

27. Worshiping God

Worship of God involves honoring him, recognizing his worthiness. As such it includes acknowledging God's divine characteristics and wonderful deeds.

Worship is done directly through praise and thanksgiving – and by making offerings to God (giving to him from what we have). It is carried out both in church groups and privately.

Basics

We must worship God – and God alone

[GOD:] *Worship only me, the LORD your God!* [EXODUS 23:25A](#) CEV

Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He sent his angel and saved his servants, who trusted him. *They disobeyed the king and risked their lives so that they would not have to honor or worship any god except their own God.* [DANIEL 3:28](#) GW

Live righteously in order to acceptably worship God

[GOD, TO UNGODLY PEOPLE IN ISRAEL:] *You twist the truth and stomp on justice. ... ²¹I, the LORD, hate and despise your religious celebrations and your times of worship. ²²I won't accept your offerings or animal sacrifices— not even your very best. ²³No more of your noisy songs! I won't listen when you play your harps. ²⁴But let justice and fairness flow like a river that never runs dry.* [AMOS 5:7B, 21-24](#) CEV

How to Worship God

Worship God in spirit

[JESUS:] *But a time is coming — and now is here — when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such people to be his worshipers. ²⁴God is spirit, and the people who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.* [JOHN 4:23-24](#) CEV

To worship “in spirit” is primarily an inward activity, rather than being centered on the performing of ceremonial acts (which was such a main part of OT worship). It involves our spirit – and thus our mind and will.

Worship God with reverence and awe

[THE WRITER, TO BELIEVERS:] *Let us be grateful and worship God in a way that will please him, with reverence and awe; ²⁹because our God is indeed a destroying fire.* [HEBREWS 12:28B-29](#) GNT

Worshipping Together

Join with fellow believers in worshiping God

[A CALL TO FELLOW ISRAELITES:] *Come! Let's bow down and worship! Let's kneel before the LORD, our creator!* [PSALMS 95:6](#) NET

Offer praise and thanksgiving together

They [Israelites] praised the LORD and gave thanks as they took turns singing: “The LORD is good! His faithful love for Israel will last forever.” Everyone started shouting and praising the LORD because work on the foundation of the temple had begun. [EZRA 3:11](#) CEV

Offerings

We are also to worship God with offerings

He [God] is wonderful! Praise him and *bring an offering into his temple. Worship the Lord, majestic and holy.* [1 CHRONICLES 16:29](#) CEV

Give willingly

[PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] *Each one of you should give just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, because God loves a cheerful giver.* [2 CORINTHIANS 9:7](#) NET

Pray for persecuted Christians