

A Growing Worship

Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship ...

John 4:22

In John 4 our Lord began a conversation with a Samaritan woman about the water she was drawing at a well then steered that conversation to speaking about the Living Water that He could offer. Eventually, He led her to the topic of proper worship. Jesus pointed out that the Samaritans did not know what they worshipped, but the Jews knew what they worshipped. Though the Jews acknowledged and worshipped the true God, most of their religious leaders had declined into a state of outward formalism. Jesus revealed to the woman that true worshippers must worship in spirit and truth.

Do you know who you worship, and do you exercise your worship in spirit and truth? A seventeenth-century Puritan writer Stephen Charnock said *“Now it is impossible to worship God as we ought, unless we know God as He is”*. Charnock indicates that the quality of our worship is linked to the knowledge that we possess of our God. At the time of our conversion, we understood that Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, had paid the price for our sins. Our love and gratitude for who He is and what He has done created a spirit of worship in us. But that level of worship should grow as we mature as followers of Christ. The Apostle Peter concludes his second epistle with the admonition *“Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* Spiritual growth is activated by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, understanding of God’s Word, fellowshiping with other believers, and learning to pray through the many circumstances the Lord brings to our lives. We learn from His Word about the many attributes of God, each of which gives a deeper insight into His character and personality. God’s many names in the scriptures also reveal the many facets of His nature. His holiness, which is declared from Genesis to Revelation, certainly causes our spirit to bow in His presence. Though God in his essence is beyond our understanding, and His ways are past finding out, we can continue gaining knowledge of Him when we persist in seeking Him. Expanding our knowledge of the Lord should produce a deeper desire to worship Him.

The worship that began when we fell at the feet of the Savior for our salvation will continue throughout eternity. On the other side of this life, we will be free from all hindrances to worship and we will cast our crowns at His feet and sing *“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.*

J. Ekis