

Bite Size Bible Study

Living Our Worship Daily #177 By Pastor Lee

We've talked a lot about how much more worship is than a song and a prayer. Worship includes one's whole life.

One way to check to see if we are worshipping to the full is to write down all of the things we do in a day. Then go over the list and underline how many things are done with God as the center.

We can work at our job and keep God at the center in the way we interact with others and perform that job to the best of our ability. Or we can realize that we are serving God by providing for our family. Our job may be high tech or it may be shoveling fish guts, but is our purpose to serve God and others or to serve ourselves?

It isn't the job – it's the attitude and purpose.

Certainly there are activities in church services that lend themselves to worship. They can be the songs we sing, the prayers we have for others, or rituals that are a part of the service. These are good and useful, but we have to constantly ask ourselves, is it the activity or our mindset that is our worship of God. Are we putting Him first, are we recognizing who He is, or are we just going through the motions?

This should start sounding familiar – we've looked at this before. But there is so much misunderstanding about what is worship that it is worth another look.

Jesus said ". . . true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth"

John 4:23b-24

What did He mean when He said "spirit and truth"? Another way to interpret these two words is spiritually and truly.

We can only worship Him spiritually when our spirit is in tune with His Spirit. That can only occur if we are in a relationship with Him – whether it is a new relationship or a well seasoned one. When our spirit is in tune with His Spirit, the relationship is mutually pleasing. We recognize that it is not in perfect tune with Him, but is a work in progress, and this too is a form of worship. As we work to become in better tune with His Spirit we are in effect saying "God you are important to me and I want to be just like you".

Worshipping "truly" is when we are sincere and truthful with our intentions and actions. We worship Him, not to get something from Him, but to learn from Him, to relate to Him, and to recognize that He is our source of life. He

created and sustains everything we can see, hear, feel, and touch.

I think there are areas where we may not be truly worshipping Him. Like when we pray over our meal. Often it becomes so repetitive that we can, and often do, say it without even thinking about it. For those that like to recite the Lord's Prayer, how often do we stop and think about the meaning of those words?

Without God nothing exists – including us.

God wants us to worship him in a sincere and spirit filled way, not because it builds His ego, but because it builds our relationship. He is God, Creator, and Sustainer of everything: something that we will never be, either in this life or the next. We are His children and He is our Father – that will never change.

He is eternal – no beginning and no end to His existence. **We had a beginning, but His desire is that we see no end.**

Jesus criticized some of the Pharisees for being hypocrites. They performed all the rituals and did all the right things, but only for show. In their spirit they didn't believe in what they were doing, and didn't have a right relationship with God.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.

In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. Mat 23:27-28 NIV

God wants us to be sincere in our worship of Him, not to fake it as some have done.

We need to believe the praises we say, the songs that we sing and the things we do, and *really* believe them.

When we do, we will be Living Our Worship Daily.

A good thing to include in our prayers is to ask for and acknowledge that He is training us. This will not only keep us centered on Him but will show in our daily activities.

**Remember when our hearts (spirit)
are centered on Him
We are right on target.**

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