

## BECOMING A WORSHIPER

(John 4:23 KJV) 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. (John 4:24 KJV) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

### I. THE FATHER SEEKS WORSHIPERS.

- A. ***God is not looking for worship as much as He is looking for worshipers.***
- B. ***God is not seeking sacrifice of things; He desires the sacrifice of ourselves.***  
(Rom 12:1 KJV) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
- C. ***Everybody is called to be a worshiper.***
  - 1. We are all priests unto the Lord.
  - 2. Center of worship should be in the congregation; the leaders facilitate the congregations's worship.
- D. ***We will never grow to the point where we are above worshipping the Lord.***
  - 1. (Psa 107:32 KJV) Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.
  - 2. (Rev 4:9 KJV) And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, (Rev 4:10 KJV) The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, (Rev 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.
  - 3. In many of our churches, the elders are the most inhibited in their worship.
- E. ***Becoming a worshiper is a privilege and challenge. It delights the heart of the Father.***

### II. QUALITIES THAT CHARACTERIZES A WORSHIPER (Luke 7:36-50).

- A. ***Worshippers are givers.***
  - 1. (Psa 96:8 KJV) Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.
  - 2. (Deu 16:16 KJV) Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:
- B. ***Worshippers come with a deeply stirred heart to the Lord.***
  - 1. This woman came into Jesus' presence weeping.
  - 2. She was repentant and unreserved.
  - 3. This woman kissed Jesus' feet. The Greek word for worship *proskuneo* means "to kiss the hand toward; to do reverence or homage by kissing the

hand; to bow one's self in adoration. The derivation of *proskuneo* is thought to come from the Greek word for dog. Thus the original meaning was "to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand."

C. ***There are no formulas for worship.***

1. Worship is a function of the heart, and the heart will find expression in a variety of external forms.
2. Sometimes we just fall before Him in quietness.

III. WHAT REASONS SHOULD WE HAVE FOR CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP?

A. ***Vertical aspect of worship.***

1. The level in which the worshiper communicates with the Lord.
2. Our means of ministering to the Lord.
3. To better realize the manifest presence of God.
4. The presence of the Lord is what makes the church different from social organization.

B. ***Horizontal aspect of worship.***

1. The level in which the worshiper communicates with others in the congregation.
2. There are a number of reasons we praise and worship together
  - a. (Heb 10:25 KJV) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
  - b. To enhance the sense of unity within a body--one voice.  
(Lev 26:8 KJV) And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.  
(Deu 32:10 KJV) He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.
  - c. To minister to one another.
  - d. To provide an atmosphere for the expression of the gifts of the Spirit and various spiritual ministries.
3. Praise to declare the glories of God before unbelievers.
  - a. If we confess the name of Jesus in the worship service, we will find increased boldness to declare his name before unbelievers.
  - b. If too shy to confess Jesus' name among believers, never summon courage to share faith with unbelievers.
  - c. As we lift our voices in the congregation, the Lord will increase our ability to vocalize our faith to others.
4. What impression do sinners get when they listen to our praises and watch our countenances?
  - a. Do they witness a level of vitality and enthusiasm that convinces them we are participating in something genuine.
  - b. Worship service can be the best service to bring a friend.
  - c. Open the doors, lift the shades, prop open the windows, crank up the

sound, and sing his praise before the world.

5. When a church becomes a praising church, it will begin to reap a harvest.

C. ***Inward aspect of worship.***

1. Where the worshiper is personally affected by the worship service.
2. Releases God's people in an uninhibited expression of their inner selves.
  - a. Whatever form we worship should be with all our hearts.
  - b. Ps 24:7. "Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in."
3. Worship increases our faith. When we worship, we may be hearing the word of God.
4. As we worship, we also grow in holiness.
  - a. If worship does not change a person's life, the reason is simple: that person has not unveiled his or her face before God.
  - b. "When he appears, we shall be like him." Worship is seeing the Lord.

IV. HINDERING ATTITUDES IN WORSHIP.

A. ***"Pride."***

1. Restrains us from lifting our voices without fear in the congregation.
2. Pride comes up with excuses such as "Well, that's just not my style of praise."
3. Are we willing to worship in a different manner if we sense the impulse of the Spirit, regardless of what others might think?

B. ***"Reverse hedonism."***

1. Hedonism is, "If it feels good do it."
2. Reverse hedonism: "If you don't feel like worshipping, don't."

C. ***"Spectatorism."***

1. We have all been called as a spiritual priesthood to offer up sacrifices of praise.
 

(Rom 12:1 KJV) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

(1 Cor 3:16 KJV) Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

(1 Pet 2:5 KJV) Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. (1 Pet 2:6 KJV) Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

(Rev 1:6 KJV) And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
1. No one can worship for another.

D. ***"Sentimentalism."***

1. Overly familiar songs are in danger of becoming sentimental for us. These are songs so well known and common that they lose their effectiveness in

- stimulating our minds to worship.
2. Must not be satisfied with an emotional response alone; we need a complete response of body, soul, and spirit.
- E. ***“Fear of manipulation.”***
1. “I’m not going to let this worship leader ‘hype’ me! He can try cheerleading if he wants to, but just see if he can get me to respond!”
  2. Cannot allow yourself the luxury of being irritated with the worship leader’s style.
- F. ***“We’ve never done it this way before.”***
- Refusal to change.
- Our worship is likely to improve if we will stir ourselves to be innovative, willing to try new things, and be ready to experiment and explore all that God has for us in worship.

#### EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW.

- (Rom 14:11 KJV) For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.
- (Phil 2:10 KJV) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

I Worship and Adore You  
 Holy is the Lamb  
 Majesty