

Th123 A Study of the Holy Spirit

Th123-22 The Spirit Will Enable Our Worship

When Moses was building the tabernacle in the wilderness, God told him, “Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you” (Ex 25:9). The tabernacle was to be the place where Israel would meet and worship God. God therefore demanded that they conduct their worship in a manner He approved. One of the most important things a Christian can do is to worship God. Since this is true, it must also be true that our worship must be done in a manner that God chooses. In this lesson you will hear how God wants us to worship Him and how the Holy Spirit helps us to do that.

Jesus once met a woman at a well. He told her that the time had arrived when “true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth” (John 4:23). He then added, “These are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.” Jesus was saying that, since God is spiritual, those who worship Him must do so in the Spirit. And, since He is absolute Truth, those who worship Him must do so in truth. In other words, we must worship God according to the pattern He set down in Scripture.

To worship God in spirit and in truth involves our human spirits reaching out to God in faith and adoration. True worship is not a matter of dead ritual. It is, rather, based on a living relationship between a man or woman and their Creator. Further, true worship is inspired by the Spirit of God. Paul reminded the Philippian believers that we “worship by the Spirit of God” (Phil 3:3). We must always allow the Spirit to empower and direct our worship.

How then does the Holy Spirit enable us to truly worship God? He does this by first bringing us into a loving relationship with our heavenly Father. It is out of this relationship that true worship occurs. The Spirit moves in our hearts, fills us with God’s love, and prompts us to cry out, “Abba, Father” (Rom 8:15). Such a response is to be expected, for Jesus once told His disciples that when the Spirit comes, “He will bring glory to me” (John 16:14).

Throughout Scripture, the Holy Spirit inspired people to sing and shout praises to God. When the Holy Spirit caused Mary to conceive Jesus, He also inspired her and her aunt Elizabeth to sing to God (Luke 1:34-55). Later, the same thing happened to Zechariah when John the Baptist was born (Luke 1:67-79). The Spirit also inspired the churches in Corinth and Philippi to worship God.

The Spirit even moved Jesus to praise God. On one occasion, Jesus was filled with such joy “through the Holy Spirit,” that He began to spontaneously glorify His heavenly Father. He shouted, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth” (Luke 10:21). The same is true today. Those who have learned to yield themselves to the Spirit of the Lord have discovered a glorious freedom in expressing their worship to God (2Cor 3:17).

How then do these truths apply to our times of congregational worship today? How can we better worship our Lord in Spirit and in truth? We can begin acknowledging the Holy Spirit as the true ‘Worship Leader.’ We often appoint certain talented individuals to lead the

congregation in praise and worship. We must always be very careful, however, to allow the Holy Spirit to remain in charge of our worship services. This is how the New Testament churches worshiped the Lord.

One time the believers in the church in Antioch gathered as usual for worship. As they praised the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit spoke and said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them” (Acts 13:2). The Holy Spirit was indeed in charge of their worship service. He set the tone and gave directions on how they were to proceed. The same divine order should mark our worship services today. If we are to truly worship God “in spirit and in truth,” we must always allow the Spirit of God to empower and direct our worship.

To do this, it is essential that the human worship leaders be full of the Spirit and able to discern the Spirit’s voice. They must remain in constant submission to the Spirit’s leading. They must be careful never to take the service out of His hands. It is also necessary that the congregation be taught how to follow and respond to the promptings of the Spirit. If we will do these things, the Spirit will come and direct our worship services “just as he determines” (1Cor 12:11). It is only then that we will truly worship God in spirit and in truth.

This lesson is **important** because in it we have learned how the Holy Spirit helps us to more perfectly worship God “in spirit and truth.”

The **main truth** we learn from this lesson is that we are to always allow the Spirit of the Lord to empower and direct our worship.

Let’s **review** some important truths we have learned from this lesson:

1. How did Jesus tell the woman at the well that we are to worship God?
 - A. [PAUSE] If you answered, “Jesus told her that we must ‘worship the Father in spirit and truth,’” you are right.
2. How does the Holy Spirit help us to worship God?
 - A. [PAUSE] If you answered that the Holy Spirit helps us to worship God by bringing us into a loving relationship with Him and then filling us and inspiring us to sing and shout praises to Him, you answered correctly.
3. When we gather for worship, to whom should we look as our true Worship Leader?
 - A. [PAUSE] If you answered that we must always look to the Holy Spirit as our true Worship Leader, you are right.
4. How can we ensure that the Holy Spirit always remains in charge of our worship services?
 - A. [PAUSE] If you answered that we can do this by being filled with the Spirit and remaining open and submissive to His directives, you are correct.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to re-listen to it until you thoroughly understand how the Holy Spirit enables our worship. Memorize the words of Jesus as recorded in John 4:24: “God is Spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.” You are then then to teach these principles to the church and apply them in your times of worship.