

## True worship of God

God created us for the ultimate priority of worshiping Him. The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Psalms is about praising and worshiping God. In the end of the Bible, we see the saints and angels in heaven falling on their faces and worshiping God. Since worship will be our continual activity and greatest joy in heaven, we ought to be practicing it now. *the twenty-four Elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him the Eternal Living One, and cast their crowns before the throne, singing: "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You have created all things, And by Your will they were created and exist."*(Rev 4:10-11)

The meaning of worship is "to fall down before" or "bow down before" God. Worship is a state (an attitude) of spirit. "Worship", according to dictionary means: to show profound religious devotion; to have intense love, admiration. and "Praise" means: to express admiration, express thanks. How many times do we feel the need to worship our Creator? Worship is an inner attitude and sense of awe, reverence, gratitude, love towards God, resulting from a realization of who God is and who we are. To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, imagination by the beauty of God, heart to the love of God, devote the will to the purpose of God. Worship is loving God, honoring God, knowing God, adoring Him, obeying Him, and proclaiming Him. *Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.*(PSA95:6;96:9)

Bible described true worship in Romans 12:1-2: "*I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect*". This passage contains all the elements of true worship. First, there is motivation to worship: God's mercies are everything He has given us that we don't deserve: Gift of salvation, His Mercy, Love, & Faithfulness, His abundant goodness, Daily provision[food, clothes, shelter], His protection, His Guidance, Every good gift, Health-strength, Hears our prayers, His promises, His Grace, Joy, & Peace. The knowledge and understanding of these incredible gifts motivates us to pour forth praise & thanksgiving-it is the worth of Worship!

The manner of our worship: Presenting our bodies means giving to God all of ourselves. The reference to our bodies here means all our human abilities, all of our humanness—our hearts, minds, hands, thoughts, attitudes—are to be presented to God. In other words, we are to give up control of these things and turn them over to Him, just as a burnt offering sacrifice was given totally to God on the altar. By the renewing of your mind; we renew our minds daily by cleansing them of the wisdom of world and replacing it with true wisdom that comes from God. We worship Him with our renewed and cleansed minds, not with our emotions. Emotions are delightful things, but unless they are molded by a mind saturated in Truth, they can be destructive, out-of-control forces. Where the mind goes, the will follows, and so do the emotions. *Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.*(Psa.103:1)

To renew our minds that is by the Word of God, the truth which is knowledge of the mercies of God. To know the truth will result in true spiritual worship. It is conviction followed by affection. Praise and worship is the act of love, our gratitude to our Saviour, our reverence to the Almighty every day of our lives. Worship is honoring God. Music is one way we express adoration, induced by a heart that is rapt by the mercies of God, and obedient to His commands.

True worship is God-centered worship. Jesus tells us that "*God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*"(JOH4:24)This means we worship from the heart and the way God has designed. Worship can include praying, singing, serving, reading God's Word, participating in Holy Communion. It is not limited to one act, but is done properly when the heart and attitude of the person are in the right place. It's important to know that worship is reserved only for God. In worship we confess the qualities and characteristics of living God: that God alone is Caller and covenant maker; that God is faithful and that God is righteous altogether. So we proclaim by our worship that God is Lord, and Lord alone; that God is our Creator and Sustainer; and that God has called us, both as individuals and as a church into the covenant of His Son Jesus, in whom all the promises of God find their "Yes." Declaring who God is means declaring what God has done. Only He is worthy and not any of His servants.(Rev.19:10) Worship is done for God because He deserves it and for His pleasure alone. Worshiping out of obligation is displeasing to God and is completely in vain. God can see through all the hypocrisy, He hates it.(Amos 5:21-24) The story of Cain and Abel, they both brought gift offerings to the Lord, but God was only pleased with Abel's. Cain brought the gift out of obligation; Abel brought his finest lambs or first fruits from his flock. He brought out of faith, admiration for God.

True worship is the acknowledgment of God and all His power and glory in everything we do. Worship is to glorify and exalt God to show our loyalty and admiration to our God the Father. To worship is to show reverence for a God. We are to treat name of God with reverence. Reverent people desire to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions. Reverence is honor, respect that is deeply felt and outwardly demonstrated. God Almighty deserves of highest level of reverence, because of God's awesome power, majesty. Our God is worthy of all honor, praise, glory, worship. *Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you.*(EX23:25)

## Understanding Praise and worship

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Understanding the difference between praise and worship can bring a new depth to the way we honor the Lord. Bible commands us to “praise the Lord”. Angels are commanded to praise the Lord (Psa.89:5) All inhabitants of the earth are instructed to praise the Lord.(Psa138:4) We can praise Him with singing (Psa.9:11), with shouting (Psa.33:1), with the dance (Psa.150:4), with musical instruments.(Psa.150:3-5) When should we praise the Lord? All the time (Psa.34:1)

The word for praise meaning give thanks. Another word translated praise is Halleluiah (Hebrew, “hallel Yah”) means Praise the Lord. All terms contain the idea of be thankful for God’s blessings and to declare that goodness of God. The song of Mary proclaims while still carrying Jesus in her womb.(LUK1:46-55)“*My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.* Filled with Spirit, fully aware of His greatness, Mary pours out a song of praise to God. Mary is confessing her faith in this song. Mary models for us in her song of praise a heart of humility and trust in covenant promises of God. Song of hope that is sung by Simeon was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come.(LUK2:25)

Praise is the act of celebrating and boasting about the Lord. Praise is the joyful recounting of all God has done for us. It is closely intertwined with thanksgiving as we offer back to God appreciation for His mighty works on our behalf. Since God has done many wonderful deeds. Worship, however, comes from a different place within our spirits. Worship should be set aside for God alone. It is highly intimate and personal. Worship is the art of losing self in the adoration of God. Praise can be a part of worship, but worship goes beyond praise. To truly worship God, we must be willing to humble ourselves before God, surrender every part of our lives to His control, and adore Him for who He is.

Just as praise is intertwined with thanksgiving, worship is intertwined with surrender. Worship is the highest form of honor and respect that we can bring pleasure to God. The physical acts often related with worship; bowing, kneeling, lifting hands, attitude of humility required for real worship. A worship service is to allow both praise and worship. Often, services begin with joyous praise songs and in transition to meditative the chorus, and exalt His attributes and praise Him opportunity for worship. *The dead do not praise the Lord, Nor do any who go down into silence;*(P115:17)

Music as worship fulfills God’s command. God calls us to sing praise to the Lord and to sing in His presence.(EPH5:18-; PSA26:6;98:5) The purpose of music is to glorify God and as a tool to magnify greatness of God. A hymn is a song that gives praise, honor, or thanksgiving to God. After the Last Supper, Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn.(Mat 26:30) The songs must be spiritual. Spiritual song expresses the joy of one’s salvation, do in the grace, exalt greatness, power of God. When we are filled with Spirit, then psalms, hymns, spiritual songs are the natural expression of our hearts. Spiritual music gives voice to our joy and adoration and God wants us to use this gift as a means of worshiping Him.

Hebrews 13:15 says, “*Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*” Praise, sounds joyful as it bubbles from a grateful heart. However, in the spiritual realm, sacrifice and praise are intertwined. Accept of good so will we render [our thanks] as calves or offer the fruit of our lips.(Hos.14:2) where it signifies gratitude sacrifice of praise. The true sacrifice that the faithful can offer; thanks and praise of God, which are more pleasing than an ox that hath horns and hoofs.(Psa.69:31) We often find it easy to praise God from directly benefits us, when He has blessed us. Then there are times when God did not come through the way we thought He would. To praise God in those times requires sacrifice. We are to bless God at all times, even when things go wrong.(104:33) *I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*(Ps34:1-4)

Worship takes an act of the will to lay our all on the altar before a God. When we bring a sacrifice of praise, we choose to believe that, God is still good and can be trusted.(PSA135:2) We worship God whom we trust. King David give good reasons to worship God: “*He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them —he remains faithful forever. The Lord reigns forever*”(Psa.146:6–10) He is the only One worth worshiping, He alone is good. When we choose to praise God in spite of the storms, He is honored, and our faith grows deeper.(Mal.3:13-17) This sacrifice is to be offered continually on all situation. Real praise continues being grateful in good times and in bad. We are to give thanks in all circumstances. In Acts 16: 25, *About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.* God sees the heart; He desires and justifies sincere, heartfelt praise. David was a man after God’s own heart, he truly glorified God in his heart! He had a pure, grateful heart towards God!

Sacrifice of praise comes from a humble heart. It rises from a spirit that has chosen to honor God. We are bound to thank, praise, laud, glorify, exalt, honor, bless, extol, and adore Him who performed miracles and wonders for us. He has brought us forth from slavery to freedom, from sorrow to joy, from mourning to happiness, from darkness to light, and from bondage to redemption. Let us then recite before Him a new song: Hallelu-Yah! The righteous are glad and rejoice in his presence. It renews our faith and it restores our joy. At end of time, all of God’s people will join in eternal praise of God. *The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will serve [worship] him.*(Rev.22:3) Our worship of God on earth is preparation for the celebration of praise that will take place in eternity with the Lord.

*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.*(Psa100:1-5)

## Doctrine of worship

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A theology of worship is a doctrine concerning the worship of God. The Doctrine of worship is based on the Bible's overall teaching concerning the worship and adoration of God. Not everything that is called "worship" is actually worshipped. We learned a lesson in the very beginning: both Cain and Abel brought sacrifices to the Lord, but "the Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor"(Genesis 4:4-5) What was Cain's problem (besides jealousy, stubbornness, and murderous rage)? Cain brought an offering by not giving the first fruits of his crop. This was disobedience and reflected a lack of faith in his heart. Cain brought an unacceptable sacrifice to the Lord and demanded that the Lord be pleased. The church that does not operate importance of worship is in danger of failing to give God glory and failing to offer worship that is pleasing to Him. Worship is as misunderstood a doctrine as any other within the church. Contrary to popular belief, worship does not begin and end with the singing portion. Worship is also not limited to bowing in reverence before God. To begin with, worship is determined by God Himself, not by our pious or musical skill. True worship is a heartfelt expression of love, adoration. Hebrews 12:28 says we must "*serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear*" The word translated "serve" in the contexts of service and worship. In Exo.3:5, God demanded and expected proper respect for Him, especially in His presence. After Moses had spoken to the people of Israel about the observance of the Passover, they bowed and worshipped God.(Exo.12:27) When Ezra read the Law, the people stood up, and bowed their heads and worshipped God.(NEH 8:5-6) Lord spoke, saying: '*By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.*(LEV10:3) Let us not offend God by showing disrespect to Him. Jesus refers vain - vanity and pride in hypocritical worship of God. *And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines rules made by men.*(Matthew 15:9) Worship identifies that worship involves more than externals. God examines the heart: "*These people come . . . honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.*(Isa29:13) In worship to God, without thinking about what you are singing is in vanity. When our hearts centered on things, hidden motives, then our hearts are far from God. Worship of God is based on human rules, traditions rather than the word of God, then worship and service is vain. Worship is not about religious ritual; although ritual can be valid expressions of worship. Worship cannot be about expressing ourselves. Worship cannot be about music, although music is often used by worshipers. True worship is fixed on God. Worship is concerned with true worship of God. We must understand who is being worshiped. God is Almighty, Holy, eternal, righteous judge, etc. We are sinners saved by grace coming before a holy God on the basis of our Redeemer. There is no room for pride in adoration.(Luk18:9-14) Also, true worshipers worship in spirit and in truth, that is, our worship must be properly informed. Unless we have correct knowledge of God we worship, there is no worshiping in truth. Worshipers see God as high and exalted, the train of His robe filling the temple! When we worship God, we join with the angels.(Isaiah 6:1-4) Seraphim are the angels who are around the throne worshipping. When Abraham came into the presence of God, he said, "I am just dust and ashes." Humbleness should be the attitude of a worshiper. Moses spoke to the Lord as a friend.(Exo33:11-13) *So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.* All born again believers are children of God, just like friendship, worship is an area you should draw close to the Lord. Moses' continued to grow more intimate in his relationship with God. A worshiper knows God face to face. Worship brings an upward look, a glance at God on His throne in all His glory. It focuses our view of God. It pulls our affections off our idols and puts them onto God. It is we realize how much He loves us and that how Holy He is. Worship will result in worship that produces a change of heart. Worship brings an inward look.(ISA 6:5-7) When you see God for who He really is, as Isaiah did, you start to see yourself for who you really are. You start seeing things in your heart and in your life. But after Isaiah saw, he confessed his sinfulness, also experienced the mercy, grace, and forgiveness of God. Genuine worship always leads to an outward look—a personal response or action—a desire to be obedient to whatever God calls you to do.(v.8)The worshipper will have an ever greater desire to love and obey the Lord. Worship and service go hand in hand; worship of God should push us into greater obedience.(John 14:15) If we say we love and worship Him, but do not obey Him, our worship is worthless. Worship leads to conviction that worship is a lifestyle, not just an occasional activity. Our lives are to be dedicated to the worship and service of God. Worship is to be more than a temporary experience-oriented activity on Sunday, after which we revert to a "normal" life the rest of the week. True worship is constant, inner praise to the God, expressed in prayer, song, everyday living. *Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.*(P68:19) *He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.*(P9:2) Finally, preaching and teaching are major ingredients of true biblical worship. Our teaching must be the Scriptures, the only means of equipping believers for life and godliness and rely on the Spirit of God.(2Ti 3:16-17) As we follow the pattern of true worship, let us worship God with great passion. We must not convey to the world the impression that worship of our God is boring, lifeless ritual. Let us therefore worship our Creator as His children who are grateful for His blessings and the greatest gift—Jesus Christ, his own Son. *Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with song of praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his mercy endures forever.*(PSA100:4-5)

### **Worship God in spirit and truth**

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Humans are unconsciously worshipping creatures; sun, moon, stone, carvings or statues. Whom & How shall we worship? What constitutes a biblical worship service, and, most importantly, will we be “true worshipers” or false worshipers? Worship can be defined as the act of honoring and loving God in a selfless manner. The act of worship involves total self in giving praise, thanksgiving and reverence to God. It is not a half-hearted affair. True, biblical worship, “It is a redeemed heart, occupied with God, expressing itself in adoration and thanksgiving, be so personally and greatly in love with God” *“With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God. I will give glory to your name forever.”*(P 86:12)

The true worship of God is distinguished by the following principles: First, it comes from the redeemed heart of men who has been justified before God by faith and who is trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ. How can one worship the God of heaven if his sin has not been dealt with? Never can that worship be acceptable that proceeds from a heart where Satan, self and the world hold control.(2 Timothy 2:26) Any worship, other than that from a “washed” heart, is vain. Second, true worship of God comes from a heart that desires Him alone. This was exactly where the Samaritan people erred; they sought to worship both God and idols.(2 Ki 17:28-41) These people worshipped God “half-heartedly” as their total affection was not set on God. We might what fascinates our will, time, resources most of all? Is it career, money, wealth, possessions, health, degrees, or our families? Third, true worship of God is the desire to continue to build up our knowledge of God. We need to fill our minds constantly with the things of God; God should always be on our mind, everything we do should be done with reference to Him. So, our daily lives should also be considered as worship. Every day we are to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. Fourth, stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.(1 Sam 15:22) One who is stubborn is one who is being unreasonable, obstinate, or difficult. Such a person is not interested in truth, but in remaining true to one’s own previous conclusions. Saul’s stubbornness cost him his throne. If we allow stubbornness to invade we cease learning, uproot humility and invite own destruction.

The idea of worshipping the Lord “in spirit and truth” comes from Jesus’ conversation with the woman at the well in John 4:6-30. In the conversation, the woman was discussing places of worship with Jesus, saying that Jews worshipped at Jerusalem, while the Samaritans worshipped at Mount Gerizim. *“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such to worship Him”* Worship is an attitude of spirit. Since it’s an internal, individual action, it should be done most of the time in our lives, regardless of place or situation.(John 4:21) Therefore, Christians worship God all the time. When Christians gather together in worship, still the emphasis should be on individually worshipping the Lord. Even in a congregation, members need to be aware that they are worshipping God fully on an individual basis. With the coming of Christ, the separation between Jew and Gentile was no longer applicable, all of God’s children gained equal access to God through Him. The nature of Christian worship is from the inside out and has two equally important parts “in spirit and in truth”. Worshiping in the spirit has to do with our innermost being and requires several things. First, we must be born again. Without the Holy Spirit residing within us, we cannot respond to God in worship because we do not know Him.(1 Cor. 2:11b) The Holy Spirit within us is one who energizes worship because He is in essence and all true worship glorifies God.

Our worship of God is directed by our love for Him; as we love, so we worship Him in totality, To worship God in spirit and truth necessarily involves loving Him with all heart, soul, mind and strength.(Mark 12:30) True worship must be “in spirit,” that is, engaging the whole heart. Unless there’s a real passion for God, there is no worship in spirit. True worship comes only from those who have been saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and have the Holy Spirit living in their hearts. True worship relies on the instructions or guidance given in the Bible. Unless we have knowledge of the God we worship, there is no worship in truth. Both are necessary for satisfying and God-honoring worship. Spirit without truth will leads to a shallow, overly emotional experience. Truth without spirit can result in a dry, passionless encounter that can easily lead to a form of joyless legalism. The best combination of both aspects of worship results in a joyous appreciation of God informed by Scripture. The more we know about God, the more we magnify Him. The more we magnify, the deeper our worship. God is more glorified when we are most satisfied in Him.

Worshiping in spirit requires a mind centered on God and renewed by Truth.(Rom 12:1b,2b) Only when our minds are changed from being centered on worldly things to being centered on God can we worship in spirit. Distractions of many kinds can flood our minds as we try to praise and glorify God, hindering our true worship. By closing our eyes during prayer, it is a way to block out distractions and focus on the conversation, and in the song and it’s meaning.

We can only worship in spirit by having a pure heart, open and repentant. When King David’s heart was filled with guilt over his sin he found it impossible to worship. But when he confessed, fellowship with God was restored and worship and praise poured forth from him. He understood that the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart” Praise and worship toward God cannot come from hearts filled with un-confessed sin. Let us purify, sanctify our hearts in order to worship the triune God in spirit and truth. Else, offering strange fire before the Lord. The important thing is that we worship God in spirit (in our hearts) and in truth (in our minds) *I will praise you with an upright heart. I will declare Your name to my brethren; in the midst of the congregation will I praise You.*(PSA 22:22)

If someone were to save our life, gratitude would be the response. Worship is the expression of that gratitude and appreciation. God came as Jesus to save us. His love is without condition. Our worship recognizes His authority as creator of our universe as well as the savior of our souls. Worship, therefore is of the highest priority for the believer as well as the church. Christianity is unique among religions in that it is based upon a personal relationship with God. Exo. 34:14 says, “*Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.*” The core of our faith is our personal interaction with our creator. Through worship, we acknowledge His lordship and divinity. Whether expressed through music, shouting, prayer or other means, worship is at its core expression of intimacy with God. There is nothing on this earth, or in our lives, that is more important than our relationship with God. Praise and worship is a way of life, very heartbeat or our relationship with God. Therefore, it is in accordance with His will.

Worship is of highest priority for believers as well as for the church. The church is the collection of all who call on the name of Lord, taking advantage of the grace offered to us thru the death of Jesus on the cross. We are told to make disciples and live in obedience to commands of God. Each member of the church is called to worship God. As a body of believers, we are to be consistently involved in worship through singing psalms, hymns, spiritual songs. Each of us is to spend time in prayer meeting, speaking to God from the heart. For bible study gaining knowledge of scripture, meditate in our heart; be changed by God’s truth. For partake of the Lord’s Supper regularly, remembrance of Jesus done on cross, His body and blood were a sacrifice for our sins. For to wait/tarrying the baptism of Holy Spirit and continuing filling in Spirit. For spiritual maturity, we have to exercise spiritual gifts for benefit of the church. For all believers must overcome sin, world, satan as Christ overcame, thru strength & grace. For waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.(TIT2:12)*In His presence, there is fullness of joy.*(6:11)

Scripture is clear that Jesus died for the church and that the church is His body.(Act 20:28) Participation in a church is essential to the spiritual health of individual Christians. Attendance at church gatherings is a biblical order. In Heb 10:24-25, tells us not to give up meeting together/fellowship. Church indicates we are a body, flock, building, a holy nation. A church attendance is array of spiritual blessings it bestows. Without regular participation in church worship, one tends to drift spiritually. Church attendance promotes fellowship and encouragement. In Acts2:42, we’re told that those who came to faith “continued steadfastly in fellowship” for the purposes of “encourage one another.” We publicly demonstrate our obedience to the command to love God, shows support for the work of God in the world. When we attend church worship, we hear the public preaching of the Word of God. We are enabled us to partake of the Lord’s Supper, the public proclamation of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus. Finally, regular gatherings with people of God demonstrate that we have eternal life.(1Joh.3:14)To strengthen our faith, we must unite with others in worship and gathering for mutual edification is an indication of our love and is a sign of our salvation to eternal life.

Looking at Bible, there is not a prescribed form for a public religious service set forth for church. At same the time, several scripture do give us important ingredients that should be part of a local church. Among these are following: The observance of the ordinances: water baptism of believers and remembrance of the Lord’s Supper.(Acts 2:41-46) Steadfast observance of the apostles’ doctrine, and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Fellowship means treating fellow believers as they are—family, with love, unity of heart. Christians are all one in Christ.(JOH17:21) There will be no special seating where the saints assemble!(Jam2:3) All of us to exhibit attitudes of humility, service. Evangelism, discipleship with all members of the church using their spiritual gifts to serve Christ.(Ephesian 4:11-16) Every part of a church service is an act of worship: Praising God in music and tongue, confession, prayers, giving, Sermon, Holy Communion. The church is supposed to be impacting the world by its worship of God who is Holy.

It is important as soundness of the doctrine of the church and the soundness of the pastor doctrinally and spiritually. See what Scripture has to say about the role of worship leader and those who lead church worship. True worship, whether corporate or individual, has several major components, as described in Romans 12:1-2. First, the motivation to worship is “the mercies of God” which embodies all He has given us, none of which we deserve. Second, the manner of worship is the presentation of our bodies, including our hearts, minds, hands, thoughts, and attitudes to God. Third, our worship involves renewing our minds through the Word of God. To know the truth, to believe the truth, result in true spiritual worship. Fourth, true worship is God-centered. The purpose of worship is to acknowledge God’s worthiness. So, those who desire to lead others in worship must be to first understand nature of worship itself.

If the worship leader/Pastor is to lead, he must lead by example, and his life, therefore, must exemplify that of the true worshipper. As with all leaders in the body of Christ, his must be first spiritual leadership. He must be the first to bow before God in humility and obedience. Just as the high priest had to sacrifice for his own sins first, so must the worship leader ensure he has scraped away the hardness from his heart and loosened the stiffness of his neck before he can begin to lead others. It is the primary duty to be aligned with God’s will and to be humble before the great and awesome God. He must lead in humility and genuine concern for those under his care and focus on the worship service. Worship is bowing humbly before God and exalting Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.

## **Praising God mean**

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A definition of Christian praise is the joyful thanking and adoring of God, the boasting of His goodness and grace. Praising God makes every circumstance of our lives complete, essential, and worthwhile. When we praise, we are expressing our admiration for God; we are lifting Him up in exaltation. Why is praising God important? First, God deserves to be praised and He is worthy to receive our praise: "*For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods*"(Psa.96:4) Second, By praising God, we are reminded of the goodness of God! His power and presence in our lives is reinforced in our understanding. "*Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant*"(Psa.135:3) Praising God is useful and favorable for us. Third, Praises discharges strength in faith, which causes God to move on our behalf. "*You have ordained the little children to praise you perfectly, because their example shame and silence your enemies!*"(Psa.8:2) Fourth, Praising God transforms spiritual environment that we have. 2Chr.5:13-14, illustrates change happened when the Levites gave praise and thanks to the Lord and temple was filled with a cloud signifying glory of God. "*for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.*" Fifth, God inhabits the praises of His people. "*Yet You are holy, You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel*" (PSA22:3) Sixth, Praise will get focus on God. *Praise Him for His mighty deeds; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!*(PSA150:2) Seventh, Praise will make the enemy flee. "*As they began to sing and praise, the Lord threw the invading armies into a panic.*(2CH20:22) The wall of Jericho was brought down by marching & people shouting praises, and by faith God gives us victory. Praise will open the gateway for God's blessings as we come into His presence.(EP1:3) Who Should Praise God? "*Let everything that has breath praise the LORD, Praise the Lord!*"(Psa 150:6) *Praise the Lord, all people on earth, praise his glory and might.*(1Chronicles16:28) *Praise the Lord, all you nations! praise him, all you people.* (Psalm 117:1) *Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.*(Psa30:4) *From the rising of the sun, to the place where it sets, The Lord's name is to be praised.*"(PSA113:3) How is praising God possible? Singing songs and hymns, clapping our hands, even jumping for joy. There are many ways to praise God! Praise and worship God should result in awe of God's power, love, grace for all of us! Scripture commands that we worship God, that we exalt His name and offers Him our praise. There is biblical pattern for both the lifting of hands and clapping of hands as an act of worship. "*Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy*"(Psa47:1) Both clapping and shouting out joyful worship to God are urged. *I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.*"(Tim2:8) Singing praises, playing instruments were appropriate expressions of worship.(2Ch.5:13) (David) *he appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the Lord, to extol, thank, and praise the Lord, the God of Israel*"(1Ch16:4) They were to give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. As children of God, He dwells in our bodies the very temple thru the Holy Spirit. This means that wherever we go, God is to be praised. Therefore honor God with your body. Let us keep our bodies holy, healthy and honoring to Him. *The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, a Savior; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will renew you in His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.*(Zep.3:17) Dance is mentioned on many occasions in bible. The first appearance of God's people dancing as an act of worship is found in Exodus 15:20: "*Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing. This joyful dance to the Lord, led by Miriam, followed Israel's crossing of the Red Sea and celebrated Israel's newfound freedom from slavery. However, dancing is not always presented in a positive light in the Bible. Soon after Miriam's dance of praise, the Israelites were found dancing before a golden calf in worship.*(Exodus 32:19) On this occasion dancing was part of a wicked, idolatrous carousal. Thus, dancing is a mode of expression that can be used for good or for evil. Other instances of dancing in the Bible in 2 Sam 6:16, which has David "leaping and dancing before the LORD" The Psalms offer a unique at dance as an act of worship. As long as dance is worshipful, God-focused and praiseworthy, it can have a proper place in worship. Worship dance is a far cry from the seductive dance of the daughter of Herodias.(Mark 6:17-28) Bible says, everything should be done decently and orderly way in the church. In the New Testament concern proper dress: for women should dress modestly with decency, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God (1Tim 2:9-10), proper headwear during worship services.(1Cor 11:4) Book of Deu.22:5 has a prohibition against dressing in clothing of the opposite sex. We should avoid any style of dress into an expression of self-centered, self-exalting self-worship. If our hearts are wearing humility, that will matter to us is whether God is glorified and others are loved. Anything during a worship gathering that distracts from a focus on Christ should be left out. Each congregation bears the responsibility to structure its worship service in a way that honors God. Churches should take care to avoid dance and wears that leads others to temptation or sin. The focus must remain on worshipping God, bringing glory to God and edifying others rather than drawing attention to self-glory. All creation brings glory to God. Believers are called to bring glory to God through honor, worship and praise of which He alone is worthy as He is God of all. Praise Him in fellowship with family/believers in Early Morning Prayer of Praise and for the Lord's blessings. *This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*(P 118:24)

## Worship that Pleases God

- 7 -

The first occurrence of the word worship in the Bible is in Gen.22: 2-5. In this passage, Abraham and Isaac are headed up the hill to the altar where Abraham planned to sacrifice Isaac in obedience to God's command. *"Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering"* How did Abraham respond to God's command to sacrifice Isaac? With immediate obedience; early the next morning, Abraham started on his journey with two servants, a donkey and his beloved son Isaac, with firewood for the offering. God then provided a ram as a replacement. His unquestioning obedience to God's command gave God the glory and is an example of how to glorify God. He exalted God's sovereign love, trustworthiness, and goodness and it provided an example for us to follow. When we obey, trusting that God's plan is best, we exalt His attributes and praise Him.

Abraham's faith was such that, even if he had sacrificed Isaac, he believed the Lord would keep His word and raise Isaac from the dead.(Heb.11:17;John 8:56) Jesus fulfilled ultimate of the burnt offering the sacrifice required to be: lamb without blemish died on the cross for the sin of mankind before the God the Father. In crucifixion, the Son was appointed the Lamb of God. His physical life was wholly consumed; His garment/skin was distributed. His sacrificial offering, perfect, once for all, atoned for our sins and restored our relationship with God. God raised Him from the dead. The burnt offering is to be entirely consumed by flame, as a sweet aroma to the Lord.(Leviticus 1:9,13,17) God desired obedience, and found perfect obedience to His will in Jesus Christ. The burnt offering; giving our all will, is a sacrifice and request for renewed relationship with God. God tested Abraham's trust in Him; he obeyed and proved that his faith is real. God is involved in our lives and we worship Him the One who controls our life & destiny.

In Nehemiah 9:1-5, we learn a great deal about Acceptable worship that God desires and honors: *Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads.* Israel noticed that their fasting was unprofitable in Isaiah 58:3-4. God rebuked them and said that the type of worship they were offering was unacceptable. In Malachi 1, God rejected the offerings of the priests because they were offering the lame and the blind, instead of offering a lamb without blemish. How can we have a worship that is acceptable to God?" Jesus said God is seeking proper worship; he looks for it. As with farming, the ground of our hearts must be cultivated to worship God. Notice that the Israelites prepared for worship. 1. They prepared for worship by fasting. There is often a need to fast in order to prepare for worship because our hearts are so distracted, and hard. 2. They prepared for worship by mourning as they put on sackcloth and dust. They did something before coming to the service. Obviously, sackcloth and dust was meant to be a picture of their hearts before God. Israelites were mourning over their sins and the neglect of the law. We must prepare our hearts for worship by expecting God's beauty, righteousness and his holiness. 3. They prepared for worship by separating themselves from all the foreigners. They separated, because foreign nations were leading them into sin, sexual immorality, false worship, lack of morals. Once they separated before worship, it was protection from temptation and consecration of themselves to God alone.

The next thing we see is that when the Israelites came together, they stood and confessed their sin and the iniquities of their fathers. Confession of sin and turning away from them is important for worship because sin hinders the reception of the Word of God. We must rid ourselves of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. Confession of sin is important to worship because it will hinder our prayer life. Listen to what David said: *If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.*(Psa.66:18) Many people have ineffective worship because they have not confessed and turned away from their sin. Israel confessed not only their sins but also their fathers or the people. Their fathers were idolaters and unfaithful to God, and they, the sons and daughters, had done/repeat those same sins

Acceptable Worship Includes Hearing and Responding to the Word of God. It is wise to take time to meditate and respond to what God has spoken. If we are going to worship God, we must prepare through fasting, mourning and separating. An unprepared worship is an unacceptable worship. When people respond to the Word of God, with true confession of sin, being sanctified and worship spiritual sacrifices. This prepares them to draw near Him for his grace and mercy. *They confessed and worshipped the LORD their God.*(v.3) Through brokenness of heart has led them to humbly come before God, hear the word and responds. This brokenness of heart of revival comes to God's people. Blessing has to do with approval / favor. It is worship God approves and they will be blessed by God. Praise the Lord!

Acceptable Worship includes the leadership of righteous leaders. The Levites led Israel in the worship of God. They were commanded to be holy and to lead the people in holiness. If the Levites were not holy, it would have drawn the people away from God instead of towards Him. It is the same for our spiritual leaders. When leadership of the church is ungodly and unrighteous, then it removes the power and blessing of God. Ultimately, this brought judgment of God. (Jer.6:13) But, when a leader is holy, righteous and growing, he sets the standard for the congregation's development of worship that pleases God and receiving God's blessing. Then Levites cried out to God in prayer: *"Arise and bless the Lord your God Forever and ever! "Blessed be Your glorious name, Which is exalted above all blessing and praise!* God of all creations wants us to praise Him, to humble ourselves before Him, to trust Him, thanksgiving Him. *As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*(Psa42:1)

Worship means “reverence paid to a divine being.” If Jesus was offered and accepted worship, then by doing so He was confirming His divinity. This is important because there are those who deny the deity of Christ, lowering Him to a lesser position than God. As the second Person of the Trinity, He was and still is worshiped. Yes, Jesus accepted worship. From the beginning of Jesus’ life, we see examples of Him being worshiped. As soon as the Magi laid eyes on the infant Christ, “they bowed down and worshiped Him”(Matthew 2:11) Jesus received when He made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem: So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, ‘*Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!*’(Matthew 21:9) The word hosanna is a plea for salvation and an expression of adoration to the Lord. This word used by crowd is definitely a form of worship.

Just after Jesus amazed the disciples by walking on water, “those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God’(Matthew 14:33) Jesus accepting worship occurred just after His resurrection. Some of the women (Matthew 28:8-9) were on their way to tell the disciples of the resurrection when Jesus met them on their way. When they realized it was He, they “came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him”(Mat. 28:9) Then there is the disciple Thomas, who didn't believe Jesus had risen from the dead despite the other disciples. Jesus, knowing Thomas doubted, appeared to him and showed him the nail marks in His hands and feet and the wound in His side. How did Thomas respond? “*Thomas answered to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’*(John 20:28) His confession is an absolute surrender to the Lordship of Christ as God! His heartfelt worship was in the presence of the risen Savior. We continue to offer worship to Jesus today by offering ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice—offering ourselves to God, thru faith in Jesus Christ. *For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ.*(Col. 2:9) *And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him"*(Hebrews.1:6)

Jesus is worthy of our worship: 1: He is the Lamb of God who takes away our sin.(John 1:29) Jesus suffered in our place and took the full wrath of God against our sin and secured our complete forgiveness. 2: He is the bread of life. (John 6:35) Jesus promises to satisfy our souls and that we will never go hungry or thirsty spiritually. He is the only true source of nourishment and life that we need salvation. 3: He is the Light of the World. (John 8:12) We live in a world of darkness and sin where people do evil deeds of wickedness. Jesus shines brightly into that darkness and provides hope and direction. 4: He is the Good Shepherd. (John 10:11) The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. We are lost, helpless, without a shepherd going our own way into sin and destruction. Jesus voluntarily went to the cross on behalf of sinners so that we can be reconciled to a Holy God through the penalty of death. 5: Jesus is worthy of our worship because He is the resurrection and the life.(John 11:25) Through Him, we can have eternal life and not have to suffer for our sins. Because of Christ, we will live forever with Him in heaven. 6: He is the way, and the truth, and the life of salvation.(John 14:6) Jesus emphatically claims that He alone is the sole entrance into a relationship with God. 7: He is the giver of indestructible joy.(John 15:11) Jesus desires that our joy be full and He is trustworthy in His promises. 8: He has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit.(John 14:16) We have the promise from Jesus that the Holy Spirit will live in us forever and will never leave us nor forsake us. 9: He is the resurrected Lord. (Act 2:23-24) God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. 10: He is the Coming King. We find the Second Coming of Christ in the clouds very soon.(Rev.1:7-8) *And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day there will be one LORD--his name alone will be worshiped.*(Zechariah 14:9)

Jesus Christ is the Creator God. The Bible says that all things were created by Him and for Him: *For by Him [Jesus] all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*(Colossians 1:16) During His earthly life and ministry affirm He did the very things we would expect the Creator God to do—by His word of authority and the exercise of His will by heal the sick, give life to the dead. Jesus gave life to a widow’s son, Jairus’ daughter, and to his friend Lazarus. Here we have a parallel with what happened on the sixth day of creation when Jesus called Lazarus back to life, a living human being. Jesus fed a multitude more than 5,000 people from five loaves and two fish, and more than 4,000 people from seven loaves and a few fish. The motive of God in creating was to display His glory, to make known His power, His wisdom, His holy name, that He might receive glory from His created beings.

Men are creatures; angels are creatures that are above men. But Jesus is above the angels and Bible attributes to Him of God. In John 10:30, Jesus stated, *I and the Father are one.* Jesus He came to earth as a man in order to accomplish His Divine purposes. But He cannot stop to be God and He cannot lose the power and characteristics of God.(REV5:12) Satan knew the importance on worship that he made temptation to sin for Jesus to bow down before him in wilderness. The tactic of the serpent in the garden was to deceive the woman by wrong interpretation of the Word of God and abused its meaning. We should expect Satan, the adversary of God and liar, to advance many duplicate of the person of Jesus. Sometimes Satan puts on a disguise and makes it look like he actually stands for good instead of evil. *And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.*(2Co.11:14) Satan would want all false views to succeed in some measure to lead people away from the truth. We must be aware of the devil’s devices.(1Co.2:11)



Is it really necessary to serve God? Peter states importance of serving God “*As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God provides, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*”(1Pe 4:10-11) We have received gifts from God for two purposes— to serve others and to bring praise to God and for Him to receive glory.

How does God receive glory when we serve? Bible says believers should recognize that we are speaking and serving directly on behalf of God to others, while He gives the ability and strength for us to do so. And when we direct glory towards Him instead of accepting it for ourselves, we stand out from the crowd of those who glorify only themselves. And that difference in our lives causes people to examine life-changing nature of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

We should serve God alone and we are not to worship Satan, false gods or idols this was the context of Matthew 4:10. When Jesus was born, the angels told Mary that God would give Him the Kingdom of His father David. By suffering the death of the cross, through the resurrection from the dead would He inherit the Kingdom. The only way to deal with sin was to go to the cross and suffer the pangs and torments of hell in the place of His people. When Jesus was in the wilderness, Satan offered Him the kingdoms of the world. “I will grant the kingdom to you. You can usher in peace, prosperity, long life and endless joy – just fall down and worship me, and all this will be yours. No cross, No wrath of God to deal with. Just serve me.” Satan offered the same thing to Adam. He offers the same thing to every men/believer. “Just fall down, serve me, and I will give you your heart’s desire.” It’s a lie because the devil is a liar and murderer. He can’t give you peace or eternal life. But they can enslave you to a life of harder, mad, finally ends up in hell with him. And how often do we forget that God alone is source of all good? *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*(Jam.1:17)

We reach out to people or to things or to ideas in order to ease the pain, and forget that Jesus already paid it all on the cross. He alone can take away the curse, sin, and sickness. He alone can solve the burden heart. He will do good deeds of love, mercy, truth. Jesus gives peace, rest, freedom. That which comes from God is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, joy. The promise of devil brings shame, guilt, bondage. Satan will never settle for anything less than worship. They will continue to tempt, pursue, abuse, blame you until you are finally pleading at his feet. We should be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might to resist the devil and overpower evil. Cast out Satan/demons with authority in Jesus’ name. God provides us with a defense: Submit to God. Put on the full armor of God, abide in Christ; be clothed in His character, righteousness, so that you may be able to stand against devil’s schemes. Pray in the Spirit at all times. God’s eyes on us, you can always call out to Him to help. He shielded, cared, guarded as the apple of His eye! God hold you in the palm of His hand! So let us say with confidence, “Away from me, Satan! I will worship and serve God alone”

In Rom 12:1-2, giving ourselves to God is our spiritual act of worship, It’s only reasonable that we would serve God. Every Christian might have a different reason for serving God and are motivated by different things. When a person is in a real relationship with God, he will serve God. We want to serve God for “we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.” Paul refers to himself as a servant of Jesus Christ. Servants of Christ die daily to sin and fleshly desires allowing Christ’s life to flow through them. Seek ways to bring our Master pleasure. Serve the Lord with gladness.

When we look at Jesus’ life, there’s no denying that He was a servant. Jesus’ entire life was centered on serving God by teaching, healing, and proclaiming the Kingdom. He came not to be served but to serve.(Mat.20:28) Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, leaving them with a final teaching to serve one another: *I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.* So, if Jesus is all about serving, and God wants to make us like Him, then it’s obvious that we should be all about serving as well. Paul reminds us that our attitude is to be like Christ’s that we consider others better than ourselves and do nothing out of vanity or selfishness. Therefore, our mission is to serve one another, to give of ourselves just Christ came to give His life. *but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*(Joshua 24:15)

Genuine service is from Love. Serving God out of a sense of obligation or duty, apart from love for God, is not what He desires. Rather, serving God should be our natural, love-filled response to Him who loved us first.(1John 4:9–11) The apostle Paul is a great example of how having a relationship with God through Christ results in a life of service. Prior to his conversion, Paul persecuted and killed believers, thinking he was serving God. But after he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus, he immediately devoted the rest of his life to truly serving God by spreading gospel. Paul describes this transformation in 1Ti.1:12–14: “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Once Paul became aware of the love and grace that God had given him, his response was to serve the Lord. If you want to serve God, the key is to get to know Him who is love, our response is a desire to love and serve Him in return. God remembers and rewards your labor of love.

Worshipping God requires total commitment of our body, mind and spirit. It's about exalting, adoring, acknowledging the God of the Bible. It has everything to do with having an intimate and profound relationship with God-the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God Seeks People to Worship Him in Spirit and Truth. So, before you can worship in the way God desires, you have to develop a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus, His Son. He wants us to have hope for a future and have eternal life with Him. Worship is an expression of praise from depths of our hearts towards God. It is an expression of faith, and a declaration of victory! It declares that we believe God is with us and is in control.

To many, worship is associated with singing. But there are certainly other types of worship. The most important way to show our devotion to God is through our everyday lives. When we strive to be Christ-like, to loving and serving others, to honoring and glorifying God, then we are truly worshipping Him. When we fail to worship God we always find a substitute, even if it ends up being ourselves. Worship is a universal urge, hard-wired by God into every fiber of our being. It's as natural as breathing. Jesus said we were made this way because 'the Father seeks...worshippers'. Depending on your religious background you may need to expand your understanding of worship. For example: If worship is just music, then what about all those people who can't carry a tune at all? Also, one person's music style preference often sounds like noise to another. But not to God-He loves 'joyful noise' and all the varieties it comes in.

Also worship is not just for your benefit. When you say, 'I didn't get anything out of the service today,' you worshipped for wrong reason! Yes, there are personal benefits, but we don't worship to please ourselves. We should not be worshipping for the expectation of something in return, such as a miraculous healing. Our highest motive should be to exalt God in whatever we do. Bible says, offer yourselves a living sacrifice, as dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him.'

To worship in Spirit and Truth we must have purity of heart. It is a condition of your heart--a willingness to exalt God, yield to his will. We should have a spirit of humility, submission, obedience, commitment to the will of God. And a have sense of who He is and a sense of awe in His presence, that is an awareness of God's presence, overwhelmed by His majesty. Focuses your mind, heart on God's attributes with the verses and let your praise go up! The spiritual sacrifices that we are to offer are sacrifices of praise. It is the fruit of our lips. It is act of spiritual worship.(ROM12:1) God is spirit; and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. God is Lord of Lord, King of Kings. He is supreme in the entire universe, who made heaven and earth. "*Angel Saying with a loud voice, Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth.*"(Rev14:6-7)

Bible warns us not to worship anyone or anything else. God says "*I am the LORD your God ..You shall have no other gods before me.* We are not to worship: saints, statues, angels, money, celebrities or Mary, mother of Jesus. Anyone or anything that becomes more important than God and turns our hearts away from Him is an idol or a false god. Every human being was designed to worship. We readily worship food, sports, arts, and music. But if you choose not to worship God, you need to understand that you are worshipping idols. At some point, the object of your worship will fail to come through for you. God says in Jonah 2:8, Those who worship false gods, worthless idols, turn their backs on all God's mercies and loving-kindness. Worship of God and of Him alone must be first priority at all times because God who created you. Praise and worship are to be the foundation on which we live our lives. Through intimacy that comes through such worship, praise for Him will be a true reflection of Christ, from the inside out. True worship is felt inwardly and is expressed through our actions. When the devil tried to tempt Jesus in Mat.4:10, Jesus rebuked him and said, *Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.*

Finally, Praise and worship should not be limited to church. The secret of worship is in doing everything 'as unto the Lord'. We can worship God in church, or in any place. Location doesn't matter or how many people are involved. How you worship is important. Genuine praise to God is a matter of humility and sincere devotion to the Lord from within. Every time we worship God, we are enthroning God in our praises. Lifting up God through praise and worship invokes the Lord's presence and power to flow in our midst. Praise to the Lord brings the refreshing of the Lord's presence, along with His power and anointing. Thru praise and worship, hearts were raised into the joyous presence and peace of God and provided mighty discharge of His power to operate. In a true moment of praise and worship, God is enthroned, His presence will fall. When it happens, God's authority touches earth and things can happen, people can be set free. That night as Paul and Silas sat chained in the prison they began to sing "hymns of praise to God." Suddenly God's presence showed up. There was an earthquake and they were released from their chains. *Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders his way aright, I will show the salvation of God.*(PSA50:23)

Our heavenly Father is the "HEART" of God (He loves us with an everlasting love) Jesus Christ is the "FACE" of God (He came to earth and lived among us) Holy Spirit is the "VOICE" of God (whatever He hears, He will speak) When you come together, everyone has a hymn, has a doctrine, has a revelation, has a tongue or an interpretation. *(They) stood up and praised the LORD, the God of Israel, with very loud voice.*(2CH 20:19) *Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah!*