**Worship**

What Is True Worship?

 What are the Benefits of Worship to the Believer?

Worship is a word that anyone who is familiar with church has heard. There have been many different things that have been said and taught about worship. The goal of this message is to help the listener develop a clearer understanding of what worship is, why it is important, and what are its benefits for the believer, particularly for a believer that lives under the New Covenant. The word interpreted as worship in many parts of the New Testament is defined as *fawn or crouch to, i.e. (literal or figurative) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore) worship.* (Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.) When we sing about the Lord’s goodness and raise our hands, bow our heads, lay on the floor during prayer, all of these are outward expresses of worship toward God.

However, we can do all of these things (outward gestures associated with praise and worship) and still only be scratching the surface of true worship.

**The Attributes of True Worship Include the Following:**

* **True Worship honors God’s word higher than anything else.**
* **True Worship places absolute trust in the finished work of Jesus.**
* **True Worship manifests itself through service toward God and a renewed mind.**

**True Worship honors God’s word higher than anything else.**

*Psalm 138:2 NKJV*

*I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.*

*Hebrews 1:1-3 ESV*

*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, [2] but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. [3] He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

**This verse declares how much weight God places on his Word. His Word is what created the universe and his Word is what holds together the very molecules that make up our physical bodies (Hebrews 1:3).**

**True Worship places absolute trust in the finished work of Jesus.**

*John 4:21-24 NKJV*

*[21] Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. [22] You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. [23] 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. [24] God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

*John 6:63 NLT*

*The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.*

**We see here Jesus pointing to the reality of man’s need for Him. in order to have true relationship with God. Mankind’s effort to fulfill the laws of God can accomplish nothing, because no matter how hard we try or how well it may seem we are keeping God’s Law, we will always fall short. Therefore, Jesus gives us the invitation to place our trust in what he did for us. When we place our trust in Christ’s finished work, which included Him perfectly fulfilling God’s Law on our behalf and taking on the punishment for our sins, then we can say we are worshiping him in Spirit and Truth.**

**True Worship manifests itself through service toward God and a renewed mind.**

*Romans 12:1-2 AMP*

*Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship. [2] And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].*

*Romans 12:1-2 NLT*

*[1] And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice-the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. [2] Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

**Another major indicator of True Worship is the way we think and the way we live. As important as singing songs of praise and other forms of reverence are, our thoughts and our daily lives is what God is after the most. Under the Old Covenant men were required to bring animals to be scarified as an offering to cover their sin. However, after Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection we are not required to sacrifice animals to enter His presence, but we can enter boldly toward the throne of grace and worship freely without condemnation and shame, because we are accepted in the beloved. For us to present our bodies as living sacrifices to God, involves use letting go of old ways of thinking and old habits. True worshipers are those who yield their bodies to be used by the Holy Spirit to accomplish God’s purpose. The same way a man can be possessed by evil spirits and those spirits are able to express themselves through that human vessel, so it is with us as believers. We can become Holy Ghost “possessed’ as we yield our senses to God’s disposal.**

*Galatians 2:20 KJVS*

*[20] I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

**What Are the Benefits of Worship for The Believer?**

When we think about worship, it is easy to respond with the attitude that we are supposed to do it because God commands it. Now certainly, this is reason enough for us to live lives of worship. However, because God’s nature is love, He does tell us to do anything that is not ultimately for our benefit. Therefore, we conclude that our worship toward our Heavenly Father has benefits that we can enjoy. So let’s identify three specific benefits today: **Peace, Protection, Provision, Purpose.**

**PEACE**- Worship opens the door for us to enjoy God’s Peace. As born-again believers we know that peace already belongs to, it has been to us as a gift. All that is required from us is to activate or draw on the peace that is already on the inside of us. Worship is a means to access peace.

*Isaiah 26:3 AMP*

*“You will keep in perfect and constant peace the one whose mind is steadfast [that is, committed and focused on You—in both inclination and character], Because he trusts and takes refuge in You [with hope and confident expectation].*

**PROTECTION-** Worship protects and defends us from the attacks of the enemy, attacks can be on our thought life, our circumstances, or our physical health. Even though weapons will be formed against us, the word declares that it shall not prosper.

*Psalm 8:2 CSB*

*From the mouths of infants and nursing babies, you have established a stronghold on account of your adversaries in order to silence the enemy and the avenger.*

*Psalm 91:14-16 NKJV*

*“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. [15] He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. [16] With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.”*

**Provision-** Worship opens up the door for us to access the provision we have a right to as born-again believers.

*Matthew 6:1-4 NKJV*

*“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. [2] Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. [3] But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, [4] that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*

**Purpose-** Worship connects us to God’s original plan and purpose for us.

*Ecclesiastes 12:13 AMP*

*When all has been heard, the end of the matter is: fear God [worship Him with awe-filled reverence, knowing that He is almighty God] and keep His commandments, for this applies to every person.*