

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Ms. Calvert, Mrs. Carswell, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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“Worship In Spirit”

By Derek Long

When Jesus speaks to the Samaritan woman at the well, she brings up the subject of proper worship. “The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship’” (John 4:19-20, NKJV). Jesus will respond to this statement by giving her instruction regarding proper worship. “Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth’” (John 4:21-24, NKJV). Jesus teaches proper worship to God will require two aspects. Proper worship must be in spirit and in truth. Worshipping God “in spirit” involves not simply going through outward actions alone but emphasizes the need for the inner man to be engaged in the worship of God while going through outward actions.

Worshipping in spirit involves having the proper attitude and the inner man engaged as we pray and sing. 1 Corinthians 14:15 says, “What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding” (NKJV). As public prayers are led during our periods of worship, we need to have our mind engaged and following along with the things which are being said.

While a person may not be leading the public prayer, he or she should be following along with the one leading the prayer to the point he could say, "Amen," to the things which have been said (1 Corinthians 14:16). When we sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to the Lord and to one another in our worship, our inner man needs to be engaged in what we are singing. As 1 Corinthians 14:15 points out, we need to make sure we are understanding the things we are saying in our songs. Ephesians 5:19 says we are to be, "making melody in your heart to the Lord" (NKJV). Colossians 3:16 says we are to be, "singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (NKJV). Our heart needs to be involved in our singing. Our heart is engaged in our singing when we are focusing on the things we are singing and they express what is really on the inside of us. We need to make sure we truly mean the things we sing lest we make vows to God in our songs we fail to keep. Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 teaches, "Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few. For a dream comes through much activity, and a fool's voice is known by his many words. When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed - better not to vow than to vow and not pay. Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands? For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity. But fear God" (NKJV). Be careful about the things we say in our songs and make sure we truly mean those things we promise God in our songs.

Worshipping in spirit involves having the proper attitude and the inner man engaged as we partake of the Lord's Supper. 1 Corinthians 11:27-29 teaches us about the proper attitude we ought to have when partaking of the Lord's Supper. It says, "Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" (NKJV).

Our minds need to be focused upon the sacrifice of Christ and what it means to us as we partake of the Lord's Supper.

Worshipping in spirit involves having the proper attitude and the inner man engaged as we listen to God's word be proclaimed. Jesus teaches in Luke 8:18, "Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him" (NKJV). How we listen to God's word as it is proclaimed is important? Our hearts need to be like Lydia's and be open and receptive to God's word (Acts 16:15). We need to accompany our hearing of the word of God with faith so it will profit us (Hebrews 4:2).

Worshipping in spirit involves having the proper attitude and the inner man engaged as we engage in "the collection for the saints" (1 Corinthians 16:1-2, NKJV). Proper giving requires a purposing in our heart and an attitude of cheerfulness (2 Corinthians 9:7). It is possible to give and yet do so with the improper attitude or motives and our giving not be acceptable to God.

Let's examine our attitude and inner man when we worship and make sure we are truly worshipping God in spirit (John 4:24).