

INTIMACY WITH GOD

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- >Do a study on Worship
- >Become a worshipper of the Triune God
- >Do a study on the Commands of Christ
- >Become a reproducing Disciple of Jesus Christ
- >Practice Listening to God
- >Obey His Guidance
- >Glory in His Grace

WORSHIP

In the Old Testament the main Hebrew word for worship means to bow down, to prostrate oneself, to fall on one's face. Thus there was strong emphasis on obeisance to God by bowing down.

In the New Testament also worship means to prostrate oneself in homage (John 4:21-24, Rev. 4:10 and 45 other references). Another New Testament meaning for worship is to serve, to render religious homage (Romans 12:1, Hebrews 9:1 and four others). These words relate to the previous definitions of worship:

To subject ourselves to the sovereignty of God.

To respond to God's love with adoration and praise.

The idea of bowing down in submission is consistent throughout the Bible - physically, in the heart, and in obedience to God's will. Romans 12:1 describes our worship as obedience and yielding ourselves in service to God. This is the worship of total life commitment.

Dr Jerry White

HE is worthy of my worship.

GOD desires my worship.

GOD created me to worship HIM.

GOD commands my worship.

Worship demands obedience.

Worship brings blessing.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. Psalm 95.6

KNOW HIM

“Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.” John 17:3

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE

KNOW — To perceive
Recognize
Become acquainted with
Understand
Acknowledge
Cohabit
Intimate

John 3:16 - Notes

3:5, which speaks of the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit. To be "born from above," then, means to be regenerated and cleansed by the Holy Spirit, which entitles a man to enter the kingdom of God.

3:16 This precious and well-known verse speaks of the divine love which moved God to provide salvation for the world through His Son. There are two words used for "life" in the Greek N.T. *Zōē*, meaning "life" in its absolute sense, as God has given it, is used in this verse. It signifies spiritual life in John. This word is frequently used for "eternal life" with its special emphasis upon the quality of life and its endless duration through the ages to come. This life is available only through belief in God's Son. The biblical concept of "eternal life" is more than immortality, and it involves not only the soul but also the body. From creation man was made for never-ending life, not for death. The death and resurrection of Jesus provide the basis for and give the picture of the divinely appointed redemption-life (cf. Heb. 9:14, note). "Life" in its purest and noblest sense is inextricably joined to regeneration (cf. Titus 3:5, note). John uses the Greek adjective *aiōnion* ("eternal") only in the expression "eternal life" (vv. 15, 16, 36; 4:14, 36; 5:24, 39; 6:27, 40, 47, 54, 68; 10:28; 12:25, 50; 17:2, 3). As in rabbinic tradition, it has the meaning of "the life of the age to come" (cf. Dan. 12:2). To have eternal life means more than to live forever. The stress is more on the quality than on the quantity, though both are affirmed. Furthermore, John reveals it to be not only an eschatological and future possession but also a present reality (cf. 3:36; 5:24; 6:47; 1 John 5:13). This is the life Jesus offers to

Dr. William Barclay

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

for this passage has the great New Testament definition of eternal life. It is eternal life to know God, and to know Jesus Christ whom God has sent. Let us remind ourselves of what the word *eternal* means. In Greek it is the word *aiónios*. This word has got to do, not so much with duration of life, for *duration* of life need not necessarily be a boon. A life which went on for ever would not necessarily be a good or desirable thing. The main meaning of this word is *quality* of life. There is only one person to whom the word *aiónios*, *eternal*, can properly be applied, and that one person is God. Eternal life is therefore *nothing* other than the life of God. To possess eternal life, to enter into eternal life, is to experience here and now something of the splendour, and the majesty, and the joy, and the peace, and the holiness which are characteristic of the life of God.

To know God is a characteristic thought of the Old Testament. Wisdom is "a tree of life to them that lay hold on her" (*Proverbs* 3: 18). "To know thy power," said the writer of *Wisdom*, "is the root of immortality" (*Wisdom* 5: 3). "Through knowledge shall the righteous be delivered" (*Proverbs* 11: 9). It is Habbakuk's dream of the golden age that "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God" (*Habbakuk* 2: 14). Hosea hears God's voice saying to him: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (*Hosea* 4: 6). A Rabbinic exposition asks what is the smallest section of scripture on which all the essentials of the Law hang? It answers, *Proverbs* 3: 6, which literally means: "Know Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Again there was a Rabbinic exposition which said that Amos had reduced all the many commandments of the Law to one, when he said: "Seek ye me, and ye shall live" (*Amos* 5: 4), for *seeking* God means seeking to *know* God. The Jewish teachers had long insisted that to know God is necessary to true life. What then does it mean to know God?

(i) Undoubtedly there is an element of intellectual knowledge here. It means, at least in part, to know what

To know God is to know what God is like, and to be on the most intimate terms of friendship with God; and neither of these things is possible without Jesus Christ. Through Jesus we know what God is like; and through Jesus we enter into the friendship of God. }

THE WORD

JOHN 14:15-24

LOVE OBEYS JESUS' COMMANDS

SPIRIT OF TRUTH INDWELLS ME

JESUS LIVES IN ME

GOD THE FATHER LIVES IN ME

1 JOHN 4:15

THE TRIUNE GOD LIVES IN ME

WHERE ONE IS SO ARE THE
OTHER TWO

HALLELUJAH!

P R A Y E R

Communion with God the
Father

through Faith in Jesus Christ
the Son

by the Power of
the Holy Spirit

to the Glory of God
the Father

the blessing of others

and my fulfillment

GOD GUIDES

by Mary Geegh

- > HOW DO I HAVE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO KNOW GOD'S GUIDANCE AND HELP PEOPLE?
- > THE FIRST STEP IS TO "WAIT ON GOD"... "BE STILL"... "LISTEN."
- > BE DEFINITE ABOUT YOUR SINS - DAILY.
ASK: "AM I ABSOLUTELY HONEST? ABSOLUTELY PURE?
ABSOLUTELY UNSELFISH? ABSOLUTELY LOVING?"
- > ASK GOD TO REVEAL THE HIDDEN THINGS IN YOUR LIFE WHICH BLOCK HIS POWER
- > WITH NOTEBOOK AND PEN WRITE DOWN THE THINGS THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS TO YOUR MIND.
- > PROMISE GOD FULL CONTROL OF YOUR HEART AND MIND AND LIFE.
- > DETERMINE TO LISTEN TO GOD FOR GUIDANCE IN ALL MATTERS.
- > PROMISE TO OBEY GOD IN WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU.

HOW TRUE EVERYONE WHO PRACTICED THESE SIMPLE GUIDELINES FOUND:

"WHEN MAN LISTENS, GOD SPEAKS,
WHEN MAN OBEYS, GOD ACTS,
WHEN GOD ACTS, MEN CHANGE,
WHEN MEN CHANGE, NATIONS CHANGE."

"WHERE GOD GUIDES HE PROVIDES,
WHEN GOD GUIDES HE PROVIDES COURAGE AND POWER TO
OBEY."

Exercise – Listening to God

Wherever there are hearts waiting for the Voice of God, that Voice is to be heard.

G. Campbell Morgan

I will climb up into my watchtower now and wait to see what the Lord will say to me and how He will answer my complaint. Habakkuk 2:1 (NLT)

God is interested in communicating in a personal way with each of us. For many of us, the only reason He hasn't spoken to us personally is that we haven't taken the time to truly listen. The following exercise is an opportunity to listen and obey Him, to bare our soul to Him, rather than merely reflecting on ourselves with our cognitive mind. In getting ready to hear from God, the following steps have proven helpful to many.

- **Still and quiet your soul** – *But I have stilled and quieted my soul like a small child with its mother* (Psalm 131:2).
- **Resist the enemy** – pray something like, *In the name of Jesus I prohibit demonic forces speaking or interfering with this time* (Luke 10:19).
- **Ask God to search your heart** – talk to Him about what He reveals, confess any known sin (Psalm 139)
- **Ask God to speak to you** – use the model of Samuel, *Speak Lord for I, Your servant, am listening* (1 Samuel 3:10).
- **Wait in silence** – quiet your heart with the words, *My soul, wait in silence for God alone. Be still and know that I am God* (Psalm 62:5).
- **Write down your impressions** – this may be words, phrases, visual images or thoughts that come into your mind through the indwelling Holy Spirit (John 16:14).
- **Obey God's guidance** – I will obey whatever God reveals out of love and a grateful heart for all that He has done for me (John 14:21).

As you go into listening prayer, ask God, *Lord, do you have anything you are wanting to say to me about the following areas of my life:*

-Self-image

-Relationships

-Thoughts

-Behaviors

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