

# Worshiping God?

*"Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth! <sup>2</sup> Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy."*  
Psalm 100:1-2 NLT



• Does God exist? If so, how do we worship Him?

Like the other Psalms, Psalm 100 is a song of worship that was sung by Israel in their temple. The author is unknown.

The human heart was made to worship God. If we reject worshiping God, we will substitute Him and worship materialism, money, power, possessions, prestige, people, thrills, science, humanism, idols, or something else. Worship is built into the DNA of our soul. The question is who or what will we worship!

**Central Lesson:**  
**We can know that God is real and He deserves our love & adoration.**

## The **EXISTENCE** of God

*"The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship."* Psalm 19:1 NLT

**What is Intelligent Design (or Fine-Tuning)?** If you found a pocket-watch on the sidewalk, would you assume the watch exists because of millions of years of evolution of earthly material on the ground, or would you assume the watch is the result of a skilled, intelligent, creative watchmaker?

Intelligent design (ID) and Fine-tuning are two terms that seem to be synonymous. They state that certain detailed features of the universe and of living things are **best explained by an intelligent cause**, not an undirected process such as natural selection (evolution).

Intelligent design **does not necessarily support creationism**. It simply points to the intelligence of some type that planned the makeup of life and the universe. That superior intelligence could be God, as depicted in the Bible, or some other intelligent force or life that exists. Also, Intelligent design could imply creation, as recorded in the Bible, or evolution directed by this intelligence (similar to theistic evolution).

Another clarification is that creationism usually **begins with a religious text** and tries to see how the findings of science support it. Intelligent design **starts with the evidence of nature** and seeks to determine what conclusion can be made. However, many individuals reason—intelligent design demands an intelligent designer, fine-tuning demands a fine-tuner. They cannot escape the conclusion that there is a real intelligent all-powerful Creator of the universe. The God of the Bible is the best logical candidate.

## The **EXALTATION** of God

**What Is Worship?** In the **Old Testament**, the word "worship" comes from a Hebrew word that means: *to bow down, to prostrate oneself, to fall flat, to reverence*. The word is used 170 times in the Hebrew scriptures. In the **New Testament**, the word "worship" comes from a Greek word, *proskuneo*, made from two words: *pros* meaning "towards" and *kuneo* meaning "to kiss." Together

they mean **"to kiss towards."** It conveyed in ancient culture the meaning of prostrating oneself in homage to a person of great rank and kissing their feet. **Worship is giving God a kiss, expressing to Him our love and reverence.**

## The Essence of Worship—**GIVING** God Our Love and Adoration.

The key to true biblical worship is the word "give." Worship is not getting, but giving to God our love, praise, hearts, and lives. John MacArthur explains in his book about worship titled, *The Ultimate Priority*,

"When we talk about worship, we are talking about something we **give** to God. Modern Christianity seems committed instead to the idea that God should be giving to us. God *does* give to us abundantly, but we need to understand the balance of that truth—we are to render honor and adoration to God. That consuming, selfless desire to give to God is the essence and the heart of worship. It begins with the **giving first of ourselves**, and then of our **attitudes**, and then of **our possessions—until worship is a way of life.**"

	TYPICAL VIEW	BIBLICAL VIEW
<b>Worship Leader</b> →	<i>Performers</i>	<i>Guide/Director</i>
<b>Congregation</b> →	<i>Audience</i>	<i>Performers</i>
<b>God</b> →	<i>Guide/Director</i>	<i>Audience</i>

The Life Application Study Bible states, "God alone is worthy of being worshiped. What is your attitude towards worship? Do you willingly and joyfully come into God's presence, or are you just going through the motions, reluctantly going to church? This song tells us to remember God's goodness and dependability, and then to worship with thanksgiving and praise!" (100:4).

## The **EXPRESSION** of Worship

The book of Psalms shows us ways to express worship to God:

1. **Sing to God**—Psalm 66:4; 9:2; 100:2; 96:1-3
2. **Expressing thanks to the Lord**—Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31; 100:4
3. **Focusing on God's attributes and His deeds**—Psalm 139:1-18; 103:2-12; 99:5; 89:1-2, 14
4. **Self-examination, reflection, and rededication**—Psalm 139:23-24
5. **Giving God our offerings**—Psalm 96:8
6. **Prayer**—Psalm 141:2
7. **Kneeling and bowing down**—Psalm 95:6
8. **Lifting up our hands**—Psalm 63:4; 134:2; 141:2
9. **Clapping our hands**—Psalm 47:1
10. **Dancing**—Psalm 149:3, 150:4
11. **Musical instruments**—Psalm 150:3-5; 98:4-6
12. **Living in obedience to God and His Word**—Psalm 119:33-34, 57-62

### Central Lesson:

**We can know that God is real and He deserves our love & adoration.**

Is your heart convinced that God is real? Do you long to know God better and be in a close relationship with Him? Will you live for Him and worship Him?

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ.
- ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.