

This brochure primarily deals with music, however worship is more than just music. Worship is a lifestyle that brings pleasure to God. Be that as it may your background may determine your definition of worship. You may think of worship services with singing, praying and listening to a sermon. Or maybe ceremonies, candles and communion. Or maybe healings, miracles and ecstatic experiences. Worship could and should include any or all of these elements, but worship is far more than any of these expressions. Worship is a lifestyle that brings pleasure to God.

Worship has nothing to do with the style, volume or speed of a song. God likes all styles of music because he created it all- fast, slow, loud, soft, old and new. You and I probably won't like it all, but if it's offered in spirit and truth God does, and it's an act of worship to him. Worship is for God's pleasure. Whether we prefer the style or not our desire should be to have an encounter with God our creator and bring pleasure to him.

Worship should not...

Worship should not be a "spectator sport". The singers and musicians on the stage during our worship services are not there just to entertain us but to lead us in worshipping God and into His presence. This is why you will see people throughout the congregation with their eyes closed and their hands raised. They are participating in and not just watching worship.

Worship should not be just a "warm-up" to get us ready for the sermon. Although worshipping God often does soften our hearts and open our minds up to hearing from God during the sermon, that is not the purpose of worship. Worship is to express thanks and adoration to God for who He is and what He has done. Worship has value in and of itself and is not a prelude to anything, including the message.

Worship should not just be a "sing-a-long" time. Most people have at some time in their lives joined in a sing-a-long-sitting around a campfire as a kid or gathered around the piano after a big family meal. Worship, however, is more than songs and music. It is coming into contact with the living God. Expressing our thoughts and feelings to Him in song is simply a vehicle towards that end.

Worship should...

Worship should be about intimacy with God. It is during worship that we come into contact with the living God in a deep and personal way. Worship is when we turn our attention away from the pressures and stresses of daily life, and through song, consider God and what He has done for us. We should strive not to hide behind "religious" masks and keep God at arms-length. We come to Him honestly, letting Him see us as we really are, with all our weaknesses, failings and needs.

Worship should be a time when we experience God's presence in a personal way. The Bible teaches that God "dwells in the midst of our praises." It is during worship that many people actually feel God touching them at their point of deepest need. You may see people with their eyes closed, their hands raised, they might even be crying. God is doing something personal in them at that moment.

Worshipping God should be a wonderful experience. Like the woman at the well, it can help lower walls of defense against the Lord, allowing Him to touch you deeply and change your life forever.