

John 4:23

April 15, 2018 Mike Norton

Read John 4:23-24

WORSHIP IS SPIRIT AND TRUTH

More than defining what we think worship should be like, what kind of worship is God actually looking for?

1. Not a clinical exercise or a religious mantra. Worship is all inclusive, body, soul, and spirit.
2. The spirit of a person is very closely linked to our emotions because it is so closely connected to the expression of God in us. To get close to God is an emotional time, from ecstasy (I was in the spirit Rev. 1:10), to invigoration (I can do all things through Christ Phil 4:13), to deep repentance (woe is me for I am undone – Is. 6:5), to an exploding need to praise Him, (Ps. 148-150), etc.
3. Worship cannot be complete without involving our emotions. Can you see what can happen when a person or church decides to prostrate their pride, open their hearts and let the Holy Spirit begin to shape a childlike spirit in us, bringing us to a practical and genuine humility and thirst for God.

THE HEART OF WORSHIP

1. There are those who think that a stoic approach to worship is respectful, honorable etc. but there was nothing stoic going on in the crucifixion of Christ. It was emotional from the fear which caused the disciple to run away to the agony of Christ's abuse, Jesus crying out on the cross and Peter's agonizing repentance.
2. WHAT MAKES WORSHIP WORSHIPFUL TO GOD? What is the "heart of worship?"
3. This focus on the mind's ideas about God, rather than the heart's hunger for Him overlooks the truth that worship is actually a gift from God to us, more than one of ours to Him: that He is more interested in helping us than we are capable of interpreting Him. Worship is not an intellectual exercise.
4. "Mind" and "spirit" are not synonyms. The heart and the spirit are linked while the truth and the mind are linked. Spirit is first, with the mind.
5. "Out from his innermost being springs and rivers shall flow" (continuously) Amplified John 7:38
6. Intellectualized value systems minimize the worth of emotions.
Example of a sport team: A coach doesn't want his team coming out flat nor over emotional. But they must play with a certain amount of emotions. Coaches will say it is a matter often of 'who wants it more.' Some church services start off flat for the same reason.
7. The heart is the more emotionally motivated center of our human response – it is deemed more vulnerable to deception than the intellect.
8. To believe that intellectual worship is the correct way we are buying into two delusions.
 - a. 2 Corinthians 4:4 read. The blinded mind
 - b. Job 11:7 "Who can search out the deep things of God?"
9. God is not looking for something brilliant but a melted spirit, one being formed into his image. Psalms 51:17
10. 1 Peter 1:8-9 "...you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith- the salvation of your souls."

WORSHIP THAT TREASURES HIS PRESENCE

1. Exodus 33: 13-15 “If Your presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.” [Moses]
2. Philippians 3:7-11 (v.10) “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”

LAST WORD: Matthew 18:3, 10 Are we willing to humble ourselves like little children so angels will gladly represent us before the throne.

I try to give credit where it is correctly do, so I would like to recognize Jack Hayford who has left a huge influence on my life and ministry. Often when I think a thought is original I believe it is not but has been influenced by others who have gone before me. Jacks has written several books about worship and one that has influenced much of these teachings on worship is “Manifested Presence” .