



Kingdom Values - 4 WORSHIP

WORSHIP - Leading our members in experiencing Spirit-filled and joyful worship individually and corporately. We believe that everything God wants us to experience will flow out of our intimacy with Him.

One of the biggest changes that new Gospel Lifers go through is the way they worship in our church. At the beginning, what most people see is a worship “style” – something contemporary and appealing to the unchurched. But our worship experience, both personal and corporate, has become the main growth area for our church community during the last three years. Although we have learned so much about praise and worship, we still have along way to go.

“The difference between praise and worship does not rely on what style or tempo of song we are singing (incorrectly characterized as fast songs vs. slow songs), what praise book or hymnal we are singing from, or what posture we are in; it is dependent on what the Lord is doing. When we praise Him, we have our songs and words before Him as a sacrifice . . . The Lord is in a place of receiving our praise, much as a king would receive a gift . . . When we praise God, we describe Him and declare His acts . . . Worship, on the other hand, cannot take place unless the Lord draws near to us and manifests Himself to us. As we praise, we draw near to God. Worship results when God draws near to us. He uses our praises to draw near to His children.” (Vivien Hibbert)

Worship comes from an ancient English word “**weorthscipe**” - which means worth or value is ascribed to someone or something and it is often expressed in an act or offering that costs something. The greater the worth ascribed, the higher the cost to the worshiper. True worship is the result of a deep knowledge of the worthiness of Jesus Christ (**Rev. 5:9-13**).

True worshipers will worship God in spirit and in truth (**John 4:23-24**). What does worshipping in spirit and in truth mean? Jesus did not talk about style, music, place or day of worship. The main thing that He said is that *God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth*. Worship is to be based on who God is and how I relate to Him. Worship is not really about what I do when I worship, but how I relate to and approach God when I worship.

True worship is about wanting God’s presence. Sometimes I want Him out of desperation, because of my great need. Other times, I want to be close to Him out of delight, for what He fills my heart with. Other times, I have a hunger for His fellowship. I need someone strong, someone trustworthy, someone safe. I need rest and renewal and I know I will find it in His presence. What pleases God, first of all, is the desire in our hearts for His presence. We worship because we want Him.

Worship that honors God fills the worshiper with His love. This love is the proof that God has been blessed by our worship. When God sees that our time with Him has resulted in us being full of His love, He knows that we have worshiped in spirit and in truth. True worship is not about method and style or format. True worship leads worshipers to become Christlike.

God originally created man to have an intimate relationship with him. Even after man sinned and got separated from God, He never stopped wanting to be intimate with us. Believers need to practice the discipline of quiet time in order to experience this intimacy with God. Our growth, our maturity, our service and the fulfilment of God’s plan for us will flow out of the time we spend with God everyday.

I must come to the point where I am truly convicted that Jesus is all I need, He is all I want, He is all I have. This dependent relationship makes me delight in the Lord. I want to be with Him, I want to serve only Him, I want to please Him. When that becomes my joy in life, I am at rest in Him. At that state, all the desires of my heart will be given to me (**Psalms 37:4-5**). There is no intimate relationship without passion or fervency. True worshipers are passionate in praising and honoring God. They are fervent in seeking God’s presence and will for their lives (**Psalms 42:1-2**).

“Worship is a person responding to a person, so we can’t worship unless we get a glimpse of God. We can praise out of our memory circuits, but we must worship out a present relationship; that is, we must be in God’s presence to worship . . . Where there is an awareness of Christ’s presence and position, there is an automatic response of worship , , , for we were created for worship.” (Judson Cornwall)