

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES – SUMMER 2024

3. Worshiping

God seeks true worshipers. The spiritual discipline of worship is the humble response of the Christian to God, who He is, and what He does. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that God seeks worshipers who worship Him *in spirit and in truth* (John 4:23–24).

These two components to worship are critical. First, we are to worship God in spirit. The Holy Spirit who lives in us is the One who guides us in our worship. There is an experiential feeling that comes over us as we sing praises, offer prayers, take communion, and hear the Word. This is the ethereal component to worship. Since true worship is brought about by the Holy Spirit, it follows that only true believers can truly worship God fully. This is why it is so important for worship planners to plan worship for the believing community instead of the non-believing community, or seekers. Obviously, our worship service should be welcoming to all people, but the focus should be to unify and edify the church.

The second component to worship is truth. If worshiping in spirit lifts us up, then worshiping in truth keeps us grounded. The truth component demands that every song that is sung, every prayer that is offered, and every sermon that is preached must come from the Word of God. In fact, the best part of any sermon is when the preacher reads from the Bible, because it is the only part of his sermon that is infallible. Every aspect of the worship service should teach the worshiping body biblical truth, and the sermon should exposit biblical truth such that the hearer is convicted, convinced, and changed as a result. In summary, the weekly worship service should encourage, exhort, educate, and equip the church to go out and evangelize the world.

Here are some questions for further reflection:

1. On a scale from 1-10, how would you rate yourself on this Spiritual Discipline?
2. What specific actions will you take to develop this Spiritual Discipline further?
3. Read the passages surrounding the verses referenced above and meditate on the Scriptural truths present in those passages.
4. Choose a verse to memorize this week.