BACK TO THE BASICS · PART FOUR

What Is True Worship?

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

JOHN 4:24

IV

Spirit and Truth

At a well in Samaria, a woman raised the old argument about mountains and places, about where true worship belongs. Jesus redirected it entirely. Worship is not settled by location. The Father is seeking those who worship Him in spirit and in truth. Two words, and in them a complete definition.

> **KEY INSIGHT**
>
> *The Father is seeking worshippers. Not performers. Not admirers. People who know Him, and who give Him everything they know to give.*

Three Marks of True Worship

The article traces worship through three movements:

1	**In truth: knowing whom you worship** Not a God assembled from tradition, feeling, or selective reading, but the God who has revealed Himself in His Word and finally in His Son. Worship cut off from Scripture slowly drifts from the true God toward a god we prefer.
2	**In spirit: the whole life offered** A living sacrifice is not offered once and left on the altar (Romans 12:1). It is honesty when dishonesty would be easier, patience with someone who has not earned it, the private decision no one will ever applaud.
3	**Abraham: a portrait of worship** The first time Scripture uses the word, there is no temple and no song, only a father climbing a mountain in obedience (Genesis 22:5). The fear of God was not a feeling he reported. It was a mountain he climbed.

Jesus told the Samaritan woman, "Ye worship ye know not what." Is any part of your picture of God shaped more by feeling, tradition, or preference than by what He has said about Himself in Scripture?

The article contrasts "a song sung well on Sunday morning" with "the whole self offered continuously." Where in your ordinary week does worship most often stop? Where could it continue?

Abraham went with a heavy heart and a trust that did not require understanding. Is there something God is asking of you that you do not yet understand? What would it look like to obey Him in it this week?

Father,

You are seeking those who will worship You in spirit and in truth. I want to be one of them.

Forgive me for the times I have worshipped a God shaped by my feelings and preferences. Show me who You truly are through Your Word, and let that knowledge shape everything I bring to You.

Teach me that worship does not end when the music stops. Let it continue in the honest word, the patient answer, the decision no one else will see.

Like Abraham, I do not always understand what You are asking. But I want to know You well enough to trust You when I cannot see.

AMEN.

WRITE YOUR OWN PRAYER

THIS WEEK

1. **Sit at the well.** Read John 4:1–26 slowly. Write down what Jesus reveals about the Father, and what He reveals about the woman.
2. **Present yourself each morning.** Read Romans 12:1–2 for five days. Before the day begins, ask: what does it look like today, in the specific decisions ahead, to offer myself to God?
3. **One unseen act of worship.** Each day, choose one act of honesty or patience that no one will notice. Offer it quietly to God as worship.