



Myth #6
**Worship is
Just a Song**

"It is in the process of being worshipped that God communicates His presence to men." - C.S. Lewis

What is worship?

- Worship is not a duty, though God is deserving of all of our attention.

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men Isa. 29:13

- Worship is not just a song, though singing is an expression of worship.
- Worship is not something we watch, it is participatory.
- Worship is not just for musicians and singers, it is for you.

...you are a chosen people. You are a kingdom of priests, 1 Pet. 2:9

- Worship is a powerful force. See 2 Chron. 20.
- Worship is a declaration of or trust in God.
- Worship fights against selfishness, greed, pride, unforgiveness, doubt, fear.

WORSHIP—reverent devotion and allegiance pledged to God; the rituals or ceremonies by which this reverence is expressed. The English word "worship" comes from the Old English word "worthship," a word which denotes the worthiness of the one receiving the special honor or devotion.

From the Hebrew word, *shachah* (shah-*chah*); To bow, to stoop; to bow down before someone as an act of submission or reverence; to worship; to fall or bow down when paying homage to God. The primary meaning is "to make oneself low."



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ACTS OF WORSHIP		
Type	Scripture	Demonstrates
Lifting Hands	I will lift up my hands in Your name. (Ps. 63:4)	Dependence, Openness, Surrender
Standing	You who stand in the house of the Lord... (Ps. 135:2)	Respect, Honor, Worth
Kneeling	Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. (Ps. 95:6)	Humility, Devotion, Adoration
Shouting	Shout to God with the voice of triumph! (Ps. 47:1)	Affirmation, Enthusiasm, Joy
Singing	Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. (Ps. 100:2)	Sensitivity, Love
Giving	Bring an offering and come before him; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness. (1 Chron. 15:29)	Obedience, sacrifice
Everyday Life	Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life— and place it before God as an offering. (Rom. 12:1)	Submission, witness

The New Testament does not instruct worshipers in a specific order for worship gatherings. 1 Cor. 14:26, 1 Tim. 4:13, and 2 Tim. 3:10-4:5 seem to show a combination of participation by the leaders and everyday people alike.

Of course, other basics are revealed for corporate worship:

1. Prayer had a leading place in worship. The letters of Paul regularly open with references to prayer for fellow Christians who are instructed to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17).
2. Praise, either by individuals or in hymns sung in common, reflects the frequent use of singing. Possible fragments of Christian hymns appear scattered through the New Testament (Acts 4:24-30; Eph. 5:14; 1 Tim. 3:16; Rev. 4:8, 11; 5:9-10, 12-13).
3. Lessons from the Bible to be read, taught, and studied were another part of the worship procedure of the New Testament church. Remember, the Old Testament was their “Bible” at first, and emphasis was probably given to the messianic prophecies which had been fulfilled in Jesus Christ, as well as practical lessons from the rest of the Scriptures (1 Cor. 10:6; Rom. 15:4). Jesus’ teachings also received a primary place.
4. The Lord’s Table was practiced (1 Cor. 11:10-34); prophecies and other gifts of the Spirit in manifestation (1 Cor. 12, 14); contributions were received (1 Cor. 16:2); and the sick were prayed for (James 5:13-16).

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