and denotes the worthiness of the individual receiving the special honor due to his worth. (Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary, pg. 899).

Worship means to pay divine honors to, to adore; venerate; to idolize; to perform acts of homage or adoration; and to perform religious service (Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary.)

PRIMITIVE WORSHIP

Man worshipped God on an individual basis with animal sacrifices as the accepted mode.

TEMPLE WORSHIP

The highly organized Temple worship, which had its origin in the wilderness Tabernacle, was led by priests, assisted by Levites, and included a complex ritual system of animal sacrifices.

SYNAGOGUE WORSHIP

The Synagogue worship began during the exile of Israel. Although the Temple, which was in Jerusalem, remained the central location of worship, the synagogue served as a place of worship wherever Jews were.

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH WORSHIP

Christian worship started after Jesus arose from the dead. The New Testament church gathered in small groups to seek Jesus’s guidance through the Holy Ghost as to where they should go to preach and they decided, with the guidance of the Holy Ghost who to minister to and who to give alms to. (Alms are compassionate deeds to the poor) They would decide who needed to hear the Good News of Salvation, (probably every one) who needed to be visited like the sick and prisoners, the downtrodden in spirit, etcetera.

Along with spending time seeking the Holy Ghost’s direction, they spent time worshipping Jesus, giving thanks, speaking in tongues, singing hymns, being preached to by Paul and others, having communion at times, (1 Cor. 11:23-34) and washing each others feet. (about washing feet, John 13:4-17)

SCRIPTURES ON THESE THINGS:

SINGING:

“Speaking to yourselves in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord:”

”Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:19, 20

“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.”

“And whosoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.”
Colossians 3:16, 17

THIS IS WHAT THEY DID:

“And let the PEACE of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye THANKFUL!” Colossians 3:15

AFTER BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, THIS IS WHAT THEY DID:

“They, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.”

“PRAISING God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
Acts 2:46, 47

AND THEY DID THIS: Set their affections of the thing above, not on the things on the Earth...because we are told, you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” Colossians 3:2, 3

THEY PRAYED IN THE SPIRIT AS WELL AS IN THEIR LANGUAGE:

“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.”

“What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”

AND THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAYED FOR THEM AS THEY SPOKE IN TONGUES:

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Romans 8:26

ADDITIONAL THING THAT PAUL SAID ABOUT SPEAKING IN TONGUES:

“Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak in tongues!”
1 Corinthians 14:39

ALMSGIVING:

“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.”

“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
1 Corinthians 16:1, 2

NOTICE THEY ONLY GAVE AS THEY HAD NEED FOR THE MINISTRY...NOT A TITHE. JESUS WAS THE TITHE NOW AND YOU NO LONGER WERE REQUIRED TO GIVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MONEY EACH WEEK.

SCRIPTURE READING:

NOW THEY MOSTLY READ THE EPISTLES OF THE APOSTLES IN ADDITION TO REFERRING TO THE OLD TESTAMENT BECAUSE THIS WOULD BE THE NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE.

“And when this EPISTLE is read among you, cause that it be READ also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.”
Colossians 4:16

PREACHING:

“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul PREACHED unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.” Acts 20:7

WHY WORSHIP GOD?

HE IS WORTHY!

The question of importance lies not in whether to worship or not, but WHOM to worship! God is worthy because of WHO He is!

“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands!”

“Saying with a loud voice! Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength and honour, and glory, and blessing!”
Revelations 5:11, 12

God spoke to Moses: “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you!”
Exodus 3:14

“See now that I, even I, am HE, and THERE IS NO GOD WITH ME! I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there ANY that can deliver out of My Hand!” Deuteronomy 32:39

“Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord, and My servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe Me, and understand that I am HE! Before ME, THERE WAS NO GOD FORMED, NEITHER SHALL THERE BE AFTER ME!”

I, EVEN I, AM THE LORD! AND BESIDE ME THERE IS NO SAVIOUR!”
Isaiah 43:10, 11

PAUL DECLARED GOD’S WORD: “To wit, that God was IN Christ, reconciling the world unto HIMSELF.” 2 Corinthians 5:19

GOD SPOKE TO JOHN: “I AM THE ALPHA AND OMEGA, THE BEGINNING AND THE ENDING, SAITH THE LORD, WHICH IS, AND WHICH WAS, AND WHICH IS TO COME, **THE ALMIGHTY!**” Revelations 1:8
To know Him is to Worship Him!

God is worthy because of what He has done. Moses composed a song praising God for the miraculous deliverance of Israel from Egypt bondage through the Red Sea. AS they sang, Miriam and ALL the women joined in with tambrels and with dances unto the Lord. (Exodus 15:1-21) Hannah praised God for giving Samuel to her after a long period of childlessness (1 Samuel 2:1-10)

Following Christ’s atonement for our sins at Calvary and His resurrection from the grave, the disciples went to Galilee and worshipped Him. (Matthew 28:16,17) We who are born again can praise God, because our name is written in Heaven. Jesus said to the disciples: “Rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written down in Heaven.” Luke 10:20

CALLED TO WORSHIP:

Israel was called to WORSHIP GOD! Desiring a visible image, they gave their worship to a golden calf in preference to the ONE TRUE GOD. Their idolatry provoked the wrath of God and would have brought them destruction if Moses had not interceded for them. (See Exodus 32:11-14.)

We are called to worship God. Anything that captivates our hearts, takes away our desires, or robs us of our time to worship Him, becomes our **IDOL** and will provoke God's wrath!

"Thou shalt have no other god's before **ME** for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God...(Exodus 20:3-5). In response to satan's temptation Jesus said, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and **HIM ONLY** shalt thou SERVE!" Matthew 4:10

WE ARE CREATED TO WORSHIP:

All of God's creation are inherently worshippers. God created within every man's spirit an inward craving that can only be fulfilled in true worship to the Creator! Paul wrote, "...All things were created by HIM, and FOR HIM." Colossians 1:16 "We should be to the praise of His Glory." Ephesians 1:12

NEED TO WORSHIP:

Jacob, in his earlier life, allowed material things to become the object of his worship instead of God. After realizing his need to change in his life, he encountered God (in the form of an angel) at Bethel. As a result, God transformed his life and gave him a new name (Genesis 32:24-29). Thus Jacob became a worshipper of God!

The woman at the well, who had gone through five marriages and was living with another without the sanctity of marriage, was trying to satisfy the craving of her spirit with her relationship with men instead of God. But when the Saviour spoke to her about living waters, she cried, "Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not..." (John 4:15)

At first James and John the sons of Zebedee did not realize their proper place as worshippers of God. Hiding behind a holy mass of zeal, they aspired for a position of power and authority in the kingdom instead of seeking a relationship with the King. (Mark 10:35-37). But on the day of Pentecost they were filled with the Holy Ghost with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:4)

"By faith, Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." (Hebrews 11:24, 25). Realizing that the pleasures of sin have no lasting satisfaction, Moses chose to worship God!

THE PROVISIONS FOR WORSHIP:

God never created an inner drive without providing a channel of fulfillment. For example: the drive of hunger is satisfied by eating good food. Psalm 22:26; sex drives are meant to find fulfillment in marriage only (Hebrews 13:4) And the need for rest is supplied by adequate sleep (Psalm 127:2). Likewise the desire for and the need to worship, which is divinely created in every human being, will only find fulfillment in a holy relationship with God.

SEPARATION FROM SIN:

For sinful man to be restored to fellowship with a holy God he first must be separate from sin; then, he must remain separated from sin. Through the shed blood of Jesus Christ at Calvary, provisions have been made for everyone to be redeemed from sin (1 Peter 1:18, 19), and be restored to fellowship with God in His Kingdom. (John 3:5)

WE NEED A HOLY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

Jesus said, "Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (John 3:5). In obedience to Christ, Peter said,

"Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38)

"For the that promise is unto you, and unto your children and unto all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."(Acts 2:39)

Paul preached, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, (how?" by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5)

Jesus announced, "The hour cometh, and now is when the TRUE WORSHIPPERS shall worship the Father IN SPIRIT and IN TRUTH..."(John 4:23). The new birth restores our fellowship with God and enables us to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. Such an holy relationship completely satisfies the inward drive of man!

THE SPIRIT OF WORSHIP:

ESSENTIALITY:

The work of the Holy Spirit within us is essential to produce acceptable worship to God. Jesus revealed "Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will

guide you into all Truth...He will show you things to come. He shall GLORIFY ME! (John 16:13, 14).

To glorify means, "to give glory as in worship." The lack of worship in a person simply reveals that the Spirit is not in control in his life. The Holy Spirit will always lead us to worship Jesus as the God of our Salvation!

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." Acts 2:36

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;"

"One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Ephesians 4:4-6

KNOWLEDGE:

By the Holy Spirit we receive the mind of Christ which gives us the knowledge to worship God.

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ." 1 Corinthians 2:16

DIRECT CONNECTION:

The Spirit of Christ is imparted to us by the Holy Ghost.

In John:

"And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another COMFORTER, that He may abide with you for ever!" 14:16

"Even the Spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive, and because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." 14:17

"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." 14:18

"Yet a little while, and the world seeth Me no more; but ye see Me: because I live, ye shall live also." 14:19

"At that day ye shall know that I am in My Father, and ye in ME, and I in you." 14:29

“But the COMFORTER, which is the HOLY GHOST, whom the Father will send in My Name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26

Further in Romans 8:

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.” 8:9

“And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.” 8:10

“But is the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.” 8:11

This gives us direct contact with God as sons and daughters. “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.” (Romans 8:16)

SUPERNATURAL COMMUNICATION:

The Holy Spirit enables us to communicate with God on a supernatural level of speaking in tongues! “He that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; hobeit in the Spirit he speaketh mysteries.” (1 Corinthians 14:2)

The Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Romans 8:26

FLOW OF THE SPIRIT:

The Spirit must flow to produce true worship. The Holy Spirit emanates from God to us, flows like rivers of living waters through us. (John 7:38, 39) and returns to God with our worship.

“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink!” John 7:37

“He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow living water.” V 38

(“But spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet Glorified!” V 39

Continuing on: This becomes a continual cycle as we allow the Spirit to keep moving. The flow of the Spirit is maintained by our holy lives, separated from this

sinful world and dedicated to God. it is wonderful to witness the moving of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers to produce worship that honors God!

Scriptures:

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you.” 2 Corinthians 6:17

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” 1 John 2:15

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the FLESH and the lust of the EYES, and the PRIDE OF LIFE, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” 1 John 2:16

A HOLY LIFE:

The Spirit of worship will produce in every true worshipper a beautiful life-style of holiness. Since worship gives glory and honour to a Holy God, the worshipper must be holy! ...”Give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His Name: **WORSHIP THE LORD IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS!**” (Psalms 29:1, 2)

Worship is far more than just a feeling or an action, it is a **WAY OF LIFE** that affects our behavior outside of the place of worship as well as inside. A true worshipper is determined by his actions on the job, his attitudes in the home, and his enthusiasm at church. He will always glorify God wherever he is by the word of his testimony and by the life he lives.

Scripture: “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **PERFECTING HOLINESS IN THE FEAR OF GOD.**” 2 Corinthians 7:1

THE CONVICTION OF SINS:

When the church maintains an atmosphere of worship, the Holy Spirit will convict sinners of their sins and will reveal things that hinder the flow of the Spirit. For example, Joshua said to Achan, who had disobeyed God at Jericho, “My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the Lord God of Israel...” (Joshua 7:19, 20)

It is impossible to give true worship to give if sin is in your heart. If there is anything hindering your worship to God, I urge you to repent! It is imperative that we maintain the Spirit of worship!

ATTITUDE OF WORSHIP:

Our attitudes must work in harmony with the Holy Spirit in order to produce true worship.

BROKENNESS:

David said, "The sacrifices of God are a BROKEN SPIRIT: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise." (Psalms 51:17).

Jeremiah spoke the word of the Lord: "Is not My word...like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29).

Jesus affirmed, "Whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." (Matthew 21:44)
Worship requires brokenness!

HUMILITY:

A certain woman after breaking an alabaster box of ointment, washed the feet of Jesus with her tears, wiped them with the hairs of her head, kissed His feet, and anointed them with the ointment. (Luke 7:37, 38).

Worship without humility is like love without commitment: it is shallow, external and fleeting. ...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the HUMBLE."
(James 4:6)

LOVE:

The motivating factor of worship should be love!

"Thou shalt LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND, AND WITH ALL THY STRENGTH..." (Mark 12:30).

When our worship is motivated by love we are able to GIVE OUR ALL TO GOD!"

REVERENCE:

It is important to enter into the Lord's presence with REVERENCE!

"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him!" (Psalms 89:7)

OBEDIENCE:

Worship without obedience is not acceptable unto God!

Samuel told Saul, "...to OBEY is better than sacrifice..." (1 Samuel 15:22).

God spoke to Abraham to offer Isaac his son for a sacrifice. In obedience to God, Abraham said, "I and the lad will go yonder and WORSHIP..." (Genesis 22:5). When God saw the obedience of Abraham, He stopped him from offering Isaac and provided a substitute.

NOT ASHAMED:

David and all the house of Israel brought the ark of the Lord to the city of David with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. When Michal (David's wife) looked out a window and saw king David LEAPING AND DANCING before the Lord, she despised him in her heart. After returning home, David said to Michal, "It was before the Lord...And I will yet be more vile (undignified) than thus..." (2 Samuel 6:21, 22).

Regardless of family influence or peer pressure of the world, we should NOT BE ASHAMED to worship God. Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and My Words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the Holy Angels!" (Mark 8:38)

PERFORMANCE OF WORSHIP:

Since worship is a response to a relationship with God it demands performance! Although performance alone does not produce worship, it is an essential element of worship. Biblical worship has it's times of giving, sacrificing, praying, weeping, singing, and shouting.

GIVING: The key to giving is not to give to get! True worship gives glory to the Lord; it does not seek to GET glory. A worshipper must come to God not to be blessed but to bless."..."It is more blessed to GIVE than to receive!" (Acts 20:35)

"I have shown you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE!" Acts 20:35

SUBSTANCE:

In the New Testament we are no longer required to give tithes. The Apostles took up COLLECTION as needed to help those in need, including the poor and those Apostles that needed money for their needs and to help spread the Gospel.

This is a joyful way of giving! Everyone gave generously and cheerfully; freely sharing what they had to give.

TIME:

Worship involves giving of our time to the Lord. Keeping every day holy we offer up as much time as we can to the spend a lot of quiet time with the Lord and reading and studying our Holy Bible.

A big priority for the Lord Jesus is that we make time to lovingly reach out to the lost and witness to them about the Wonderful News of Salvation. And help them in any way we can, encouraging them, comforting them, just showing our love to

them. Showing the Lord of Jesus!

An excellent way to witness is to hand out tracts to friends and strangers alike. This can help many people get saved. It's so easy to do! So many people are hungry for the Word of God these days and hardly ever anyone say that they don't want it when you offer it to them.

You would be a wonderful WORKER for the Lord if you do this! He promised great rewards for going for Him and spreading the Gospel and caring about others.

I have over 70 tracts and 13 Bible studies and I am always adding more that you could use. Come and visit my webpage at

www.tracts.com/Karin'sTract.Page.html

NOW TO CONTINUE ON WITH THIS BIBLE STUDY ABOUT WORSHIP:

TALENT:

Real worship will also express itself by the dedication of talents to God's service. God gave us all talents to use in service to Him. Every single one of us has been given special talents that we can use to His glory!

If you are in doubt to what they are just ask God to show you the special talents that He gave you.

PRAYER:

Prayer is the most powerful force on Earth! Sincere prayer is a part of worship and will bring results when prayed earnestly!

Jesus taught "...Men ought always to pray, and not to faint." (Luke 18:1).

Paul exhorted the church, "PRAY ALWAYS with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit..." (Ephesians 6:18).

When the early church prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together: and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost..." (Acts 4:31). As worshippers we need to communicate with Jesus. A prayerless Christian is a weak Christian. It is a sin not to pray! A prayerless Christian is not a true worshipper of God!

PRAISE:

In our approach to God as well as your response to Him, there must be praise. Praise serves as a vehicle of expression that brings us into God's presence where true worship and praise is blended together in celebration of God.

"Let us offer the sacrifice of PRAISE TO GOD CONTINUALLY, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name!" (Hebrews 13:15).

Our praise should be determined by what the Bible says and not by HOW WE FEEL! Jubilation and joy characterized the expression of Biblical worship.

“O come, let us SING unto the Lord: let us make a JOYFUL NOISE to the rock of our Salvation!” (Psalm 95:1).

“Enter into His gates with THANKSGIVING, and into His courts with PRAISE: BE THANKFUL UNTO HIM AND BLESS HIS NAME!” (Psalm 100:4)

“O come let us WORSHIP and BOW DOWN: let us KNEEL before the Lord our Maker!” (Psalm 95:6)

“O CLAP YOUR HANDS all ye people; SHOUT unto God with the VOICE OF TRIUMPH!” (Psalm 47:1)

“LIFT UP YOUR HANDS IN THE SANCTUARY and bless the Lord!” (Psalm 134:2). SING unto the Lord a NEW SONG...praise His Name in the DANCE...” (Psalm 149:1, 3)

NOTICE THAT PRAISE TO GOD’S NAME REQUIRES A SPECIAL PRAISE!

“Praise Him with the sound of the TRUMPET: praise Him with the PSALTRY AND HARP, praise Him with the TIMBREL and DANCE: praise Him with STRINGED INSTRUMENTS AND ORGANS. Praise Him upon the LOUD CYMBALS: praise Him upon the HIGH SOUNDING CYMBALS!

“LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH PRAISE THE LORD. PRAISE YE THE LORD!!” Psalm 150

The performance of worship in David’s Tabernacle, as recorded in Psalms, was a type of the New Testament Church worship.
(Acts 15:14-17, Ephesians 5:18, 19)

As Jesus triumphantly approached Jerusalem, a multitude of disciples began to REJOICE AND PRAISE GOD with a LOUD VOICE for all the mighty works that they had seen; saying, “Blessed be the King that cometh in the Name of the Lord...” Jesus said to the self-righteous Pharisees, who asked Him to rebuke His disciples: “If these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out!” (Luke 19:37-40)

David declared “Thou art holy, O Thou that INHABITEST THE PRAISES OF ISRAEL.” (Psalm 22:3)

Jesus, who is God, dwells in all the praises of His people today. All nationalities belong to Him. He will give you beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness....” (Isaiah 61:3)

The first church, the church of the Apostles continued daily in ONE ACCORD in the temple PRAISING GOD (Acts 2:46, 47)

Paul affirmed the order of praise: "...BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT: speaking to yourselves in PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING and MAKING MELODY in your heart to the Lord!" (Ephesians 5:18, 19

QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT" (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

Paul exhorted, "I will therefore that men Pray EVERYWHERE, LIFTING UP HOLY HANDS, without wrath and doubting." (1 Timothy 2:8) Peter informed them, "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people (rare treasure); that ye should SHOW FORTH the PRAISES OF HIM who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous Light!" (1 Peter 2:9)

THE LORD'S SUPPER:

Communion is a memorial unto the Lord. "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come." (1 Corinthians 11:26)

It is important that we understand the importance of this memorial service.

The broken bread represents the body of Christ which was broken for us.

The cup represents the New Testament (New Covenant) in His blood.

(1 Corinthians 11:24, 25)

"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities...and with His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

Realizing the purpose of the Lord's Supper, Paul instructed, "Let every man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep." (1 Corinthians 11:28-30)

Feet-washing is an act of humility that helps produce a bond of unity in our performance of worship. According to the Bible this is connected with the Lord's Supper and was instituted by the Lord Himself. Jesus emphasized the importance of washing feet when He said to Peter...If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with Me." (John 13:8). See also, John 13:13-15

RESULTS OF WORSHIP:

TRANSFORMATION:

The history of idolatry proves that the character of every idolatrous nation and tribe has been molded and shaped by the character attributes to their gods. For example: The early Egyptians were brute-worshippers having their sacred bull, ram, heifer, and goat. Their works of art reveal debased, vile, and unnatural desires. During Paul's day the Greeks worshipped the goddess Venus whose

temple stood in Corinth. This idol was a personification of LUST. Temple prostitution was done in worship to Venus, which was the major source of revenue to the ungodly temple. As a result the Corinthians were stooped to the debauchery of sin.

Indeed, man becomes like the object of his worship.

Scriptures: Psalm 115:4-8

“Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. They have mouths but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: they have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat.”

”They that make them are LIKE UNTO THEM; so is every one that trusteth in them!”

Romans 1:23-25

“And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.”

“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves.”

“Who changed the Truth of god into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever! Amen!”

To be Christian is to be Christ-like. The more we worship God in Spirit and in Truth the more like Him we will become, until we become assimilated into His character. Paul spoke about some of the Corinthians who had come to God from the depth of sin:

“Such were some of you: but ye are WASHED (cleansed), but ye are SANCTIFIED (set apart), but ye are JUSTIFIED (made just) in the NAME of the Lord Jesus, and by the SPIRIT of our God!” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Some of the Ephesians were changed from darkness unto LIGHT IN THE LORD! (Ephesians 5:8) “If any man be in Christ, he is a NEW CREATURE! Old things are passed away; behold, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Paul exhorted, “If ye then be risen with Christ (by the Spirit), seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.”

“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the Earth.”
Colossians 3:1, 2

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that GOOD, and ACCEPTABLE, and PERFECT, WILL OF GOD!” Romans 12:2

The ultimate goal of every worshipper should be to CONFORM TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST.

Romans 8:29 “For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be CONFORMED to the IMAGE OF HIS SON, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren!”

Galations 4:19 “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be FORMED IN YOU!”

So let us reject everything that does not please God, and let us accept everything that does CONFORM to His standards!

VICTORY:

Worship brings victory! When Israel completed their victory march around the wall of Jericho, the priests blew their trumpets and the people shouted with a great shout; then, the wall fell flat (Joshua 6:20)

When the Moabites and the Ammonites came against Judah, Jehoshaphat appointed singers unto the Lord, to PRAISE THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS!

As Judah went to battle they sang, “PRAISE THE LORD, FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOR EVER!” (2 Chronicles 20:21).

As a result, God sent ambushments against the enemies and gave His worshippers VICTORY!

When Paul and Silas were in jail, They PRAYED AND SANG PRAISES UNTO GOD AT MIDNIGHT! Suddenly, a great Earthquake shook the foundations of the prison, and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one was loosed! (Acts 16:25, 26).

No matter what the problem may be—whether physical, financial, domestic, or spiritual—the KEY to Victory is to WORSHIP!

The Holy Bible states, IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS! For this is the Will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you!” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

HEAVEN:

The Zenith of every true worshipper is to worship God for ever!
 Jesus assured, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also!" (John 14:3).

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a SHOUT, with the voice of the archangel, and with the TRUMP OF GOD: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord!"
 (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17)

By divine revelation, John heard the thrilling sounds of all God's worshippers in Heaven! "I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thundering, saying, ALLELUIA! FOR THE LORD GOD OMNIPOTENT REIGNETH!"

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife (the church) hath made herself ready!"
 (Revelations 19:6, 7)

IF YOU DESIRE TO WORSHIP GOD IN HEAVEN FOR EVER, YOU MUST
 WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH NOW!

"FOR THE FATHER SEEKETH SUCH TO WORSHIP HIM!" (John 4:23)

WORSHIP IS NOW AND FOR EVER!