

WOULD YOU LIKE TO...

KNOW GOD'S PERSPECTIVE ON  
PRAISE AND WORSHIP?

EXPERIENCE PRAISE AND WORSHIP?

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The Christian Life series comprises 18 courses divided into three units of six courses each.

*Christian Worship* is Course 4 in Unit 2.

# Christian Worship



# Christian Worship

fourth edition

## Christian Life Series

Your New Life

Your Bible

Who Jesus Is

The Church

Personal Evangelism

Bible Ethics

When You Pray

How to Study the Bible

Your Helpful Friend

### **Christian Worship**

Christian Workers

Marriage and the Home

God's Design—Your Choice

John's Gospel

We Believe

What Churches Do

The Teaching Ministry

The Christian in His Community

# Christian Worship

fourth edition

by Judy Bartel Graner



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## **PREFACE**

When you asked Christ into your heart and life, you were born in God's family. He had already shown His love to you by sending Jesus to die in your stead. He continues to show you His love by answering your prayers and meeting your needs.

You in turn have responded by accepting what He offered you and by thanking Him for His many blessings. But your heart is reaching out to do more. You want to express your love further. As you grow in your Christian life, your desire to worship the Lord grows—and that desire must be fulfilled.

That longing is not one-sided, for God also longs to have fellowship and communion with us. He is waiting for His children to respond to Him. He desires our worship, and we in turn will realize a fulfillment in worship and praise that we find in no other way.

Our praise opens avenues of benefit and blessing that the Lord wants us to experience and to share with others. This study course will help you not only in your private devotions, but also as you share with a group.

A modern method of teaching yourself helps you to learn the principles easily and put them into practice immediately.





## THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES

*Christian Worship* is one of 18 courses in this practical discipleship program for new believers. The Christian Life Series is a study to help students grow in their relationship with Christ, interact with the Word of God, and better understand God's purposes for their life.

Students will study basic Christian topics under six reoccurring themes. The courses are conversational in style and easy to read. The following chart illustrates how the units of study are organized for the Christian Life Series.

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
<b>Spiritual Life</b>	Your New Life	When You Pray	God's Design, Your Choice
<b>The Bible</b>	Your Bible	How to Study the Bible	John's Gospel
<b>Theology</b>	Who Jesus Is	Your Helpful Friend	We Believe
<b>The Church</b>	The Church	Christian Worship	What Churches Do
<b>Service</b>	Personal Evangelism	Christian Workers	The Teaching Ministry
<b>Christian Ethics</b>	Bible Ethics	Marriage and the Home	The Christian in His Community

# Before You Begin

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## How to Use this Book

This book is divided into lessons instead of chapters. Each lesson begins with two important pages. After the lesson number are the title and a short introduction to the lesson. On the next page is **Lesson Outline**. This is the outline or plan for the lesson. It is a list of what you can expect to study in the lesson.

Next are **Lesson Objectives**. The lesson objectives are guidelines for what you should be able to do after studying the lesson. Read them carefully; they will help you focus on the most important points in the lesson.

To help you achieve your objectives, each lesson has questions and activities. The subheading **Application** signals you to answer questions on the material learned. Do not skip over this part. Writing out the answers will help you apply what you have learned. Most of the questions can be answered right in your book. If there is not enough room to write your answers in the book, write them in a notebook or journal that you can use to review the lessons later.

After answering a question, check the answer at the end of the lesson in the section marked **Answers to Study Questions**. Do not look ahead at the answers until you have written your own answer. This will help you remember what you study much better. Compare your answers to those given at the end of the lesson; then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are in a jumbled order so that you will not easily see the answer to the next question. At the end of each lesson, complete the **Self-Test**. Answers to the self-test are at the end of the study guide.

## How to Answer Study Questions

This course uses many different kinds of questions. Below are samples of the three most common types and how to answer them.

### **MULTIPLE-CHOICE**

A multiple-choice question asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

#### *Example*

- 1** The Bible has a total of
- a)** 100 books.
  - b)** 66 books.
  - c)** 27 books.

The correct answer is b) 66 books.

In your study guide, make a circle around b) as shown here:

- 1** The Bible has a total of
- a)** 100 books.
  - b)** 66 books.
  - c)** 27 books.
  - d)** 2 books.

### **TRUE-FALSE**

A true-false question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

#### *Example*

- 2** Which statements below are TRUE?
- a)** The Bible has a total of 120 books.
  - b)** The Bible is a message for believers today.
  - c)** All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
  - d)** The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b)** and **d)** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

### MATCHING

A Matching question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

### Example

**3** Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| ...1... <b>a)</b> Received the Law at Mt. Sinai        | 1. Moses  |
| ...2... <b>b)</b> Led the Israelites across the Jordan | 2. Joshua |
| ...2... <b>c)</b> Marched around Jericho               |           |
| ...1... <b>d)</b> Lived in Pharaoh's court             |           |

Phrases **a)** and **d)** refer to Moses, and phrases **b)** and **c)** refer to Joshua. You would write 1 beside **a)** and **d)**, and 2 beside **b)** and **c)**, as you see above.

### Suggestions for Studying

1. Set aside quiet and regular times for your study. It will be easier to concentrate if study is part of your daily habits.
2. Pray as you begin each study session. With an open Bible, the Holy Spirit, and this course, you are in the classroom of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Lord to help you understand the lesson and apply it to your life.
3. Carefully read the lesson introduction, the lesson plan, and the goals.
4. Begin to carefully read the lesson. Look up Bible references and take any notes that may be helpful. The Bible verses reinforce important points in the lesson.

5. Answer the study questions in the spaces provided. Use your notebook or journal when necessary.
6. Think about what you have learned and look for ways to apply it in discussion with family and friends, in a Bible study, etc.
7. Take your time. No bell will ring to force you to move on to new material.

## Unit Evaluations

At the end of this course, you will find the Unit Evaluations. Questions and Answer Sheets are clearly marked for each unit. Carefully follow the directions given. You should complete and send your answer sheets to your instructor for corrections. If you are not studying with a Global University office you will still benefit by completing the Unit Evaluations.

## Ways to Study this Course

This course has been written so that you can study it by yourself. We like to say that the teacher is in the book. However, you may also study this course in various group settings such as mid-week Bible studies, learning centers, home groups, and youth programs. This course can be used as a correspondence or resource tool for prison ministries as well as special ethnic or other community outreach programs. You will find both the content and study methods excellent for these purposes.

If you study this course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Be sure to use the address of your Global University office. If you are studying in a group or through a Discipleship Training Center, be sure to follow any additional instructions that your instructor may give.

In addition, your church may partner with Global University to open a Discipleship Training Center. Visit us online at [www.globaluniversity.edu](http://www.globaluniversity.edu) for more information and start up helps.

## Certificate

Unit or individual certificates are available to students upon successful completion of our courses. For instance, if you are studying through a National Office or Discipleship Training Center, you may receive a certificate from your Global University instructor. If you are studying on your own, you may mail your completed Unit Evaluation Answer Sheets to your local office. National Offices and Discipleship Training Centers may order certificates through the International Office or through GPH in the USA.

## Additional Helps

The Center for Evangelism and Discipleship (CED) Catalog, Discipleship Training Center Manual, the Study Center Agreement Form, and the CED Order Form are available online for print downloads. Other materials available for this course include supplemental audiocassettes.

## About the Author

Judy Bartel, the daughter of Harry and Martha Bartel, veteran missionaries to Latin America, is also a missionary who has been working in Colombia since 1971. She has been active as a teacher and administrator in Bible schools in Colombia and has worked with children's programs, crusades, and television presentations.

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### **Lessons**

- 1** Worship—A Spiritual Gem
- 2** Only God Is Worthy
- 3** Worship in Prayer
- 4** Worship in Service

# 1 Worship—A Spiritual Gem

---

It was a cold day. High in the Andes mountains a young man trudged down a gravel road. Suddenly he saw an interesting-looking rock, picked it up, and put it in his pocket. Little did he know what he had found. That rock, one of the largest emeralds ever found in Colombia, was sold for several million pesos, and the man became wealthy.

Wouldn't you like to have found that stone? We would all love to own a precious emerald, diamond, or ruby. But, even though we may not be able to own these, there is one gem we can all have—the gem of worship.

Worshipping God is like a precious stone because it makes us spiritually rich. Like a beautiful gem, there are different facets to worship. We will study several of the most important ones. As you learn to put these truths into action, you will be polishing your “gem” of worship. The Holy Spirit will help you so that every facet radiates the beauty and glory of God.

## ***The Plan***

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- A. Love in Worship
- B. Inner Qualities
- C. Outward Expressions

## ***The Goals***

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- 1. Show the importance of reciprocating God's love.
- 2. State some qualities needed for worship.
- 3. Identify from Scripture ways in which people worshipped God.

## **A. LOVE IN WORSHIP**

**Goal 1.** Show the importance of reciprocating God's love.

Our love for God needs to be expressed. He has already expressed His love for us by sending His Son to die in our place. He shows goodness and mercy even to those who have not cared about Him. Matthew 5:45 says, "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

Expressing love is a two-way street. Is there any reason for us to hide our feelings from Him? Though He reads our hearts and sees the love there, He longs for us to speak our love and demonstrate it. In so doing we open the door for Him to speak His love back to us. Then we begin to understand what fellowship and communion with the Lord is about. Nothing else in all the world can take its place.

There is a spiritual need that can be filled only through worship. We need to speak our love to God and demonstrate that love by our actions. How can that be done? A deed of kindness done in the name of Jesus becomes an act of worship because it pleases the Lord. (Read Matthew 25:31–40.)

As a Christian you have already learned that pleasing the Lord brings you satisfaction and contentment. The worshipful person is also a cheerful person—that in itself is a reward. Proverbs 17:22 says, “A cheerful heart is good medicine.” Psalm 128:1 affirms, “Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways.”

## ***Application***

---

- 1** Circle the letter in front of the correct sentence completion.  
To truly worship God is to do and say whatever
  - a)** seems right at the moment.
  - b)** makes us feel good.
  - c)** is pleasing to God.
- 2** Which of the following are acts of worship?
  - a)** Telling God that you love Him
  - b)** Reading His Word every day
  - c)** Giving a cup of water in the name of Jesus
- 3** Write two things you could do or say that would be worship to God.

Check your answers with those at the end of this lesson.

---

## **B. INNER QUALITIES**

**Goal 2.** State some qualities needed for worship.

John writes, “The time is coming and is already here, when by the power of God’s Spirit people will worship the Father as he really is, offering him the true worship he wants” (John 4:23). This verse gives what is expected of us as worshippers: to worship the Father in spirit and truth, for God seeks such worshippers.

The words “by the power” suggest that we need power or strength to worship, but the power must be greater than our own. When we admit our lack, we take the first step toward real worship—the step of humility.

In true worship we also see ourselves as children in need of love and guidance. Does this sound like a step downward? In a way it is. But humility does not mean giving up everything we own. It means allowing the Lord first place in every area of our lives. When we begin to see His greatness, we are more ready to offer the true worship that He wants.

Other essential qualities in worship include love and obedience. In family relationships it is impossible to separate these two qualities. One calls for, or complements, the other. If a child loves his or her parents, obeying them is usually not difficult. Rather, it becomes a pleasure. Love prompts the desire to please.

If we find ourselves wanting to go against God's commands, we should view our attitude as a warning that our love is wearing thin. We must humbly ask the Lord to forgive our self-centeredness. He will again pour in His love—love that we can pour out in joyful obedience to His will.

Just as the gem has many facets, worship also has facets. We have studied qualities that are among the most important. But as you seek God's Word, His Spirit will show you many more. Every new inner quality that you add and polish will make your time of worship more valuable.

## ***Application***

---

**4** The three personal qualities for worship that we have studied are

.....,

.....,

and.....

**5** What quality is illustrated by each of the following verses?

**a)** Psalm 10:17 .....

**b)** 1 John 3:18 .....

**c)** 1 John 3:24 .....

**6** Read the parable in Matthew 21:28–32. Which of the two sons was developing the qualities we have studied?

---

## C. OUTWARD EXPRESSIONS

**Goal 3.** Identify from Scripture ways in which people worshipped God.

The facets of our worship gem are innumerable. In every new circumstance we find creative ways and opportunities to worship and glorify God. Our Bibles show how people of long ago expressed their love, and we can learn from their experiences. As we express our love, it, too, will grow.

David, the shepherd who became king of Israel, worshipped the Lord with musical instruments and with song. Moses' sister Miriam worshipped with a holy dance. The great woman of Shunem simply bowed in silence, too awed for the moment to utter a word. Dorcas was a godly woman who gave God glory and honor by her consistent Christian life and her quick fingers to sew and make clothing for the poor.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, praised and exalted God. Her words were not her own. As she opened her heart and mouth to praise, she spoke beautiful words of prophecy. Read this prayer called the Magnificat, or Mary's song, in Luke 1:46–55.

These examples show only a few of the ways we can worship the Lord. With our voices we can praise Him in song. With our bodies we can worship by playing musical instruments, clapping our hands, or raising our arms. Some of the most precious moments of worship are found in complete silence, meditating on the goodness of God. And, as we know, actions speak as loudly as words. We praise when we obey—when we look about us and see needs that we can fill, and then do what we can to fill those needs.

Sincere worship is a precious stone found in the ordinary soil of earth, yet it can reflect the light, the beauty, and the glory of God.

## Application

---

**7** One of the best ways to express our love to the Lord is to

- a)** hide from worldly influence and temptation.
- b)** repeat the same prayer over and over.
- c)** show by our actions that we love Him.

**8** If someone were to ask you how to worship, what would you consider the best answer?

- a)** You can watch others and copy what they do.
- b)** There is more than one form of worship; you can turn to the Bible for examples.
- c)** Find what suits you best and start doing it.

**9** Look up the following Scriptures and in your own words tell by what means these people worshipped God. The first one is done for you.

**a)** Acts 2 *Having fellowship with believers*

**b)** Acts 4:32 .....

**c)** Acts 8:35 .....

**d)** Acts 16:15 .....

**e)** Acts 16:25 .....

**f)** Philemon 4 .....





## Check Your Answers

---

The answers to your study exercises are not given in the usual order, so that you will not easily see the answer to your next question ahead of time. Look for the number you need, and try not to look ahead.

- 1 c)** is pleasing to God.
- 6** The older son
- 2** All of the choices can be considered acts of worship.
- 7 c)** show by our actions that we love Him.
- 3** Your answer. Examples: praising and thanking the Lord, reading the Bible prayerfully, or helping a person because you wish to show the love of God.
- 8 b)** There is more than one form of worship; you can turn to the Bible for examples.
- 4** humility, love, and obedience.
- 9** Your own words, but your answers will be something like these.
  - b)** Sharing with others
  - c)** Telling the good news
  - d)** Showing hospitality
  - e)** Praying and singing
  - f)** Giving thanks
- 5**
  - a)** Humility
  - b)** Love
  - c)** Obedience



# 2 Only God Is Worthy

---

The twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” (Revelation 4:11)

We worship God because He is worthy. To be worthy means to be deserving or to have a right. The Bible clearly teaches that the Lord has a right to first place in our lives.

Therefore, is it wrong to worship a stone, a piece of carved wood, a beautiful idea, or even a powerful angel? Could we do this and still reserve a place in our hearts for God? Bible history tells of people who believed in God, yet wanted to worship something they could see or picture in their minds. Their loyalties were divided. But the end result became worship of (and obedience to) their idols. Jesus warned, “No one can serve two masters” (Matthew 6:24).

So like the elders mentioned earlier in this introduction, we want to love, serve, and worship one Master—the Lord God Almighty, who alone is worthy.

## ***The Plan***

---

- A. God's Power and Holiness
- B. Fatherly Love

## ***The Goals***

---

1. Discuss the extent of God's power and holiness.
2. Identify, from Scripture, examples of how God shows His love to humanity.

### **A. GOD'S POWER AND HOLINESS**

**Goal 1.** Discuss the extent of God's power and holiness.

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He referred to God's power: "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Jesus gave us a glimpse of heaven. There the angels serve God who had only to speak the word and worlds came into existence. Sometimes we forget about His power because we see other powers in seeming control. We must remember, however, that though He may allow people to have their own way for a while, God has never lost His power. Revelation 4:10 tells of those who will lay their crowns (symbols of power) at the feet of Jesus. All of the universe will claim Him as Lord.

Psalm 98:2 says, "The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations." There is no boundary to His presence (Psalm 139:7–10) and no limit to His knowledge. He can stir up the mighty winds and quiet troubled seas. By His power the lily pushes its way up through the ground so it blossoms pure and white.

All of nature shows God's power and the angels of heaven stand ready to do His will. How much more we should trust ourselves to His love and care! We are safer there than anywhere else. God can change the course of history, and with that same power He can work in our lives. As we recognize His

power and praise Him for it, our faith in Him is increased. We realize how limited we really are without His help—and we open ourselves to receive.

## ***Application***

---

Read Daniel 4:28–37 and complete the following sentences.

- 1** The king claimed he built Babylon to
    - a)** give honor to God.
    - b)** give his people work.
    - c)** display his own glory.
  - 2** He learned that God is right and just and
    - a)** will someday get more power.
    - b)** can humble anyone who acts proudly.
    - c)** pays little attention to what we do.
  - 3** After this experience King Nebuchadnezzar
    - a)** kept still about what happened.
    - b)** returned to his boasting.
    - c)** gave honor and praise to God.
- 

God is not only all-powerful but also holy. Holiness means being free from sin, being upright in every way. The prophet Isaiah encountered the holiness of God and felt unclean in the presence of this awesome, awe-inspiring holy God. In a vision, Isaiah saw winged creatures calling out, “‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty’” (Isaiah 6:3). The sound of their voices shook the foundations of the temple. Suddenly Isaiah realized how unworthy he was to stand in the presence of God. He was not clean and he knew it. He cried out, “‘Woe to me!’ . . . ‘I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty’” (v. 5). Then one of the creatures touched his lips with a burning coal from the altar and took his guilt away (vv. 6–7).

Isaiah’s vision communicates that God is so pure and holy that we cannot stand in His presence. Our own goodness cannot

measure up to His standard. We are awed by the presence of God and, as a result, fear the holy One. Fear of the Lord is deep reverence and awareness of how great He is and how unworthy we are. Isaiah 8:13 records, “The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread.”

God said in Malachi 3:6, “I the Lord do not change.” He is the God of power and of holiness; He will never change. “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our ‘God is a consuming fire’” (Hebrews 12:28–29).

## ***Application***

---

**4** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a)** If I try hard enough, I can be as clean and holy as God wants me to be.
- b)** Isaiah felt sinful when he realized God’s holiness.
- c)** A divine touch took Isaiah’s guilt away.
- d)** The Lord can make us clean, too.

**5** The fear of the Lord is deep reverence, a sense of awe, that

- a)** makes us afraid to pray.
  - b)** reminds us of all our failures.
  - c)** invites us to prayer and worship.
- 

## **B. FATHERLY LOVE**

**Goal 2.** Identify, from Scripture, examples of how God shows His love to humanity.

The Israelites who lived during the time of the kings and prophets had learned the first part of this lesson well. They knew about God’s great power and holiness. They had seen the pillar of fire at night; they had trembled as thunder and lightning shook Mount Sinai. They depended on their High Priest to go into the Holiest Place of their tabernacle or temple

to talk with God in their stead. They were afraid to approach Him.

But God does not want to be thought of as someone far away who cannot be approached. He loves humanity so much that He sent His Son Jesus Christ to the world to reconcile the world to himself. Sin had erected a wall between humans and God. Therefore, sin had to be atoned for, and fellowship and communion between God and humans restored.

Jesus Christ did this through His death on the Cross. Hebrews 10:19–22 says: Since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

What do you think of when you hear the words, “God, the Father?” Do you think of a harsh judge, a cruel leader, or a dictator? Do the words make you feel nervous or afraid? Some people experience these feelings because of an unhappy childhood or the memory of a cruel parent. God who sees us and all our thoughts has been careful to let us know that His love for us is greater than that of any earthly father or mother. King David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, said, “Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me” (Psalm 27:10). Although David had grown up in a secure home, he knew that human love could fail. But God’s love will never fail.

In Psalm 103:13 we read, “As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.” The trusting son goes to his loving father when he feels fearful and needs reassurance or help; when he is hungry or in trouble; when he wants to talk and share the happenings of the day. Or maybe he just wants to be near his father, listening to his counsel. God wants us to experience this type of parent-child relationship with Him. He wants us to feel secure in

coming to Him. The apostle Paul affirmed, “For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father’” (Romans 8:15).

When Paul was writing these words, he used the Aramaic word *Abba* for “Father.” It was the name commonly used by children when speaking to their earthly fathers. Its English comparison would be “Daddy.”

What does this tell us about worship? God loves us so much that He wants the closest possible relationship with us. Surely He is worthy of all the praise and adoration. But when we fail to worship the Lord, we hurt ourselves. More than that, we hurt our loving heavenly Father.

Perhaps we should ask ourselves a few questions. Do I treat the Lord as if He were a stranger? Do I ignore Him? Do I start each day with fellowship and praise to Him? If you could not answer as you would like to, bow your head now and ask Him for His forgiveness. He is waiting for you. As you enter into joyful worship and communion with God, you will sense His nearness. The more you worship, the easier it becomes—for it becomes a way of life.

## ***Application***

---

**6** Read Luke 13:34. How do you think Jesus felt when He said these words?

**7** After each of the following references write how God shows His love toward us. The first one is done for you.

**a)** John 3:16 . . . *He gave His Son for us.* . . . .

**b)** Isaiah 41:10 . . . . .

**c)** Hebrews 12:5–6 . . . . .

**d)** Psalm 40:3 . . . . .



- 8** Circle the letter in front of each true statement.
- a)** God wants us to be afraid so we will be obedient.
  - b)** Our heavenly Father is kinder than any earthly father could be.
  - c)** *Abba* is what a child who spoke Aramaic would call his or her father.
  - d)** Sincere worship is a joyful experience.
- 



## ***Check Your Answers***

---

- 1** **c)** display his own glory.
- 5** **c)** invites us to prayer and worship.
- 2** **b)** can humble anyone who acts proudly.
- 6** In your own words: perhaps sadness, love, or a deep longing.
- 3** **c)** gave honor and praise to God.
- 7** **b)** Strengthens, helps, protects
  - c)** Corrects
  - d)** Gives a new song
- 4** **b), c), and d)** are true.
- 8** **b), c), and d)** are true.

# LESSON 3 Worship in Prayer

---

In Lesson 1 we learned that worship is fellowship with the Lord. This is why God made us. He wanted to share His love with people who could love Him in return. What beautiful evenings those were when God walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden!

When humanity sinned they shut the door to that close relationship, but the great heart of God still reached out to His creation. Deuteronomy 33:3 says of God: “It is you who love the people.” His ears are still open to hear us when we call, and we can still have communion with Him through prayer.

Prayer is not difficult. Don’t we want to talk with someone who loves us and whom we love in return? As with earthly conversations, the more we talk the easier it becomes. The more we pray, the easier it becomes to express our love in words and in worship.

## ***The Plan***

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- A. Worship With Our Words
- B. Worship With the Spirit's Words
- C. Worship Without Words

## ***The Goals***

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- 1. Identify different types of prayer.
- 2. State how worshipping in the Spirit helps believers.
- 3. Describe two purposes of silent prayer.

### **A. WORSHIP WITH OUR WORDS**

#### **Goal 1.** Identify different types of prayer.

When you pray, do you sometimes say, “Dear God, please help me with this problem”? Such an appeal is called a prayer of petition. This prayer is pleasing to the Lord because He loves to help us in our need. You know what it is to thank the Lord for your food and the many other blessings He has showered on you. This is also an important way to pray, one that could be called the prayer of thanksgiving.

Perhaps you have prayed for others, for people or nations in need. This is the prayer of intercession. God has asked His children to spend special time in intercessory prayer. But there is one type of prayer that does not depend on circumstances surrounding us. It depends only on God and who He is. This is the prayer of worship.

When we worship, we take our eyes off ourselves and our need and even off the answers we have already received. We concentrate only on God, on His unchanging and eternal qualities—His power, faithfulness, love, and all the other attributes that are part of His character. Our attitude is not so much one of being open to receive, but one of being ready to give. We offer ourselves.

Many of the psalms written by David are prayers of worship. When he was worshipping, he praised God for who He is. “The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. Great is the Lord . . . ; he is exalted over all the nations. Let them praise your great and awesome name— he is holy” (Psalm 99:1–3).

It is good to start our times of prayer with worship. This is what our Lord Jesus did when He taught His disciples to pray. Before bringing petitions to His Father, Jesus first honored Him in praise. He said, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:9–10).

Three things happen when we worship God. First, we take our privileged place as His children. Second, we put our enemy, the devil, in his place. We declare that he has no authority over us because we belong to God’s kingdom. God has promised to protect and keep us. Then, most important of all, we please the Lord. Proverbs 15:8 says, “The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.”

Take a few moments now to think about the Lord. If other thoughts keep pushing in, ask the Holy Spirit to help you in worship. He will make the things of God real to you. Never forget that the Lord is God. He made us, and we belong to him; we are His people. His love and faithfulness are eternal.

## ***Application***

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- 1** Circle the letter in front of each true statement.
  - a)** There are several kinds of prayer, all beneficial.
  - b)** Worship is only a ritual at a certain part of the service.
  - c)** Jesus taught His disciples to worship.
  - d)** The main purpose of worship is to get answers we really want.

- 2** Choose the correct completions to this sentence. If you cannot think of words to say when worshipping, you could
- a)** just forget it; God understands your limitations.
  - b)** have your pastor write out words for you to memorize.
  - c)** find Psalms or other Bible passages of worship and read them to the Lord.
  - d)** ask the Holy Spirit to help you in your worship.
- 3** Circle the letter in front of each correct sentence completion. Worship differs from other forms of prayer in that it
- a)** does not mention our problems or needs.
  - b)** must be a prayer for others.
  - c)** depends on our circumstances.
  - d)** only glorifies God for who He is.
- 4** Read the prayers and write in front of each the type of prayer it represents.

**PRAYERS****TYPES OF PRAYER**

- |              |  |                       |
|--------------|--|-----------------------|
| ... <b>a</b> | "Please heal my headache."                 | <b>P</b> Petition     |
| ... <b>b</b> | "Help those living in atheistic cultures." | <b>T</b> Thanksgiving |
| ... <b>c</b> | "Thank You for friends."                   | <b>I</b> Intercession |
| ... <b>d</b> | "We praise You for You are merciful."      | <b>W</b> Worship      |
| ... <b>e</b> | "Save my family before it's too late."     |                       |
| ... <b>f</b> | "Hallelujah!"                              |                       |
| ... <b>g</b> | "Thank You for protection as we traveled." |                       |
| ... <b>h</b> | "Bless this food."                         |                       |



## B. WORSHIP WITH THE SPIRIT'S WORDS

**Goal 2.** State how worshipping in the Spirit helps believers.

Before our Lord ascended into heaven He gave specific instructions to His disciples:

“Wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:4–5)

Ten days later they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. The sign of their baptism was that they all began to worship in languages they had never learned. There were people standing around who saw and heard what was taking place. Of course they asked questions about it. Then Peter answered, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:38–39)

Thereafter, many more people were filled with the Holy Spirit—about three thousand in that one day! Because the promise was made to all whom the Lord calls to himself, believers are still being filled with the Holy Spirit. No one needs to be left out.

Have you ever wondered why anyone would want this experience? If you have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, then you already know some of the answers. In this lesson we will mention a few of the benefits that are ours when we worship in an unknown language—in the Spirit's words.

A friend who speaks three languages told me of his experience when he spoke in tongues or in the language of the Spirit.

I was so full of love for God that I worshipped Him with all the loving words that I know in Spanish. Then I used all the words that I knew in English, and then in German. But these were not enough. Suddenly I began to speak in a strange language and I knew I was still telling God how much I loved Him even though I did not understand the words. It was wonderful to know that finally the words were adequate because they were in a heavenly language. I had never before felt joy like the joy that comes with being able to worship God in tongues.

We cannot over-emphasize the beauty and blessing of worshipping the Lord in the Spirit. During the writing of this course He made this truth very real to me. I faced a particularly hard trial, but when the pressure seemed too much I found strength by worshipping in my prayer language. The long sleepless hours at night became filled with the Spirit's words as were spare moments during the day. Often the words flowed easily, but other times I worshipped because I decided to and not because I felt like doing so.

One day I cried to the Lord, "Why should I have to face this trial now? Why me, Lord?" Immediately I seemed to hear His very gentle words: "You are writing about the benefits of worship. I want you to personally know and feel that what you write is true."

Let me assure you from God's Word and from personal experience of the great blessing found in worshipping with the Spirit's words. As I continued to worship my tension and self-pity left, the pain left my heart, and my smile became genuine.

It is the Holy Spirit who brings us the presence of God the Father (Ephesians 2:18). The Holy Spirit helps us pray with results (Romans 8:26). He brings us liberty from fear and gives us power, love, and self-control (1 Timothy 2:7). He reminds us of the hope we have of sharing God's glory. "Hope does not



disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us” (Romans 5:5).

Worshipping in the Spirit lifts us beyond life’s temporary problems. We find release as we concentrate on the eternal God who has all things under control. How beautiful to glorify Him as He truly deserves. When we worship in tongues we magnify God and praise His goodness (Acts 10:46).

If you have not received the marvelous experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, you can ask the Lord for it right now. He has promised it to every believer.

**Application**

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- 5 Worshipping with the Spirit’s words means
  - a) using the gift of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
  - b) praying in an unknown tongue.
  - c) magnifying God as He truly deserves.
- 6 List three of the many benefits a believer receives when he or she worships in the Spirit.

.....

.....

.....



**C. WORSHIP WITHOUT WORDS**

**Goal 3.** Describe two purposes of silent prayer.

How can we worship the Lord in prayer and speak? It is not only possible, but also necessary to pray sometimes without speaking aloud. Two things can happen when we pray silently. One, we can bring our innermost thoughts to the Lord. The psalmist wrote, “Lord, you have searched me and you know me. . . . You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. . . . Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely” (Psalm 139:1, 2, 4).

The second thing that happens when we are silent is equally important. During this time we are able to wait on Him. To wait on the Lord means to keep still outwardly and inwardly while waiting for Him to speak to us. The Holy Spirit can bring thoughts to our minds that will help us, or bring verses to our remembrance to guide us. Here is where the fellowship and communion of worship take on full meaning.

Fellowship is never a one-way activity. There is no real conversation taking place if only one person is speaking. Two people must speak and listen to each other if they are to share together. God wants to talk with us. He said, “‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know’” (Jeremiah 33:3).

The Lord wants to give us understanding about ourselves and our circumstances. When we allow Him time to share His secrets with us, we in turn know better how to work and how to pray.

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.” (Daniel 2:20–22)

Perhaps in your quiet moments you have already waited on the Lord and you want to learn how to do it more. Find a place alone, free from interruptions, and ask the Lord to fill your mind with thoughts of Him. Ask Him to help you block out your own thoughts and to refuse whatever Satan might try to impose on you.

Then, worship Him silently. Be patient and wait for Him to speak. When He does speak it will always be in accordance with His written Word, so listen with a Bible in your hand. Psalm 91 encourages us, “‘Because he loves me,’ says the Lord, ‘I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him’” (vv. 14–15).

**Application**

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**7** What are two important reasons for praying silently?

.....

.....

**8** Which of the following statements are true?

- a)** God hears only the spoken word.
- b)** Silent worship helps us listen to God.
- c)** We worship without words only if we are alone.
- d)** God would never say anything contrary to His Word, the Bible.

**9** Circle the letter in front of each correct completion of the sentence. When we wait on the Lord we may be

- a)** sharing secrets with our heavenly Father.
- b)** waiting for an answer or for divine guidance.
- c)** just keeping still so our minds can wander.
- d)** quietly or silently worshipping.



## Check Your Answers

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- 5** All of the completions are correct.
- 1** **a)** and **c)** are true.
- 6** Your answers. You could include close communion with God, enjoying His presence, being filled with love, joy, peace, and power, and knowing you are praising Him as He is worthy of being praised.
- 2** **c)** find Psalms or other Bible passages of worship and read them to the Lord.  
**d)** ask the Holy Spirit to help you in your worship.
- 7** To bring our innermost thoughts to God and to wait on Him to speak to us
- 3** **a)** does not mention our problems or needs.  
**d)** only glorifies God for who He is.
- 8** **b)** and **d)** are true.
- 4** **a** Petition  
**b** Intercession  
**c** Thanksgiving  
**d** Worship  
**e** Intercession  
**f** Worship  
**g** Thanksgiving  
**h** Petition
- 9** **a)** sharing secrets with our heavenly Father.  
**b)** waiting for an answer or for divine guidance.  
**d)** quietly or silently worshipping.

# 4 Worship in Service

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My grandmother had gone to a woman's house and witnessed to her about Jesus. The woman shouted at Grandma, "Don't you ever come back to my house! I never want to hear about Jesus again!"

When my grandmother told me about it, I said, "That woman was very rude to you, Grandma. But you have done your part in witnessing and there is nothing more that you need to do."

"I already did more," she replied. "I baked an apple pie and took it to her."

I learned an important lesson from those words. Often I had seen my grandmother worship the Lord in prayer, her hands lifted as she sang, "We'll give all the glory to Jesus, and tell of His wonderful love." But that day I realized how she did more than witness or worship in words and song. She worshipped the Lord in her actions. If we say that we love Jesus, our deeds must also show that love.

## ***The Plan***

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- A. Total Service
- B. Attitudes in Service

## ***The Goals***

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1. Describe ways we can worship the Lord through serving others.
2. Discuss the attitudes necessary to make service an act of worship.

## **A. TOTAL SERVICE**

**Goal 1.** Describe ways we can worship the Lord through serving others.

“When do you not work for the Lord?” a young man asked. “Surely you have some free days once in a while.” The man thought Christianity is something you do, but being a believer is not an eight-hour-a-day job; it is a new life. Our service to God is as much a part of our lives as breathing is to being alive. We do not serve Him with part of our talents or time, or only when we feel like it, but always—with all our heart, mind, and body. Total service is being able to say, “Here I am, Lord. Use me anytime, anywhere, and under any circumstance.” Romans 12:1 says we offer true worship when we are dedicated to His service.

The greatest example of commitment is Jesus Christ himself. He ate, slept, exercised, and rested like any of us. But His heart and mind were constantly ready to do the work of His Father (John 15:10). He was always serving others. He helped people spiritually; taught them; prayed and even wept for them; and cared for their physical needs. Never did He turn away the sick or afflicted.

One day He raised the dead son of a poor widow from Nain who had no one else to provide for her. He even prepared

fish over the fire for the weary and hungry disciples who had worked hard at fishing the whole night through. He served the lonely and rejected folk just by being with them. He accepted dinner invitations to be with people who were unloved by their community. He befriended sinners. Jesus, the Son of God, served His own creation—humankind.

Should we do less? No, we must make it our goal to be like Jesus. Perhaps the Lord has not given you the ministry of service through teaching or preaching, but you do have the ability to be a compassionate, loving Christian. People need to know that someone cares, and your caring may help another person realize that God cares.

Worship through service means offering ourselves by giving of our time and our abilities. We can say a kind word, give a friendly smile, or visit the sick or lonely. The Lord wants us to be willing to share with others who are in want. Whether we are rich or poor, we must be ready to share as the Lord leads.

The Bible commands us to “be witnesses” (Acts 1:8)—not to do witnessing, but to be. Use the following prayer to help you communicate this desire to God.

Dear Father, my desire is to worship You, not only in words but in everything. Before I react to any situation or make any decision, I pray that Your precious Holy Spirit will tell me what would be pleasing to You. Then, Lord, help me to carry out your directions. Let your love shine through me in such a way that others will want to be like Jesus.

## Application

**1** Read the verses in the left column. In front of each reference listed, write the number of the type of service it matches.

REFERENCE	TYPE OF SERVICE
... <b>a</b> Matthew 8:1–3	1) Feeding the hungry
... <b>b</b> Matthew 8:23–26	2) Protecting and removing fear
... <b>c</b> Luke 19:1–6	3) Healing the sick
... <b>d</b> John 6:1–13	4) Providing physical comfort
... <b>e</b> John 13:1–15	5) Accepting those who feel rejected

**2** Read James 2:14–17, then complete the following. Faith alone is not enough, but must be proven by our

.....

**3** Read the following scenarios. Write below each a short description of the action you would take to show worship in service.

**a)** Your pastor explains to the congregation the urgent need for a new church building.

.....

.....

**b)** Your neighbor is very ill and there is no one to care for the family.

.....



## B. ATTITUDES IN SERVICE

**Goal 2.** Discuss the attitudes necessary to make service an act of worship.

When the prophet Samuel wanted to anoint a handsome young man as king of Israel, the Lord stopped him with these



words: ““The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart”” (1 Samuel 16:7).

Our outward appearance includes our actions as well as our physical features. Sometimes our actions are not what we mean them to be. We may be given a job to do and it does not turn out as well as we had hoped. But we can find comfort in knowing that God sees our hearts and knows what we really wanted to do for Him.

He also sees if we try to do Christian acts without having true interest in what we are doing. The finest actions do not count as worship if our attitudes are not right. The Bible gives helpful guidelines for proper thoughts and motives, some of which we will look at now.

We will talk first about serving the Lord cheerfully, and not just because we think we ought to. Our giving and sharing can be happy experiences. The Bible says that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Giving in the name of the Lord is the Christian’s privilege. Paul teaches, Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:7–8)

We see that God gives abundantly. The Bible says that He gives generously for our enjoyment (1 Timothy 6:17). As we give cheerfully, it becomes easier for us to also give generously. Romans 12:8 tells us that whoever shares with others should do it generously. We do not give just enough to ease a troubled conscience, but we give as the Lord would have us to give.

Imagine you received some extra money, and the Lord impressed you to give part of it to a small mission. This you did gladly and generously. Later you heard some of its members rejoicing in how God had provided for their needs, but your name was not mentioned. It sounded as if the money had

dropped out of the sky instead of from your hand. How would you feel?

Probably the natural reaction would be to feel resentful. We like to receive credit for what we have done. And while wanting to be appreciated is not bad, Jesus taught of a greater reward. Matthew 6 records, “‘When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you’” (Matthew 6:3–4).

The Lord was speaking here of humility, of giving that is free from pride and from the desire of people’s praise. Giving as unto the Lord is rewarding and rewarded. Jesus promised, “‘Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you’” (Luke 6:38).

Some of our reward may come here on earth. But our greatest reward will be given to us when we stand before the Lord on the day He thanks us for all we have done for Him. Matthew 25:34–40 gives us a glimpse of that day: “‘Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

Isn’t that a beautiful passage of Scripture? Even if you do something for someone who is ungrateful, it does not matter.

The Lord who sees everything remembers and counts your kindness as being done for Him. In view of our eternal rewards, giving cheerfully, generously, and humbly comes easier. The Lord gives the grace and strength we need.

**Application**

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**4** Read Matthew 5:34–48. Who is our example of cheerful and generous giving?

.....

**5** Read Luke 14:12–14 and answer the following questions.

**a)** What kind of people did Jesus tell His host to invite for dinner?

.....

.....

**b)** Who will repay him for what he does? .....

**6** What three basic attitudes should we have as we worship the Lord through service?

.....

.....



## Check Your Answers

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- 1   **a** 3) Healing the sick  
     **b** 2) Protecting and removing fear  
     **c** 5) Accepting those who feel rejected  
     **d** 1) Feeding the hungry  
     **e** 4) Providing physical comfort
- 2   works (or actions)
- 5   **a)** Poor, crippled, lame, blind  
     **b)** God
- 3   **a)** Your answer. You could give money above your tithes, donate building materials, or give free labor on the new building.  
     **b)** Your answer. You could take care of the children, provide food, find someone who could help, or take up a collection for them. Remember that kind deeds done in the name of the Lord are a form of worship.
- 6   Cheerfulness, generosity, and humility
- 4   Our Father in heaven

*Now that you have completed the first unit, you are ready to answer the questions in Unit One Evaluation. Review the previous lessons, then follow the instructions in your student report. Send your answer sheet to the address given on the copyright page of your study guide.*



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## **Lessons**

- 5** Worship in Music
- 6** Guidelines to Worship
- 7** Practicing Worship
- 8** Now and Forever

# LESSON 5 Worship in Music

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Where did music begin? No one race or group of people can lay claim to the origin of music, for all people have it in one form or another. Even the most primitive cultures have drums or musical instruments to help them express their emotions in songs and chants.

The Bible gives the earliest record of music. Job 38:7 tells that when the world was being formed the “stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy.” Music began in heaven before the creation of the earth as we know it.

Music is important, for it influences the way we feel, think, and behave. If used wrongly, music can be a strong force for evil. Used correctly, music can bring peace, harmony, and intimacy with God. The highest purpose of music is to worship and glorify the Lord. The Bible gives examples of worship through both instrumental and vocal music to help us in our ministry of thanksgiving and praise to God.

## ***The Plan***

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- A. Ministering With Song
- B. Ministering With Instruments
- C. Blessed Through Music

## ***The Goals***

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1. Identify which forms of music are biblical expressions of worship.
2. State principles relating to the use of instruments in worship.
3. List blessings of worshipful music.

## **A. MINISTERING WITH SONG**

**Goal 1.** Identify which forms of music are biblical expressions of worship.

The Bible commands us: “Sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:16–17). Ephesians 5:19 agrees with the passage above. *Songs* and *singing* are mentioned hundreds of times in Scripture. Clearly, God wants us to praise Him in song because He is worthy of our praise.

Some of our Christian songs are taken from the Psalms, literally Scripture set to music. The idea is not new, for the book of Psalms was the hymn book of the Jewish nation. They had special psalms for feast days (Psalm 81), psalms asking for forgiveness (Psalm 51), and many others. The greater number, however, were songs of praise and thanksgiving.

The New Testament encourages us to sing these psalms and other hymns and sacred songs. Christian songs of today are as varied as the old psalms—songs for special occasions such as funerals and weddings, songs of prayer and supplication, songs



of praise and worship. Each type of song serves a purpose. A song that says, “Just as I am, I come,” encourages sinners to come to the Lord just as they are, so it is often used for altar calls. A song that says, “Search me, O God,” helps believers open themselves to the searching of the Holy Spirit when they want to give every area of their lives to the Lord.

Many worship songs begin with another theme such as consecration. We tell the Lord that we will obey Him no matter what it costs. Then the songs remind us of why we are willing to obey Him. Afterwards, we become caught up in spontaneous worship as we sing to the Lord.

Too often Christians have missed this avenue of praise because they felt that their voices lacked quality. But songs of worship are not just for special occasions or for recordings for other people to listen to at home. They are songs of praise between us and God—our love songs to Him. Although other people may hear and enjoy them, their appreciation is only secondary. We sing first to and for the Lord.

How do we know a song of worship when we hear it? The song of worship does not talk about us or our own needs, nor does it invite the sinner to come to Christ. It extols God, magnifies Jesus, talks of the greatness and goodness of the Lord. It is the kind of song that takes us out of our surroundings and into the heavenly places with Christ. It may be only a simple chorus, one we sing from memory, but it glorifies the Father.

I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself. (Psalm 89:1–2)

## Application

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- 1** Which of the following completions is correct? A worship song differs from other types of songs because a worship song
- a)** is always quiet and solemn.
  - b)** reminds us of our faults.
  - c)** glorifies only God.
  - d)** invites sinners to Christ.
- 2** The psalms are Jewish songs
- a)** of praise.
  - b)** that cover various themes.
  - c)** too old to have meaning.
- 

## B. MINISTERING WITH INSTRUMENTS

**Goal 2.** State principles relating to the use of instruments in worship.

Worshipping the Lord with musical instruments is mentioned often in the Old Testament. Many different kinds of instruments were used—wind instruments such as the trumpet and flute, stringed instruments like the harp and lyre, and percussion instruments like the drum and cymbal. Like the worshippers of the Old Testament, we can praise the Lord with anything that we have. One person may play an electric organ or conduct an orchestra. Another beats on a hollow log or shakes a tambourine. But all play to God's glory.

As we studied in the last lesson, attitude is most important in worship. If I am to play an instrument, I must do my best because God deserves my best. But this does not mean I must wait until I have mastered the skill before I play. I must do the best that I can now, while still working towards mastery.

Simultaneously, worshippers must be careful not to use music to show off their talent. Pride is sin. Whatever abilities we have came from God, so we must use these in love and

humility. Otherwise our music would be no more than empty noise. (See 1 Corinthians 13.)

Music comes in many varieties. Some music is loud and lively, and others soft and quiet. Each has its proper place in Christian worship. Therefore, worshippers must be careful to consider the tastes of others. Consideration and respect for one another (Romans 12:10) apply in music as well.

If God has blessed you with musical ability, ask Him to help you use it to spread the gospel and to encourage others in heartfelt worship. As you pray He can direct you to the appropriate songs or choruses to be played. These should be carefully practiced and thought out before the presentation. The Lord will anoint your music and give inspiration and direction to every choice involved.

You can also use your instrument in private devotion. You will find joy in offering music to God, making up your own music and words or repeating favorite pieces that bring to mind the beauty and majesty of our God. Music is one of God’s greatest gifts. We can reciprocate by offering it as one of our greatest gifts to God.

**Application**

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**3** Read the Scripture references on the left. In front of each reference write the number of the worship with music it matches.

- |              |                    |                                      |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ... <b>a</b> | Exodus 15:19–20    | 1) at the rebuilding of the temple   |
| ... <b>b</b> | 1 Chronicles 15:28 | 2) when the covenant box was moved   |
| ... <b>c</b> | Ezra 3:10          | 3) because of victory over the enemy |
| ... <b>d</b> | Revelation 14:2    | 4) in heaven                         |

**4** If music is one of God’s gifts to us, then we have a right to

.....

- 5** Which principles or guidelines concerning music in worship are true?
- a)** We should only use musical instruments named in the Bible.
  - b)** We can play any instrument if we play it to the glory of God.
  - c)** Even in music we should show respect for other people and their feelings.
  - d)** Musical instruments may be played in private devotion.
- 

## C. BLESSED THROUGH MUSIC

**Goal 3.** List blessings of worshipful music.

Second Chronicles 20 gives an unusual account of a battle that was won by worshipping the Lord in music and song. It happened after three ungodly nations had formed an alliance, so their combined armies could march against the little kingdom of Judah. With their overwhelming numbers, the outcome of the war seemed certain.

When God's people heard about it, they cried out to Him for help. Instead of guiding them in military strategy, however, God told them to send musicians who would march before their army singing, "Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever" (v. 21). As they sang, the Lord threw the invaders into panic. The enemies turned on one another, fighting and killing. Then God's people moved in to gather the loot and marched back to the city playing on harps and trumpets, giving glory to the Lord who gave them victory.

We may not be facing actual battle at this moment, but Ephesians 6 reminds us that our enemies today are not flesh and blood—but the devil and his powers. Just as the physical enemy was conquered through song hundreds of years ago, the spiritual enemy can be put to flight today.

If God is for us, who can be against us? . . . Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . No, in

all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Romans 8:31, 35, 37)

Paul and Silas, thrown into prison for the gospel's sake (Acts 16), rejoiced in the Lord. Though they had been severely beaten and their feet put in stocks, they prayed and sang praises to God. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake and their chains were loosed. God had set them free!

Then something else happened. The frightened jailer was about to kill himself when Paul stopped him by assuring him that they had not escaped. The jailer asked, "'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'" (v. 30). This was the opportunity Paul and Silas wanted. They told the man that salvation would come to him and to his house by believing on Jesus Christ. He and his family believed and were baptized at once. Paul and Silas could then rejoice in a double victory.

Even today people are being brought to Christ through music. A South American guerilla fighter repented after entering a little church where he had heard singing. Others have been attracted to gospel meetings by music. In some instances the music itself was not outstanding, but because it was dedicated to the Lord, the Holy Spirit used it to draw people to himself.

You can relate to their experiences even though your experience may not be identical to theirs. Through a song the Lord helps you forget about your own problems and reach out to help others. Through a song you are assured that the Lord is close by, ready to help you take the next step. Through a song you have new hope and courage and realize how great God really is. Second Chronicles 5:14 tells of an occasion in the temple when the priests sang and the presence of the Lord came down so mightily that they could not continue the service. They waited in awed silence before His majesty.

When you are feeling sad or lonely, sing a worship chorus. When you are fearful, sing to the Lord! You will be surprised how quickly He will fill your heart with joy. Perhaps you can

ask someone to sing with you. Singing unites us in joy and love—and there is strength in unity.

Even more important than the benefits we receive is the privilege of ministering to the Lord himself. We praise Him not only for what praise does for us—but because He is worthy of our praise. We enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise because He is good and His love is eternal (Psalm 100).

God is worthy of this worship now and throughout all eternity. Let us joyfully bless the Lord! As we bless Him, He will bless us. I can just imagine the joy God feels as His creation blesses Him through song. In fact, He sings a song too! “‘The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing’” (Zephaniah 3:17). Hallelujah!

### ***Application***

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**6** Who sang when they were in trouble?

- a)** The army of Judah
- b)** David
- c)** Silas
- d)** Many present-day believers

**7** Which of the following statements are true?

- a)** Our worship in song may help others to worship the Lord too.
- b)** People were brought to Christ through song in Bible times, but it will not happen today.
- c)** God told the people of Judah not to praise Him until after they saw the victory.
- d)** Our worship in music can be either songs we practiced or those we sing spontaneously.

**8** In Psalm 104:33 the psalmist said he would sing to the Lord

.....

9 List at least three blessings we can receive when we worship the Lord in song. We have given one as an example.

- a) ..... *Unity with other believers* .....
- b) .....
- c) .....
- d) .....



## ***Check Your Answers***

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- 1** c) glorifies only God.
- 5** b), c), and d) are true.
- 2** b) that cover various themes.
- 6** You should mark all the choices because they all sang when they were in trouble.
- 7** a) and d) are true.
- 3** a) 3) because of victory over the enemy.  
b) 2) when the covenant box was moved.  
c) 1) at the rebuilding of the temple.  
d) 4) in heaven.
- 8** all his life.
- 4** offer it back to God.
- 9** Your answer. You may list fears driven away, receiving help and strength, being filled with joy, or people being drawn to Christ.



# LESSON 6 Guidelines to Worship

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Why does the rain fall down and not up? Why does the sun rise in the east and set in the west? Why do we breathe air and not water? These are not silly questions. Scientists have spent many years looking for the answers. They have found that our universe and everything in it is governed by laws that keep it in order. Without this order there would be no rainfall, no sunsets, no life. These laws of nature are the laws of God, established to govern the universe.

Just as the universe would be in absolute chaos without God's laws and government, our inner lives cannot be in order if His guidelines are not followed. These inner guidelines are God's moral government. They involve spiritual steps or conditions that must be fulfilled for us to please Him. For example, there can be no salvation of a soul if the person does not personally repent and accept Jesus Christ as Savior.

God has also set guidelines in His Word for our worship. We have already studied some of these. Do you remember the three inner qualities a worshipper should have? We learned that they are humility, obedience, and love. We have also studied ways to express our worship—through prayer, service, and music. In this lesson we will prepare ourselves for effective Christian worship.

## ***The Plan***

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- A. Inner Preparation
- B. Outward Expression

## ***The Goals***

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1. Identify the inner conditions the Lord requires for worship.
2. Describe characteristics of New Testament worship.

### **A. INNER PREPARATION**

**Goal 1.** Identify the inner conditions the Lord requires for worship.

The right preparation for worship involves being clean, clear, and uncluttered in our inner lives. We will discuss these in that order although there will always be an overlapping of these conditions when they concern our thoughts and attitudes.

#### **Being Clean**

To be clean before God is to stand before Him without sin. Of course that is possible only as God himself forgives and washes our sins away. David sought such help as he prayed: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. (Psalm 51:1–2)

A woman went to church with a headache. When the pastor suggested that she be prayed for, she answered, “No, I cannot be prayed for because I was unkind to my children today, scolding them needlessly.” The pastor gently reminded her that she could ask for God’s forgiveness, accept it, and stand righteous before Him. The woman did so and was instantly healed. Perhaps even greater than her physical healing was the understanding that she could be clean before God just for the asking.

Does that mean we can go our own way, doing whatever we please, since forgiveness comes just for the asking? First John 3:9 answers it: “No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.” John reminds us that a Christian cannot willfully sin without affecting his or her standing with God. When this happens, there must be prayerful repentance. When we love Jesus and realize the price He paid for our salvation, we want to remain clean through the Word.

## ***Application***

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**1** Circle the letter in front of the correct completion to the sentence. To be clean before God means that we have

- a)** never sinned.
- b)** tried very hard to be good.
- c)** prayed and God has forgiven us.



## **Being Clear**

The apostle Paul said that he was doing his best to reach what lay ahead. “I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). In Acts 24:16 he said, “I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.” How can we always have a clear conscience? Some Christians have asked this and then been so afraid of displeasing the Lord that they lived in fear all the time. They have made the mistake of trying to search their own hearts. Psalm 139:23–24 tells us a better way.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

When we let the Lord examine our hearts, He will do it without condemning us. He understands our human weaknesses. Nevertheless, He is holy and righteous and cannot tolerate sin. We can be sure He will let us know if anything has

come between Him and us. Furthermore, He will tell us what to do about it. That is why He has given His Word—to guide, instruct, and lead us in a plain path.

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.” (Revelation 22:14–15)

Most of the sins mentioned are easily identified. Practicing magic and idolatry, however, can take on forms not so quickly recognized. Deuteronomy 18:9–13 names practices that resemble some we see in our day, such as reading cards or tea leaves, consulting spirits, or studying horoscopes. If you have books or anything that you used in this kind of practice, you should burn them. Even if you never used them, get rid of them lest they ensnare you.

Many sins, like lying, are so obvious that even a little child knows what they are. But the enemy, the devil, tries to get the believer to trip over these as well. The temptation arises when only a shade of untruth would get us out of difficulty, or help us to earn money.

But we do not need to let these things frighten us. God has promised to keep us from falling and to bring us “faultless and joyful” into His presence (Jude 24).

## ***Application***

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**2** Who is responsible for seeing that I have a clear conscience before God? .....



## **Being Uncluttered**

We talked about being clean and having things clear between us and God. We are using the word *uncluttered* to describe the little things that are not wrong if put in a proper

place and time, but they can keep us from a close walk with the Lord.

As an example, a Christian lady used her ability to knit as a way to help others. She made warm sweaters for children, heavy winter socks for fishermen, and did mending that few other women knew how to do. Sometimes on stormy nights she read her Bible and then knitted by lamp light until late. Then she stopped going to church because she wanted to knit. The Holy Spirit, however, was faithful to let her see the danger signal before it was too late and once more she put God first in her life. She took time to go to church and still had time enough for knitting.

Many activities that are harmless in themselves could be allowed to steal our time and hinder our walk with God. There is nothing wrong with hunting, playing ball, sewing, reading, and a thousand other activities unless we allow them first place in our lives. Then they will clutter the place and time meant for wholehearted worship of God. Paul speaks of this commitment: I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1–2)

Did you notice the last part of that passage? When we purpose (make up our minds) to worship the Lord with all that is in us, we will know what is good and pleasing to Him. He will help us make a difference between the harmful, the basically harmless, and the good. Our part is to discipline ourselves—to keep ourselves in tune with God. When we do that everything else will take its rightful place. Paul writes again, Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (Philippians 4:8)

## Application

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**3** Which activities could keep us from worshipping the Lord wholeheartedly?

- a)** Reading good books
- b)** Writing letters
- c)** Playing games
- d)** Working
- e)** Traveling
- f)** Fishing

**4** Why do you suppose Paul wrote in Philippians 4:8 that we should think only good thoughts?

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## B. OUTWARD EXPRESSION

**Goal 2.** Describe characteristics of New Testament worship.

We have talked about the background of true worship—a heart that is right before God—and this of course results in right actions. If we love God and love others we will not hurt them; we will do what we can to help them.

There are, however, things in the foreground, outward expressions of worship that may raise questions in our minds. Do we need to make sacrifices like the Jews did in the Old Testament? Should we bow before images of the apostles or other saints? Is it irreverent to clap our hands in church?

Some of what we do in worship may relate to our culture. Within every society there are certain accepted customs for worship which have become a part of church and life. Unless these contradict scriptural principles, they are not wrong.

The Bible has given guidelines for worship. The Old Testament worshippers were also given specific rules to follow, especially in the offering of sacrifices. We do not follow those

rules today because the sacrifices were symbols or pictures of things to come. The killing of a lamb and the sprinkling of the blood looked forward to Christ. He is the Lamb of God who shed His blood on Calvary for the sins of the world. We do not go through the ritual now because we do not need to. Because we know what it meant, we look back to Calvary to accept the complete and perfect sacrifice already made for us. Hebrews 9 explains,

The first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. . . . When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, . . . For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance. (vv. 1, 11, 15)

The New Testament emphasized the point that only God should be worshipped. John the beloved tells how he fell down to worship a heavenly being, but was stopped with these words: “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!” (Revelation 19:10).

When Jesus died on the Cross, He opened the way for us to have the same privileges as a priest. We can all go directly to God and worship Him. “To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen” (Revelation 1:5–6).

We are free to worship God with all our hearts and that worship may be expressed in many ways. In earlier lessons we talked about prayer, music, singing, waiting, and worshipping by our actions. Are there yet other ways to express our love to the Lord? What about during our private devotions or when we are with other believers and praise wells up in our hearts?

The Holy Spirit helps us in our times of worship. When we are together as a group there will be occasions for singing and clapping our hands for joy. This is scriptural. Psalm 134 proclaims, “Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord . . . Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord” (vv. 134:1–2).

The Bible says of David who danced as the ark of the covenant was being brought home to Jerusalem that he “danced before the Lord with all his might” (2 Samuel 6:14). No doubt his joy so overflowed that he could not keep still.

The Lord desires freedom in our worship and our sincere praise. The Holy Spirit wants to move through us to glorify the Father. He will also use our different personalities, for He recognizes us as individuals.

We, too, must remember that not everyone is like us. We react in ways that are part of our personality. One person may not be as quick as another to express his or her feelings. The man who sits quietly may be listening to the Lord, his spirit lifted up to heavenly places with Christ. Another would express praise loudly. Each reacts differently because each has a different personality. Someone once questioned a woman whose feet often danced though she seldom moved out of her place. She came from a family of seven children—all born crippled. No wonder her praise took on the form of a dance!

Those we have mentioned did not show the same outward expressions of worship; nevertheless, each was involved in sincere, heartfelt worship. Our praise will not be irreverent or offensive if we follow the guidelines in Romans 12:10, “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.” We must respect other people, their cultures, their personalities, and their walk with the Lord.

## ***Application***

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- 5** Circle the letter in front of each true statement.
- a)** The Old Testament sacrifices were symbols or pictures of things to come.
  - b)** Images and objects of worship help us keep our minds on the Lord.
  - c)** John the beloved was told not to bow down to a heavenly being, but to worship God.
  - d)** We can all go directly to God and worship Him.



**6** Circle the letter in front of each correct completion to the sentence. In the Bible we read of people worshipping the Lord by

- a)** raising their hands.
- b)** dancing before Him.
- c)** screaming as loudly as possible.
- d)** waiting before Him.

**7** Have you discovered any new ways to worship the Lord in this lesson? List them.

.....

.....



## ***Check Your Answers***

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- 1** c) prayed and God has forgiven us
- 5** a), c), and d) are true.
- 2** I am.
- 6** a) raising their hands.  
b) dancing before Him.  
d) waiting before Him.
- 3** All of the activities could take first place and hinder our worship; they are good activities as long as they do not come between God and us.
- 7** Your answer
- 4** Your answer. I would say that only good and clean thoughts keep our lives and minds prepared to enter into fellowship with God.

# LESSON 7 Practicing Worship

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The tour guide had just completed his talk, explaining to the visitors what the skilled factory workers were doing.

“Can you do what they are doing?” one of the visitors asked.

The guide smiled and shook his head, “I’ll have to be honest. I know how it is done, but I have never done it.”

Knowing how to do something and doing it are not always the same. Skill comes through practice. No one can learn to play the guitar without also practicing on it. And no one can learn to worship without also worshipping.

The purpose of this lesson is not to tell you how you must worship, but to share what other believers have learned about worship. Some of these believers lived in Bible times; others are living today. As you practice what you are learning, you will in turn help others.

## ***The Plan***

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- A. Individual Worship
- B. United Worship

## ***The Goals***

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1. Describe ways to improve your own devotional and worship time.
2. Discuss principles and practices of group worship.

### **A. INDIVIDUAL WORSHIP**

**Goal 1.** Describe ways to improve your own devotional and worship time.

When did the worshippers in the Bible seek God? Daniel prayed three times a day. David sought the Lord morning and evening. First Chronicles 16:11 says, “Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.” Our worship is continuous when we are totally committed to Him. There should be, however, a special time each day when we can have close and personal communion with the Lord.

Many people face situations that make it difficult to find a time and place to be alone, but they make a way. A housewife gets up an hour before her family does so she can have private devotions; a working man walks to a park during his lunch break so he can be alone. Whatever your circumstance, the Lord can help you set aside a time for fellowship with Him. During this time you will want to worship, for in worship you get to know the Lord personally.

A friend gave me a schedule for my devotions. I followed it for a while, then changed it to fit my own needs. I want to share this same schedule with you and hope that it will furnish practical guidelines for organizing special time with the Lord.

You will appreciate having your devotions in a place where you can worship out loud. You may want to include songs and

choruses and sing in the Spirit. You may weep before the Lord during your devotions, or you may laugh with joy. You can clap your hands and lift your arms in praise and adoration. You can kneel, sit, stand, or walk. We cannot lay out a pattern for everyone to follow because the Holy Spirit, like the wind, does not move in only one direction. He understands each one of us and knows exactly what we need.

Also, keep a daily devotional notebook in which to jot thoughts and notes. Some people like to make notes of their Bible reading, underlining verses that seem to speak directly to them. If you write names of people and situations which the Lord brings to your mind, you will find it exciting to look back later and see how God has answered your prayers. Your notebook can be your spiritual diary.

Now put a marker in this book at the page with the “Quiet Time” schedule. Keep it with your Bible and use it as a daily guide during your quiet time for a week before you decide on changes. I know you will find this hour with the Lord becoming more valuable as the months go by. If you have experiences you would like to share with your instructor, please feel free to do so. Worship is a part of our lives too, and we will rejoice with you.

## QUIET TIME

“Quiet time” is time spent alone with the Lord— time to talk to Him and listen to Him. It is time used to establish a personal and intimate relationship with the living God. James urges, “Come near to God and he will come near to you” (James 4:8).

## TIME SCHEDULE

### *PREPARATION (5 minutes)*

- a) Ask yourself: Is my heart clean and my conscience clear? (Psalm 24:3–6; Psalm 139:23–24; Psalm 51)
- b) Obedience: Tell the Lord you are ready to obey whatever He tells you. (John 14:21)

- c) Ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. (John 14:26; Romans 8:26)

### ***PRAISE AND WORSHIP (10 minutes)***

Worship in your prayer language. Pray in the Spirit. Meditate on who God is. Praise Him for what He is like. If you have trouble knowing what to say, read aloud one of the worship psalms as your worship to God.

### ***READ THE WORD (25 minutes)***

Study a book of the Bible, reading two or three chapters every day. Read them a second time and underline key verses. Meditate on those verses and how you would apply them to your life. Write your thoughts on them and pick one to memorize.

### ***PRAYER (20 minutes)***

Get ready to listen to the voice of the Lord. Ask Him to control your thoughts, desires, and imagination (Isaiah 55:8). Rebuke the voice of the enemy (James 4:7). Thank the Lord in faith for what you are to receive.

Spend time in silence. Write thoughts that come to mind. Meditate on them, check them out in God's Word. Pray over them and for situations that the Lord brings to your mind.

Take time for personal needs and present them to God.

Thanksgiving. Finish your time of devotions with thanking your wonderful heavenly Father for His goodness and for the answers He sends your way.

## ***Application***

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- 1** Which of the following statements are true?
- a)** We should worship only in a holy place.
  - b)** We learn more about worship as we worship.
  - c)** The Lord desires fellowship with every believer.
  - d)** Silence and meditation are not important in Christian worship.

**2** Read the following questions carefully. Write YES in front of each one that is true for you.

- ... **a** I set aside regular time for personal devotions each day.
- ... **b** I spend time during my devotions to worship God.
- ... **c** I sing and praise the Lord even when things go wrong.
- ... **d** I read God's Word every day.
- ... **e** I give the Lord an opportunity to speak to me.
- ... **f** When I worship, I forget about myself and others and concentrate only on God.
- ... **e** I pray in the Spirit every day.

Now go back and write "N" (Needs improvement) where you could not write YES. Ask the Lord to help you where you need improvement in your personal devotional time with Him.

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## B. UNITED WORSHIP

**Goal 2.** Discuss principles and practices of group worship.

The apostle Paul was imprisoned for preaching the gospel. Perhaps it was this experience that made him realize more than ever the importance of believers coming together to worship. He reminded the believers in Colossians that they were called to peace as members of one body (Colossians 3:15). Therefore, "let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrew 10:25).

It is just as important for believers today to get together for united worship, for the presence of the Lord is with those who gather in His name. Jesus said, "Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20).

There is strength in unity. Ecclesiastes 4:12 reads, "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord

of three strands is not quickly broken.” The strength of unity applies to spiritual things as well. On the day of Pentecost the believers were gathered in one place when the Holy Spirit came (Acts 2:1). God honored their oneness of heart and purpose.

We live in a sinful world and need each other. If I come to church discouraged and hear others praising God, it helps me to forget about my problems and praise God too. Someone else may tell what the Lord has done for him and it would be exactly what I need. The Lord uses other people to minister to me. Another day it will be my turn to minister to someone else. Little wonder that God’s Word encourages us to get together for fellowship.

Each time we meet we should plan for a period spent only in worship. Our songs and Bible reading should be worshipful, thus getting our minds away from ourselves. Our earthly cares seem smaller when we realize how great God’s love is toward us. His love is ready to provide for all our needs.

We cannot design a time of worship because the Holy Spirit leads in different ways at different times. We will, however, give a few suggestions. Your meetings should be open for others to share their experiences in the Lord, and to give Scriptures that have meant something special to them. Sometimes, in small groups, each person can pick a worship verse and read it aloud. The worship time should be comfortable, where all feel free—not forced—to participate.

In one group I know, the believers take turns offering the Lord just one sentence of worship. Perhaps someone will say, “Lord, I praise You for Your faithfulness.” Another might say, “I thank you for your love.” This gives everyone an opportunity. The new converts and timid believers are especially encouraged to enter in. Time for individual prayers and bringing needs before the Lord can follow after worship.

After individual prayers, the group may move on to worshipping in another manner. The group leader should be seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit about when to change the order.



Another beautiful form of worship is united prayer. Perhaps there will be a soft murmur around the room as all the voices are heard together—like a gentle river of love flowing out to God. Other times voices are raised, and the sound is like a mighty fountain of praise rushing toward heaven. How beautiful this must sound to the Lord!

The apostle John said that our prayers are like incense kept in golden bowls before the throne of God. (See Revelation 5:8.) During prayer in unison the Holy Spirit often moves on congregations to worship in their prayer language. Or, He may prompt them to sing in the Spirit. The blend of voices reminds us of the heavenly choirs that offer praise night and day.

In contrast, a holy quietness may sweep over us as we worship. Let us not be afraid of silence. During these times the Lord can speak through thoughts that He gives us. Sometimes the stillness will be broken as the Holy Spirit speaks through one of the believers with a prophecy or a message in tongues and interpretation. So, if a hush suddenly falls during worship, do not disturb it. Silence is important too.

Our worship as a body of believers should be orderly. Otherwise unbelievers may become confused and turn away. Our worship should not be cold and formal, for then they will not be drawn to our warm, loving heavenly Father. But if our worship is Spirit-led, people will feel the gentle pull of the Holy Spirit. Unbelievers will get saved and believers will be filled with the Holy Spirit. In all this God is glorified.

## ***Application***

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**3** Draw a circle around the letter in front of each correct sentence completion. Worshipping together in a group is important because

- a)** Jesus is there when we gather in His name.
- b)** it can lift our spirits when we are troubled or depressed.
- c)** it is the only way to worship.

**4** Complete the following sentences.

**a)** Hebrews 10:25 says we should not give up the habit of

.....

**b)** We need two kinds of prayer, individual prayer and

..... prayer.

**c)** People are drawn to the Lord if our worship is warm and

.....

**5** List three ways of worshipping the Lord in a group.

.....



## ***Check Your Answers***

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- 1** **b)** and **c)** are true.
- 4** **a)** meeting together.  
**b)** united  
**c)** Spirit-led.
- 2** Your answers
- 5** Your answers. You might put reading Scripture, praying individually, singing in the Spirit, uniting in praise, or other ways mentioned in this lesson.
- 3** **a)** Jesus is there when we gather in His name.  
**b)** it can lift our spirits when we are troubled or depressed.



# LESSON 8 Now and Forever

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Stolen! The two horses the missionary ladies had counted on for transportation were gone. The ladies had been in a house praying with a woman for salvation. When they came out to where they had left the horses, the animals were not there.

Just then they saw several men approaching. One man fumbled under his belt for a weapon, and others picked up stones as they shouting angrily. The missionaries would have to escape on foot!

However, instead of trembling with fright, the missionaries began to rejoice. "Praise the Lord, we are counted worthy to suffer for the Lord!" They walked courageously up the hill as the bullets whizzed harmlessly by. The men did not follow, so the women escaped unharmed.

One of these missionaries was my mother who often testified of how worship acted as an invisible barrier between them and the attackers.

## ***The Plan***

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- A. Effects of Worship
- B. The Extent of Worship

## ***The Goals***

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1. Indicate some of the blessings in worshipping God.
2. State the importance of worship in eternity.

### **A. EFFECTS OF WORSHIP**

**Goal 1.** Indicate some of the blessings in worshipping God.

The Bible gives examples of situations similar to the story at the beginning of this lesson. There were times when praise and worship were closely tied to protection and deliverance for the believer.

Worship can also bring strength. Isaiah 40:31 promises, “Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” The early martyrs of the Christian church found strength to face torture and death because they praised and worshipped God. Historians have told how the Christian believers were sent out in the great coliseum of Rome to be eaten by lions. What the crowds watching them did not understand was how these Christians could sing and worship God while facing death! They found strength by taking their eyes off themselves and the terrifying circumstances around them. They simply concentrated on God, on His faithfulness and love, and knew that soon they would be seeing Him face to face!

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O Lord. They rejoice in your name all day long; they exult in your righteousness. For you are their glory and strength, and by your favor you exalt our horn. (Psalm 89:15–17)

As we studied earlier, our first reason for worshipping the Lord is because He is worthy. That one reason is all we need. But God gives generously and has promised added benefits that come as a result of worship—blessings we realize and appreciate in this present life. We have already touched on the spiritual blessings we receive, and these cannot be minimized.

Isaiah 12:3 tells us that God’s people rejoice when He saves them. Sometimes the enemy tries to bring in doubts and rob us of our joy. If we listen to him and make room for discouraging thoughts, we will become weak and not pray as we ought to. We might even wonder if we really are saved. But our joy and strength are restored as we worship God and dwell on His goodness.

We become strong enough to face problems that otherwise would discourage us. When Job learned that he had lost his children, he said, “‘The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised’” (Job 1:21). The next verse says, “In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.” His heart and mouth were filled with praise because he knew that God was in control. His worship was an expression of that trust.

Jesus, who is our perfect example, stood at a grave and prayed, “‘Father, I thank you that you have heard me’” (John 11:41). After that He restored life to the one who was gone. The Gospels give several instances, too, of the sick who received healing when they worshipped (Matthew 8:2, Mark 7:25).

The greatest and most lasting joy of worship is that we get to know our heavenly Father better. We feel God’s presence in a special way when we keep His commandment to worship. First John 3:24 tells us that when we keep God’s commandments we live in union with Him. As we get to know the Lord better we

trust Him more. His faithfulness will never fail. How wonderful to have the assurance that our future is in His hands here on earth and throughout all eternity. (See Psalm 139:7–18.)

Giving is another act of worship, which we have already discussed. When the apostle Paul received gifts from a group of believers, he wrote to acknowledge their generosity: I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:18–19)

These words indicate that the apostle Paul also recognized giving as an act of worship. He believed that God would reward those who gave. His words confirmed an Old Testament promise: “‘Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it’” (Malachi 3:10).

Acts 8 recounts a story of a government official from Ethiopia who had made the long journey to Jerusalem to worship. He spent time and money just to be in the house of the Lord. As he was riding along in his chariot on the way home, he read Isaiah 53. God saw his open heart and sent Philip, an evangelist, to help him. Philip ran over to the chariot and asked the Ethiopian if he knew what he was reading. The man replied, “‘How can I, . . . unless someone explains it to me?’” (Acts 8:31).

Philip rode along in the chariot and told the story of Jesus. The official accepted Jesus as his Savior and was baptized. Then he continued on his way full of joy (Acts 8:39). His spiritual hunger was met and his questions answered as a result of his taking time to worship. What God did for the Ethiopian, He will do for us today. He will give the answers that we need. Then we will worship the Lord again, praising Him for leading us in the right way, for He has faithfully kept His promises.



Application

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1 Read Psalm 89:15–17 and fill in the sentence. In spite of living in a dark world, we can praise the Lord and be assured of ..... as we rejoice .....

2 Read Psalm 138:2–3. What four reasons for praising and worshipping God are listed in verse 2? .....  
.....

3 What two blessings to the worshipper are given in Psalm 138:3? .....  
.....

4 Five of the many blessings a Christian receives through worship are: .....  
.....  
.....



B. THE EXTENT OF WORSHIP

**Goal 2.** State the importance of worship in eternity.

We have reached the last section of our book on Christian worship. Mostly we have touched on the reasons for worship and how worship affects us as individuals and as members of the church, the body of Christ.

There are, however, other facets of worship that we do not completely understand. One of them is in the story of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. As He came riding into the city

on a colt, the disciples and the crowd shouted, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Luke 19:38). Some of the Pharisees looking on objected to their praise. Jesus answered, “I tell you, . . . if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out” (Luke 19:40).

How can stones cry out and shout? We do not know. But the greater significance of the words of Jesus is that praise is important. Worship is not a meaningless, lifeless ritual. Its powerful force can break through the hardest surface. If we as living stones do not praise the Lord, then some other kind of stones will. Genuine praise means that much to God and to His eternal plan. How privileged we are to take part!

There are further mysteries to praise, one of them being the ministry of praise we will have in heaven. Little children especially like to ask questions about heaven. What will it be like when we get there? What will we do? If they have lost grandparents or others dear to them, they want to know exactly what has happened. We answer them as best we can, but our words falter. Jesus assured the disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:1–2)

Heaven has been specially prepared for us. The most beautiful place on earth cannot compare with it, because sin can never enter heaven. Sin destroys and mars God’s creation. But in heaven all will be pure and clean. God will wipe away all tears. There will be no more grief or crying or pain (Revelation 21:4). In heaven will be rejoicing and praise because our victory is complete (1 Corinthians 15:54). And we will forever be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

No doubt God has beautiful surprises waiting for us, most of which He has not told us yet. As mortals we lack the ability to comprehend things eternal. But of two activities we are certain. The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they

cried: Amen, Hallelujah!” Then a voice came from the throne, saying: “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!” Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! (Revelation 19:4–7)

When the heavenly beings are singing and praising the Lord, we will want to do it too. On seeing Jesus we will fully understand the price He paid for our salvation, and we will bow in love and adoration.

We will also rule as kings forever and ever. (See Revelation 5:6–10.) Kings have the responsibility to serve, and serving God is the greatest pleasure of all.

Kings also have opportunities because they have resources to draw from. Treasures, more than they need, are heaped on them. Will not the God of heaven likewise supply us with whatever we must have if we are to rule with and for Him? Perhaps we will be given opportunity to explore the universe. Who can tell?

“I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!’” (Revelation 5:13)

### Application

---

**5** Choose the correct answer to the sentence. Two activities we are certain of in heaven are

- a)** resting and playing harps.
- b)** worshipping and ruling.
- c)** building altars and sacrificing.

**6** What joyful activity will we and the angels have in common for all eternity?

.....

**7** Has studying this course helped you in your worship? Has it increased your desire to spend eternity with the Lord? Write in your own words what it has meant to you.

.....  
.....



## ***Check Your Answers***

---

- 1** light, all day.
- 2** His constant love, His faithfulness, His Name is supreme,  
His commands are supreme.
- 5** **b)** worshipping and ruling.
- 3** He answers us when we call. He strengthens us. Look for  
other blessings in verses 6, 7, and 8.
- 6** Worshipping.
- 4** You might have listed victory, protection, healing, guidance,  
deliverance, joy, strength, material needs met, or other  
blessings you have already experienced.
- 7** Your answer

**CL4240 Christian Worship****UNIT ONE ANSWER SHEET**

Please fill in the blanks below:

Name . . . . .

Student Number . . . . .  
(Leave blank if you don't know your number.)

Mailing Address . . . . .

. . . . .

. . . . .

Country . . . . .

**Directions**

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the Unit Evaluation answer sheet for that unit. Read each question carefully. There is one best answer for each question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen. *Be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question you are answering.*

**Example**

**1** To be born again means to

- a)** be young in age.
- b)** accept Jesus as Savior.
- c)** start a new year.

The correct answer is **b) accept Jesus as Savior**, so you would blacken space **(B)** like this:

1. (A) ☒ (C) (D)

*Turn page over when you are ready to begin.*

# UNIT ONE ANSWER SHEET

Carefully blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>1</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>11</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>2</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>12</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>3</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>13</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>4</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>14</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>5</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>15</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>6</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>16</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>7</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>17</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>8</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>18</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>9</b> (A) (B) (C) (D)  | <b>19</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| <b>10</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) | <b>20</b> (A) (B) (C) (D) |

This is the end of the requirements for Unit One. For grading, return your Unit One Answer Sheet to your instructor or office in your area. Continue your study in Unit Two.

*For GU Office Use  
Only*

Date .....

Score .....

## UNIT ONE EVALUATION

- 1** The study guide stated that two ways to worship God are by
  - a)** speaking our love to God and doing deeds of kindness.
  - b)** being cheerful and staying healthy.
  - c)** thinking positive thoughts and feeling good about ourselves.
- 2** The most important personal qualities we need in worship are
  - a)** physical strength, confidence, and courage.
  - b)** love, obedience, and humility.
  - c)** love, impatience, and faith.
- 3** To be humble is to
  - a)** give God first place in our lives.
  - b)** realize how worthless we are.
  - c)** give away everything we own.
- 4** If we need help to know how to worship, we can
  - a)** buy a prayer book.
  - b)** ask the Holy Spirit to help us.
  - c)** memorize some phrases that sound nice.
- 5** Over a period of time our worship will
  - a)** settle down to one set pattern or form.
  - b)** change as the Holy Spirit moves.
  - c)** be something we have memorized well.
- 6** The most meaningful way to learn to worship God is to
  - a)** not worship.
  - b)** visit different churches.
  - c)** read about worship in the Bible.
- 7** The kind of worship that God loves to receive is
  - a)** loud.
  - b)** sincere.
  - c)** completely silent.
- 8** We should be ready to trust ourselves to God's love and care
  - a)** because God is all-powerful.
  - b)** whenever we need more faith.
  - c)** only when all else fails.



**9** The fear of the Lord is a deep reverence that

- a)** makes us think of a funeral.
- b)** makes us afraid of God.
- c)** draws us to prayer and worship.

**10** Holiness means

- a)** fearing God.
- b)** having visions such as Isaiah had.
- c)** being free from sin and upright in every way.

**11** The greatest example in giving is

- a)** our pastor.
- b)** Moses.
- c)** our heavenly Father.

**12** *Abba* is what a child who speaks Aramaic would call his or her

- a)** teacher.
- b)** father.
- c)** brother.

**13** Presenting our needs to God is an example of a prayer of

- a)** worship.
- b)** intercession.
- c)** petition.

**14** One way in which worshipping in the Spirit helps believers is that it

- a)** teaches us foreign languages.
- b)** frees us from problems.
- c)** helps us pray with results.

**15** When we are “waiting before the Lord” we

- a)** are keeping still outwardly and inwardly.
- b)** can read a book while we wait.
- c)** are sleeping.

**16** The Lord most often speaks to us when

- a)** we keep insisting that He tell us something.
- b)** our minds are actively engaged as we pray.
- c)** our minds and spirits are quiet before Him.

**17** Worship through service means

- a)** offering ourselves, all that we are and have.
- b)** attending church every day.
- c)** working an “eight hour a day” job.

**18** Jesus Christ is the greatest example of total service because He

- a)** worked hard at catching fish for other people.
- b)** helped people only spiritually.
- c)** was always serving others in every way.

**19** We can worship God through service

- a)** when our attitudes are right.
- b)** even though we have selfish motives.
- c)** and forget about other forms of worship.

**20** When we serve the Lord in giving, we should

- a)** get proper credit for our giving.
- b)** give cheerfully, generously, and with humility.
- c)** be careful not to give too much.

*End of requirements for Unit One. Please stop here and return your student report Answer Sheet for Unit One to your instructor. Continue your study in Unit Two.*



**CL4240 Christian Worship****UNIT TWO ANSWER SHEET**

Please fill in the blanks below:

Name .....

Student Number .....  
(Leave blank if you don't know your number.)

Mailing Address .....

.....

.....

Country .....

**Directions**

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the Unit Evaluation answer sheet for that unit. Read each question carefully. There is one best answer for each question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen. *Be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question you are answering.*

**Example**

**1** To be born again means to

**a)** be young in age.

**b)** accept Jesus as Savior.

**c)** start a new year.

The correct answer is **b) accept Jesus as Savior**, so you would blacken space **(B)** like this:

1. (A) ☒ (C) (D)

*Turn page over when you are ready to begin.*

UNIT TWO ANSWER SHEET

Carefully blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

- 1

A

B

C

D
- 2

A

B

C

D
- 3

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- 19

A

B

C

D
- 20

A

B

C

D

This is the end of the requirements for Unit Two. For grading, return your Unit Two Answer Sheet to your instructor or office in your area.

*For GU Office Use  
Only*

Date .....

Score .....

## UNIT TWO EVALUATION

**1** Songs of worship are

- a)** usually very slow songs.
- b)** always fast and full of action.
- c)** songs that extol and praise the Lord.

**2** The psalms were Jewish songs

- a)** used only for praise.
- b)** that cover various themes, including worship.
- c)** that mean little to us today.

**3** An important principle concerning the use of musical instruments in worship is that

- a)** only instruments used in the Old Testament should be played.
- b)** you should not play any instrument until you have mastered it.
- c)** you must be careful to consider the musical tastes of others.

**4** God opened the prison doors for Paul and Silas after

- a)** they threatened to sue the jailer.
- b)** they prayed and sang praises to God.
- c)** their prison sentence was completed.

**5** The Holy Spirit will use music to draw people to himself

- a)** only if the music is outstanding.
- b)** only if it is sung by a whole congregation.
- c)** when the music is dedicated to the Lord.

**6** According to John 3:9, those born of God

- a)** will not continue to sin.
- b)** are perfect.
- c)** have never sinned.

**7** Who is most responsible for my having a clear conscience?

- a)** My pastor
- b)** My family
- c)** I am

**8** To be clean before God means that we

- a)** are better than other people.
- b)** have prayed and God has forgiven us.
- c)** attend church regularly.

**9** You and I may express ourselves differently in worship because we have

- a)** come from different cultures.
- b)** learned all the rituals.
- c)** copied the wrong people.

**10** The New Testament emphasizes that

- a)** angels may be worshipped.
- b)** only God should be worshipped.
- c)** Old Testament forms of worship are no longer valid.

**11** When Jesus died on the Cross, He opened the way for us to

- a)** go directly to God and worship Him.
- b)** worship in the same way.
- c)** no longer be concerned about offending others.

**12** We best learn to worship God when we

- a)** learn certain rituals.
- b)** watch other people.
- c)** take time to worship.

**13** One way to improve your devotional and worship time is to

- a)** free yourself from schedules.
- b)** worship only when you feel like it.
- c)** keep a daily devotional notebook.

**14** In group worship everyone should

- a)** keep still and let one person lead.
- b)** feel free to take part.
- c)** pray out loud.

**15** One reason for united worship is to

- a)** enable us to think about our problems.
- b)** share the presence of the Lord with others.
- c)** avoid those embarrassing periods of silence.

**16** Jesus said that if the people did not praise Him,

- a)** the stones would cry out.
- b)** He would have to force them to do it.
- c)** it did not really matter.

**17** Our joy is restored when we

- a)** think positive thoughts.
- b)** get rid of our problems.
- c)** worship God.

**18** We know heaven is more beautiful than earth because

- a)** angels are there.
- b)** it is newer.
- c)** sin can never enter there.

**19** The Bible tells us that we shall

- a)** play harps forever.
- b)** go to heaven just to rest.
- c)** worship and rule forever.

**20** We will want to worship in heaven because we will

- a)** see Jesus and fully understand the price He paid for our salvation.
- b)** enjoy being reunited with family members and friends.
- c)** not have to work anymore.

*Please return your student report Answer Sheet for Unit Two to your GU instructor, and ask your instructor to recommend another course of study.*





## FINAL WORDS

Dear Student,

We hope this study has made you think about your relationship with God. After studying the lessons and answering all the questions, have you wondered, “Am I really a Christian? Do I know God? Is He real in my life?” We want to give you the opportunity now to have a relationship with God.

We have all done wrong things. We have hurt ourselves and others. The Bible calls that sin and we are all guilty: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Our sin keeps us from knowing God as a loving Father. But God loves us in spite of our sin. He loves us so much that He sent His Son to die for us. “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall never perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Jesus took the punishment we deserved for our sins when He died.

Do you want to make sure that Jesus is your Savior? It is really so simple:

- Admit that you are a needy sinner separated from God and ask Him to forgive you.
- Believe in Jesus with all your heart and let Him know that you accept Him as your Savior.

You can talk to God in your own words by saying a prayer like this:

*Dear Jesus,*

*I know that I am a sinner. Please forgive me. I believe you are the eternal Son of God. Thank you for dying on the Cross for my sins. Come into my life. Make yourself real in my life. Be Lord of my life today. Thank you for saving me! Amen.*

If you prayed this prayer and meant it with all your heart, your sins are forgiven and you have eternal life. Jesus is Lord of your life. The Bible says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Welcome to the family of God. We want to rejoice with you, so please write and tell us what God has done in your life. Blessings to you!

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Name. ....

Do you have a friend who needs to know more about Jesus?

Send us your friend’s name and address for answers to the great questions of life.

Name .....

Address .....

.....