

# Letters on the Word

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### WORSHIP

“... *Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and him only shalt thou serve.*” – Jesus Christ (Matt. 4:10; Luke 4:8)

What is worship? Why is it so important to our Heavenly Father? What does it do for me as a believer? What does my Heavenly Father require of me in worship?

I love to worship our Lord God. Worship is my place of refuge, my special place and time with the Lord; my sustenance. Recently I have been led by the Holy Spirit to do a study on worship. I have found a few things that have increased my understanding of worship and I share some of these things with you.

Our Heavenly Father has said that *we shall worship and serve him only* – and

worship and serve *no one else.*

In order to gain a better understanding of worship, I started with the dictionary. The online dictionary defines worship as reverent honor and homage paid to God, or any object regarded as sacred. Therefore to worship is to render such honor and homage to the object of my worship. I also wanted to understand better what praise means. Praise is defined as the act of expressing approval or admiration, commendation; laudation.

([www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com))

This says to me that whenever I give reverent honor and homage to anything, through my actions, my thoughts, or my words – I am worshipping that thing. So worship is not confined to a church service; indeed

it pertains to every aspect of my life. I can worship the Lord through the way I treat other people; through the way I go about doing my work every weekday; through the way I serve the Lord in my service to others ... the possibilities are endless. It is no wonder to me then that I am commanded to worship. In other words, I am commanded to render honor and homage to my Lord *in everything I do.* I am commanded to live a life of worship (Matt 4:10).



### PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. Remove any pride in me and fill me with your humility and love. Show me how to worship you in ways that are pleasing to you. Remove anything from me that will hinder my worship. Cause me to become an instrument of worship such that when you are looking for someone to worship you in this generation and dispensation, you will look to me. Thank you for using me in my brokenness and imperfection to accomplish your purpose, in Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

“... *Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and him only shall you serve.*”  
Jesus Christ (Matthew 4:10)

# WHY IS WORSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

**Worship is a sign of the covenant that our Lord God made with Abraham.**

Worshiping other gods breaks the commandment that God gave to the people of Israel when He made a covenant with Abraham. It is a sign that the people have rejected God (Deut 31:20). In other words, worship is evidence of our covenant with God and that is one reason why it is so powerful. By worshiping, I call into operation or invoke all the provisions of the Abrahamic covenant.

**Worship invokes the Abrahamic covenant blessings.**

What are the provisions of this covenant?



Deuteronomy 28: 1-14 lists the Abrahamic covenant blessings:

*1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: 2 And all these blessings shall come on thee,*

*and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. 3 Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. 4 Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. 5 Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. 6 Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. 7 The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. 8 The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. 9 The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. 10 And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee. 11 And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee. 12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. 13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: 14 And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the*

*right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.*

These comprehensive provisions are part of the covenant. They are your covenant blessings! They are my covenant blessings!

The reason that the Lord saved the Israelites from bondage in Egypt was so that they could worship and serve him: that was a primary purpose of their deliverance.

The Lord said to Moses:

*“And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD: Israel is my son, even my firstborn. And I say unto thee Let my son go, that he may serve me ...” Exodus 4: 22-23 (See also, Ex 7:16; Ex. 8:1, 20; Ex. 9:13, Ex. 10:3)*

Indeed, as far back as Exodus 3:12, when the Lord assigned Moses to confront Pharaoh, the exchange that took place shows that God gave Moses worship as the sign that would show that God had indeed delivered the Israelites from bondage (Exodus 3: 11-12).

**Worshiping the Lord is a sign that I acknowledge Him as my deliverer.**

*11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” 12 And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.” (Exodus 3: 11-12)*

# WHAT TYPE OF WORSHIP PLEASERS THE LORD?

This says to me that whatever I worship is what I reverently acknowledge and honor as my deliverer. I transfer authority over my life to whatever I worship.

**“Ye shall have no other gods before me ...”**

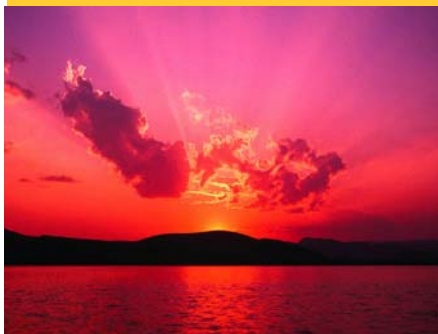
This understanding sheds some light for me on why our Lord God hates the worship of other gods. (See Exodus 20: 1-6; Exodus 34:14; Deut. 5:9; Deut 8: 19; Deut 12:2)

*1 And God spoke all these words: 2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3 "You shall have no other gods before me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 **You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.** (Exodus 20)*

The dictionary defines “jealous” as *intolerant of unfaithfulness*. (www.dictionary.com) Indeed, the Israelites were told to eliminate anything that would try to lead them away from worship of the one, true, living Almighty God. (Deut 13:6, 13; 29:18). And thus, just as there are blessings that come with worshipping the living God, there are curses associated with worshipping other gods. The Word literally states that if you worship other gods, *you will be destroyed*. (See Deut 30: 17,18; 2 Kings 17: 25, 2

Chron. 7: 19-20, Ps 97:7; Jer. 13:10, Ho. 13:1)

How have these truths helped me? I understand that in worshipping our Lord God Almighty, I acknowledge Him as Lord over my life and thus invoke all His covenant blessings in my life. Worship is thus a powerful weapon of spiritual warfare. Indeed, we see the power of worship in the conquest of Jericho as the Israelites entered into the promised land (Joshua 6). In



obedience to God’s revealed Word, the Israelites worshiped to bring the walls of Jericho down. In obedience to the Lord, my worship shall bring down any walls of Jericho in my life: for God is no respecter of persons. What He did for Israel, He will do for his adopted sons and daughters – including me.

## What type of worship pleasing to the Lord?

My study also got me thinking about what type of worship is pleasing to the Lord. From His Word, I find that heartfelt worship is more pleasing to the Lord than going through the motions and having one’s heart elsewhere:

*The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is*

*made up only of rules taught by men.* (Isa 29:13)

And again:

*8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. (Matt 15: 8,9) (Also, see Mark 7: 5-16).*

In contrast however the Lord says:

*23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4)*

God is seeking to worship Him those who worship in spirit and in truth. What does it mean to worship my Heavenly Father in spirit and in truth? For one, it means that I put all of my confidence in the Lord and have no confidence in flesh (Philippians 3:3). Inevitably, to live a life of pleasing worship to our Lord, means in our thoughts, words and actions, we put our confidence fully in the Lord. It is displeasing to the Lord when our lips declare one thing (i.e., that we have placed our confidence in Him) and our thoughts and actions speak contrarily.

Worship therefore has to be a lifestyle. Acknowledging God as Lord over my



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life, my deliverer, my provider, cannot be compartmentalized to one or two church services per week. If I am a worshiper, then my heart must be in the position of worship at all times. It means that my thoughts must indicate that I indeed acknowledge the living God as Lord over my life, my deliverer and my provider. My actions, my words must show the same. Everything I do, say or think then can be worship (i.e., pleasing) or displeasing to my Heavenly Father depending on who I am ac-

knowledging as Lord over my life. The way I conduct my life (i.e., in my thoughts, words and actions) is the surest evidence of the quality of my worship.

**My life is the surest evidence of the quality of my worship.**

It is also evident that there are no vacuums. If to worship is to ac-

knowledge the living God as Lord over my life, then to fail to worship Him is to acknowledge the enemy as Lord over my life. Therefore it is of little effect to live my life in compartments, living as though someone other than the living God is Lord over my life from Monday to Friday and then showing up with a dance, shout and tongues to “worship” the Lord fervently on Sunday morning. *My life as lived on a daily basis is the surest evidence of my worship.*

