

During our worship...

When we gather on Sunday morning, our expressions of worship are part of our life sacrifice to God. Our response to God takes many forms . . .

Singing

“Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.” *Ps. 105:2*

“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High.” *Ps. 92:1*

Shouting

“Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.” *Ps. 47:1*

“With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: ‘He is good; his love to Israel endures forever.’ And all the people gave a shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.” *Ps. 35:27*

Clapping

“Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.” *Ps. 47:1*

Dancing

“Praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute . . .” *Ps. 150:4*

“David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the Lord with all his might while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of trumpets.” *2 Sam. 6:14,15*

“Then Miriam, the prophetess, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing.” *Ex. 15:20*

“Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp.” *Ps. 149:3*

Kneeling, Bowing, & Prostrating Ourselves

“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.” *Ps. 95:6,7*

“Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.” *Ex. 34:8*

Worship

Day by Day

“Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord.” *2 Chron. 20:18*

“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth, and under the earth...” *Phil. 2:10*

Expressing Emotion, Laughing & Weeping

The work of the Lord in our lives appropriately causes a response of emotion in us . . .

“When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.” *Ps. 126:1,2*

“. . . and as she stood behind Jesus at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. Jesus said her many sins have been forgiven for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.” *Luke 7:38, 47*

“But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.” *Ez. 3:12, 13*

Truth about Ourselves & God

“God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.” *John 4:24*

“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.” *Mark 7:6, 7*

Stillness

“Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” *Ps. 46:10*

Loving & Encouraging those God loves

“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.” *Eph. 5:19*

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another -- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Heb.10:24, 25

Spiritual Gifts

Now to each one, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good . . . wisdom, knowledge, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in tongues, interpretation. (See I Cor. 12)

“Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”

I Cor. 14:39, 40

During the week...

Because worship is our life’s response to God, everything we do should flow from a worshipful heart. Deep times of devotion with God can be personally expressed through our...

Stillness...“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” *Mark 1:35*

Work...“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” *Col 3:23*

Relationships...“Love the Lord your God...and love your neighbor as yourself.” *Luke 10:27*

Obedience...“This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world.” *I John 5:3,4a*

The Sacrifice of Worship

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. This is your spiritual act of worship.” Romans 12:1

God is magnificent. Loving. Awe-inspiring. Intimate. Just. Forgiving. Deep in riches and knowledge, wisdom and compassion. His ways are beyond ours. Everything we are and have is because of who He is and what He’s done.

So what are we to do? Respond. Respond with our hearts, souls and minds, our complete and total beings. God brings us life, and it’s that life -- our very living selves -- that we sacrifice back to him. This, then, is our worship: the complete and total offering of ourselves to the God who redeemed us.

This offering of ourselves to God permeates every part of our days: our work, our play, our relationships, our whole lives surrendered for the glory of God.

Our expression of worship when we gather with other believers is simply a continuation of the daily offering of ourselves.

Worshippers that God seeks

“True worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.” John 4:23

Worshipping in spirit . . .

Jesus says that God is spirit, and desires those who worship Him to worship in spirit. Created in His image, we share a “spirit” nature with God . . . the only part of His creation to do so. He desires our worship to come from this nature, empowered by His Spirit (Phil. 3:3). It is the Holy Spirit in us that connects us with God, fires our passion, enables our responses and empowers our sacrifice.

Worshipping in truth . . .

We must worship God with truth about ourselves and Him, approaching Him as we are and as He has revealed Himself to be. We are to come unencumbered by the games we play, the lies we believe, or our pet theories about who He is, but rather with honesty about our faults, agony and needs, and His holiness, justice, goodness, provision and love.

“True worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine. Strong affections for God rooted in truth are the bone and marrow of biblical worship.”

John Piper, Desiring God

Worship
at Cornerstone Church