

One of these days some simple soul will pick up the Book of God, read it, and believe it. Then the rest of us will be embarrassed.

Leonard Ravenhill

Prayer Study #321

WORSHIP

Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the thorn and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne saying: "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You have created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

Revelation 4:6-11

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Apostle Rick Dodd, senior pastor of The Worship Ministries, International, of Gardena, California, defines worship this way: *To revere and give homage to God, serving Him through profound adoration, intense love and desire, intimately turning towards Him (as if to kiss the hand), exposing our essential in-most selves in complete honesty and surrender. Worship is our individual and corporate response to God's revelation of Himself with in the context of a covenant relationship.* Dodd goes on to say that worship has an object (the LORD), involves an expression (our response-whether singing, bowing down, speaking words of adoration, praying in tongues or our native language, and even corporate prayer and fasting, etc.-to Him), expresses a hierarchy of dependence (we are created ones acknowledging our dependence on our Creator), and has a context (the context is the personal relationship initiated by the Holy Spirit that we have with the Lord).

Anyone who is a true believer, passionately in love with Jesus, has a heart for worship. I have felt for years now that we will see the Lord move in unbelievable ways in our midst when we finally come to the point when we

see that the purpose of our life, the foundation of our ministries, and our deepest heart cry is to worship He who is worthy. I believe the Baptism of the Holy Spirit stirs our hearts to worship in a more intense way than we have before the experience. Worship requires that we center our whole being on Jesus the Crucified One. We will find Him only in our worship, and He will be so preeminent when we truly worship, that the things of earth will become dim.

WHAT IS NECESSARY FOR WORSHIP?

- 1. The Spirit of God:** *For we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh* (Philippians 3:3).
- 2. Gladness and joy:** *Worship the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs* (Psalm 100:2).
- 3. Clean hands and a pure heart:** *Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully* (Psalm 24:3-4).
- 4. Holiness:** *Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!...*(Psalm 96:9a).
- 5. Spirit and Truth or our own spirit man recognizing the truth of God's Word:** ***"But the hour is coming and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"*** (John 4:23-24).
To worship in truth is to worship as the Word of God directs us. To worship in spirit is to worship from the heart with the proper motive of honoring God with reverence. Real worship must take place on a spirit level. We cannot worship in a soulish way and enter into real worship. Worship is much deeper than our mind, will and emotions. Praise, I believe, can be on a soulish level, but not worship. Because it is so easy to engage our mind, will, and emotions instead of our spirit man, we rarely enter into real worship. But we can always recognize when we are worshiping in spirit and in truth because there is a single minded focus on Jesus and an intensity that is not there otherwise.

MAIN BIBLICAL WORDS FOR WORSHIP

SHACHAD (Hebrew): prostrate (especially in homage to royalty or to God, bow (self) down, crouch, fall down flat, humbly beseech, do obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship.

PROSKUNEO (Greek): to kiss like a dog licking his master's hand, to crouch to, prostrate oneself in homage, do reverence to, adore, worship.

WHY DO WE WORSHIP?

1. **The Word commands our worship and the Lord looks for worshipers.** **John 4:23:** *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.* **Psalm 95:6-7:** *Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.*

2. **When we worship, we minister to the Lord.** **Ezekiel 44:15-16:** *But the priests, the Levites, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from Me, they shall come near Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer to Me the fat and the blood, say the LORD GOD. They shall enter My sanctuary, and they shall come near My table to minister to Me, and they shall keep My charge.*

3. **When we worship, we draw nearer to God, and He draws nearer to us.** **James 4:8a:** *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you....*

4. **True worship is a personal interaction with the Lord, and this interaction allows His nature to envelope us and change us to reflect His nature in a greater way.** **2nd Corinthians 3:16-18:** *Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding, as in a mirror, the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

DIFFERENT SCRIPTURAL RESPONSES TO WORSHIP

MATTHEW 2:11: *And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and fell down and worshiped Him; and*

when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **Falling prostate before Him**

Matthew 8:1-2: *When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him, and, behold, there came a leper and worshiped him, saying, "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean."* **Esteeming Him as the Healer**

Matthew 9:18: *While He spoke these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler and worshiped Him, saying, "My daughter is even now dead; but come and lay Thy hands upon her, and she shall live."* **Revering Him as a miracle worker and life giver**

Matthew 14:25-33: *And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea, and when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost," and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spoke unto them, saying, "**Be of good cheer; it is I, be not afraid.**" And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come unto Thee on the water. And He said, "**Come.**" And when Peter was come down out of the boat, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, "Lord, save me." And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught him and said unto him, "**O thou of little faith, why didst thou doubt?**" And when they were come into the boat, the wind ceased. Then they that were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Of a truth, thou art the Son of God." **Acknowledging Him as the Son of God***

Matthew 28:6-9: *He is not here, for He is risen, as He said. Come see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead; and behold, He goeth before you into Galilee. There shall ye see Him; lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and great joy and did run to bring His disciples word. And as they went to tell His disciples, behold Jesus met them, saying, "**All hail.**" And they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. **Bowing down with adoration and love***

SOME VERSES ON WORSHIP

The first mention of worship in the Word of God is when Abraham took his son Isaac to offer him up as a sacrifice. This is a powerful picture of the

love of the Father and the obedience unto death of a Son. Isaac, a type of Christ, was obedient unto death (Philippians 2:5-8). Abraham, a type of the Father, who “*spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all*” (Romans 8:32 and John 3:16). Genesis 22:5: *And Abraham said to the young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”* The word *shachad* is used.

Exodus 34:14: *For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God...*

1st Chronicles 16:29: *Give to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!* (Also, see Psalm 29:2 and Psalm 96:9)

Psalm 86:9: *All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O LORD; they will bring glory to your name.*

Psalm 95:6: *Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.*

Psalm 99:5: *Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His footstool-He is holy.*

Isaiah 29:13: *These people come near to Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. Their worship of Me is made up only of rules taught by men.*

Isaiah 66:23: *“And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the LORD.*

Jeremiah 7:2: *“Stand in the gate of the LORD’s house and proclaim there this word, and say, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah who enter in at these gates to worship the LORD!’”*

Philippians 3:3: *For we are the circumcision, who worship God in Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh...*

John 9:31: *“Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.”*

Colossians 2:18: *Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.*

Matthew 15:8: *“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.”*

Luke 19:40: *But He answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these [the disciples] should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”*

THE LONGER I SERVE HIM

Bill Gaither

1965

Since I started for the Kingdom,
Since my life he controls,
Since I gave my heart to Jesus,
The longer I serve Him,
The sweeter He grows.

Ev'ry need He is supplying,
Plenteous grace He bestows;
Ev'ry day my way gets brighter,
The longer I serve Him,
The sweeter it grows.

CHORUS

The longer I serve Him the sweeter He grows,
The more that I love Him, more love He bestows;
Each day is like heaven, my heart overflows,
The longer I serve Him the sweeter He grows.

