

Part 4: Worship: A Natural Response

Worship of God is the natural response of the creation to the realisation of who the Creator is. *It can't be stopped!*

Worship is our first or foundational ministry. It is not our only ministry, but the one that all other spheres of ministry should be built upon.

Perusing the Scriptures reveals a constant thread of worship running through the lives of those who were intimate – and provides some reasons why we believe that all of God's people are called to "minister unto Him" as their 'first ministry'.

We worship God for who He is: (Isaiah 12.5, Psalm 18.3)

The 'first' and 'foremost' command is to love God with our whole being. Exodus 20.1-4 (Ten Commandments), Deuteronomy 6.4-6 (Second Law), Matthew 22.35-40 (Jesus).

Relationship with God and a continual revelation of Him are tied to worship. (Hosea 6.3, Jeremiah 9.24)

Mankind's fall into darkness and depravity began when he ceased worshipping the true God. (Proverbs 28.14, Proverbs 29.1, Romans 2.5, Hebrews 3.13).

When one ceases the worship of the true God, any and all forms of "false Gods" must take the place of worshipping the Eternal God.

Spiritual strength is tied to worship. (Exodus 15.2, Isaiah 40.31, 41.10, Nehemiah 8.10, 2 Samuel 22.31-34, Revelation 1.5-6).

To be worshippers in His Kingdom of priests is our spiritual heritage. From Genesis to Revelation we see God gathering unto Himself those who come near to worship and have relationship, and those who reject and turn further and further away from Him. (Genesis 12.1-9, 2 Samuel 6.5, Chronicles 29.1-39, Hebrews 10.19-25, 1 Peter 2.4-10).

Where is God's temple?

A source of contention even during the time of Jesus. The Samaritans believed that Mt Gerzim was where God honoured worship. The Jews countered that only in Jerusalem could men properly worship God. Jesus gave the answer (John 4.3-26).

Because of Messiah's work to restore man, the place of true worship is in the spirit of man (individually/collectively).

Jesus was/is the Temple of God (John 2.19-21). Jesus forms His followers into the new Temple of God. (1 Corinthians 6.19-20, 1 Corinthians 3.16-17, Ephesians 2.19-22, 1 Peter 2.5a, John 4.23b).

God is seeking (desiring) a people who will worship him. (Philippians 3.3).

God's essence is spirit; thus our spirits must be united to Him to experience true worship. (John 17.3).

What is worship in spirit? (Philippians 3.3)

What is worship in truth? Worship that is not only mental but spiritual. Our body expresses the worship that is coming from our spirits.

Worship that is centred in the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

Worship that is according to the truth of the Scriptures which reveal how God desires to be worshipped.

If we desire to experience God's presence in our worship, God commands us to worship in spirit and truth.

Next time: How do we worship? Earthly expressions by God's Saints

