

How do we Worship God?

The Lord commanded His people to worship Him, Kings 17:35-37

“Do not worship any other gods or bow down to, serve them or sacrifice to them. But the Lord Who brought you up out of Egypt with mighty power and outstretched arm, is the one you must **worship**. To Him you shall bow down and to Him offer sacrifices”.

Psalm 29:2 “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to His Name; **worship** the Lord in splendor of His holiness”.

Psalm 95:6, “Come let us bow down in **worship**, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker”.

Psalm 110:2 “Shout for joy to the Lord all the earth. **Worship** the Lord with **gladness**, come before Him with **joyful songs**...Enter His gates with **thanksgiving** and His courts with **praise**, give thanks to Him and praise His Name, for the Lord is good and His love endures for ever, His faithfulness continues through all generations”.

Read Psalm 150.

Praise the LORD.

Praise God in his sanctuary;
 praise him in his mighty heavens.
 Praise him for his acts of power;
 praise him for his surpassing greatness.
 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
 praise him with the harp and lyre,
 praise him with tambourine and dancing,
 praise him with the strings and flute,
 praise him with the clash of cymbals,
 praise him with resounding cymbals.
 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

The English word “worship” derives from the words ‘worthy’, ‘to honor’.

Definition of Worship: “to honor, reverence, homage in thought feeling or act paid to greatest power but supremely to Deity”.

In Old Testament: Hebrew word “shahah” meaning bow down, prostrate
 The OT idea is a reverential attitude of mind and body combined with religious adoration, obedience and service.

In the New Testament: There are several Greek words for worship:

“proskuneo” bowing prostrate upon the ground.

“sebomai”, reverence, venerate

“latreuo” worship and serve, perform sacred services.

The NT idea of worship is a combination of reverential attitude of mind and body and religious service to God. Privately or of a larger body of believers engaged in public services in sanctuary, tabernacle, temple, synagogue, auditorium or a large room.

Worship in the free and enthusiastic New Testament church is explained in 1 Corinthians and was composed of public and private meetings.

1. Prayer by several followed by a congregational Amen. 1 Cor. 14:16
2. Praise, consisting of hymns and spiritual songs. 1 Cor. 14:26
3. Reading of the Scriptures, especially the Psalms. 1 Cor. 14:26
4. Instruction or teaching for edification. 1 Cor. 14:5, 19, 26, 31
5. Prophesying, men gave utterances to His message. 1 Cor. 14:29-31
6. Speaking with tongues and the interpretation with clear instructions of one at the time and no more than 3 believers at a meeting. 1 Cor. 14:26-29
7. Celebration of the Lord’s supper 1 Cor. 11:23-34

The classical passage of Worship is John 4:23-24,

“God is Spirit and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”.

Philippians 3:3, We worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus.

Worship is to honor and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

A genuine and vital expression of inner love and devotion to our Lord Jesus.

As Paul says in Philippians 3:15, “I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His suffering”.

What do we sacrifice?

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit”. Psalm 51:17

“Through Jesus therefore let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess His name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for which such sacrifices God is pleased”, Hebrews 13:15-16

A broken spirit, praise God from our lips, do good and share with others

What is spiritual act of worship?

“Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – **this is your spiritual act of worship**”, Romans 12:1.

Submission and total surrender of our bodies to God and His will.

Practical aspects of worship – religion

“Religion that our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and keep oneself polluted by the world”, James 1:27

To worship God is lay ourselves on the altar, praise God with our lips, love and adore God with our hearts, communicate with Him in prayer and serve Him with our lives.

