

# Rediscovering Worship

## Key Elements of Worship

*“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*  
John 4:24

### Revelation

- God initiates worship with revelation as a call to worship.
- This can be God’s revelation of Himself through His character, actions, or Word.
- This is important so that worship is God-centric and not man-centric.
  - This is a fundamental error of Charismatic/Pentecostal worship theology, which has God responding to initiation of praise and worship (based on a misinterpretation of Psalm 22:3).

### Understanding

- We must comprehend God’s revelation of Himself.
  - Samuel did not have clear understanding the first three times God spoke to him – I Samuel 3:1-8
  - Nebuchadnezzar had understanding to recognize one “like the Son of God” but not enough to see that person’s identity – Daniel 3:25
  - The Roman centurion was not a believer yet had enough understanding to say, “Truly this was the Son of God.” – Matthew 27:54
- Based on our comprehension, we then respond to God’s revelation.

### Response

- All of worship is our response to Who God is and what He does.
- In Exodus 3:1-6, Moses sees the burning bush. God then reveals Himself through the bush. Moses understands and responds: “And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.”
- To not respond is to rob God of the glory due Him.

### Purpose

- Worship is not an accident; it is a willful response of our entire being.
- In Job 1:20, we observe performing 4 purposeful acts that lead into purposeful worship: he arose, rent his mantle, shaved his head, and fell on the ground before worshipping.

## **Abasement**

- Worship humbles the worshipper so that the worshipped receives all the honor.
  - Job “fell down upon the ground, and worshipped” – Job 1:20
  - Joshua “fell on his face to the earth, and did worship” – Joshua 5:14
  - The Psalmist wrote: “O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.” – Psalm 95:6
- Worship that glorifies the worshipper is not worship.

## **Honor**

- In conjunction with the abasement of the worshipper is the honoring of the worshipped.
  - Job humbled himself by action and word before worshipping: “blessed be the name of the LORD” – Job 1:20-21
- The honoring of the worshipped is the goal of worship.

## **Versatility**

- There is not one way to express worship, though there are many guidelines on how to worship.
  - For example, Psalm 100 has six different actions: “make a joyful noise” (vs.1), “serve the Lord” (vs. 2), “come before His presence” (vs. 2), “enter into His gates with thanksgiving” (vs. 4), enter “into his courts with praise” (vs. 4), “be thankful unto Him” (vs. 4), and “bless His name” (vs. 4).
- We should strive for every aspect of our lives to be worshipful – I Corinthians 10:31

## **Submission**

- Worship should have a lasting impact on the worshipper as they submit themselves to the worshipped.
- The ultimate expression of worship is complete submission of self to God – Romans 12:1-2.