

## **Week 5 Sermon Series on Radical Worship.**

Sermon Title: "Worship as a Lifestyle: Worship in Spirit and in Truth"

Scripture: John 4:23-24(NIV)

Where: St John, Prospect Ky

When: August 4th, 2024

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### **Scripture: John 4:23-24 (NIV)**

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

### **Introduction:**

In John 4:23-24, Jesus provides a profound teaching on the nature of true worship: "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people, the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." This passage defines the essence of worship, highlighting the necessity of worshiping God not just through external rituals but with our whole being, aligning with His Spirit and His truth.

### **Main Point 1: Worship in Spirit**

#### **1.1 Refraining from Idolatry (Exodus 20:3-4, Deuteronomy 4:15-17)**

God's demand for loyalty is clear in the commandments given to Moses: "You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image" (Exodus 20:3-4). In Deuteronomy 4:15-17, God reinforces this command by forbidding the creation of images to represent Him. This prohibition stems not just from His transcendence but from His desire for genuine devotion and loyalty from His worshipers.

True worship involves turning away from physical or metaphorical idols and dedicating ourselves wholly to God. Idolatry can take many forms in modern life, including materialism, self-reliance, and neglect of spiritual disciplines. Worship in Spirit requires a heartfelt commitment to placing God above all else, thus aligning our lives with His love and command.

#### **1.2 Living by the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17)**

Paul states in 2 Corinthians 3:17, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." Worshiping in the Spirit encompasses living a life transformed by the Spirit of God. This transformation is evidenced by the nine fruits of the Spirit described

in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

When we exhibit these fruits, our lives become a living testimony of true worship. Our actions, attitudes, and interactions reflect the character of God, making our daily lives an ongoing act of worship. Thus, worshiping in the Spirit means embodying the attributes of God through the power of His Spirit within us.

## **Main Point 2: Worship in Truth**

### 2.1 The Nature of Truth (John 14:6, John 18:37-38)

In John 14:6, Jesus unequivocally declares, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Furthermore, when questioned by Pilate in John 18:37-38, He states, "For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth." Through these declarations, Jesus defines the truth as something objective and absolute, rooted in His very being.

### 2.2 Understanding Truth

Truth is discovered, not invented. It exists independent of human knowledge. Truth is transcultural and unchanging even though human beliefs about it may vary. Truth is not affected by the attitude of the one professing it. Therefore, although contrary beliefs are possible, contrary truths are not. This principle of truth is essential for worship, as it compels us to align our worship with the unchanging truth of God as revealed in Scripture and the person of Jesus Christ.

## **Main Point 3: Divine Connection in Worship**

### 3.1 Fostering Intimacy

Worshiping God in spirit and truth fosters an intimate and deep connection with Him. This connection transcends mere formality or ritual; it is a transformative relationship. When we worship God in alignment with His Spirit and His truth, we are drawn closer to His heart, experiencing His presence and His power in profoundly personal ways.

Quote from a Church Father:

**“In true worship, the soul lies prostration humility and rises again through love.”  
-Bernard of Clairvaux**

## **Conclusion**

As we worship God in spirit and in truth, with sincerity, authenticity, reverence, and biblical understanding, we establish a deep connection with Him that transforms our lives and draws us nearer to His heart.

## **Call to Action**

### 1. Cultivate an Atmosphere of Reverence and Awe

In your personal and communal worship, acknowledge and honor God's holiness and majesty. Approach Him with a sense of reverence and awe, recognizing His greatness and sovereignty in every aspect of your life.

### 2. Deepen Your Understanding of God's Word

Immerse yourself in Scripture. Allow God's Word to shape your understanding of worship, guiding you to align your worship with His revealed truth. Study, meditate, and apply biblical truths to enrich your worship experience [citation:2].

### 3. Embody Worship through Actions

Demonstrate your worship not just through words but through actions. Live out the fruits of the Spirit in your daily interactions, making your life a continuous act of worship that honors

## **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, guide us to worship you in spirit and in truth, with sincerity and reverence, as we seek a deeper connection with you through our worship.

## **Benediction**

May your worship be characterized by sincerity, reverence, authenticity, and biblical truth, leading you to a deeper, more intimate connection with God. **Amen**