

5 PILLARS OF FAITH

WORSHIP

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What Is Worship?

When we say 'we worship God' or 'we have gathered to worship'

- We are referring to glorifying God, in His presence, with our hearts and our voices. The physical and spiritual act of giving God praise.
- We are ascribing worth to Him.
- We have an overwhelming sense of awe and reverence in the presence of God.

Worship is what we were created to do. (Isaiah 43:6-7)

Worship is based on who God is. (Revelation 4:10-11)

- Worship is the constant activity of the church in heaven.
- So worship should also be the chief business of the church on earth - God is seeking worshippers. *But the time is coming-indeed it's here now-when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way.*" (John 4:23)

Therefore in adoring and magnifying God we are fulfilling our true purpose.

How Do We Worship?

God has a pattern for how He intends our worship to be.

In that day you will say: I will praise you, Lord. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defence; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: 'Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you. (Isaiah 12:1-5, NIV)

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures for ever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psalm 100:1-5, NIV)

We can divide them up into two parts - what we should DO and what we need to KNOW.

The foundation of our worship is our knowledge of God.

- We need to KNOW who God is.
- We are blessed because we can know who God is. He has revealed himself to us through his son Jesus. *Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.* (John 14:5-7)
- We need a deep seated conviction and understanding.

What can we know from these verses?

- There are many things we can learn about God.
- We need to keep our knowledge of who God is at the forefront of our minds when we are coming to worship.

What Should We Do In Worship?

Focus on Him

- When we are approaching God in worship our attitude should not be 'what can I get from worship today' but rather 'what can I give to God in worship today'.
- Our eyes should be drawn from ourselves upwards to Him.

Be exuberant - worship should be full of excitement, cheerful and joyful

- Shouting, singing, clapping, playing instruments, raising hands.
- It is marked by joy and thankfulness (Psalm 103:1-5, Psalm 105:1-3, Psalm 106:1-2)
- We should be gladly proclaiming all that we know of God and what he has done.

Be unified

- 2 Chronicles 5:12-14
- The worship in the temple was loud, exuberant, planned and unified.

In the end, the purpose and priority of worship is that God is glorified.

Developing a lifestyle of worship

- It starts at home.
- How we fill our minds is important.
What are we thinking about during the week.
What are we meditating on.
How are we spending our time.
- We need to be continually seeking God through the week, learning, praying, worshipping at home.
- Recognising how God is at work in our lives on a daily basis.
- Cultivating an attitude of thankfulness and gratitude.
- It takes sacrifice. (Hebrews 13:15)

Conclusion

Our motivation to worship must always be about who God is, it must never be about how we feel and what we want. When we truly engage in worship, then God is truly glorified.

Revelation 7:9-12