

Part 4 Worshipping God in Spirit and Truth (Jn. 4:23-24)

I. TWO PRIMARY COMPONENTS IN WORSHIP: SPIRIT AND TRUTH

²³ ***True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. (Jn. 4:23-24)***

¹⁴ ***The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart... (1 Sam. 13:14)***

⁹ ***For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. (2 Chr. 16:9)***

- A. Jesus highlights the two primary requirements in worshipping, seeking or encountering God as approaching Him in spirit and truth. He revealed that God seeks for such who worship this way. We must worship and seek God on His terms, not according our traditions (wrong paradigms).
- B. God's desire for us to worship Him is His invitation to encounter Him.

II. WORSHIPPING IN SPIRIT

A. By the aid of the Holy Spirit – we must cooperate with the Spirit and cultivate a friendship with Him being careful not to quench or resist Him. The Spirit is our only escort into God's presence.

¹¹ ***No one knows the things of God except the Spirit...¹² We have received...the Spirit...that we might know (experience) the things...freely given to us by God. (1 Cor. 2:11-12)***

- 1. There is a supernatural element to worship that we cannot produce. We cannot go forward when the Spirit is quenched in our life. We are helpless to encounter God without His help. We prize, watch and guard the prompting of the Spirit on our heart.

¹⁹ ***Do not quench the Spirit. (1 Thes. 5:19)***

³⁰ ***Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God... (Eph. 4:30)***

- 2. We cannot feel God's presence or the power of the Word without a healthy relationship with the Spirit. We must not strive with Him by resisting to obey Him (Gen. 6:3). We must renounce all that causes the Holy Spirit's work in our heart to be minimized.

B. With our spirit (from our heart) – we do this by engaging our inner man with a genuine heart response to God. It is not enough to just go through the outward motions and mechanics of seeking God.

⁹ ***For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel... (Rom. 1:9)***

C. We must have sincere intentions to obey God without hypocrisy. There is no substitute for a spirit of obedience. Seeking 100-fold obedience is different from attaining mature obedience. If we sincerely seek it, then we are living right with the Holy Spirit.

III. WORSHIPPING IN TRUTH

- A. According to the ***truth of who God is*** – He is Father, Bridegroom, King and Judge. The way we understand God’s personality, majesty and beauty greatly affects the way that we approach Him. We approach a tender father differently than a harsh task master. The most neglected reality in the Kingdom of God is God Himself. We must take time to learn of His beauty and emotions. Many today focus most on increasing their ministry, comfort, friends, and possessions.
- B. According to the ***truth of who we are in God*** – we are sons of God and the bride of Christ and are clothed with the righteousness of Christ. Understanding this gives us confidence before God.
- ¹⁷ If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁹ ...God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing (counting) their trespasses to them...²¹ For He made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor. 5:17-21)***
- ¹³ Present yourselves to God (worship) as being alive from the dead... (Rom. 6:13)***
1. Our standing before God’s favor with acceptance is based on what Jesus did for us. We are justified, accepted or made right with God by what He did, not by what we do (Rom. 3:21-31). God’s righteousness cannot be improved upon. Our standing before God in heaven will not be more secure than it is now. Our acceptance by God is not based on our diligence, spiritual maturity, or track record. We have no need to bargain with God as we approach Him after acting out our sin then repenting and claiming Jesus’ righteousness.
 2. Our diligence and spiritual maturity definitely impact our quality of life and ministry, as well as our reward and function in the age to come.
 3. We cannot work through the unsettled issues in our life without confidence that God is smiling on us. Guilt says that our actions are wrong. Shame says our whole personhood is wrong. Shame hinders our ability to settle the issues in our life.
- C. In our standing before God we “push delete” after we have sincerely repented. Jesus paid the price that we might stand before God with confidence of having His favor. This is very different from “pushing delete” on our need to understand why and how we sinned. It is necessary for us to understand the process and mindset that contributed to a stronghold of sin in our life.
- D. God can smile over our life in a general sense, while He contends with us in a particular issue. ***That issue does not define our entire relationship with God.*** However, if we do not obey in that area, then sin will grow and affect other areas.

- E. We view conviction of our sin (judgments of His Word) differently when we feel loved and favored by God because it does not feel like condemnation or accusation from God. The psalmist longed for God's corrective word knowing that it would bring life to him.

²⁰ My soul breaks with longing for Your judgments at all times...⁷⁵ I know...that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me. ¹⁶⁰ The entirety of Your word is truth, every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever. (Ps. 119:20, 75, 160)

IV. OUR INHERITANCE IS A FULLY ALIVE HEART AND MIND IN GOD

¹⁶ "This is the covenant (promise) that I will make with them... "I will put My laws (Word) into their hearts (emotions) and in their minds (understanding) I will write them..." (Heb. 10:16)

- A. **Heart** – God empowers our emotions until we feel the power of His Word with holy desire.

- B. **Mind** – God promises to release the spirit of revelation to our mind.

- C. God promises to write His Word on our heart and mind. Our heart is stony, spiritually cold and dull by nature. It is easy for God to awaken a spiritually cold and dull heart.

¹⁸ He gave Moses two tablets...of stone, written with the finger of God. (Ex. 31:18)

³ You are an epistle of Christ...written...by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart. (2 Cor 3:3)

³² Did not our heart burn (with desire) within us while He talked with us...and while He opened the Scriptures to us?...⁴⁵ He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. (Lk. 24:32, 45)

- D. God writes His Word on our heart as we live by it. Our heart lives and becomes strong and healthy by feeding on God's Word which is the holy transcript of His heart. The opposite is also true. Our heart dies and becomes weak and sick without feeding on God's Word. The most substantial way in which we feed our spirit and bolster our spiritual strength is by feeding on God's Word in spirit and truth (each applies this differently). Many are spiritually in the ICU with a sick heart and a diminished spiritual appetite.

⁴ He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Mt. 4:4)

- E. Prayer, fasting, meditation on the Word and obedience positions our heart before God to freely receive. These activities do not earn us God's favor or blessing in our lives. **Analogy:** we put our cold heart before the bonfire of God's presence by seeking Him in the Word in spirit and truth.

- F. Remember: God opens the Word to us progressively (little portions), in accordance to the time we invest in feeding our spirit with His Word and according to our spirit of 100-fold obedience.