



# WORSHIP SERIES | WORSHIP BELONGS TO GOD

NEW VISION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES INT'L

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### ***Where Worship Began***

Worship didn't begin with humanity; it began in heaven before man was even created.

- Read about the seraphim's in Isaiah 6:1-3
- and the living creatures in Revelation 4:8-11

With these scriptures, we see that worship existed even before Genesis 1 and the creation of man.

### ***Definition of Worship***

English worship comes from Old English "worth-ship." Worship simply means to ascribe worth.

The biblical vocabulary is richer:

- shachah: to bow down, prostrate (posture of submission)
- abad: to serve, to labor (worship as work)
- yadah & towdah: to extend the hands in thanks
- halal: to boast, to celebrate loudly (root of hallelujah)
- barak: to kneel, to bless
- zamar: to make music with instruments
- proskuneo (Greek): literally "to kiss toward"; intimacy and reverence together
- latreuo (Greek): **service**, Rom. 12:1 of presenting your body as a living sacrifice

Notice the range: bowing, serving, boasting, kneeling, singing, kissing. Although we identify worship with music, that is only one expression, it's not the entire expression of worship.

Did you catch that? \_\_\_\_\_ is also a part of your worship.

Let's find this in Scripture:

- Genesis 4:3-5 / Cain and Abel bring offerings; the first recorded act of human worship, and immediately a lesson that God cares about the heart behind it.
- Genesis 4:26 / "then began men to call upon the name of the LORD."
- Genesis 8:20 / Noah's first act off the ark is an altar.
- Genesis 22:5 / the first time the word worship appears: "I and the lad will go yonder and worship." It appears in the context of surrender and sacrifice, not music.

**Worship is reserved for God**

You can praise (give honor) to man for his deeds (Rom. 13:7, 1 Tim 5:17), but worship belongs to God alone.

God takes it seriously: Let's read

- Acts 12:21-23 and the lesson Herod provides us.

But still, this is where people stumble, "isn't it egotistical for God to demand worship?" Two answers:

- God is not needy.
  - Acts 17:24-25 / He isn't "worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything." He is worshipped with the heart, acknowledging Him as your Lord (study the word Lord)
  - Psalm 50:12 / "If I were hungry, I would not tell thee."
- God is worthy, and worship is simply truth-telling.
  - Revelation 4:11/ "Thou art worthy." To withhold worship from God is not modesty; it's misrepresentation of reality.
  - And John 4:23 is the stunning verse: "the Father seeketh such to worship him." God isn't extracting worship, He is seeking worshipers.

Worship is God's love language.

- Worship is not just action revealed by the condition of one's heart, it is a heavenly language
- Worship is the native language of creation; humanity was made to join a song already in progress.

***Worship is an instrument of Warfare***

Worship is the primary instrument of spiritual formation. It's also warfare (2 Chronicles 20:21-22, singers before the army), and it's continual, not scheduled, Hebrews 13:15, "the sacrifice of praise to God continually."

***Congregational Worship***

1. Christ Himself leads it.
  - Hebrews 2:12, quoting Psalm 22:22, "in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee."
  - You cannot join what He's doing in the congregation while sitting at home.
2. The commands are plural and mutual.
  - Ephesians 5:18-21 and Colossians 3:16, "speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns," "teaching and admonishing one another."
  - Psalm 34:3, "O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together."
  - These are grammatically impossible to do alone.

3. It's commanded and it carries blessings.

- Hebrews 10:24-25, "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together."
- Psalm 133, where brethren dwell in unity, "there the LORD commanded the blessing."
- 2 Chronicles 5:13-14, when the singers were "as one," the glory filled the house

\*\* Unity preceded manifestation.

4. It evangelizes.

- 1 Corinthians 14:24-25 / the unbeliever walks into genuine worship, falls down, and reports "that God is in you of a truth."

Congregational Worship is simply rehearsal!

- Revelation 7:9-10 / every nation, kindred, people, and tongue before the throne.

*"Private worship proves your worship is real. Public worship proves it isn't selfish."*

5. Understand that Satan wants your worship too!

Let's read Matthew 4:9

Satan wanted Jesus to exchange His worship for all the kingdoms of the world and all their glory. Satan wanted Jesus to exchange His worship for other things of value. Satan wanted Jesus to "prioritize" other things above God's worship. But Jesus knew the value of His worship unto God!

What are things causing you to miss-prioritize or what are things of value that cause you to turn your worship over to Satan? More sleep, a football game, your makeup, breakfast, etc?

You must understand that those can be important, but they must be in the right sequence starting with God first. It's important to know that Satan doesn't want you to miss service, but he does want you to miss worship.

Why? Because that is not yours, it is His.

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