



# THE DOCTRINE OF WORSHIPING GOD

**Instructor: Pastor Michael A. Foster M,TH.**

**The Historical First African Baptist Church**

# Am I a Worshipper of Jesus?





# WORSHIP QUESTIONS

**How can our worship fulfill its great purpose in the New Testament age?**

**What does it mean to worship “in spirit and in truth”?**

**Do you experience genuine, fulfilling worship in your church each Sunday?**

**Have you ever felt a strong sense of the presence of God in corporate worship?**

**Do you know what factors contribute to this movement?**

**Is worship intentional for you?**

# Explanation and Scriptural Basis

**The term worship applies to all of a Christian's life, and it is rightly said that everything in our life should be an act of worship, and everything the church does should be considered worship, for everything we do should glorify God.**

**However, in this lesson I am not using the word in this broad sense.**

**I am using worship specifically to refer to the actions and words that Christians direct to God in worship, together with heart and attitudes that accompany praise, especially when Christians assemble together.**

# Definition of Worship

- **Worship is the activity of glorifying God in his presence with our voices and hearts.**
- **In Christianity, worship is the act of attributing reverent honor and homage to God. In the New Testament, various words are used to refer to the term worship. One is proskuneo ("to worship") which means to bow down to God or kings.**
- **We worship Jesus because of his humanity. And we worship Jesus because of his humility. mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is spiritual worship."**
- **All aspects of our lives are suppose to glorify God, so worship is something we do when we come into God's presence, when we are conscious of adoration of him in our hearts, and when we praise him with our voices and speak about him so others may hear.**

# Purpose of Worship

**As it relates to worship, Paul encouraged the Christians in Colossae, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:16).**

**In fact, the primary reason that God called us into the assembly of the church is that as a corporate assembly we might worship him...**

**The gospel call is a call to worship, to turn from sin and call upon the name of the Lord... The picture of the church as a worshiping assembly is nowhere more powerfully presented than by the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews (12:18-29)...**

**John declares that we should not worship any creature, not even an powerful angel in heaven, when he fell "fell down to worship" at the feet of the angel who showed him marvelous visions in heaven, the angel said to him "you must not do that!... Worship God only" (Rev. 22:8-9).**

**Remember God is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5). Something within us should tremble when it comes to worshiping the Lord.**

# The Results of Genuine Worship

- **When we worship God in the sense described above, truly giving him glory in our hearts and with our voices, several things happen as a result:**

- 1. We Delight in God.** God created us not only to glorify him but also to enjoy him and delight in his excellence. We experience delight in God more fully in worship than in any other activity in our life.

David confesses that the “one thing” that he will seek for above all else is “that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple” (Ps. 27:4).

He also says, “In your presence there is fulness of joy, in your right hand are pleasures for evermore” (Psalms 16:11).

- 2. God Delights in Us.** What does God do when we worship him? The amazing truth of Scripture is that as we glorify God, he also takes delight in it.

When God made the universe he looked on all of it with delight, and saw that “It was very good” (Gen. 1:31).

God takes special delight and believers who was created and redeemed.

- 3. We Draw Near To God.** The Old Testament believers could only draw near to God in a limited way through the temple ceremonies; most of the people of Israel could not enter into the temple itself, but had to remain in the courtyard.

Even the priest could only go into the outer courts of the temple which is called “the Holy Place,” when it was their appointed duty but into the inner room of the temple only the holy of holies no one could go except the high priest and he could only go once a year (Heb. 9:1-11)

But now under the new covenant, believers have the amazing ability to directly enter into the holy of holies in Heaven when they worship (Heb. 10:19) NIV.

# The Results of Genuine Worship cont...

- 4. God Draws Near to Us.** "Draw near to God (in worship) and he will draw near to us" (James 4:8). This has been the pattern of God dealing with his people throughout the bible.
- 5. God Ministers to Us.** Although the primary purpose of worship is to glorify God, the Scriptures teach that in worship something also happens to us: We are strengthened and built up through our worship.

When we worship God he meets with us and directly ministers to us strengthening our faith and intensifying our awareness of his presence and granting refreshment to our spirits.

Peter says that as Christians are continually coming to Christ (in worship and prayer and faith), they are then "being strengthened and built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (**1 Peter 2:5 NIV**).

- 6. The Lord's Enemies Flee.** God's enemies are our enemies, when the people of Israel began to worship, God at times would fight for them against their enemies.

When the Moabites, Edomites, and Syrians came against Judah, King Jehoshaphat sent out the choir praising God in front of the army (**2 Chron. 20:21-22**).

Similarly, when God's people offer him worship today, we may expect that the Lord will battle against demonic forces that oppose the gospel and cause them to flee.

- 7. Unbelievers Know They Are in God's Presence.** Paul tells the Corinthians to take thought for unbelievers and outsiders who come to their services, to be sure that the Christians speak in understandable ways (**1 Cor. 14:23**).

# How Can We Enter Into Genuine Worship?

- Worship is a spiritual activity and it must be empowered by the holy spirit working within us. This means that we must pray that the Holy Spirit will enable us to worship rightly.
- Genuine Worship is to be carried on in the unseen, spiritual realm evident in Jesus's words: **(John 4:23-24)**.
- To worship "in spirit and truth" is best understood to mean "in the Holy Spirit" in the spiritual realm, in the realm of spiritual activity.
- This means that true worship involves not only our physical bodies but also our spirits, the immaterial aspect of our existence that primary acts in the unseen realm.
- An attitude of worship comes upon us when we begin to see God as he is and then respond to his presence.
- Is there anything else we can do to make worship more effective? We must remember that worship is a spiritual matter **(John 4:21-24)**.