

WORSHIP INTRO / PRIORITY

Before we discuss the priority, protocol, practice, perfume, power, profit and permanence of worship, we should seek to define what it is. Root words of worship:
Middle English = worships / worthiness. Old English = weorthscipe / worthiness
Worship expresses the worth of the one that is honored. Here is some worship in heaven.

**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. - Revelation 4:11 KJV**

- [revere](#), [reverence](#), [venerate](#), [worship](#), [adore](#)
mean to honor and admire profoundly and respectfully.
- [revere](#) stresses deference and tenderness of feeling.
- [reverence](#) presupposes an intrinsic merit and inviolability in the one honored and a similar depth of feeling in the one honoring.
- [venerate](#) implies a holding as holy or sacrosanct because of character, association, or age.
- [worship](#) implies homage usually expressed in words or ceremony.
- [adore](#) implies love and stresses the notion of an individual and personal attachment.

- Merriam Webster Dictionary

Only God is worthy of our undivided devotion. The Hebrew definition of worship is 'to bow down or to prostrate'. It also carries the idea of the relation between a dog and his master ie. adoring love. The first of the 10 commandments forbids bowing to other gods - Exodus 20:5. Bowing is an attitude of submission and obedience. In worship we give ourselves unreservedly to God in all of life. In the New Testament the word for worship is 'proskuneo' which is 'to kiss the hand, to homage or revere'. In Psalm 2:10-12, the rulers of the earth are warned to serve the Lord and 'kiss the Son lest He be angry'. Worship is selfless adoration towards a superior being.

**Prayer is preoccupation with our needs. Praise is preoccupation with our blessings.
Worship is preoccupation with God himself. - Leonard Ravenhill**

Worship is a human response to a divine revelation. - Charles R. Swindoll

Praise is the fruit of our lips while worship is the fruit of our heart.

In both Old and New Testaments, God's revealed will in calling His people together is that they might experience His presence and power. Worship is the means by which a place is prepared for God to meet with and move among His people. - Jack Hayford

Few subjects touch closer to the heart of God than the subject of praise and worship. Jesus revealed that the Father seeks true worshipers, who do so in spirit and in truth. - John 4:23-24. As we will see in this study, there are a variety of ways to worship God. It is more than singing songs to God personally or in a group setting. God desires that our whole life be an expression of love, adoration and devotion to Him. While in England I lived in a London suburb predominated with Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims who were very devoted to their particular gods. When we had visiting evangelism teams come to our church from various countries, I would take them to visit a Hindu temple, a Sikh gurdwara and a Muslim mosque. Before we entered the sanctuary of each, we would have to remove our shoes or sandals. The adherents of those three religions displayed reverence and even bowed down in their places of worship. Even though we may disagree with their religions, perhaps we could learn to have more awe and respect for the living God we claim to believe in.

Dr. Bill Bright, one of the most influential Christians in history, began and ended each day in humble prayer on his knees. It is a good example that he and many others have practiced.

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WORSHIP PRIORITY

The priority of worship begins where it first originated.....in heaven. It was not commanded or coerced, for worship there is a natural response of created beings who come into contact with God's awesome and weighty glory that saturates every atom of heaven's atmosphere. Unlike some worship songs today, which are often self-centered, heavenly worship is focused primarily on God; His nature, attributes and accomplishments. Around the throne of God are four living creatures who never stop saying:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come. - Revelation 4:8b NIV

A vast number of angels, living creatures and elders were around the throne of God.

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise. - Revelation 5:12

Seven angels sing, just before God releases judgment on the wicked world.

Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear you O Lord, and bring glory to your Name? For you alone are holy, and nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed. - Revelation 15:3-4 Song of Moses and the Lamb

The prayers and worship in the Bible are God centered and the focus is often group focused, as seen in the early church. Of course God cares about each person but worship should be less about how I feel or just what makes me happy. Children tend to be 'me centered' but when they grow up, they should have a more mature and broader view of life which is not so much about them but about God and His great purposes and actions. The Lord's prayer begins with God and the respect of His name. We are taught to pray 'Our Father' (not My Father) 'hallowed' (set apart) 'be Thy Name.'

Transparency, truthfulness and honesty are important qualities for a Christian as they worship and pray. David learned to worship God as he tended sheep in his teen years. He would later become a great king in Israel. Although David committed some terrible sins against God and others, he repented and gave his heart fully to God. Centuries later, the apostle Paul wrote about David as a man after God's heart - Acts 13:22. David spoke these words to God. **'Surely you desire truth in the inner parts.'** Psalm 51:6a. Throughout his challenges of life, David kept his eyes on the Lord and continued to worship God with this great perspective. **O magnify the Lord** with me, let us exalt His name together. - Psalm 34:3 While we worship God, our perspective changes, for we see how much greater God is than the issues we are facing. The book of Proverbs is good for the mind, but the book of Psalms is great for the heart and for worship.

What was **God's priority** to bring Israel out of Egypt? Moses revealed it to Pharaoh. **'Let my people go that they may worship me.'** - Exodus 7:10; 8:1,20; 9:13; 10:3. Before the final plague against the firstborn of Egypt, God provided protection for His people through the Passover lamb. At the time of this meal, the families of Israel **bowled down and worshiped** the Lord who was about to set them free from their slavery. -Exodus 12:27. What a celebration they had after they passed through the Red Sea and were free! It is called the Song of Moses - Exodus 15. Followers of Jesus have a greater deliverance to celebrate based on the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus to the throne of God. However, an even greater celebration is yet to take place as seen in the book of Revelation. Jesus returns for His bride in all His glory. Our worship will no longer be just by faith but by sight. Jesus will receive the reward for His suffering, a bride He purchased who will worship and enjoy the presence of God throughout all eternity!

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