

Simply Simple Worship

“Simply, Simple Worship.” Yes, that is the name of our website. However, to me it is so much more. It is the true essence of my life now as a child of the Living God. It sounds so simple doesn’t it. Yet over the years we have made worship so very difficult. We must understand that worship is not something we do but rather it is the fundamental purpose of our existence.

Yahweh was not looking for great songs or great vocalists or great musicians. He created specific angels for that. He made them with excellence. No, God desires a unique kind of worship - a worship that would touch His heart in a very unique way. It is a worship that comes from a source of true awestruck love, amazement and wonder. A worship where there is a genuine heart to heart, “deep calling to deep” relationship.

This kind of unique worship that the God of our Salvation is seeking for comes from a source that recognizes that there is nothing that could be or needs to be done for this wonderful God. It comes from a heart that all it wants to do is anything and everything unto Abba Father, its Daddy God – just because. Just because I love Him for Who He is not for what He does.

You may be saying, “I know this already. Let’s get on with it. Let’s get into the “meat” of what worship is.” Well, this is the meat of what real worship is. Everything else is just the “gravy and trimmings” for us – not God. Real and true worship is simply an “attitude of the heart.” Your heart!!! My heart!!! Our heart!!! It begins and ends there.

Worship seems to be getting so much into the “sound of the time,” into “atmosphere and room ambiance,” lyrics that sound “cool” and “trendy” in worshipping the Lord. It is getting to the point where worship is seen as just music and songs, feelings and emotions. Please, do not get me wrong. I know there is a place for music and songs, feelings and emotions. There is nothing incorrect about having different style of “praise.” However, true worship is not simply “praise.” “Praise” is an aspect or a part of worship. “True worship” is much more than that.

One day, many years back, the Lord spoke these words to me, “Simply, Simple Worship.” That literally changed my life. It reminded me that what pleases God is the “attitude of someone’s heart.” Yes, “true worship” is what is in the heart or the spirit of an individual and

not necessarily what comes out of the mouth or the hands of an individual. True worship comes from a pure heart and it is for God and God alone.

There was a phrase we used a while back, "Worship is for an audience of One." Well is it? Or have we made it something else. I read a statement years ago by Michael Card that has stuck with me all these years. Sometimes I remember it and sometimes I forget about it but then it always pops up in my head again and again. He stated, "The most important thing concerning the worship experience is that **God has been worshiped**. What I get out of it or how I feel about it is of a secondary issue." WOW!!!

You see, worship is all about God. It is not about anything else. The only thing that pleases God is the correct "attitude of the heart" of the worshiper. It infiltrates into every aspect of our life and lifestyle. It is not just singing or playing music on Sundays in a Corporate Gathering or at an event. No. True worship happens everyday - at home, at work, in school. Our lives should just be a life of "worship" unto the Lord.

If the attitude of the worshiper's heart is not to see God alone being worshiped, then he/she is not really being a worshiper. When we worship the Lord in a way that is pleasing to Him, with the correct motives and attitude of the heart, our God cannot help Himself but to pour out all that He is upon the true worshiper. That should never be the reason we do what we do but it becomes a very good byproduct of our worship.

A lifestyle of worship must be the believer's top priority. Remember, I am not speaking about musical acts of worship. Unfortunately, this is what many of us have relegated worship to be – times of music and singing during a Corporate Gathering or service and yes, even concerts disguised as "worship gatherings." Our first priority and highest desire as a people of God must be to worship Him **in all that we do and with all that we are** – our entire lives.

David writes in Psalm 27, "*One thing have I desired and that will I seek after...*" Worship is not to be just a fleeting moment of passion but rather it should be a burning desire for lasting intimacy 24 hours a day/ 7 days per week. Worship is the expression of our love for God. It is why we exist. It is why we were created. Our commitment to a life of relationship with our God flows out of, and through, our lives as an act of true worship. Our worship, therefore, must be open and honest. It must be our most truthful place with God.

The greatest act of true worship was when Jesus went through His passion. The end result was a pure act of worship acceptable to God. It came from an attitude of a heart that was pure in its intentions – to do everything unto His Father as a sacrifice – an act of worship. Jesus worshiped the Father to the point of giving His life for the Father's will to be accomplished. That was and still is our example of what "true worship" was and still is.

True Worship brings us to the realization of the love and desire that our God has for true intimate relationship with us. Relationships are easy when they remain simple. The Word reveals to us the key to good, healthy, strong relationships: it is all about the other person, not our selves. Hmm... That must carry over into our relationship, and therefore our worship, of our God – it is all about Him, not us.

So what is Worship? The Hebrew word translated to the English term "worship" is the word "shachah" (shä·khä'). It means to lay down prostrate in homage to a deity, a person or something. It also means to bow down to a deity, a person or thing that is held in the highest regard to the person bowing down to it. Notice, that I did not necessarily mention "God" in my definition. The term "worship" is generic. It is neither good nor bad in itself. It changes its connotation when it is directed toward someone or something. Worship unto the Lord becomes true worship unto Him when it is directed towards Him and Him alone.

The Greek word translated into the term worship in the New Testament is an interesting one. The word is "proskyneō." It means to turn towards in acknowledgment of a deity, person or thing for the purpose of paying homage to or giving reverence (respect) to them. It means to adore and to "kiss towards" a deity, a person or thing that is held in the highest regard. It infers that there must be an act of lying down prostrate or bowing down. It also means to "draw near to" the one that you desire to be with. An interesting aspect of the Greek word, "proskyneō" is that, figuratively speaking, it refers to being "like a dog licking its master's hand."

WHAT!!! Are you calling me a dog!!! Are you telling me that I must come before the Living God, the God of all creation, Yahweh Adonai - like a dog? Well, yes!!! Why? Because a dog knows who their source is, not only of their food, water and shelter, but who their source of fulfillment and joy is.

They express their understanding of who you are to them in the only way they can. They give their highest praise with a “doggy heart” attitude of gratitude and love by licking you so much that you have to push them away and tell them to stop because it was getting to be too much for you. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all would kiss towards our Heavenly Father with such a heart attitude of gratitude and love, so much so that He would have to tell us to stop because it was too much for Him to take?!!!

Our worship is to be given unto Him because we desire to bless the heart of our Father, our God and not because we are forced to or because we want to entertain Him. The worshiper must recognize who God is and the love that God has given them. Therefore, it is gladly expressed through their worship as well as their acts and lifestyle of worship.

Worship, as in our definition, acknowledges the object of our worship-God. Yes, God must be the supreme authority in our life. The definition of the term "lord" means that the one who we are acknowledging as “lord” is to be the “absolute and final authority within a person's life-the supreme commander.” He is not a harsh “Lord” but rather He is a loving God.

You cannot truly worship God unless He is your Lord, the absolute, supreme and final authority within your life. This is so very vital for us today. Romans 10:9,10 tells us very clearly how Jesus becomes a person's personal Savior and Lord - by confessing with your mouth and believing in your heart that Jesus is who He says He is – the Savior and Lord **of all**.

Deuteronomy 10:12 tells us, *“And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.”* As we read Deuteronomy 10:12, it expresses to the reader a “spiritual process,” if you will, in which being able to effectively worship the Lord corresponds directly to a person's salvation through Jesus.

We must first truly *“...fear the Lord...”* We must respect and have a holy reverence for who God is. We are not afraid of God but we have a very deep and sincere respect and honor for our God - the one and only true God.

Secondly, we are told to *“...walk in all His ways...”* How do we do this? The Law was to show the people how they were to walk in the ways of the Lord - the Law. That would be the only

way to get to the next part of the process. We know that this is impossible for anyone to be able to accomplish. There is no one who could know or even remember all His ways, never mind “*walk in all His ways.*” It would seem like this would be the end of the road to truly enter into the true worship of our God. But Jesus.....

This is now accomplished when we accept Jesus as our Savior and our Lord. We acknowledge and totally believe that only Jesus is the fulfillment of the whole Word of God. Why? This is because Jesus is the Word of God. This now leads us to the next aspect of the process found in Deuteronomy 10:12 - “*...love Him...*”

Through Jesus, we can now truly love God. To love God is to give of ourselves, totally, to Him. We love Him with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our body. Because we love Him we desire to please and bless Him through an attitude of heart which leads us to the final part of the process, “*...serve Him...*” Through Jesus, we are now able to serve God and do His will and purposes. Not because we have to, but rather because we truly love Him.

We become that true worshiper of our God. We accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord and we are now truly able to worship our God. Not just in music or song, or dance, or anything else. We now love Him with our whole heart because He first loved us. There is nothing that we can do other than knowing, accepting and receiving Jesus into our hearts. I know that I am nothing without Him. But now... I am able to worship Him in “spirit and truth.” (John 4:23,24)

This was the background and scenario we have when Jesus visits the Samaritan woman in John 4. Jesus was expressing to the woman, as found in verse 22, that she really was worshiping God in an incorrect manner. He was expressing to her a problem that continues to be a problem even to this day in the worship of many who call themselves “Christians.” Jesus told her that she was not truly worshiping the God who she was trying to worship. She **really had no idea who she was worshiping**. She really did not know God. Hmmm.....

Jesus then tells her that the Jews also do not truly know Yahweh. They only know **about Him**. They do not really know Him in an intimate and personal way. They knew the correct rituals, etc. However, that is all that it had become – religious rituals. Is that what we do today during our services? Hmmm....

Jesus goes on to say that “*the day will come and now is.*” This is because Jesus was and is the only way to the Father and the only way to true worship that pleases the Father. The time **is now**. Jesus calls them “true worshipers.” They worship God with their heart. Notice, he does not mention anything here about music and song. It is all about the “attitude of the heart” of the person towards the Living God.

God is Spirit. The only way to worship and communicate with God is through a born-again spirit that is now alive to God and dead to sin (Romans 6:11). True worship is initiated from within our spirit, which is then expressed within our soul and manifested from out of our body. True worship comes from a heart, the spirit, of one who has been “born again.”

Through a "born again" spirit, we can now freely worship God because He is "Spirit." Our worship is now - “Spirit to Spirit.” It is an attitude of my heart. My worship is now manifested in my behavior and lifestyle in living a God-like life. I love God. I show that love to my God by representing Him and telling others about this wonderful God. So, you see, it is not just music, song, dance, etc. It is an “attitude of the heart.”

2Corinthians 5:17 tells us that through Jesus we become a “new species” of being – a born again child of God. Our spirit is now alive unto God and we are now able to fully communicate and have relationship with Him. We can worship God "spirit to spirit" and not flesh to a “spirit God.” Our soul and body must then line up with our spirit.

This is why we need to be careful not to cross the line of our worship becoming "soulish" or in the "flesh." True worship must always be led by the Holy Spirit. It is our entire life. This is so very, very important. The true worship of our God is not about music or song or anything we do unto Him. We must remember that true worship is an “attitude of our heart.” I can now truly love Him because He first loved me and I received that love. I am so thankful for His love that I pour out all my heart unto Him.

Jesus tells us that we are to worship our God in “spirit and in truth.” John 17:17 tells us that God’s Word is **truth**. Therefore, the only worship that is pleasing and acceptable by God is the worship that is expressed and found in His Word. The only thing that pleases God **is faith** or as we said, doing His Word (ref. Hebrews 11:6). Therefore, our worship, our daily lives, in order to be accepted by God, must be done **according to His Word** and nothing else.

The term "true," as found in this scripture, means to be "real" in our worship before the Lord. True worship is when we are real and genuine with the Lord. The person must be your self before God. Coming to Him just the way you are. It is not how good we are but it is all about how good God truly is. He loves us simply because we are now recognizing Him for who He is – our God!!!

We must know that it is okay to be **real** with God and not come to Him with a phony smile or a phony song. He knows better. After all He is God. You cannot fool Him so don't even try. True worship comes from a heart that loves and worships God for who He is, not for what you want or for what you get out of it. It is knowing that you do not earn God's approval or acceptance by worshipping Him in song or dance or anything else. Matthew 5:8 tells us that those who worship with a pure heart **shall see** (experience) God in all His fullness. Isn't that what it is all about?

Our worship is not for God but it should be unto Him. Our worship is not for anyone else but only to bless the heart of our God. Our lives are to be one, big "worship unto the Lord." It does not matter if we are with a crowd of believers or alone by our selves. It all comes down to each person's attitude of their own heart with the one and only true and living God.

There are many "ways" that the Word tells concerning how we can express our love and adoration unto the Lord. Remember, these are all "actions," our praise, to our God. True worship is simply an attitude of the heart that knows I am nothing but yet, through Jesus, I have been brought back into the family of God. That is why I want to "praise Him!!!"

We are that holy and royal priesthood who are to worship God in spirit and in truth. I encourage us all to enter into that "secret place of thunder" through the "Simply, Simple Worship" of our God. He is so worthy to be praised!!! Let all glory, honor, blessing and power be given onto Him, forever and ever!!!

"Thou art 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." - Revelation 4:11