

BDCL: WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Luke 4:5-8 NLT

Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. [6] "I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them," the devil said, "because they are mine to give to anyone I please. [7] I will give it all to you if you will worship me." [8] Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.'"

John 4:24 NKJV

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

CREATED TO WORSHIP

We were created to worship God. There is nothing as natural to human beings as worship. Innate within the human spirit is the deep desire to revere and worship someone or something greater than self. From the dawn of time, in every culture, race, society, language and nation, humanity has been a creature of worship; motivated by the desire to reach out and pay homage to someone or something, perceived to be greater than himself.

Revelation 4:11 KJV

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

- As human beings, we have this compulsion and inclination to worship inherent in us; it is, therefore, important to note that, **if we do not make God our focus or object of worship, someone or something else will take His place in our lives.**

GOD DESIRES WORSHIPPERS

John 4:23 NKJV

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him."

- The reason why we were created with the yearning to revere, honour and adore a greater being is that God desires worshippers. Heaven is, literally, filled with continuous, uninterrupted worship. The elders, the four living creatures and the myriads of angels bow down and worship God.

Revelation 5:11-14 NKJV

"[11] Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, [12] saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honour and glory and blessing!" [13] And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honour and glory and power be



to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!" [14] Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped Him who lives forever and ever."

- In fact, the entire Creation is 'wired' or 'programmed' to worship God. The focus of the entire Creation is worship.

Psalm 19:1 NKJV

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork."

- God's desire is that human beings, created in His image would also worship and revere Him. We are the objects of God's love, and His delight and joy is in us. God desires that we would reciprocate His love and delight in Him. We were created to be in relationship and fellowship with God, a relationship and fellowship of love, reverence, obedience and absolute trust and devotion to Him.

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Worship is not a mere Sunday morning church service experience. It is certainly much more than just singing a slow song after you've sang some fast ones. Worship is more than an emotional trip, with goose pimples all over you.

- Different people, different cultures understand and express themselves in worship differently. However, what is the definition of worship?

1. English - '*weordhscipe*'

Worship derives from an old English word - *weordhscipe*, which means, "*worthiness or deserving praise, reward, esteem; praiseworthy*. To worship God, therefore, means to acknowledge and give Him the recognition, praise and honour that He deserves.

This definition is quite basic and does not give much insight into the attitude and posture required for worship. However, the Hebrew and Greek translations tell us much more about worship.

2. Hebrew: '*Shachah*' (shā khä')

'Shachah,' the Hebrew word for worship means *to bow down, prostrate oneself before a superior person (God) in homage, and as an expression of homage, reverence and respect.*

This describes a posture of humility, awe and reverence in the presence of God, in acknowledgement of who He is – sovereign, awesome, all-powerful and full of glory!

Genesis 24:26 NKJV

"Then the man bowed down his head and worshiped the LORD."

Psalm 95:6 NKJV

"Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker."



1 Chronicles 29:20 NKJV

"Then David said to all the assembly, "Now bless the LORD your God." So all the assembly blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and prostrated themselves before the LORD and the king."

3. Greek: 'Proskyneō' (pros-kü-ne'-ō)

'Proskyneō,' the Greek word for worship, has several meanings:

- a. One meaning is to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence (almost like, to blow a kiss at someone).
- b. To fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence
- c. To kneel or prostrate to do homage (to one) or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication to a person of superior rank.

Revelation 22:8-9 NLT

"[8] I, John, am the one who heard and saw all these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me. [9] But he said, "No, don't worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers the prophets, as well as all who obey what is written in this book. Worship only God!" "

- Therefore, a true revelation of God, who His being, glory, majesty and power, would inspire us to bend our knees or prostrate before Him in worship.

John 12:3 NKJV

"Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil."

- **For Further Reading:** Genesis 22:1-5; Exodus 24:1; Psalm 5:7; Psalm 29:2; Revelation 4:10

WORSHIP IS A COMMAND

We MUST realize that like prayer and bible study, God commands us to worship Him. Therefore, worship is not optional, but an essential part of a Christian's relationship and walk with God. Worship is a command.

Matthew 22:37 NLT

"Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind."

1 Chronicles 16:29 NKJV

"Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!"

Psalms 45:11 NASBS

"...Because He is your Lord, bow down to (worship) Him."



WORSHIP IS AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE

Psalm 18:1 AMP

"I love You [fervently and devotedly], O LORD, my strength."

Worship is an expression of love towards God. Words used to express worship – adoration, surrender, yielding, abandonment, respect, trust, etc – are also often used in reference to love.

- To truly worship God, you must love Him! You cannot adore Him if you do not love Him. Indeed, to worship God in truth, you must love Him. This is because to declare adoration, surrender and worship to someone you don't truly love is false. Hence, your worship becomes a mere religious activity, when it is not based on love for God.
- Therefore, to pray, *"teach me how to worship"* is to pray, *"teach me how to love God"*
- Thank God, that we don't have to strive or force ourselves to love God. We can love Him because He first loved us; we only have to learn to receive His love and reciprocate it. (1 John 4:19)

WORSHIP IS A LIFESTYLE

True worship is a lifestyle. It is an attitude of the heart, which is manifested in outward expression of awe, love, trust, reverence and service.

- To worship is to daily surrender to God, to His Word and Spirit, and to constantly involve Him in every area of our lives and affairs. It is to acknowledge God's sovereignty and providence in our lives.
- Worship is the total yielding and surrendering of self to God, not out of fear and terror, but love awe and reverence. It involves the voluntary enthronement of God Almighty in every area and aspect of our lives. True worship permeates and encompasses every aspect of our lives, spirit, soul and body. It also involves our time, money, possessions, etc.
- **True worship is not passive, it is active. True worship results in service to God.**

Psalm 100:2 NASBS

"Serve the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing."

Luke 4:8 NASBS

"Jesus answered him, 'It is written, 'You SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.''" AMEN!!!

- **For Further Reading:** Deuteronomy 6:5; Psalm 29:2; Psalm 95:6; Psalm 99:5, 9

