

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.²⁴*God 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;*²⁹*because 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](#)