

Qualities Of Spiritual Worship #1

Introduction. Jim Cymbala wrote, “If our churches don’t pray, and if people don’t have an appetite for God, what does it matter how many are attending the services? How would that impress God? Can you imagine the angels saying, ‘Oh, your pews! We can’t believe how beautiful they are! Up here in heaven, we’ve been talking about them for years. Your sanctuary lighting — it’s so clever. The way you have the steps coming up to the pulpit is wonderful?’ I don’t think so. If we don’t want to experience God’s closeness here on earth, why would we want to go to heaven, anyway? He is the center of everything there. If we don’t enjoy being in his presence here and now, then heaven would not be heaven for us. Why would he send anyone there who doesn’t long for him passionately here on earth?”

Jesus enunciated two elements of worship to the Samaritan woman when He said, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24).

Jesus was showing that God is of a different order to human beings. God desires worship, and He seeks worshipers — but not on our terms. He seeks worshipers on His terms. One of these elements is sometimes overlooked or under-emphasized. Worship must be according to spirit — our spirit. This is our heart, soul, and inner being. If we are going to worship in spirit, we must develop the spirit of worship. But what is the spirit of worship? This morning and tonight we’ll look at ten principles that define spiritual worship for you and me.

I. The Spirit Of Anticipation

- A. The action of anticipating something; expectation or prediction.
- B. Psalm 22:22.
- C. Psalm 24:7-10.
- D. Psalm 123:2.
- E. Psalm 130:5.

II. The Spirit Of Gratitude

- A. A readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.
- B. 1 Chronicles 16:7-8.
- C. Psalm 92:1.
- D. 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
- E. Hebrews 13:15.

III. The Spirit Of Humility

- A. A modest or low view of one’s own importance.
- B. Proverbs 11:2.
- C. 2 Chronicles 33:12-13.
- D. Colossians 3:12-13.
- E. James 4:10.

IV. The Spirit Of Awe

- A. A feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder.
- B. Nehemiah 8:5.
- C. Psalm 33:6-9.
- D. Psalm 89:7.
- E. Luke 5:12.

V. *The Spirit Of Truthfulness*

- A. It might seem confusing to talk about spirit (internal) along with something external (truth), but this point is necessary because we should want to worship the way God instructs, and not give Him whatever we think will work.
- B. Psalm 119:5, 62, 92.
- C. Hebrews 2:12.
- D. Acts 1:13-14.
- E. Acts 20:7.
- F. 2 Corinthians 9:7.
- G. Acts 13:14-16.

Conclusion. We're not just going to church somewhere, we're worshiping. We do everything we can to respect, teach, and practice truth. But we also want to do all we can to produce true, heartfelt worship within the hearts of everyone who attends.