

# Worship in Spirit

## I. The Lesson

John 4:23 is one of the most quoted scriptures regarding worship in the Body of Christ. However, it is shocking to discover how many worshipers actually do *not* understand the true meaning of this passage. Through this lesson, we will look at the true meaning, intended application, and importance of this critical verse as it applies to our congregational worship times. Know the verse yet?

**John 4:23** “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.”

In this lesson, we will focus on the phrase, “worship... in spirit.” What does it mean to “worship in spirit?”

To “worship in spirit” does not mean:

- To be \_\_\_\_\_ in worship
- To worship \_\_\_\_\_, in our spirit
- To have \_\_\_\_\_ (eg. like a school sports team would have)

To “worship in spirit” = to worship according to the \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit

It is when we “worship... in spirit and truth” that we become the object of God’s seeking. Why would we worship any other way? Why would we lead our congregation in any other kind of worship? We can be the object of The Seeker’s seeking each and every week when we’re careful to worship this way.

Other than the fact that we are given instruction to worship this way, why else is it important to worship in spirit? God originally gave the songs we sing to writers who were following the Holy Spirit’s leading when they wrote the song, right? Well, you would hope so.

Even if each and every song was written as a result of following the Holy Spirit, there is still something personal and unique that God wants to do each time we gather together for worship. Without worshiping in spirit, we would charge through our set list and miss what God wants to do.

**John 6:63** “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.”

The Holy Spirit brings \_\_\_\_\_ to our worship and church. It can then be inferred that where there is no flow of the Holy Spirit, there is no life. Unfortunately, this is characteristic of many churches today.

What does “worship in spirit” look like on a practical level? The following is not an all-inclusive list, but rather some examples of what this looks like for the worship team:

- Periods of “\_\_\_\_\_”: any part or all of the band plays a simple chord progression while they and the worship leader attempt to sense the direction of the Holy Spirit
- Spontaneous \_\_\_\_\_: could be a spontaneous melodic part played by any musician on the team; could be a spontaneous change in the production of the song
- Spontaneous \_\_\_\_\_: also known as the “song of the Lord.” This is as short as a phrase or as long as an entire song that is given by the Holy Spirit for that moment; could also be a song already written that the Holy Spirit brought to the forefront of the worship leader’s heart/mind
- \_\_\_\_\_: takes many forms; could be skipping a particular song, ending the worship service, adding a song, letting the congregation sing by themselves, etc.

Again, this list is not all-inclusive, but hopefully it gives you some encouragement as to how you can be used in any particular moment if the Holy Spirit is leading.

The goal of the worship team should not be to merely execute a song list perfectly. The set list is simply a tool to aid our efforts in finding the heart of God for each service and connecting His people with Him. A successful service is not a service where every note was played perfectly (although excellence glorifies God and enables people to meet with God easier) but rather when we have sensed and followed the leading of the Holy Spirit. This is when life is released into the church – both corporately and to each individual.

So next time you are in a worship service – whether on the worship team or in the congregation – remain sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is calling you to do. It is when you sense and follow His leading that you become the object of His seeking – a true worshiper.

## II. Discussion

- 1) What are some of the factors that keep us from moving with the leading of the Holy Spirit in a worship service? (eg. attitudes, fear, etc.)
- 2) How can we, as a team, worship in spirit (follow the leading of the Holy Spirit)?
- 3) How do we become more sensitive – personally and as a team – to the leading and direction of the Holy Spirit?
- 4) What are the results in our congregation/church when we, as the worship team, begin to worship in spirit?

## III. Prayer Points

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- 1) Pray that the fear of man would be broken off us as a team. It will hinder us from stepping out in spontaneity in worship.
- 2) Pray for an increased sensitivity to the Holy Spirit as individuals and as a team. (“... you have not because you ask not...”)
- 3) Pray for each individual in our congregation, that they would also learn to be sensitive to the Lord in worship and respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to lift their hands, bow before Him, etc.