



# **KEYS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

## **HOW TO DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

### **#8: WORSHIP: WHEN GOD BECOMES REAL**

**JIM HINTON**

Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...  
1 Peter 3:18a (NLT)

## **I. WHAT IS WORSHIP?**

**Worship is having reverence, showing adoration and giving praise to something or someone because that person or object is important or honorable.**

### **1. Worship is directing my attention to God**

### **2. Worship is my response to God's love and greatness (See Ephesians 1:3-11)**

Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment.

Matthew 22:37 (NLT)

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

Romans 12:1 (NLT)

### **3. Worship consummates my enjoyment of God**

Go to the Lord for help; worship him continually.

Psalm 105:4 (TEV)

### **4. Worship is expected by God because He deserves it**

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Revelation 4:11 (NIV)

## **II. WHERE CAN I WORSHIP GOD?**

### **1. Privately**

### **2. Publicly**

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24 (NIV)

### **III. HOW DOES WORSHIP EMPOWER MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH?**

#### **1. Worship brings me into the presence of God**

But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.  
Psalm 22:3 (KJV)

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”  
Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

#### **2. Worship renews my joy and strength**

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”  
Psalm 122:1 (NLT)

but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.  
Isaiah 40:3 (NIV)

**The neuroscience of singing shows that when we sing our neurotransmitters connect in new and different ways. It fires up the right temporal lobe of our brain, releasing endorphins that make us smarter, healthier, happier and more creative. When we sing with other people this effect is amplified.**

**Cassandra Sheppard**

#### **3. Worship counteracts the enemy’s lies**

He [the devil]...is a liar and the father of lies.  
John 8:44 (NLT)

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.  
2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.  
John 17:17 (NIV)

#### **4. Worship unifies me with the Body of Christ**

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.  
Ephesians 4:11-12 (NLT)

#### **5. Worship participation sets a good example**

...Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.  
1 Timothy 4:12 (NLT)