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Expecting More By Understanding How To Move Into A Higher Dimension Of Praise And Worship - Worship, Part 1

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INTRODUCTION

Entering The Presence of God

In the second part of our teaching, we now move into one of the most exciting, awesome, beyond human comprehension areas; and that is the subject of WORSHIP.

We do not worship God to get things from Him, but we worship God to acknowledge His greatness, His power, and His worthiness. One of the persisting errors that is made in many worship services is the constant pleading and almost begging people to worship God. Worship in response to pleading and begging is not worship, but rather giving lip service out of guilt, condemnation, intimidation, or manipulation.

Note what is declared in **Matthew 15:7-9**:

"Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

True Worship comes out of a heart that has loving adoration, and the willfully acknowledging that my Father God is my Creator, Redeemer, and that Jesus is my Savior who has made the way for me to freely commune with my God. For worship to be true and pure, Jesus must be ruling and reigning as the King of my heart. When I bow my knees to Him, I am doing so because I value Him above anything and anyone; and I willfully give Him my spirit, soul, and body.

As we examine WORSHIP in every aspect, I have no desire to format, interpret, or to define it according to my own opinion or preference. The Holy Spirit has clearly outlined in the Word of God the WORSHIP that our Father God is seeking and looking for; and it is past time that we do it His way rather than according to our own dictates and opinions.

"Expecting More By Understanding How To Move Into A Higher Dimension Of Praise And Worship" (Worship)

John 4:23-24: *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."*

If anyone knew how our Father God desired to be worshipped, it had to be Jesus. I want you to note one very vital principle in this story. The teaching that Jesus gave on worship was not to the multitudes or masses of people, but to one individual woman. I find this to be very revealing and important. True worship is an individual choice, and no one is responsible for your worship but you. So many times we are tempted to blame our absence of worship on everyone around us, and to declare that we didn't get very much out of the worship service. What we fail to realize is that true worship is not about you 'getting something' but rather about you 'giving yourself' to your Father God.

If worship was approached with the attitude and heart that *"I am going to give everything I have to my Father God as I bow before Him; sing unto Him, lift my hands to Him; and thank Him for who He is to me;"* it wouldn't matter what everyone else is doing or not doing — God would receive

your worship and bless you greatly. There have been times that I would enter into singing in the Spirit, and blessing my Father with the words that were pouring out of my heart regardless of what everyone else was singing or doing. My worship is focused on my Father God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and not on a particular song, what someone else is saying, or what someone else's perception of me is. True Worship is to God and Him alone.

It is not a question if we will worship, but what we will worship. Did you know that God created you to worship? *"Thou are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."*

Revelations 4:11

Worship is to adore reverently, to feel deep devoted love for, to regard with respect and with great awe and devotion.

I want to begin this teaching by looking at several key words as it relates to Worship:

- *** **True Worshipers** (identifies the true from those that are false)
- *** **Father** (the focus of our worship)
- *** **Spirit and in truth** (the heart cry and the foundation of our worship)
- *** **Seeketh** (God's desire for those who surrender all to Him)
- *** **God is a Spirit** (must be revealed by the power of the Holy Spirit)
- *** **Must** (absolute — not left up to man's opinions and ideas)
- *** **Spirit and in truth** (repeated twice in revealing the only kind of worship that God receives is in spirit and in truth)

What actually does it mean to 'worship the Father in spirit and in truth?' I believe that one of the clearest visible pictures of worship in spirit and in truth is found in Revelations 5th chapter.

*** {vs. 8} **The elders fell down before the Lamb.** *'Proskuneo (4352) — To kiss, like a dog is licking his master's hand, to fawn, to crouch, to prostrate oneself in homage, do reverence to, adore, worship.*

*** {vs. 9} **They sung a new song.** *Sebomai (4576) To revere, adore, devout heart-felt worship stressing the feeling of awe or devotion in worship.*

*** {vs. 10} **Made us kings and priests.** *Latreuo (3000) To minister to God, render homage, serve, do the service of worship.*

*** {vs. 12} **Worthy is the Lamb.** *Eusebo (2151) To be pious towards God, a total voluntary surrender to God without any reservations.*

*** {vs. 13-14} **Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power.** *Enopion (1799) Before, in the presence, in the sight of ...to worship and adore.*

When we worship in spirit and in truth:

1. We present all that we are as a living sacrifice unto God. **Romans 12:1**
2. We enter through Jesus (truth) in accordance with God's Word. **John 17:17**
3. We seek to be transformed and delivered from the mindset that holds the world in captivity. **Romans 12:2**
4. We have no desire to be seen, to draw attention to ourselves, to become the main attraction. **Matthew 23:13**
5. Our hearts are totally focused on our Father God, and we seek to glorify him with our spirit, soul, and body. **I Thessalonians 5:23**
6. Worship in spirit and in truth is deep within us calling out to the deep that is in God. **Psalms 42:1-7**
7. Worship in spirit and in truth requires a relationship, intimacy, a giving of our total and complete self to God. An opening of our total heart to God, not being in a hurry or rush, but willing to 'wait upon the Lord'. **Isaiah 40:31**
8. Worship in spirit and in truth gazes honestly and openly into heaven, and invites the cleansing presence of the Holy Spirit. **Psalms**

139:23-24

9. Worship in spirit and in truth does not have to have words, songs, or music; it is many times released by the deep, revered love of one's heart. **Luke 7:36-50**