

WORSHIP: GOD TRANSFORMS

What is worship?

- Romans 11:36–12:1 - *To him be the glory forever. Amen. I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*
- Romans 1:25 - *They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.*

How is worship war?

- Matthew 4:8-10 - *The devil took him [Jesus Christ] to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"*

Who worships God?

1. God worships

- John 17:5 - *And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*

2. The Divine Counsel worships in Heaven

- Revelation 4:2-8 - *I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne....From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"*

3. Departed Christians worship in Heaven

- Revelation 4:9-11 - *Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."*

4. Spirit-filled Christians worship on earth

- John 4:23-24 - *But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to*

worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

- Philippians 3:3 - We...worship by the Spirit of God.

What is Christian worship?

- Hebrews 13:15-16 - *Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*
- **Christian worship is private and public God-glorifying internal adoration and external action by the Spirit, through the Son, to the Father.**

What does worship look like?

• **Heartfelt internally**

- Genesis 4; Deuteronomy 11:16, 30:17; Isaiah 1:11-17, 29:13; Jeremiah 7:9-10; Micah 6:6-8; Matthew 15:8; Mark 7:6; 1 Corinthians 14:25

• **Holy forms externally**

- Leviticus 10:1-2; Deuteronomy 12:31; 1 Kings 11:33; Daniel 3; Isaiah 1:11-17; Ezekiel 8-9; Jeremiah 7:9-10

• **Prostrate face down**

- Numbers 24:4,16; Deuteronomy 9:18, 9:25; 1 Kings 18:39; 1 Chronicles 29:20; Isaiah 15:3; Daniel 2:46, 8:17

• **Dancing**

- 2 Samuel 6:14; Job 21:11; Ecclesiastes 3:4; Jeremiah 31:4, 31:13; Matthew 11:7

• **Clapping**

- Job 21:5; Psalm 47:1, 98:8; Isaiah 55:12

• **Reverence**

- Nehemiah 5:15; Psalm 5:7; Malachi 2:5; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 5:21; Colossians 3:22; Hebrews 12:28; 1 Peter 3:2; Revelation 11:18

• **Bowing**

- Genesis 19:1, 24:26, 24:48, 24:52, 27:29, 47:31; Exodus 4:31, 12:27; Numbers 22:31; Deuteronomy 26:10; 2 Samuel 9:8; 1 Kings 1:47; 2 Kings 5:18, 17:16, 21:21; 2 Chronicles 29:28, 29:30; Psalm 5:7, 38:6, 66:4, 95:6, 138:2, 145:14, 146:8, 45:14, 45:23, 49:23, 58:5, 66:23; Lamentations 2:10; Ezekiel 8:16; Daniel 10:15; Micah 5:13, 6:6; Matthew 2:11; Luke 24:5; John 19:30; Philippians 2:10

• **Kneeling**

- 1 Kings 8:54; Psalm 22:29; Job 40:4; Ephesians 3:14; Isaiah 45:23; Romans 14:9; Philippians 2:10

• **Laying on of hands**

- Matthew 19:13; Mark 5:23, 10:16; Luke 20:19; Acts 8:18-19, 9:12, 9:17, 28:8; 1 Timothy 5:22; 2 Timothy 1:6; Hebrews 6:2

- **Lifting hands**

- Psalm 28:2, 63:4, 76:5, 119:48, 134:2; Lamentations 2:19, 3:41-42; 1 Timothy 2:8

- **Falling down**

- Daniel 3:4-7; 1 Corinthians 14:22; Revelation 3:7-10, 4:9-11

- **Playing musical instruments**

- 1 Samuel 16:15-18; 18:6; 1 Chronicles 15:16, 16:42, 23:5; 2 Chronicles 5:13, 7:6, 23:13, 29:26-27, 34:12; Nehemiah 12:36; Psalm 45:8, 98:4; Psalm 150

- **Writing new worship songs**

- Psalm 33:3, 40:3, 96:1, 98:1, 144:9, 149:1; Isaiah 42:10; Revelation 5:9, 14:3

- **Singing loudly**

- Psalm 5:11, 9:2, 9:11, 13:6; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12; James 5:13; Revelation 14:3, 15:3

- **Standing**

- Numbers 5:16; Deuteronomy 10:6-9, 19:16-17; 1 Kings 19:11; 1 Chronicles 23:28-31; Psalm 24:3; 26:12; Habakkuk 3:2

- **Sitting**

- Psalm 110:1; Lamentations 3:27-28; Micah 4:4, 7:8, Zechariah 3:10

- **Shouting Amen**

- Deuteronomy 27:15-26; 1 Chronicles 16:36; Nehemiah 5:13, 8:6; Psalm 41:13, 72:19, 89:52, 106:48; Jeremiah 11:5, 28:6; Romans 1:25, 9:5, 11:36, 15:33, 16:27; 1 Corinthians 16:24; Galatians 1:5, 6:18; Ephesians 3:21; Philippians 4:20, 4:23; 1 Timothy 1:17, 6:16; 2 Timothy 4:18; Hebrews 13:21; 1 Peter 4:11, 5:11; 2 Peter 3:18; Jude 1:25; Revelation 1:6, 1:7, 3:14, 5:14, 7:12, 19:4, 22:20-21

- **Serving with your spiritual gift(s)**

- 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 12:28-30; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:11

- **Giving tithes and offerings**

- Exodus 25:2, 35:22, 36:5; 1 Chronicles 29:3-4; 2 Chronicles 24:10; Proverbs 3:9; Malachi 3:10; Acts 4:34-35; 2 Corinthians 8-9

How do we worship with our wealth?

- Matthew 6:24 - *No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*
- Philippians 4:18 - *I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.*

What is Christian stewardship?

1. I belong to Jesus Christ
 - Romans 1:6 - *...you also are among those...who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.*
2. Everything I have belongs to Jesus Christ
 - Haggai 2:8 - *"The silver is mine and the gold is mine," declares the LORD Almighty.*

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- Psalm 50:10 - *...every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.*
- 3. Everything I have is a gift from God
 - 1 Corinthians 4:7 - *What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?*
 - Deuteronomy 8:17-18 - *You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth...*
- 4. I want to manage Jesus' resources wisely
 - 1 Peter 4:10 - *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

Why should Christians give generously?

1. God takes our worst and gives his best
 - John 3:16 - *God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*
2. Your wallet is God's scalpel for heart surgery
 - Matthew 6:21 - *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*
3. Firstfruits grows faith
 - Proverbs 3:9 - *Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce.*
4. You cannot take it with you, but you can send it ahead
 - Matthew 6:19-20 - *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*
5. Giving is a blessing
 - Acts 20:35 - *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

Should Christians tithe?

1. A tithe literally means a tenth
2. In the OT the 10% tithe was given to the Levites for ministry, and there were other offerings for such things as religious celebrations, helping the poor, etc. for total giving of around 25%
3. In the NT the focus is on giving that is cheerful, sacrificial, and regular (2 Cor. 8-9)
4. The NT often asks for more by the Spirit than the OT

How does the Bible present the rich and the poor?

- 2 Corinthians 8:9 - *Our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*
 1. Ungodly rich
 2. Godly rich
 3. Ungodly poor
 4. Godly poor