

WHAT IS WORSHIP

The surging power of the ocean. The breathtaking beauty of the Grand Canyon. The unleashed fury of a violent storm. The infinite vastness of a starlit sky. These give us a sense of awe and wonder and make us feel so very insignificant and weak and small and limited by comparison. Surely if creation can affect us this way, then what happens when we contemplate the greatness of our Creator? As we begin to see God in His Holiness and His grace, and in His goodness toward us it touches us deeply and becomes the driving force of our life. It should be causing us to explode with worship and it affects everything about us – our words, our actions and attitudes. The more I see Him the more I cry with the Apostle Paul, “That I may **know** Him and the power of His resurrection.” **Phil. 3:10**

SEARCH THE OLD TESTAMENT TO FIND:

Forms of worship used from Cain and Abel to Noah to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. To Moses and the law. Note that it was always structured.

Then on to Jesus and how He represented worship. Since Christ came there is not more temple worship. You are now the temple of the Holy Spirit!

1Cr 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the **temple of God**, and [that] the **Spirit of God** dwelleth in you?

But what is worship? The English word for worship comes from two Old English words. **Weorth** meaning **worth** and **scipe** or **ship** which means something like shape or “quality”. Hence friendship – the quality of being a friend or sportsmanship – the quality of being a good sport. Worth ship is the quality of having worth or of being worthy. When we worship, we are saying that God has worth, that He is worthy. Worship means to declare worth, to attribute worth, or to put it in biblical terms, we praise God. We speak or we sing about how good and powerful and faithful and merciful and full of loving kindness He is!

I Chronicles 16:23-31

I Peter 2:9 says this is a purpose for which we have been called: **“You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, that you might show forth (or declare) the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light.”**

Imagine that. Think on that! We have the job of declaring the worth of God!

The Old and New Testaments have a number of words that are translated “worship”. The Hebrew word used most often in reference to worship means “to bow down, to do homage” as found in **Gen. 18:2**.

The most prominent Greek word translated “worship” is **proskuneo** and it conveys the idea of “showing reverence” or “bowing down to God”.

The other is **latreuo** and is translated **serve** 16 times, **worship** 3 times and **do the service** once and **worshipper** once. **Mt. 4:10**

- 1) to serve for hire
- 2) to serve, minister to, either to gods or men and used alike of slaves and freemen.
 - a) in the New Testament – to render religious service or homage, to worship

- b) to perform sacred services, to offer gifts, to worship God in the observance of the rites instituted for His worship
1) of priests to officiate, to discharge the sacred office. (**I Peter 2:9, Rev. 1:6; 5:10**)

Tie these verses in to the above definitions and recognize that we are to BE worship to the Lord. This is worshipping in Spirit and in Truth! As we lay our lives down as a living spiritual act we come to the place of truly KNOWING HIM who laid His life down for us! And then we will be as He is because He dwells in us and through us His glory will be seen in all the earth!

John 4:3-24, Is. 29:13, Mt. 15:7-9, Is. 1:10-20, Ro. 12:1, Is. 6:1-8