



Lecture 3

Becoming Spiritual People

WORSHIPPING IN SPIRIT & TRUTH

True spirituality depends upon us embracing the whole truth of God. The truth - God's Truth - is the key. What is the Truth? Jesus Himself is the Truth (John 14:6). To become spiritual people, then, we need to learn how to worship God in spirit and truth.

John 4:24 (Wuest translation)

“God as to His nature is spirit, and for those who are worshipping, it is necessary in the nature of the case to be worshipping in a spiritual sphere, and in the sphere of truth.”

WORSHIP/THE OFFERING: OUR BODY AND SOUL

Romans 12:1-2 (Wuest translation)

“I therefore beg of you, please, brethren, through the instrumentality of the aforementioned mercies of God, by a once-for-all presentation to place your bodies at the disposal of God, a sacrifice, a living one, a holy one, well-pleasing, your rational, sacred service, [rational, in that this service is performed by the exercise of the mind]. And stop assuming an outward expression that does not come from within you and is not representative of what you are in your inner being but is patterned after this age; but change your outward expression to one that comes from within and is representative of your inner being, by the renewing of your mind, resulting in your putting to the test what is the will of God, the good and well-pleasing and complete will, and having found that it meets specifications, place your approval upon it.”

By God's grace and mercy, we can offer our bodies (and souls) as a living sacrifice to God. Our “bodies” in this passage refers to all our faculties, physical, emotional and spiritual.

‘Rational’ means exercising our minds. The soul (mind, emotions, will) is the rudder directing our will. Our will determines the course of our entire lives. Our will chooses each thought we take into our minds and every thought we reject. We exercise our will to either seek our own desires or to obey God's. **Where do you direct your will?** Towards God's will for you or towards yourself and what you want?

Romans 12:1-2 contains all the elements of true worship.

In this Scripture, Paul gives us a strong motivation to worship. He begs us to adopt a once-for-all attitude of sacrifice; of our bodies, mind, souls. This is true worship and thanksgiving for God's amazing grace, mercy and incredible display of love at the Cross. Paul exhorts us to live from our new life within (the Holy Spirit) and to refuse to adopt an outward expression derived from the world and the flesh. This is performed by the exercise of our minds as Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 10:5. Allowing the Holy Spirit to control our minds leads to experiencing the perfect will of God.

2 Corinthians 10:5 (Wuest translation)

“demolishing reasonings and every haughty mental elevation which lifts itself up against the experiential knowledge [which we believers have] of God, and leading captive every thought into the obedience to the Christ,”

The Bible commands us to reject any thought contrary to the will of God. This is quite a test. Do we feel free to accept and contemplate any thought or are we obedient to God and diligent to reject every thought that is contrary to God's Word?

The Bible is very strong on this point! God says to **DEMOLISH** every thought which is against Him. Why demolish? Because it is dangerous to allow the enemy's thoughts into our mind and soul and will affect our bodies. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit, only God's thoughts are allowed, obedience is true worship.

Disobedience to the Word of God is the opposite of worship. Worshipping God in spirit and in truth includes obedience to the truth.

This is a prerequisite for true worship. It is not about perfection, but rather, about attitude. God looks at the heart. True worship means that we put God's will ahead of ours. If we worship God on a Sunday morning while willingly disobeying Him and living "our own lives in self," this will sound fake to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is aware of every thought and intention of the heart (Psalm 44:21).

True worship is living our lives in Christ. It is not just singing during a church service. It is living with the constant awareness we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, an inner sanctuary for the Person of God the Holy Spirit.

1 Chronicles 29:16 (NASB)

"Since I know, O my God, that You try the heart and delight in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, have willingly offered all these things; so now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here, make their offerings willingly to You."

1 John 3:18-21 (Wuest translation)

"Little born-ones, let us not be loving in the sphere of word, nor even in the sphere of the tongue, but in the sphere of deed and truth. In this we shall know experientially that we are out of the truth, and in His presence shall tranquilise our hearts in whatever our hearts condemn us, because greater is God than our hearts and knows all things. Divinely loved ones, if our hearts are not condemning us, a fearless confidence we constantly have facing God the Father,"

Our faith, hope, joy and confidence are strongest when we have a clear conscience and our expressing our love to God through obedience, dedication, self-denial and sacrifice. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to embrace the truth and reject the lies and deceptions of Satan and the flesh.

Psalms 26:1-3 (NASB)

Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Examine me, O Lord, and try me; test my mind and my heart for Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, and I have walked in Your truth.

God bought us with a high price: the precious blood of His Son (1 Peter 1:19). We are not our own. We are God's possession; He is our Lord, and we are to obey Him knowing that disobedience dishonours Him. We have inherited His life.

John 10:10 (Wuest translation)

"The thief does not come except to steal and to kill and to destroy. I alone came in order that they might be possessing life, and that they might be possessing it in superabundance."

A constant awareness of God the Holy Spirit in us will lead us to thanksgiving and to worshipping Him in spirit and in truth. This is what it means to experience God's "abundant life". It is only in worshipping in spirit and truth we will walk in the freedom and liberty which produces the fruits of the Holy Spirit.