

Worship

Defining Worship

- John MacArthur – “Worship is our innermost being responding with praise for all that God is, through our attitudes, actions, thoughts, and words, based on the truth of God as He has revealed Himself.”
- Warren Wiersbe – “Worship is the believers’ response of all that they are – mind, emotions, will, and body – to what God is and says and does.”
- Scott Aniol – “Worship is a spiritual response to God as a result of understanding biblical truth about God.”

Worship in the Bible

- The primary Hebrew word in the Old Testament is *shachah* (Strong’s H7812).
 - Strong’s defines this word as “to depress, that is, prostrate (especially reflexively in homage to royalty or God): - bow (self) down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship.”
 - This word appears 193 times, of which 99 the KJV translates it as “worship” and 73 times as “bow” or “bow down”.
 - Example verses: Joshua 5:14 and Psalm 95:6
- The primary Greek word in the New Testament is *proskuneo* (Strong’s G4352).
 - Strong’s defines the word as “to fawn or crouch to, that is, (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore): - worship.”
 - This word appears 60 times and the KJV translates it as “worship” every time.
- Both words carry the same basic meaning – “to bow down in reverence”.

Steps to Worship

- First, worship begins with God.
 - We worship Him because of Who He is and what He does; that is, *His truth*.
 - Psalm 100 is a great example of how we ought to worship Him because of His truth.
- Second, we are exposed to the truth of God.
 - Worship is a reaction to God; you must know Him before you can worship Him – Acts 17:22-25
- Third, we comprehend the truth of God.
 - You do not worship by accident; you must understand why and what you are doing – Nehemiah 8:1-8
- Fourth, we accept the truth of God.

- Our worship is an acknowledgement of God's truth through faith.
- Fifth, we respond to that truth of God.
 - This can take many forms – praise (Psalm 7:17), brokenness (Psalm 51:17), desire (Psalm 42:1-2), joy (Psalm 32:11), and numerous others.

Warnings about Worship

- Not all who worship God do so in spirit and truth – Mark 15:19
- God is not obligated to accept what we offer as worship – Leviticus 10:1-2, Isaiah 1:11-20, Amos 5:23
- Worship is not something we do to bring God down to us, it is something we do because He is present and working.