

When we say "I Worship"

we think

but προσκυνέω

includes



For Home Reflection

1. How could you be more devoted to God?

- † Should you commit to be more consistent about coming to church every week, on time, ready to praise?
- † Should you be praying more each day?
- † Should you sacrifice entertainment one day each week to spend an evening in Bible study or extended prayer?
- † Should you sing worship songs each morning before work?
- † Should you be more obviously a Christian in your daily interactions with others?

2. How could you be more dependent on God day to day?

- † Should you be praying every morning for God's guidance, to be led by the Holy Spirit each moment?
- † Should you be seeking God's deliverance through life's challenges, instead of accomplishing things on your own?
- † Should you be stepping out of your comfort zone to minister to others, trusting God to care for you as you do?
- † Should you reflect more often on what Christ has done for you on the cross and on what the Holy Spirit is doing to make you more like Christ?

3. How could you be more obedient & submissive to God?

- † Should you overcome a bad habit?
- † Should you forgive someone?
- † Should you change an aspect of your life that does not conform to Scripture?
- † Should your behavior better reflect the character of God?
- † Should you be more obedient to the commands of sharing the gospel, teaching others, and participating in the church community?

4. As you search your hearts, don't let this list of questions limit you. God might want to provoke a conviction for change in you that is different from the few things we listed. Confess your shortcomings to God, rejoice in his forgiveness, and commit to showing him better devotion, dependence, and submission going forward.

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We all have preferences about the music, but our experience depends more on what is in our _____ than what happens up on stage.

Psalms 33.1; 66.1-2 show us it is good to offer God _____. This is not sufficient as worship by itself, however. Worship is not just saying or singing the right words.

I will be _____ to offering God praise if I _____ him with all my capacity, all of myself, as it says in Matthew 22.37-38.

Based on Acts 11.23, we know we are to remain true to God with _____ hearts. Yet even this combined with praise is not sufficient as worship; there is still more to it.

We also are to _____ on God, as we see in Psalms 55.22; Jeremiah 17.5-7; Ephesians 6.10-11. Still, even if we offer praise, show devotion, and depend on God, this is not the fullness of worship.

To truly worship, we also need to submit and _____ what God commands. This is clear from James 4.6-7; Luke 11.28; John 14.15.

We might sum up the combination of praise, devotion, dependence, and submission with this thought:

God, I need what you have to offer; and I offer all I have to you.

The Greek word most often translated as the English verb _____ in the New Testament is προσκυνέω [prah-skew-NEH-oh]. See, for example, Luke 4.8; John 4.23. This Greek verb appears sixty times in the New Testament.

προσκυνέω [prah-skew-NEH-oh] literally means to _____ yourself in an attitude of acknowledged dependence and submissive obedience! We can see this even in some English verses, such as Matthew 2.11; 8.2. When the Jews translated the Hebrew and Aramaic Old Testament into Greek, they used προσκυνέω 185 times to translate their verbs which meant to prostrate or bow down.

In the Ancient Near East, prostrating yourself was how you showed _____, dependence, and devotion. For example, the Black Obelisk of the Assyrian King Sargon II [a monument he erected to depict his victories over neighboring nations], depicts Israel's King Jehu paying him tribute by showing Jehu bowing prostrate before him.

People would show worship to Jesus by _____ before him, to acknowledge their need and submission, as we see in Matthew 9.18 [some translations say he knelt, others he bowed before Jesus].

In later church ages, it became common to _____ when praying, to show God submission, dependence, and devotion.

Today we might bow our _____ or stand on our tip toes and raise our hands high, but the important question is, what is in our hearts? Are we really offering what prostration symbolized back in Jesus' day, what προσκυνέω [prah-skew-NEH-oh] implied, which is submission, dependence, and devotion? or are we offering only some easy words of praise? If you need to improve your attitude for worship, do it! Go to God, repentant, and accept his grace, forgiveness, cleansing, and empowerment to improve!