

“WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH”

INTRODUCTION

A. **John 4:23-24**

“Those who worship Him *must* worship in spirit and truth.”

1. **“In Spirit”**

The worship that God requires of us is more than outward; it is centered in the mental disposition of the worshipper.

a. **Luke 24:39**

Spirit is not flesh and blood.

b. **1st Corinthians 2:11**

Spirit is within.

2. **“And Truth”**

God demands worship that is according to the law of His word.

a. **John 18:37**

Christ is the source of truth.

b. **John 17:17**

When we search for truth, we look to God’s word.

B. Let’s consider how to “worship in spirit and truth”.

I. PRAYER

A. **“In Spirit”**

1. **1st Corinthians 14:15_a**

The apostle Paul was determined to “pray with the spirit” and expected the brethren at Corinth to do likewise.

2. **Matthew 6:5-8**

Our purpose in prayer is not to be seen or heard by others, but to present our requests and thanksgivings to God.

3. **Mark 11:25-26**

The unmerciful heart has no business praying to God.

4. **Luke 18:10-14**

Humility of spirit is necessary when we pray.

5. **Matthew 21:22; 1st John 5:14; Luke 11:9-10**

While humility is necessary in prayer, so is confidence. Without full faith that God will answer the prayer, the prayer will not be answered.

6. **James 4:3**

Impure motives negate the efficacy of prayer.

7. **John 9:31; Isaiah 1:15; 59:1-3; Proverbs 15:29**

One's heart must be free from iniquity in order to be heard by God.

B. "And Truth"

1. **1st Corinthians 14:15_a**

The apostle Paul was determined to "*pray with the understanding*" and expected the brethren at Corinth to do likewise. We must comprehend what is said.

2. **Matthew 6:10; 26:39, 42; 1st John 5:14**

We must ask according to His will.

3. **Matthew 6:9; John 16:24; Ephesians 5:20; 1st Timothy 2:5**

We must properly address our prayers to the Father through the divine mediation of Christ Jesus.

II. SINGING

A. "In Spirit"

1. **1st Corinthians 14:15_b**

The apostle Paul was determined to "*sing with the spirit*" and expected the brethren at Corinth to do likewise.

2. **Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**

When singing, we should do so with melody and grace in the heart.

3. **James 5:13**

Singing should be engaged in cheerfully.

B. “And Truth”

1. 1st Corinthians 14:15_b

The apostle Paul was determined to “sing with the understanding” and expected the brethren at Corinth to do likewise. We must comprehend what is said.

2. 2nd Timothy 4:3-4; 2nd John 9

To be in truth, music in the worship of God will contain only scripturally accurate lyrics.

3. Revelation 22:18

Not adding to God’s word requires our music to be limited to singing. Our songs will not include instrumental accompaniment, clapping, whistling, or humming.

III. LORD’S SUPPER

A. “In Spirit”

1. 1st Corinthians 11:27-32

A danger exists in eating the bread or drinking the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner (27). The worthy manner includes: self-examination (28), and discernment of the Lord’s body (29).

B. “And Truth”

1. Acts 20:7

Observing the Lord’s Supper in truth requires that it be eaten on the first day of the week.

2. 1st Corinthians 11:23-26

Proclaiming the Lord’s death in truth demands partaking of both bread and cup, so that His body and blood are properly memorialized.

3. 1st Corinthians 11:33

Truthfully partaking requires waiting for one another, indicating this cannot be done individually or outside the assembly.

IV. GIVING

A. *"In Spirit"*

1. **Acts 20:35**

A preference for giving, over receiving, is appropriate.

2. **2nd Corinthians 8:12**

Willingness to give makes the gift acceptable.

3. **2nd Corinthians 9:7**

Cheerfulness is needed.

4. **Mark 12:41-44**

Giving should be sacrificial.

B. *"And Truth"*

1. **1st Corinthians 16:1-2**

Giving according to truth requires that it be contributed to the church treasury in a collection on the first day of the week.

2. **Romans 15:25-27; 1st Corinthians 9:3-14**

The church should carry out its legitimate work using the contributions of the saints. Collections may be used to relieve the poverty of those with whom we have spiritual fellowship on a limited basis and to compensate those who labor in the word.

V. DOCTRINE

A. *"In Spirit"*

1. **Acts 2:40-42**

The apostles' doctrine should be gladly received and continued in steadfastly.

2. **1st Thessalonians 1:6; 2:13**
The word deserves a joyful reception, being welcomed as God's will.
3. **1st Timothy 4:13, 16**
We owe our attention to this doctrine.
4. **Romans 6:17**
The doctrine that delivers from sin should be obeyed in the heart.

B. "And Truth"

1. **Ephesians 4:11-16**
The truth is lovingly taught in the church to avoid getting carried away with every doctrine of man's invention.
2. **1st Timothy 1:3; 6:3-5**
Other doctrine must not be tolerated.

CONCLUSION

- A. Can you say with confidence that you...
 1. Pray "*in spirit and truth*"?
 2. Sing in "*in spirit and truth*"?
 3. Eat the Lord's Supper "*in spirit and truth*"?
 4. Give "*in spirit and truth*"?
 5. Receive the doctrine of Christ "*in spirit and truth*"?
- B. **Matthew 15:7-9**
 1. It is possible to worship in vain, with our hearts far removed from God.
 2. Perhaps this characterizes your worship. If so, now is the time to repent!