

The Holy Spirit

Lesson 14 – The Holy Spirit & Worship

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Introduction

“For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure. “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:34-36)

God caused that Spirit to dwell in us, because He, just like us wants to stay in contact with us, His children, He wants to be able to communicate with the you and me. The very essence of worship is communication.

*Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; for we are the true circumcision, **who worship in the Spirit of God** and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, (Philippians 3:2-3)*

I. Do you understand what it means to worship in the Spirit of God?

“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.” (John 4:24-25)

By the time Jesus enters Jewish history, temple worship had gradually deteriorated into a total focus on the external aspects of sacrifice to God. To worship in Spirit means that the only purpose of the external aspects of worship – “the forms” of singing, praying, giving, communicating and sharing in the word – is to generate an internal focus on “Who” it is we are worshipping – not on the form we chose to express our worship.

Worship is internal spirit acknowledgement, internal spirit prostration, and internal spirit recognition of God – as the creator and sustainer of the universe and Jesus as Lord of our lives. We are to have a daily awareness, a daily consciousness of our relationship with God and we must find that expression in everything we do.

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. (Colossians 3:17)

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. (Romans 12:1)

Paul says that the presentation of our bodies as living sacrifices, constitutes spiritual worship. That presentation is not simply the presence of our physical bodies at the assembly. That presentation is the way we approach every facet of our daily lives – our jobs, marriages, recreation, what we watch, what we read, and what we listen to.

So, what roles does the Holy Spirit play in worship? Since the spirit of worship is generated internally, the Holy Spirit who indwells in us provides the spiritual stimulus that creates the internal spiritual atmosphere for spirit and truth worship.

What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also. (1 Corinthians 14:15)

It is the Holy Spirit who communicates spiritual meaning and overtones to our spirits as we sing. It is the indwelling spirit, who allows us to proclaim the Lord's death until he comes as we eat the broken bread, the body of the Christ, as we drink the poured out cup, the blood of the Christ.

II. The Essence of Worship

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15)

That is the essence of worship. Worship is a desire for God. It is that spirit of adoption that spurs an irresistible desire to express ourselves to our Heavenly Father who instilled that spirit within us for that very purpose.

We have been called by the Holy Spirit to praise God in order to satisfy an insatiable yearning, to find expression for those deep seated, spirit driven longings, to be in God's presence.