

# WORSHIP: SOME THOUGHTS.

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The Bible speaks much of worship. But what exactly is it? To worship implies heart-long, passionate cravings, earnest desires. Everyone worships because everyone has deep passions of the heart after something (or, someone). Thus, to worship God means all that we are responding to all that God is as He has revealed Himself to us thru Scripture. To worship God is to have heart-affections for God.

We are to: "WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH" (John 4.24)

- worship = responding in our heart
- in spirit = all that we are responding in our heart (not just our lips, mind, etc.)
- and truth = as He has revealed Himself to us thru Scripture.

## 1. looking UPWARD

To worship God means that the child of God should look *upward*. God has fixed His throne in the *heavens* and His sovereignty rules over all. God is far above the heaven of heavens. He rules over the heavens, the earth, the seas, and all that is in them. Thus, to worship rightly, we must look not *inward* but *upward* to see God in His matchless, magnificent and majestic glory. The higher one's view of God truly is, the deeper one's worship will be. The more lofty and sovereign God is in the heart of the believer the more settled and deep and sweet will worship be.

## 2. looking BACKWARD

To worship God also includes looking backward to the ways that God has revealed Himself and the *works* that God has accomplished in manifesting His glory. The Bible speaks often of *remembering* the great deeds of God. From creation, to the flood, to the Exodus, to bringing Jesus the Messiah and the perfect atonement at Calvary, believers should look backward for stimulation for worship in the present and for the future. Looking back gives vigor to worship.

## 3. looking OUTWARD

To worship God demands that one look *outside* of himself and look obsessively upon God. Internalized focus and self-obsessed thoughts is the worship of self. Turning one's gaze outward to God and to His glory, to Christ and to His beauties, to the gospel and its everflowing grace is what the child of God must do in worship. So, to worship is to live with a God-centered focus.

## 4. looking FORWARD

To worship God includes a holy resolve and a willful determination to follow Him and obey Him regardless of the cost. To worship God means that the heart is exuberantly staked upon God Himself as the glorious Savior, not just on the *things* that God gives. For believers to worship God means that the heart longs for God, is unsatisfied without God, is hungering to know more of God, and is yearning to fellowship and commune with Him regularly. To worship God means that one resolves to know God more, to savor Him fully, to speak of Him often, to glory in Him!