

OUR SPIRITUAL ACT OF WORSHIP

Christians are called to live as true worshipers, honoring God in how we think, act, and walk fully based on God's Word - John 4:23-24 - 23 Yet a time is coming and **has now come** when the **true worshipers** will worship the Father in **spirit and truth**, for **they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks**. 24 **God is spirit**, and **his worshipers MUST worship in spirit and in truth.**"

All Christians must start here - Rom 12:1 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God — THIS IS YOUR SPIRITUAL ACT OF WORSHIP.

in view of God's mercy...

What matters most is God's mercy, not our self-righteousness. - Matt 9:13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Example of "self-righteousness" vs. "Mercy" - Luke 18:10-14 - 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed ABOUT HIMSELF: 'God, I thank you that **I am not like other men** — robbers, evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector. 12 **I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.**' 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but BEAT HIS BREST AND SAID, 'GOD, HAVE MERCY ON ME, A SINNER.' 14 "I tell you that **this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.** For **everyone who exalts himself** will be humbled, and **he who humbles himself** will be exalted."

We have done nothing to deserve God's Love or focus - Ps 8:4 what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

NO MAN is righteous and all men have all become worthless - Rom 3:10-12 - 10 As it is written: "**There is no one righteous, not even one;** 11 **there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.** 12 **All have turned away, they have together become worthless;** there is no one who does good, **NOT EVEN ONE.**"

Every man missed the mark on his own - Rom 3:23 for **ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD,**

* **We need to recognize our worth is not that of a diamond in the rough, but as precious to God**

If it wasn't for HIS Mercy- which we did not earn- we would all be doomed - Titus 3:5-8 - 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but BECAUSE OF HIS MERCY. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

offer your bodies...

A major part of being a Christian requires a choice concerning purpose- Gal 6:7-9 - 7 Do not be deceived: **God cannot be mocked.** A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who **sows to please his sinful nature,** from that nature **will reap destruction;** the one who **sows to please the Spirit,** from the Spirit **will reap eternal life.**

This choice is an ALL or Nothing - Luke 14:33 In the same way, any of you who **DOES NOT GIVE UP EVERYTHING** he has cannot be my disciple.

In order to successfully offer the right way, we must have the right focus - Col 3:1-4 - Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, NOT on earthly things. 3 For YOU DIED, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, **who is your life,** appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

living sacrifices...

Our giving of self will go against what we desire - Rom 6:13-14 - 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but RATHER offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and OFFER THE PARTS OF YOUR BODY TO HIM AS INSTRUMENTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. 14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Our sacrifice is really not a sacrifice but an acknowledgement of the true owner

We must live being responsible to God because we belong to God - 1 Cor 7:23-24- 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brothers, each man, **AS RESPONSIBLE TO GOD,** should remain in the situation God called him to.

Like Jesus, we must have the mind to suffer in the body in order to live for God - 1 Peter 4:1-2 - Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the SAME ATTITUDE, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. 2 AS A RESULT, he **does not live** the rest of his earthly life **for evil human desires,** but rather **for the will of God.**

holy and pleasing to God (doing it His way)...

How we offer ourselves MUST display God - 1 Peter 1:15-16 - 15 But just **AS HE** who called you is holy, so **BE HOLY IN ALL YOU DO;** 16 for it is written: "**Be holy, because I am holy.**" –

Every ounce of our lives should point to and magnify God - 1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or **WHATEVER YOU DO, DO IT ALL for the glory of God.**

How we offer ourselves MUST be based on God And the main path is through Faith–

Faith is the ONLY way to please God - Heb 11:6 And without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Anything done outside of Faith is sin - Rom 14:23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and **EVERYTHING that does not come from faith is sin.**

It MUST be done with GODLY Love or it is rendered worthless - 1 Cor 13:1-3 - If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, **but have not love**, I AM ONLY A RESOUNDING GONG OR A CLANGING CYMBAL. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, **but have not love**, I AM NOTHING. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but **have not love**, I GAIN NOTHING.

Like everything else with God -when we live totally giving everything to God – we receive the ultimate benefits - Col 1:10-12 - 10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might **SO THAT** you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.