

SPIRITUAL MAINTENANCE

True Worship, John 4:23-24

What Keeps Us from Truly Worshipping?

- Many times, we go through the motions of worship, but we're really not worshipping because our heart is not in it
- What keeps us from truly worshipping God?
- Two things can keep us from worshipping God:
 - *Hindrances and Competition*
- *Hindrances* are those things that attempt block our opportunities to worship
 - *We're Tired* - tiredness can be physical, emotion, mental, and even spiritual
 - *We're Distracted* – Distractions can be almost anything that keeps you from focusing on God
 - *We Have Critical Spirit* – Instead of worshipping ourselves, we “critique” those who do
 - *Unconfessed Sin* – We are in worship, but we refuse confess and repent of our sins
- *Competition* are those things that want to occupy God's throne
 - *Money and Possessions* - We praise and celebrate the material thing we have more than God
 - *Our Families* – When our lives revolve around our families, we have a priority problem, and it will hinder our worship to God
 - *Our Accomplishments* – When our lives are defined by our accomplishments and not our devotion to God, we have a serious problem
- Jesus said when our heart is not in our worship, it's *vain worship* **Matthew 15:8-9 (KJV) 8 “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me...”**
- Vain worship is worship that accomplishes nothing; God was not *glorified*, and you were not *edified*
- It is worship that is merely *external* worship, it can be *seen* by others
- Just because something looks like worship, doesn't mean it's worship
- There is no worship if our *heart* is not in it, if there's no real passion for God, there is no worship

What is Worship?

John 4:23-24 (KJV) ²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

- Worship means to bow down or to kneel down **Psalm 95:6 (KJV) ⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

SPIRITUAL MAINTENANCE

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- The English word worship comes from *worth ship*; worship is displaying the worth of God
- To worship is to recognize, honor, and express the worthiness of God that He is due as our Creator ***Acts 17:28 (KJV) 28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.***
- Worship is the believer's response to God's love
- Worship is expressing our love to God
- Worship is giving glory to God
- Worship is paying homage or giving honor to God
- Worship is a celebration
 - A celebration of all God is *doing now* and *has done* throughout time
- The God we worship is not limited to a certain location or a certain because God is a Spirit
 - God is not limited to one place
 - The Spirit of God is everywhere
- With the coming of Jesus, everyone has equal access to God through Him
- We are to worship in *spirit and in truth*
- To worship *in spirit* means to worship with your whole heart
- To worship in spirit requires you to be born and again and filled with the Holy Spirit, to allow us to respond to the Holy Spirit in worship
- It's worshipping with a pure heart, one that open and repentant
- To worship *in truth* is to worship the truth of God's word
- To truly worship God, we must understand who He is and what He's done, and the only place God is fully revealed is in the Bible
- Worship is our expression of praise to a God who is understood through His Word
- Worship is a matter of the heart, it's not based on locations or ceremonies, it is guided by the truth of God's word

What Does True Worship Look Like?

Romans 12:1-2 (KJV) ¹ 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. ² 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.

- The *motivation* for worship is the mercies of God
- The *manner* of worship is presenting our bodies a living sacrifice unto God
- The *impact* of worship is Renewing our minds by the word of God you mind
- The *result* of worship – being acceptable to God Worship is centered on God
- Being acceptable to God means that we're obedient to God

SPIRITUAL MAINTENANCE

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- Obedience to God is there will be changes a result in our lives
- If worship does not drive us to greater obedience, we have not worshipped
- We should not be the same after worship
- Worship also helps us hear God call to service
- Worship changes our lives for the better

How Can we Develop a Worshiping Spirit?

- We must have a meaningful relationship with God
- The only access to Father is through Jesus
- We must yielded to the Holy Spirit
- Our thoughts must be centered on God
- We must have an undivided heart
 - God and God alone are our focal point of our worship ***Psalm 108:1 (KJV) ¹ O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.***
- We must have repentant heart ***James 4:8 (KJV) ⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.***
- **Magnify God, not our circumstances**
- Worship through repentance ***2 Samuel 12:20 (KJV) ²⁰ Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.***
- Worship through submission ***Job 1:20-21 (KJV) ²⁰ Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, ²¹ And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.***
- **Public worship is a product of our private worship**

God is Still Seeking Worshipers

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

- Jesus said the hour has come and now is when the true worshippers worship the father in Spirit and in Truth
- The time has come for true worship
- Worship in spirit and in truth