

WORSHIPING IN SPIRIT & TRUTH

To worship the Lord is something that is within us, this is because we are children of the Lord. The Hebrew word for worship '**shachah**' Strong <07812> means to bow or give reverence.

Why do we worship the Lord? Does He need us to worship Him or is it the other way around?

People think that God has made us to worship Him. This understanding is because they do not know the love of God and therefore do not know the purpose why God created us. If God just wanted someone to worship Him – like Jesus plainly put it in **Matthew 3:7** 'For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.' Similarly if God wanted just someone to praise Him or worship Him, He would have made the stones to do that and would not have to tolerate man. The sacrifice of his only Son was not to hear our praise and worship.

If you understand God's love you would understand why God has created us.

The word 'love' in Greek is '**agapao**' Strong <25> but the love that is associated with God is '**agape**' which in English would really be translated as 'charity'.

The definition of charity is 'in love to prosper or help someone without any personal motive'. God has created you and me because He wants us to prosper. He has set commandments before us to guide us as not to lose our prosperity. He hates sin because it goes against his love; directly or indirectly makes us lose our prosperity. He paid a price of his Son so that He can take away the hindrance which was there, towards us receiving our prosperity.

If God has not created us to worship Him, so why do we need to worship Him?

The first word 'worship' in the Bible is connected with Abraham taking his son Isaac to be sacrificed as requested by the Lord.

Genesis 22:5-18

- 5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.
- 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.
- 7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?
- 8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.
- 9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.
- 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.
- 11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.
- 12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

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- 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.
- 14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.
- 15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,
- 16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:
- 17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;
- 18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Does worship have anything to do with sacrifice? Even the very second word 'worship' was connected with the sacrifice that was offered at the foot of the Mount by Moses and his congregation before they received the Ten Commandments.

Exodus 24:1-12

- 1 And he said unto Moses, Come up unto the LORD, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off.
- 2 And Moses alone shall come near the LORD: but they shall not come nigh; neither shall the people go up with him.
- 3 And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do.
- 4 And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.
- 5 And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the LORD.
- 6 And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.
- 7 And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.
- 8 And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.
- 9 Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel:
- 10 And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.
- 11 And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also they saw God, and did eat and drink.
- 12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

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Before I get into the deeper meaning of what worship is and how it needs to be done, I would like to touch upon why we need to worship the Lord?

Yes worshipping the Lord is a need from our part not from the Lord's part. When we worship the Lord we receive life in fullness. When we worship the Lord we desire his Holy Face which rejuvenates life within us. This is the reason that all living creation even the Angels long to worship the Lord and do not tire worshipping Him.

Before Jesus, man had to sacrifice before they came in the presence of the Lord so that they could worship Him, because man was not worthy to come in his presence. Now that the eternal sacrifice of Jesus is offered, we can under his Blood go in the presence of the Lord to worship Him.

Now, the question is how do we truly worship the Lord? So of the best examples of worshipping the Lord was done by King David.

2 Samuel 6:13

- 13 And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings.
- 14 And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.
- 15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.
- 16 And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.
- 17 And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.
- 18 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.
- 19 And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house.
- 20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!
- 21 And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD.
- 22 And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour.

David came before the Lord via a blood sacrifice, humbled himself and danced while playing instruments, that was genuine worship.

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The instructions of how to worship the Lord was given by the Lord via Moses in the book of Exodus.

Exodus 30:34-38

- 34 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; these sweet spices with pure frankincense: of each shall there be a like weight:
35 And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the art of the apothecary, tempered together, pure and holy:
36 And thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy.
37 And as for the perfume which thou shalt make, ye shall not make to yourselves according to the composition thereof: it shall be unto thee holy for the LORD.
38 Whosoever shall make like unto that, to smell thereto, shall even be cut off from his people.

The ingredients which were used to make the perfume were:-

Stacte: A rare ointment which was probably myrrh. Hebrew word is from a root meaning "a drop" or "to distil," and it has been by some interpreted as distilled myrrh. Literally, anything that drops, as e.g. the purest myrrh, that drops as a tear spontaneously from the tree. The word in Greek staktē, from feminine of staktos meant oozing. "Before any incision is made, they exude of their own accord what is called Stacte, to which no kind of myrrh is preferable."

- Stacte represented spontaneous worship, which we do, not because we have any material need or any problem, but worshiping God for He is God. Means worship that needs to come natural and spontaneous from within us.

Onycha: It was made from the outer hard shell of certain mussel found in India. This shell was powdered and when burnt gave a sweet odor which resembled musk. It is very expensive.

- The shell is a secure location in which creature retracts too when harmed or confronted like snail retracts into its shell. It represents our comfort zone or secure feeling. The feeling that I can handle my problems, I am okay, all is well with me, my world etc.. This shell or secure feeling needs to be broken down and we need to approach God helplessly. Looking up to Him in an attitude as I am nothing, I can not do anything without You, I depend only on You etc...

Galbanum: a gum resin taken from two Persian plants of the carrot family. By it self had a pungent, disagreeable odor and was mixed with other ingredients to increase and retain the fragrance longer.

- The thick resin came from that bark of the tree when an incision was made. It represented our emotions, our expressions. When we worship the Lord we need express ourselves in what ever feeling that comes to us. These need to be thick; meaning should be expressions done not just for the sake of it i.e. lifting your hands or dancing or

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kneeling or joining hands etc... The expressive actions should originate from the emotions within us. If you raise your hands it should be like a child lifting his or her hands unto his or her mother or father. If you dance it should be because of the joy that is in you. If you join hands or go on your knees it should be because of the humbleness with in you etc... This helps us to sustain our worship for longer durations.

Frankincense: Hebrew means 'whiteness'. It was made from the thick sap collected after making a deep incision in a certain tree.

- The sap of the tree is like the bone marrow within us. Our life is in our blood (**Leviticus 17:11** - 'For the life of the flesh is in the blood') and blood cells are created in the bone marrow. Therefore the bone marrow represents our spirit from which life comes to our physical body. The sap of the tree is like its spirit, if the sap dries up then the tree is considered dead. Worship should come from within our spirit. When we worship, it should be our spirit that should call out to the Lord.

These four ingredients were powered together and seasoned. This perfume was kept in the tabernacle and was exclusively used only here. There was a warning of the person being cut off from Israel if the perfume was used otherwise.

This perfume represented true worship and worship is something that is offered only to God. No human alive or dead, or any heavenly being, not even an Angel should be worshiped. When Jesus was man on earth, even He instructed others not to pray or worship Him.

Luke 4:8

⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve."

Revelation 22:8-9

⁸ Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

⁹ Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

As the understanding is been given to us on how to worship, we can now worship the Lord in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks that.

John 4:23

²³ "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

God Bless