

21st January 2018

Essential ingredients for Christian growth Pt.4 Worship in spirit & truth.

This is our fourth study on our topic – Essential ingredients for Christian growth. In our previous teaching we established the need to exhibit godly sorrow that worketh repentance when we sin. In this study we will cover the need to worship the Father in spirit and truth through His Son.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Israel were commanded to worship the Lord and none other.

“For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God” (Ex. 34: 14). See also Deut.26: 10.

“And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (Lk.4: 8).

2. God the Father seeks believers to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

“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. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (Jn.4:23 & 24).

3. In this age we worship God in truth when we worship His Son the Lord Jesus.

“Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God” (Matt.14: 33). c.f. Rev.19: 10 “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”.

“But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers” (Acts 24: 14).

Additional comments.

We worship the Lord when we “Exalt the Lord our God” (Ps.99: 9), “bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker” (Ps.95: 6), and “lifting up their hands” (Neh.8: 6).

We worship God Almighty when we sing unto the Lord (Ps.66: 4), playing musical instruments, and praising His name (2Chr.7: 3).

We worship God when we give unto the Lord “glory due unto his name” (Ps.29: 2).

An illustration to help us apply this instruction in our lives today.

Moses made haste to worship God after the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him and proclaimed who He was – “The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin” (Ex 34:6–8).

Question to think about.

Why is worship essential to Christian growth?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

The act of worshipping God through the Lord Jesus Christ is an indication of the inward growth – in our knowledge of God and His holiness (Ps.99: 6).

Worship is an act of obedience as His children are required to worship “no other god: for the Lord...is a jealous God” (Ex.34: 14), and the Lord “will not give my glory unto another” (Is42: 8), and He seeks those who worship Him in “spirit and in truth” (Jn.4: 24).

Therefore, given that we are to “grow in grace. and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2Pet.3: 18) and worship is an outward sign of our knowledge of the truth, then the more we grow in our faith the more we will desire to worship, and the more we worship – the more we grow in our faith. And so worship is an essential ingredient for Christian growth. Amen!