

## Let Us Worship the LORD

*Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
 let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!*  
 (Psalm 95:6)



If you believe in the God of the Bible—the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Jesus, the Apostles, and the Christian Church—then you ought to worship Him. It’s the right thing to do, because of who He is and what He has done. He is

eternal, all-knowing, all-powerful, everywhere-present; the Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of absolutely everything. Beyond that, He loves you—yes, you, individually—and longs to have you with Him in a relationship that is infinitely fulfilling, joyous, and everlasting. Once you realize this, how could you not worship Him?

But, sadly, I believe there may be many Christians who go through years of church attendance, faithful service, and mostly righteous living, and yet never actually come to worship God as they could and should.

Please understand that I am not saying this to be critical or put anyone down. I am simply urging myself and others to put more into our worship time, so that we will get more out of it.

So what is true worship? First, let me tell you what I believe is not true worship.

- Obviously, just giving God “lip service” is not worship. *“This people ... honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me.” (Isaiah 29:13)*
- Attending worship services or Christian events, or watching Christian teaching on TV, without becoming emotionally involved, is not worship.

- Sharing food, fun, and fellowship with other Christians is pleasant and worthwhile, even valuable, but usually it is not worship.
- Praying can be worshipful, but just telling God what we want or need, for ourselves or for others, is not worship.
- Charitable giving that is not sacrificial in fact or intent is good to do, but it is not worship.

So what is true worship? I think it consists of these four essential elements:

- Reverence
- Submission
- Devotion
- Sacrifice

Confession is not worship, but it is considered a necessary preliminary to the reverence involved in worship. It establishes who we are, we who dare to come into God’s presence. We are sinners who deserve only punishment, and only by His grace and forgiveness can we approach Him. Most Christian denominations include confession as an essential early part of each worship service.

Now let’s look at the above elements of worship in detail.

**Reverence.** True worship has to begin with acknowledging who and what God is, and the relationship that exists between God and us human creatures. He is God; we are not. He is all powerful, we are weak. He is good, we are fallen sinners by nature and selfishly sinful by choice. If He did not love us, He could destroy us or worse in an instant. It might seem safer just to stay as far away from Him as possible, but He demands that we worship Him—which He requires for our benefit, not

His. So we must approach Him with reverence, respect, awe, and even holy fear. **He is God.**

**Submission.** Worship of God implies a willingness to serve Him; a readiness to be obedient to His will and His commands. Rather than coming to God only to tell Him what we want Him to do for us or for others (i.e. our intercessory prayers), in worship we “show up,” ready for Him to tell us how to behave and what to do to please Him and to serve His purposes. In effect we accept, and confess, that **He is our Lord.**

**Devotion.** God commands us to love Him with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5 and Matthew 22:37— “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*”). And of course He is entirely worthy of all of our love.

One of the reasons Jesus came to earth as a man is to show us what God is really like. He said, “*Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.*” (John 14:9) We can love Him because He first loved us, and Jesus showed us that love by His life, His teaching, and His death and resurrection.

Worship involves expressing our love for God with praise, thanksgiving, adoration, honor, and

so on—our hearts and minds and bodies together in appreciation of His worth, His beauty, His holiness. And again, lip service will not suffice. True worship involves heartfelt devotion. This does not happen automatically; it

happens only after we have invited and allowed the Holy Spirit to change us into “new creations,” as He promises, and after we have spent enough time in prayer and in the Word to begin to appreciate what He means (or should mean) to our lives. Then, after getting to know Him, **we love Him.**

**Sacrifice.** I believe that true worship also always involves a readiness to sacrifice something that we value. In Old Testament times it was the choicest animals from the flock. Jesus raised the ante by saying, “*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and*

*take up his cross and follow me.*” (Matt. 16:24) The Apostle Paul made it quite specific: *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* (Romans 12:1)

Father,  
Thy Will be  
done...  
not mine!  
*And And, keep telling me!*

What sacrifice does God want from you and me? The sacrifice I am talking about goes beyond reverence, devotion, and even submission. I believe it ultimately boils down to being willing to offer up literally everything to God. Several Christian hymn writers have captured this idea very well—look at the words of the hymn, “Take My Life and Let It Be,” on the next page. With that mind-set we acknowledge, **we are His.**

There are other Scripture passages that present the same idea. Here is one: *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.* (Psalm 51:17)

Please note—I am not suggesting that our worship is worthless unless we can perfectly offer up everything we are and all we have to the Lord. I am saying, though, that the farther we go in that direction, the truer our worship will be. It’s a goal that most of us will not achieve fully in this life.

To summarize, I’m saying that true worship of God requires passion. Worship is not a spectator sport; and it requires all of the reverence, submission, devotion, and self-sacrifice that we can give to it.

*Praise the Lord!*

*Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. ... Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God.* (Psalm 146:1,2,5)

God bless you and give you grace to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Yours in Christ,

*Brother Roland*



My Heart  
Belongs to Jesus

## Take My Life and Let it Be

Frances R. Havergal, 1874

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in endless praise.

Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use  
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my will and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my voice and let me sing,  
Always, only for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

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## An Act of Worship

(Mark 14:3-9 *The Message*)

Jesus was at Bethany, a guest of Simon the Leper. While he was eating dinner, a woman came up carrying a bottle of very expensive perfume. Opening the bottle, she poured it on his head. Some of the guests became furious among themselves. "That's criminal! A sheer waste! This perfume could have been sold for well over a year's wages and handed out to the poor." They swelled up in anger, nearly bursting with indignation over her.

But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why are you giving her a hard time? She has just done something wonderfully significant for me. You will have the poor with you every day for the rest of your lives. Whenever you feel like it, you can do something for them. Not so with me. She did what she could when she could—she pre-anointed my body for burial. And you can be sure that wherever in the whole world the Message is preached, what she just did is going to be talked about admiringly."

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Feel free to send me your Bible questions or ideas for a Good News Guide teaching.

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# Mighty Names of Jesus

One way to prepare to worship Jesus is to think about His mighty names. He is truly awesome!  
Enjoy this puzzle.

## Puzzle:

B E M M A N U E L G O D W I T H U S U Z P Z K Q O C D V O P P F P E Z J  
S R E Y F C T A N Z E A T Z P S M X Y U Z X B M I E E P A E I U R N R K  
I U I W Z A X A A F F Q J F Z P F Y T B J J M S L Q K S E R E F I O X P  
D H E D C J M U I A I D R O L E H T F O M R A I E I S H S V I Z N L K M  
R K E O E F K L E V L U O N R Q I Q A E J L V Q N O S T E R B B C U Q E  
Q E V A O G F E K S D R T G J C L H U T A E L G V E B R S D D H E F G S  
B D K N D O R S R E N N I S F O D N E I R F O E H O L T E A M D O H Y D  
A D O R D O D O Q V A I D X C Q M Q V E S F R T R A F K X E R S F T Y B  
P S O A O L F X O K N R T Z K R D M R H T O F N S R C U X H C O P I Y R  
C G E G K W X T T M O N S S E N I L O H F O Y T U A E B H D K Y E A B I  
N R N N F T E S H L I G W N W W B M E G R U I I M Q O Y L O M U A F A G  
B W T I F O M L F E T N S I K O R J O O J N T D O G Y T H G I M C K U H  
A I K S R W N O C R C G S S J K E D O U G S D K P P J A T F O R E O M T  
L N F F I P D O N A E H J F T W M D H I G H P R I E S T F O R E V E R M  
M L O N S R S P S N R L U O S B E R Z F K N O N J A Y Q T S S M F I A O  
O I U R O I H Y W E R I A R H L E Z H U H Z X Q S I V P Q S Y F J S A R  
F V N L A G G C A G U P M E C I D G R E A T H I G H P R I E S T T Z S N  
G I T C L H V R G D S D O V H H E X R O Y Z H A O Y X L H N V E M U S I  
I N A I E T S X E T E M P I R N R U W Y L O Z L T M E Q N L R T L E D N  
L G I S Q E W F M A R B E G I N N I N G A N D E N D C C E L D S G R S G  
E W N Q A O E F O G T K G R R E A M Q K T M A E J B J N N U O A O R D S  
A O O H O U Q Q D E R P O O S U M D R E H P E H S D O O G F F L S L M T  
D R F O C S A F N F S E H F E X S G I R R H D N Y T J W B O S Z L C L A  
W D L V L B K F A P H O A Y U E N O T J E B A B S I A A K U O A R Q T R  
T R I L C R S W A T R M R T S G I H W O N D E R F U L C O U N S E L O R  
J W F A A A Y J H P E O Z F I I K I D R P L E H H Y O I X I I O U T U P  
Z T E P L N U N P G K C P R N A C K H Y Z N N E P R R S L U B C A N C G  
P P H R P C E A L F A X N H A A M I G H R V Q O M O L L U F Y E S G P X  
V V E O U H S Y A D F O T N E I C N A O X O Q G L E A Q F E R B N S L B  
K I N G O F K I N G S W L B B T B Z C N L Q V G R S R L Z C V S F D V J

## Words:

ADVOCATE	EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US	KING OF THE JEWS
ALL IN ALL	EVERLASTING	KINSMAN REDEEMER
ALPHA AND OMEGA	FAITHFUL ONE	LIVING WORD
AMEN	FIRSTBORN	LORD OF LORDS
ANCIENT OF DAYS	FIRSTFRUITS	MASTER
ARM OF THE LORD	FORGIVER OF SINS	MIGHTY GOD
BALM OF GILEAD	FOUNTAIN OF LIFE	MIRACLE WORKER
BEAUTY OF HOLINESS	FRIEND OF SINNERS	PASSOVER OF GOD
BEGINNING AND END	FULLNESS OF GODHEAD	PRINCE OF PEACE
BREAD OF LIFE	GLORIOUS LORD	PROPHET
BRIDEGROOM	GOOD SHEPHERD	REDEEMER
BRIGHT MORNING STAR	GREAT HIGH PRIEST	RESURRECTION AND LIFE
CHRIST	GREAT I AM	RIGHTEOUS BRANCH
CORNERSTONE	GREAT PHYSICIAN	ROCK OF AGES
CREATOR	HEAD OF THE CHURCH	ROSE OF SHARON
DAYSPRING	HEALER	SON OF GOD
DELIVERER	HIGH PRIEST FOREVER	SON OF MAN
DOOR OF THE SHEEP	KING OF KINGS	WONDERFUL COUNSELOR