

Monday
Spiritual Growth – Worship

Worship is an important part of life. Everyone worships someone or something. Bible-believing Christians should worship God alone. There should be nothing or no one else that takes a greater place of importance in a Christian's life.

1. Read Genesis 22:1-19 – When you want to study a certain subject, it is often helpful to find the first mention of it in the Bible. This is the first mention of worship in the Bible. In this story we find one fundamental ingredient of worship. What did God tell Abraham to do in verse 2?
2. God chose His words carefully to make it hit home for Abraham what he was supposed to do. How did God emphasize the task to Abraham in verse 2?
3. To say that Abraham was about to make a huge sacrifice would be a major understatement! According to verse 3, how long did Abraham wait to obey God?
4. Abraham took Isaac and their servants and began to travel to Moriah. After three days Abraham saw the place. What three things did he tell the young men that he was going to do in verse 5?
5. What do you think must have been going through Abraham's mind in verses 9-10?
6. What was God glad to see in verse 12?

Abraham went to worship the Lord. A major part of his worship was sacrifice. God asked him to give up the one thing that meant the most to him, but Abraham loved God more and was willing to make that sacrifice in an act of worship? What will you sacrifice?

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Worship is an essential part of any Christian's life, and sacrifice is an essential part of that. Is there more to worship than just sacrifice? There is! Holiness is another important part of true worship.

1. Read I Chronicles 16:23-36 – In this passage of Scripture, David was rejoicing because of the safe return of the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem. He sang a song of praise to God in celebration. According to verse 23, who is commanded to sing to the Lord?
2. What should they show from day to day?
3. According to verse 24, who should hear about what God has done?
4. According to verse 27, what four things are in God's presence and in His place?
5. According to verse 29, what is due to God's name?
6. What should you bring when you come before Him?
7. In the beauty of what should you worship the Lord?
8. The beauty of holiness is the beauty of a life that has been cleansed from sin. This is a person who is in a right relationship with God. Why do you think that is a necessary part of worship?
9. What needs to change in your life in order to enjoy the beauty of holiness?

Worshipping God requires personal holiness. It is impossible to worship a holy God with a sinful heart and life. Be holy!

Wednesday Spiritual Growth – Worship

Too often worship is equated with singing on Sunday at the church building. Though we should and do worship while we are gathered together, worship can and should happen at other places throughout the week.

1. Read John 4:19-24 – Jesus was having a conversation with the woman at the well. He was trying to get her to understand Who He was, but she kept getting distracted in the conversation. Along one of her rabbit trails, she perceived that Jesus had above-average knowledge. She asked Him a question that she was wondering for a long time: where is the right place to worship? What response did Jesus give her in verse 21?
2. In verse 22 Jesus told the woman that she worshipped, but she didn't have any idea what she was worshipping. Apparently, her "worship" was nothing more than an outward show of ritual. Her "worship" had no object. Why is it important to have an object of worship?
3. According to verse 23, what will true worshippers do?
4. According to verse 24, why must we worship God in spirit and in truth?
5. Jesus was trying to teach the woman that the place of worship is not nearly as important as the heart of the person who is worshipping. If the place isn't important, should the church building be the only place where we worship?

Worship can happen almost anywhere. It obviously can't happen in sinful places because we must also worship in holiness. Do your best today to worship God wherever you are!

Thursday Spiritual Growth – Worship

Another misunderstanding about worship is that it requires prior preparation. In one sense it is true; if you are not in a holy condition, you need to change that in order to worship. However, even if things go entirely wrong, you should still be able to worship God at a moment's notice.

1. Read Job 1:6-22 – Satan came to God after walking around the earth. The Bible doesn't say what he was doing, but you can be certain that he was up to no good. Probably, he was looking for someone he would tempt and get to sin (I Peter 5:8). God began to brag on how good Job was. What was Satan's response in verses 9-11?
2. God gave Satan permission to test Job's faithfulness. According to verse 12, what requirements did God put on Satan?
3. List everything that Job lost.
4. How much time did he have to digest each tragedy?
5. Would you say that Job was having a good day or a bad day? Were things going well or completely wrong?
6. According to verse 20, what was Job's response to all the bad news?
7. How much time did Job take before he tore his clothes, fell down on his face, and worshipped God?

There should be no need to prepare your heart to worship. Even on the worst days, you can worship God, not because everything went well, but because God is still God and is worthy of worship.

Friday
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Job had a really bad day! He had no time to prepare for the news he heard, and he took no time to prepare to worship; he just worshipped. Worship can also happen even when circumstances are less than ideal.

1. Read II Samuel 12:13-20 – In the last chapter, David sinned with Bathsheba. She was pregnant with his child. He did everything he could to cover up his sin, but nothing worked. In Chapter 12 the prophet Nathan confronted David about his sin. David recognized and confessed his sin and received forgiveness. However, according to verse 14, what would happen to the baby?
2. Nathan left, and shortly thereafter the baby was born. It became very sick. What did David do in verse 16?
3. David's assistants tried to get him up to eat, but he would not get up. According to verse 18, what happened after seven days?
4. David received the news that the baby had died. According to verse 20, what did he do after he heard that news before he ate or took care of any of his personal needs?
5. David didn't have a good day...he didn't have a good week, but he was still able to worship, not because everything was going well, but in spite of the fact that everything was going poorly. What do you think allowed David to worship even when his son had just died?
6. How can you worship even when things are going wrong in your life?

Worship is not based on circumstances, whether good or bad. It's based on Who God is, and He never changes.

Saturday
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Worship isn't restricted to only one place, it doesn't require prior preparation, and it doesn't require ideal circumstances. So what exactly is it? The story of the maniac of Gadara provides us with some insights as to what worship really is.

1. Read Mark 5:1-13 – Jesus and His disciples just came to shore after being awake all night on the stormy sea. They got to shore, and a man immediately ran to them. According to verse 2, what was the man's problem?
2. There was no way to control this demon-possessed man. According to verse 5, how did he spend his time?
3. According to verse 6, what did he do as soon as he saw Jesus?
4. To whom did Jesus speak in verse 8?
5. What was the demon's response in verse 7 to Jesus instruction?
6. He addressed Jesus as the Son of God. What did the demon, Legion, ask Jesus for permission to do in verse 10-12?
7. The demon recognized the Person and authority of Jesus Christ. Jesus told the demons they had to leave the man, but what could they do?
8. The demons recognized the Person and authority of Jesus Christ, and they obeyed Him completely. Worship is our response of humility and surrender that comes from a proper understanding of Who God is. Is obedience to God an act of worship?

Obedience in any area of life is worship. Isaiah saw God and surrendered his will to God. Worshipping is a lot more than singing. It should involve every area of your life.

Sunday Spiritual Growth – Worship

Worship is our response of humility and surrender to God based on Who He is. Worship, therefore, is not limited to singing. Although singing is part of it, worship entails a wide variety of activities.

1. Read Psalm 47:6-7 – What are we told to do five times in those two verses?
2. Is singing, therefore, a matter of obedience?
3. We can worship by singing when we surrender our words to God. Read Malachi 3:8-10 – What are we told to do here?
4. Is giving, therefore, a matter of obedience?
5. We can worship by giving when we surrender our money to God. Read I Peter 4:10 – What are we told to do here?
6. Is ministry, therefore, a matter of obedience?
7. We can worship by ministering when we surrender our time to God. Read Acts 4:34-35 – What example was set here?
8. Is meeting needs, therefore, a matter of obedience?
9. We can worship by meeting needs when we surrender our resources to God. Read Matthew 28:18-20 – What are we told to do here?
10. Is evangelism, therefore a matter of obedience?
11. We can worship by witnessing when we surrender our energy to God. How else can you worship God today?

Worship is not mystical or spooky. It's simply the outward actions of a heart that is totally and completely in love with God.