

Questions About John 4:23

By Pastor Ed Anderson

I need training here, please help! “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of The Father searches for these people. This must be really important to the Father!

What does it mean to worship the Father in spirit and in truth?

“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 4:23 KJV

Answer:

Yes! According to Jesus in **John 4:23**, *God the Father is actively seeking* a specific kind of person: **a true worshiper**.

That means your worship is not just something *you give* — it’s something **God desires**. He’s searching the world, scanning hearts, looking for this...

What Does It Mean to Worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth?

Let’s break it down:

1. Worship in Spirit

This means worship is not about location, rituals, or external forms — it’s about the **inner person**.

- It’s not confined to a building (like the Temple or Mount Gerizim).
- It’s not mere tradition or ceremony.
- It is **heartfelt, Holy Spirit–led, living connection** with God.

Romans 8:16 says *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.”*

True worship flows from that Spirit-to-spirit connection.

It’s **sincere, alive, and intimate**.

2. Worship in Truth

This means worship that is **grounded in the truth of God's Word** — not in feelings, opinions, or man-made doctrines.

- **John 17:17** — “Thy Word is truth.”
- **Jesus is the Truth** — (John 14:6). So to worship in truth is to worship through Jesus, according to His gospel.

It's **doctrinally sound, Christ-centered, and Biblically faithful**.

Why Does the Father Seek This?

Because *false worship* is everywhere — and **true worship** honors His character.

In a world filled with hypocrisy, performance, emotionalism, and idolatry, God longs for worship that is:

- **Real** (not fake)
- **Spiritual** (not mechanical)
- **Biblical** (not man-centered)
- **Relational** (not ritualistic)

So What Kind of Worshiper Is God Seeking?

Someone who...

- Invites the **Holy Spirit** to dwell in their heart.
- Studies the **Word of God** and worships according to it.
- Doesn't just worship on Sabbath or Sunday, but **lives a life of praise**.
- Worships not for show — but from the heart.

Personal Reflection:

Ask yourself:

- Is my worship led by the Spirit or just routine?
- Is my worship aligned with Scripture, or culture?
- Am I the kind of worshiper the Father is seeking?

“True worship is not about where you are, but who you are and how you respond to God's truth with your spirit.” — *Pastor Ed Anderson*