

# POWER IN WORSHIP

(How Worship Is Born And Maintained In The Heart Of The Worshipper)  
Revelation 5:1-14



## “HE IS WORTHY”

- ◆ What Is Worship?
- ◆ Why Do We Worship?
- ◆ What Happens In Worship?

*“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing”.*  
(Revelation 5:12)

Bill Kirk

# “Power In Worship”

**Text:** Revelation 5:1-14

**Subject:** What is worship, why do we worship, and how does worship change the worshipper?

## Introduction

1. What does it mean in Psalm 22:3, that, “**God inhabits the praises of his people?**”
2. What does it mean in John 4:24, “God is a Spirit, and they that **worship** Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth”?
3. What does it mean in Psalm 29:2, “Give unto the Lord, the glory due unto His name; **worship** the Lord in the beauty of holiness”?
4. What does it mean in Hebrews 13:15, “To offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name?”
5. What is the difference between praising God (for what He’s done) and **worshipping** God (for who He is?)

## **I. Is Worship That Important To God, And Us?**

- ◆ Genesis 22:5, “And Abraham said, abide here, and I and the lad will go yonder and **worship**”.
- ◆ Exodus 33:10, “And all the people rose up and **worshipped**”.
- ◆ I Samuel 1:19, “And the people rose up early in the morning and **worshipped**”.
- ◆ I Samuel 12:20, “David arose, washed, anointed himself, changes his clothes, came into the house of the Lord and **worshipped**”.
- ◆ II Chronicles 7:3, “All the children of Israel bowed their faces, and **worshipped** the Lord”.
- ◆ Nehemiah 8:6, “And all the people lifted up their hands and **worshipped** the Lord”.
- ◆ Nehemiah 9:3, “When the book of the Law was read; the people confessed and **worshipped** the Lord”.
- ◆ Job 1:20, “Then Job fell down upon the ground and **worshipped**”.
- ◆ Psalm 95:6, “O come, let us **worship** and bow down”.
- ◆ Matthew 2:11, “The wise men fell down and **worshipped** Jesus”.
- ◆ Matthew 8:2, “And behold there came a leper and **worshipped** Him”.
- ◆ I Corinthians 14:25, (when spiritual gifts are operating, what results?) “The secrets of the attendees heart are made manifest and so falling down on their face they will **worship** God, and say, God is in this place”.
- ◆ Hebrews 1:6, “Let all the angels **worship** God”.
- ◆ Revelation 14:7, “Fear God, give Him glory, and **worship** Him”.
- ◆ Revelation 15:4, “All nations shall come and **worship** before God”.

**Question:** What is the first hymn in our hymnbook?

**Answer:** “**O Worship The King**”, all glorious above, and gratefully sing His power and His love; Our shield and defender, the ancient of days, pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise”.

## **II. What Does It Mean To Worship?**

- ◆ The Old Testament word for worship is (SHAW-KHAW) which means:
  1. To prostrate
  2. To bow down
  3. To pay homage
  4. To beseech
  5. To reverence
  6. To worship
- ◆ The New Testament word for worship is (PROSKUNEO) which means:
  1. To crouch down before
  2. To prostrate
  3. To reverence
  4. To adore
  5. To give glory to
  6. To worship

- ◆ The word “Worthy” in Revelation means:
  1. Deserving
  2. Suitable
  3. Praise-worthy
  4. Due-reward

**(So Biblical Worship Is:)**

- #1. Our loving response to the worthiness of God.
- #2. Our expression of gratitude for the goodness of God.
- #3. Our pouring out of inner devotion to Jesus.
- #4. Our response to God’s initiative in saving us.
- #5. Our attitude of heart in crowning Jesus Lord of all.
- #6. Our singing, obedience and life that is due the Lord.
- #7. Our total surrender and yielding to the will of God.

**Question:** Is God looking for genuine worshippers?

**Answer:** John 4:23, “The Father seeketh such to worship Him”.

**III. What Is The Basis Of All Our Worship? (or)**

**Question:** What’s the bottom line reason for us to worship God?

**Question:** What’s our motivation to live and sing and walk worthy of being called Christians?

**Question:** What provokes us to serve, tithe, give offerings, and sacrifice without complaint?

**(The Answer Is In Revelation 5)**

- ◆ In Revelation 5:1, John sees something in heaven:

**Question:** Pastor, what does John see that makes him cry?

**Answer:** John sees something that is soon to happen:  
(One of the first events after the Rapture of the Church)

In verse 1, John sees God the Father holding a sealed book in His right hand.

**Question:** What is the book?

**Answer:** (The book (or scroll) is the official document of the last days of human history.)

- ◆ The book reveals what will happen during the seven years of travail.
- ◆ And, John reveals the dramatic search for someone worthy to open the scroll (and set in motion the events to occur).

In verse 2, “Who is worthy to open the book and loose the seals thereof?”

In verse 3, no one was found worthy to open the book.

**Question:** Pastor, what is this book or scroll or document of events about to transpire?

**Answer:** It is the last will and testament of God.

**Question:** Why does the book or scroll have 7 seals?

**Answer:** Because in the Roman world a man’s will had to be witnessed by seven persons.

- ◆ Each person had to attach his own personal seal to one of the threads of the document.
- ◆ The seven seals here show us that the book is large.

**Question:** Why was the scroll sealed?

**Answer:** To prevent unauthorized persons from tampering with its contents.

- ◆ Only a worthy person (with proper authority) had legal access to the message in the scroll.

**(Understand What John Sees Here)**

- ◆ The scroll represents man's original inheritance forfeited over to satan by sin.
- ◆ Adam and Eve were given dominion over earth by God.
- ◆ Yet, Adam yielded to sin and forfeited his dominion over to satan. **(In Other Words)**
- ◆ Earth rightly belongs to Adam's race.
- ◆ But because of sin, none of Adam's descendants are qualified to pay the redemption price of the world. **(In Other Words)**
- ◆ Someone must be found if mankind is to escape eternal loss.
- ◆ Someone worthy (and without sin) must be found to make restitution for us.

**(And John Hears An Angel Ask A Question)**

(Verse 2), "Who is worthy to open the book and loose the seven seals?" **(or)**  
 "Is there anyone worthy (sinless) who can take over the destiny of the world?"

**Question:** What does John discover in verse 3?

**Answer:** That no man or angel is worthy to approach God, open the book and carry out the events of human history.

- ◆ Every human and angel fell-short.
- ◆ Not one human (or one angel) can buy back what was in the book.

**Question:** How did John respond to what he saw?

**Answer:** In (v. 4), he weeps bitter tears!

**Question:** Why is John crying?

**Answer:** Because if no redeemer can be found, then the curse is not removed, and creation is forever to remain in the hands of satan!

**Question:** What does John hear while he is broken in tears?

**Answer:** (Verse 5), "And one of the elders said, weep not, behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof".

**(Remember:)**

- ◆ God is holding the book of destiny in His hand.
- ◆ There has been a search throughout the world for someone worthy to reclaim the earth.
- ◆ Everything looks hopeless until a heavenly elder announces the news.
- ◆ "Someone had been found to open the book of destiny for you and I".
- ◆ It is the first sight of Jesus in heaven. (vs. 5 - 7)

**Question:** Who is it that redeems us from the curse of sin?

**Question:** Who is it that reconciles us to a Holy God?

**Question:** Who is it that erases all guilt and condemnation?

**Question:** Who is it that guarantees our future?

**(It Is None Other Than...)**

#1. (Verse 5) "**The Lion of the tribe of Judah**"

- ◆ Judah was the strongest tribe of Israel by far.
- ◆ So Jesus, possesses the strength and power of a lion.

#2. (Verse 5) "**The Root of David**"

- ◆ Jesus was prophesied to come from the root and seed of Jesse (of his family line).
- ◆ Thus, Jesus has fulfilled Bible prophecy that reveals the integrity of Scripture.

#3. (Verse 6) "**A Lamb as it had been slain**"

- ◆ The Lamb of God (Jesus) was symbolized in the Passover.

- ◆ The lamb (in Egypt) was sacrificed so that the judgment of God could pass over the people.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Jesus is the center of attention in heaven.
- ◆ Every eye and thought is upon Him.
- ◆ He is the centerpiece of God's throne room. (Why?)
- ◆ (Verse 5) declares, "He has prevailed to open the book".

**Question:** What has Jesus prevailed over?

**Answer:** He has prevailed over all:

#1. Jesus has prevailed over sin

- ◆ (V. 9) "He has redeemed us to God by His blood"  
(Because God's justice has been satisfied by Christ's death at Calvary)

#2. Jesus has prevailed over satan

- ◆ (V. 7) "He came and took the book"  
(Because Jesus has authority over the powers of evil).

#3. Jesus has prevailed over the second death

- ◆ (V. 10) "We shall reign" (Because death has been swallowed up in the resurrection)

#4. Jesus has prevailed over sadness

- ◆ (V.8) "The prayers of the saints are offered up to God"  
(Because God is answering prayer even when you cannot see Him)

**Question:** Who is the One who is worthy?

**Answer:** It is Jesus of Nazareth!

**Question:** What does it have to do with me pastor?

**Answer:** (V.6) "The lamb has 7 horns, 7 eyes, and 7 spirits"

**(What Does It Mean?)**

#1. 7 Horns

- ◆ Horns in Scripture represent power.
- ◆ It means Jesus is omnipotent in power (and can conquer anything in your life).

#2. 7 Eyes

- ◆ Eyes symbolize complete knowledge and intelligence and wisdom.
- ◆ It means Jesus is Omniscient (or, He knows all, sees all, and nothing escapes Him in your life). (He can sustain you now in every trial of life).

#3. 7 Spirits

- ◆ This refers to the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ It means Jesus is everywhere in person of the Holy Spirit (to work out His plan in your life and mine). **(What A Lamb Of God)**

- ◆ Omnipotent (all powerful) ◆ Omniscient (all knowing) ◆ Omnipresent (ever present with us)

**Question:** Pastor, how do we respond on earth and in heaven to what Jesus had done for us?

**Answer:** We respond the Bible way:

- ◆ As soon as Jesus takes the book ( to ensure your ultimate victory),
- ◆ All of heaven and earth break loose in a song of praise and worship.
  - #1. There is praise from the creatures and elders around the throne of God. (v. 8)
  - #2. There is praise from the millions of angels. (v. 11)
  - #3. There is praise from all who are in heaven and all who are on earth. (v. 13)

## (Why Do We Worship And Refuse To Keep Silent?)

- ◆ In (verse 9), Jesus has redeemed us by His blood (or set us free from the slavery of sin).
- ◆ In (verse 9), “Out of every kindred, tongue, people and nation” (means:)

No one is beyond the reach of Jesus saving! (Whoever will may come to Jesus today)!

### (What Is Worship?)

- ◆ It is ascribing worthiness to God because of what He has done in opening the Book (or scroll) for your ultimate destiny.
- ◆ And that’s the bottom line reason why we worship: Because Jesus has prevailed and secured our future for eternity.

## IV. What Happens To The Worshipper, In Worship? (or)

(Why is there power in worship?)

**Question:** Worship isn’t just singing and clapping my hands. (So what happens to someone when they worship God with an obedient life and heart of praise?)

### #1. Worship draws us closer to God:

(Psalm 22:3), “Lord you are holy, you who inhabits the praises of your people”.

#### (In Other Words)

- ◆ In worship, God communicates with the worshipper.
- ◆ We invite His presence, acknowledge His Lordship and the Lord shows up.
  - ◆ Gideon
  - ◆ Joshua
  - ◆ Jehoshaphat
  - ◆ Paul & Silas in jail

### #2. Worship prepares us to spiritually grow:

(Hosea 10:11) “Judah shall plow”

- ◆ The word “Judah” means praise.
- ◆ God says “Praise will plow”

#### (In Other Words)

- ◆ Worship with your life and your voice prepares you to receive the seed of the Word sown into your heart.
- ◆ Worship plows the ground for us to grow.

### #3. Worship sensitizes our spirit to the Holy Spirit

(II Kings 3:15), “Elisha said, bring me now a musician; and when the harpist played, the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha”.

#### (In Other Words)

- ◆ The harpist is brought to Elisha to calm his spirit.
- ◆ As Elisha enters in, his heart is sensitized to the Lord.
- ◆ Elisha then proceeds to prophesy that the Moabites will be delivered into God’s hands.

### #4. Worship allows God to encourage your heart

(Colossians 3:16), “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord”.

**Question:** What is God saying here?

**Answer:** That corporate worship (in congregational singing) is a divine means to admonish us, encourage us, edify us and spur us on to serve God.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Corporate worship is a God-given gift to channel His strength and comfort to our hearts.
- ◆ In worship, we are being built up and made stronger.

**#5. Worship allows faith to replace our fears**

(II Chronicles 20:22), "As the people began to sing and praise the Lord, the Lord sent ambushes against the enemy, and they were defeated".

- ◆ The Edomites are attacking Judah.
- ◆ The Holy Spirit comes upon Jahaziel, a descendant of Asaph, the chief musician.
- ◆ The musician says, "Instead of fighting, just worship".
- ◆ So, Jehoshaphat appoints singers to lead in praise and the enemies destroyed each other.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ When the enemy came in like a flood, worship allowed faith to replace fear and trust the Lord!
- ◆ This reveals the power of an anointed choir in service.

**#6. Worship will lift you from depression**

(II Samuel 12: 19, 20), "When David heard that his child had died, he got up from the ground and went into the house of God and worshipped".

- ◆ David was devastated and wasn't shouting, dancing, clapping or singing.
- ◆ But he worshipped and allowed God to begin to heal his broken heart and lift him from despair.
- ◆ Worship rose above his feelings and protected him from his feelings.

**#7. Worship makes us like Jesus**

(Psalm 115:8), "Those who make idols will be like them and so will all who trust in them".

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ We become like that which we worship.
- ◆ We take on the characteristics of what we give attention to. (II Corinthians 3:18) "As we behold the glory of the Lord, we are changed into His likeness and become more like Him".

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Worship allows God's power to change us individually.
- ◆ Worship is cooperating with God's plan.
- ◆ Worship surrenders everything to the only one worthy of our devotion.
- ◆ We don't worship our house, our cars, our money, our heroes, sports, sports figures, etc..
- ◆ We worship the only One who deserves everything we are. Jesus!!!

***“If worship does not change  
us, it has not been worship.  
To stand before the Holy One  
of eternity is to change.***

**Worship begins in holy  
expectancy and ends in holy  
obedience”.**

**Richard Foster**