

WORSHIP

The Bridge from Your Decision to Your Desire

"Worship is a voluntary act of gratitude offered by the saved to the Savior, by the healed to the Healer, and by the delivered to the Deliver."
 – Max Lucado

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Matthew 4:10

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

John 4:24

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

Hebrews 12:28

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe..."

Romans 12:1

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

Today, when most people think of WORSHIP, they think in terms of music. In music, most songs are made up of: Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, and Bridge back to Chorus. The bridge of a song, especially in western popular music, is *"a contrasting section, which also prepares for the return of the original material."*

Worship is similar to the bridge in music. It is a time in which you *pause and reflect* on God and His greatness and it prepares your heart for Him to speak to you. The bridge in music prepares you for the *return of the original material*. Likewise,

WORSHIP, as the bridge from your DECISION to accept Christ to your DESIRE to walk with Him daily, prepares you for the return of the "original material"—*Jesus Christ*.





WHAT IS WORSHIP?

"Worship is a voluntary act of gratitude offered by the saved to the Savior, by the healed to the Healer, and by the delivered to the Deliver." – Max Lucado

The Hebrew word for worship is *Shachah*, which means to "prostrate oneself, bow down, fall down flat, do reverence." When you are worshiping God, bringing all that you are and bowing down before Him, you are honoring and praising Him for all that He has done.

"Worship is about getting personal with God, drawing close to God."
– Matt Redman

Worship is in fact a way for you to do just that... it allows you to draw close to Him and get personal! WORSHIP is more than a "mushy feeling" or good experience... It's your frame of mind!

WHAT'S THE POINT?

What is the point of worshipping? When you worship, you are celebrating the presence of God in your life. By worshipping you are demonstrating gratitude to God for all that He does and gives you. As a new Christian, you may worship Him for saving you and giving you a new life in Him.

There is a joy that comes with worship. As a new Christian you are excited and experience a new joy in this free gift of salvation you received. But as you continue to grow spiritually you may begin to feel an emptiness... that excitement you first felt may seem to fade. You keep taking from God, but aren't giving back—you're missing out on the *joy of worship*.

When you feel this emptiness you may find yourself trying to fill it with worldly things: money, love, power, people, alcohol, etc. You find that it will **NEVER** fully satisfy. You must continually give thanks to God and experience the joy of worship. God can fill that void within, that emptiness and longing for more, that desire to grow more in Him— worship Him.



WORSHIPPING THROUGH THE STORMS

You may say to yourself, "How can I thank God when things are going wrong in my life?"

Think back to the story of Job.

If you're not familiar with it, you can read it here: [Job 1-42](#)

Through trials, loss, and peer pressure, Job still rose to the top and bowed down before God. After Job became an example of devotion and long suffering, God rewarded His faithful servant. Job regained his health, had seven more sons and three daughters, gained back twice as much cattle as he had before, and lived another 140 years in honor— quietly, piously and happily. Job continued to WORSHIP God through his suffering, and in turn he was blessed.

ONE MAY ARGUE WHY GOD DID NOT RESCUE HIM FROM HIS TROUBLES. BUT GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE ARE HIGHER THAN OURS. WE MAY SEE THE IMMEDIATE, BUT GOD SEES OUR FUTURE.



Countless other people in the Bible faced trials. For instance, read about the life of David here: [\(1 Samuel 16-30; 2 Samuel\)](#)

David had no earthly reason to be joyful. His brothers were harsh to him, he didn't have an exciting job, the King wanted to kill him so he had to hide out in caves, he lost his best friend, and his child became ill and died. Maybe you can relate to some aspects of David's life and the trials that he faced.

Or how about the story of Joseph?
(You can read it here: [Genesis 39-50](#))

Joseph was a shepherd, a faithful servant, and a good administrator. He also walked with God. Yet throughout his life Joseph was rejected and sold by his brothers into slavery, was falsely accused, was unjustly imprisoned, and suffered many hardships. Joseph remained faithful to God through his suffering, and "the Lord was with Joseph" through all of his trials (Genesis 39:2, 21). After 13 years of suffering and struggle, God made him the most influential person in all the known world at that time. In all of the pain he experienced on earth, where did he turn? He worshiped God and in turn Joseph was blessed.

In all of this pain he experienced on earth, where did he turn?

He worshiped God.

You see, worship isn't about you; it is about God.

Worship is a fitting response to God's holiness, grace, and power. It's about acknowledging the good things that God does, despite the bad things that happen. You must step outside yourself to enter God's presence and remember that your problems are so small compared to God's greatness.

It's hard to comprehend why we go through trials, but if *"God were small enough to be understood, He would not be big enough to be worshiped."*
—Evelyn Underhill



HOW DO YOU WORSHIP?

There are many expressions of worship. When you worship God there is no wrong or right way, however there is one thing to keep in mind— IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU.

When you worship you step beyond your own problems and focus on someone greater— God. You can't see God, but when you worship Him, you allow Him to speak in and through you and to transform you into the kind of person He wants you to be.

In the words of Ross King, *"You can sing all you want to, Yes you can sing all you want to, but don't get me wrong, worship is more than a song."*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- 📄 [The Invitation to Worship](#)
Jack Hayford
- 📄 [The Object of Our Worship](#)
James Pittman
- 📄 [What Does it Mean to Worship God?](#)
Creflo Dollar
- 🎵 [Come, Now is the Time to Worship](#)
- 🎵 [Here I am to Worship](#)
Michael W. Smith

EXPRESSIONS OF WORSHIP

- LIFTING HANDS (Nehemiah 8:5-6; Psalm 141:2; Lamentations 2:19)
- SILENCE (Psalm 62: 1-2; Habakkuk 2:20)
- SHOUTING (Psalm 47:1-6; Isaiah 12:6; Psalm 98:4-6)
- STANDING (Deuteronomy 29:9-13)
- CLAPPING (Psalm 47:1; 2 Kings 11:12; Isaiah 55:12)
- KNEELING/ BOWING (Psalm 95:6-7; James 4:10; Philippians 2:9-10)
- GIVING AN OFFERING (1 Chronicles 16: 29; Romans 12:1; Isaiah 1:11-13a)
- MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (1 Chronicles 15:16; Psalm 150:3)
- TESTIFYING (1 Chronicles 16:23-25; Psalm 22:22; Psalm 71:8)
- DANCING (Psalm 149:3; Exodus 15:20; Luke 6:23; 2 Samuel 6:14; 21-22)
- SINGING (2 Chronicles 29:30; John 4:24)