

Spirit Worship

By Steve Pruitt

For we [Christians] are the true circumcision, who worship God in spirit and by the Spirit of God, and exult and glory and pride ourselves in Jesus Christ, and put no confidence or dependence [on what we are] in the flesh and on outward privileges and physical advantages and external appearances.

Philippians 3:3 AMP

Jesus told the woman at the well in John 4:23, *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit...* The word which Jesus used for spirit is the Greek word *pneuma*. *Pneuma* is defined as a current of air, breath or a breeze. It is used to describe man's spirit, God's spirit and even demon spirits. The fact that it is not capitalized in John 4:23 most likely indicates that the translators felt Jesus was referring to the human spirit. In most cases the translators used a capital "S" when speaking of the Holy Spirit. We know that Jesus was not referring to demon spirits.

So the place of worship is the spirit of man, but the means of worship is the Holy Spirit. As Paul wrote, *For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.* (Ephesians 2:18)

True worshipers worship the Father in spirit and by the Spirit. Physical locations are of no concern. It doesn't matter about their status in the church or the community. It doesn't matter how talented they are or their physical appearance for worship comes from the spirit of the worshiper. True worshipers don't take notice of themselves for their eyes are on the Father. Their ears are tuned to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the worship leader and knows the heart of the Father.

To worship in spirit also means to allow the Holy Spirit to conform us into the image of Jesus; producing spiritual fruit and perfecting a life of holiness.

Many times Christians grieve the Holy Spirit by allowing fleshly desires to choke out the work God desires to do in them and through them. Paul wrote to the Ephesians, *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.* (Ephesians 4:30-31) Grieving the Holy Spirit limits the genuine flow of the Spirit in the life of a believer. A true worshiper will live a life of repentance which allows his spirit to be refreshed by the living waters of the Holy Spirit.

Is your life dry and parched? Is there a need for true repentance? Ask the Father to allow the waters of the Holy Spirit to bring refreshing and forgiveness. Ask him to renew a right spirit in you so that you may worship him in spirit and by the Spirit.

NOTES: _____

Scriptures for meditation:

- Galatians 5:22-24
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- John 7:38-39

All rights reserved. Used by permission.