



THE BIBLICAL  
PATTERN OF  
WORSHIP






# The biblical pattern of worship includes:

Exalting: God Up-reach


Edifying: The Body of Christ In-reach

Evangelizing: The lost Out-reach

The early church followed this pattern (Acts 24:3,46,47). John also emphasized it (John 15:1-11,12-17,18-27). When you exalt, you edify. When you edify, you evangelize. When you evangelize, you edify and exalt...and so the pattern continues.



# TYPES OF WORSHIP



# The Bible speaks of various types of worship:



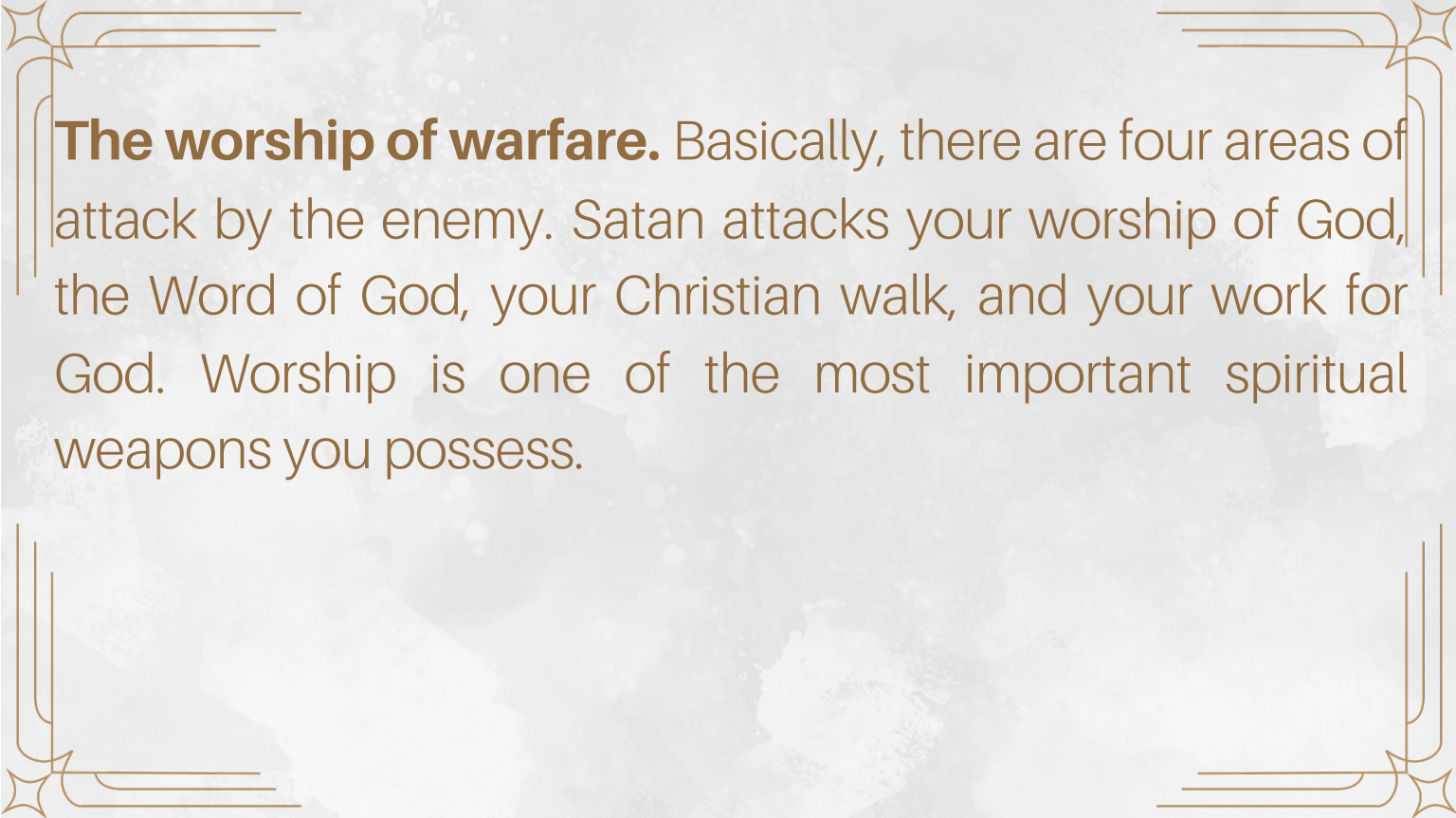
**The worship of repentance.** Psalms 51 is a wonderful example of the worship of repentance. It is the prayer David prayed after his sin with Bathsheba.

**The worship of acceptance.** Job lost his children, his wealth, and his health, yet he worshipped:

*Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground and worshipped. And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither; the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. (Job 1:20-21)*

**The worship of devotion.** The story of Abraham and his son, Isaac, is the greatest example of the worship of devotion (Genesis 22:1-14). Abraham was commanded to give his only son as a sacrifice to God. To offer the worship of devotion, Abraham had to die to the desire of a son. This type of worship denounces selfish desires and focuses on God alone. Sacrificial worship always brings glory to God, and in the end Isaac was spared and God was glorified through the offering of a sacrificial substitute.

**The worship of commitment.** For an example of the worship of commitment, see the account in 2 Chronicles 15:10-15 where Israel made a covenant to serve God. They offered sacrifices and made a covenant to seek the Lord with all their heart and soul. They were shouting praises to God and using trumpets and cornets in their worship.



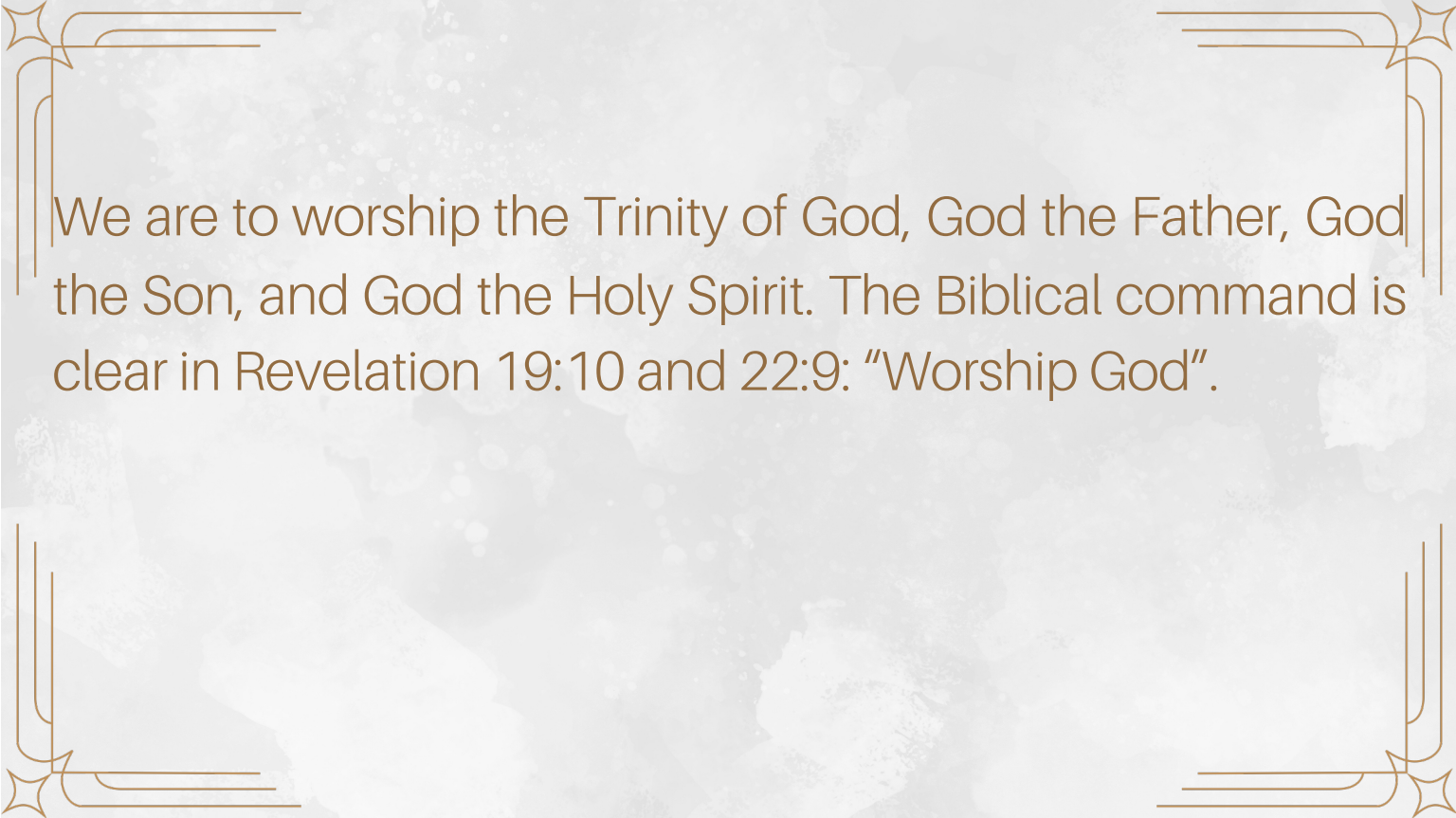
**The worship of warfare.** Basically, there are four areas of attack by the enemy. Satan attacks your worship of God, the Word of God, your Christian walk, and your work for God. Worship is one of the most important spiritual weapons you possess.



# Who We Worship

A decorative flourish identical to the one above, consisting of a central diamond shape with three curved lines extending downwards and outwards, connected to a horizontal line with small diamond shapes at each end.





We are to worship the Trinity of God, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Biblical command is clear in Revelation 19:10 and 22:9: "Worship God".



# Why We Worship

A decorative flourish identical to the one above, consisting of a central diamond shape with three curved lines extending downwards and outwards, connected to a horizontal line with small diamond shapes at each end.



# Why?

***We worship because we are commanded to do so.***

The first of the ten commandments is to worship God:

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

(Exodus 20:3-6)

# WHY

**WE WORSHIP BECAUSE OF BIBLICAL EXAMPLES.**

**WE WORSHIP BECAUSE WE ARE CHOSEN TO DO SO.** *ISAIAH 43:21*

**WE WORSHIP BECAUSE IT AFFECTS OUR ETERNAL DESTINY.**

**WE WORSHIP BECAUSE GOD LOVES IT.** *PSALM 22:3*



**We worship because God is worthy.**

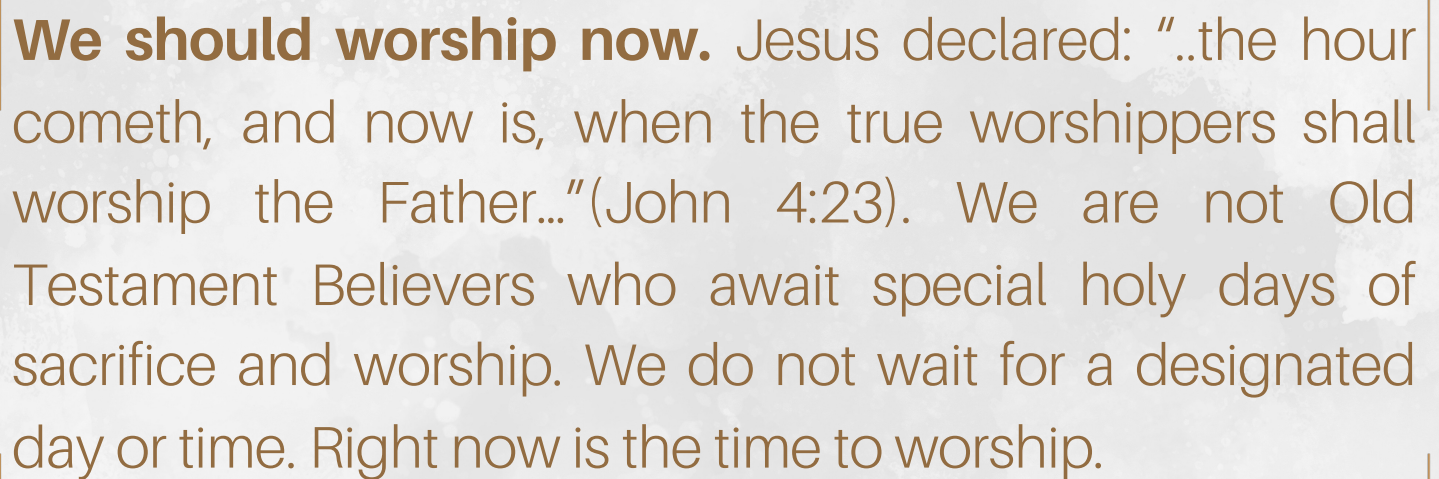
**We worship because there is spiritual power in worship.**

**We worship because it is a good thing to do. *Psalm 135:3, Psalm 92:1***

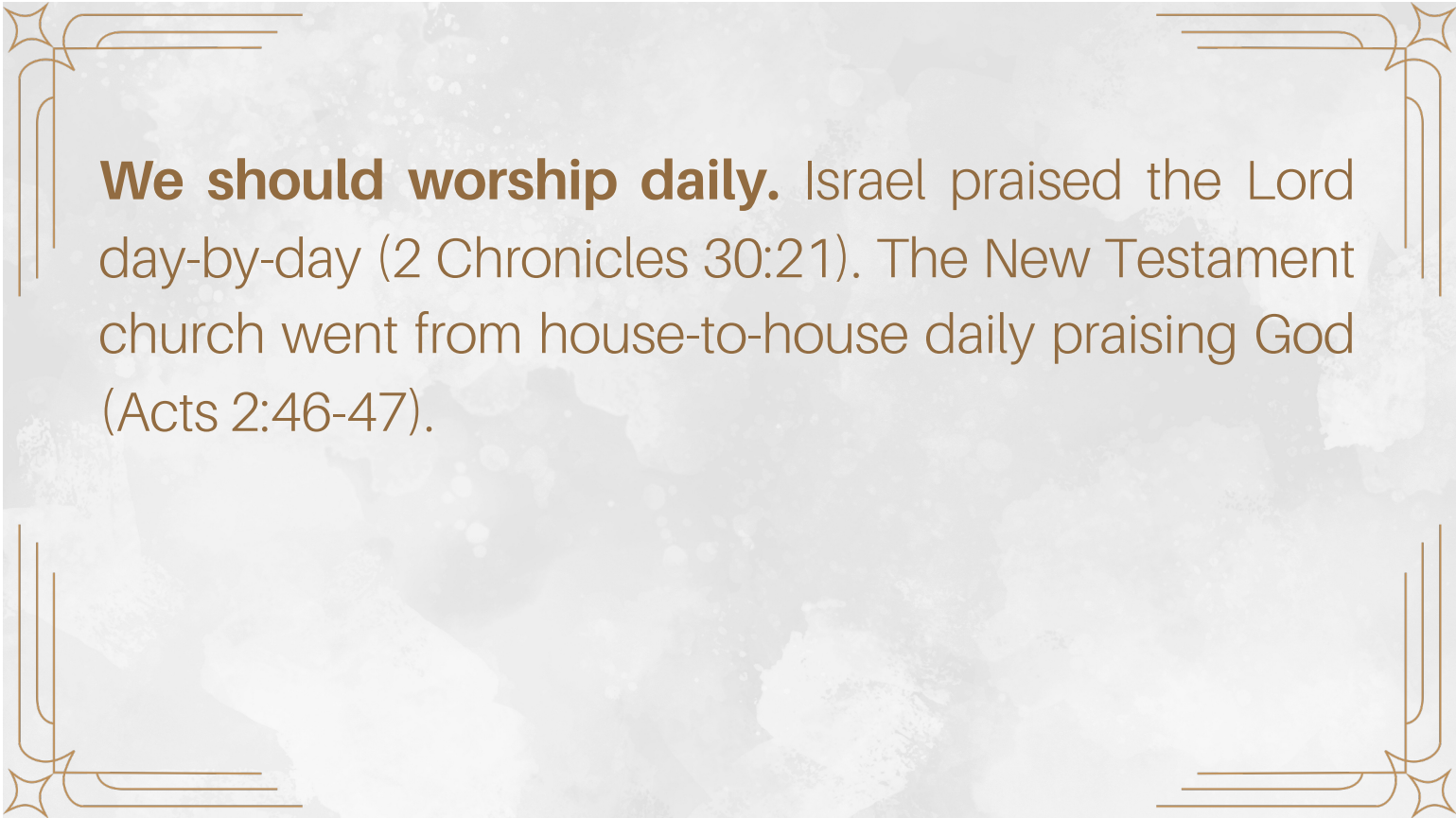


# When to Worship






**We should worship now.** Jesus declared: “..the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father...”(John 4:23). We are not Old Testament Believers who await special holy days of sacrifice and worship. We do not wait for a designated day or time. Right now is the time to worship.

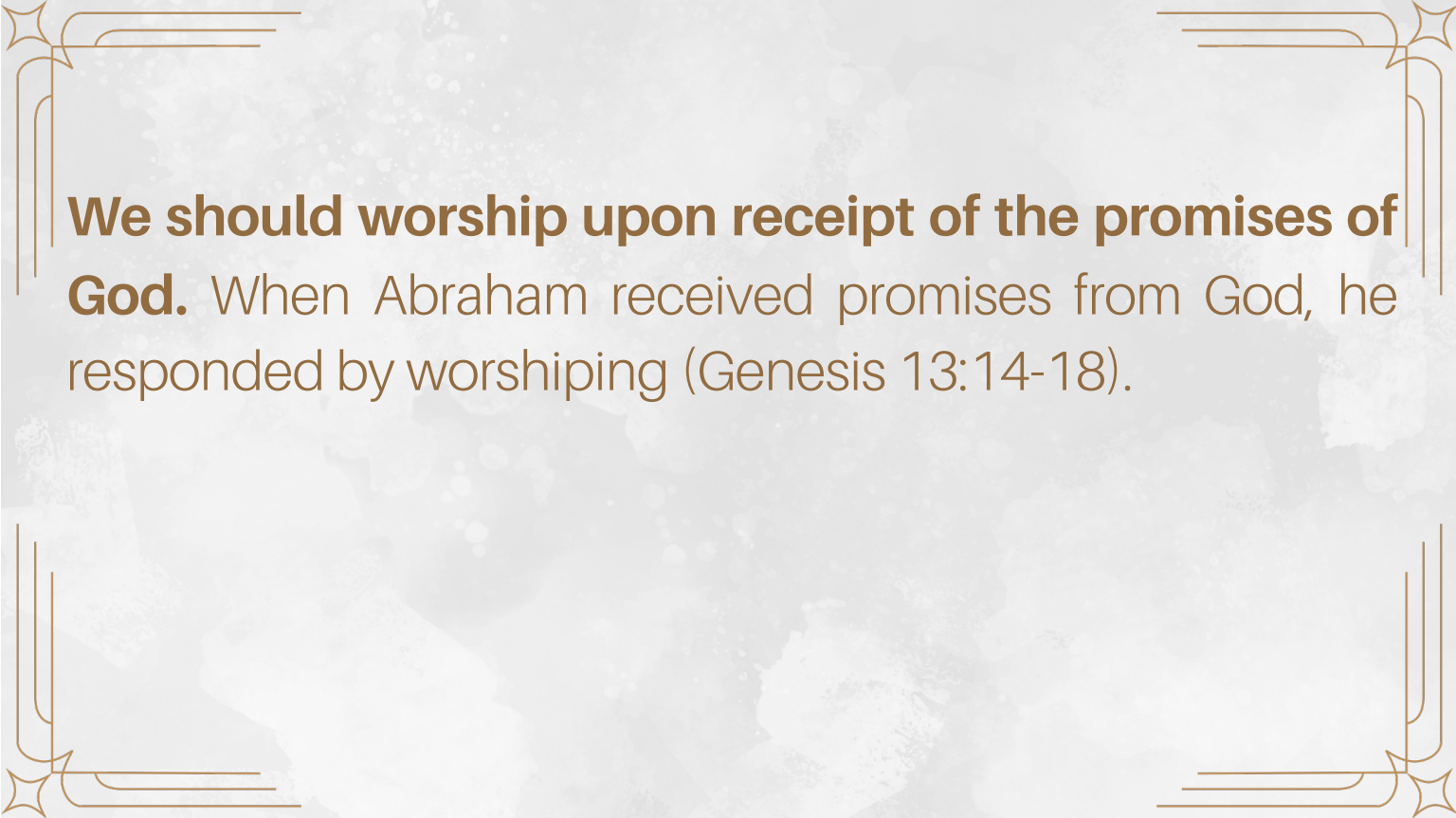


**We should worship daily.** Israel praised the Lord day-by-day (2 Chronicles 30:21). The New Testament church went from house-to-house daily praising God (Acts 2:46-47).





**We should worship after a special manifestation of the Lord.** Read about the special appearance of God to Abraham in Genesis 12 and check out the manifestation of God to Moses in Exodus 34. When God revealed Himself in a special way, people worshipped.

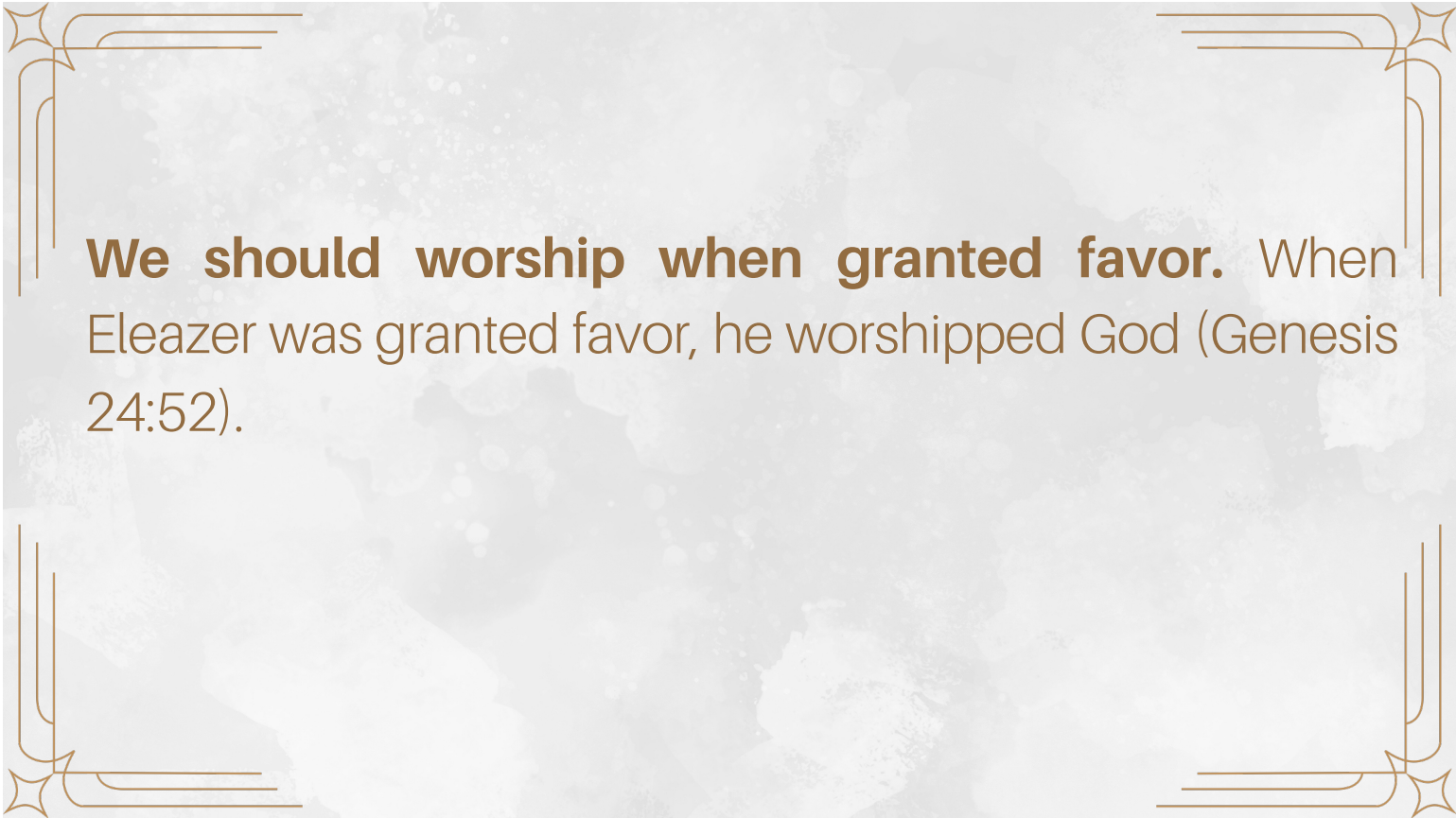


**We should worship upon receipt of the promises of God.** When Abraham received promises from God, he responded by worshiping (Genesis 13:14-18).



**We should worship when God answers our prayers.**

When God answered Eleazer's prayers, he worshipped (Genesis 24:26).



**We should worship when granted favor.** When Eleazer was granted favor, he worshipped God (Genesis 24:52).



**We should worship when we are happy.**

James 5:13 asks: "Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise."

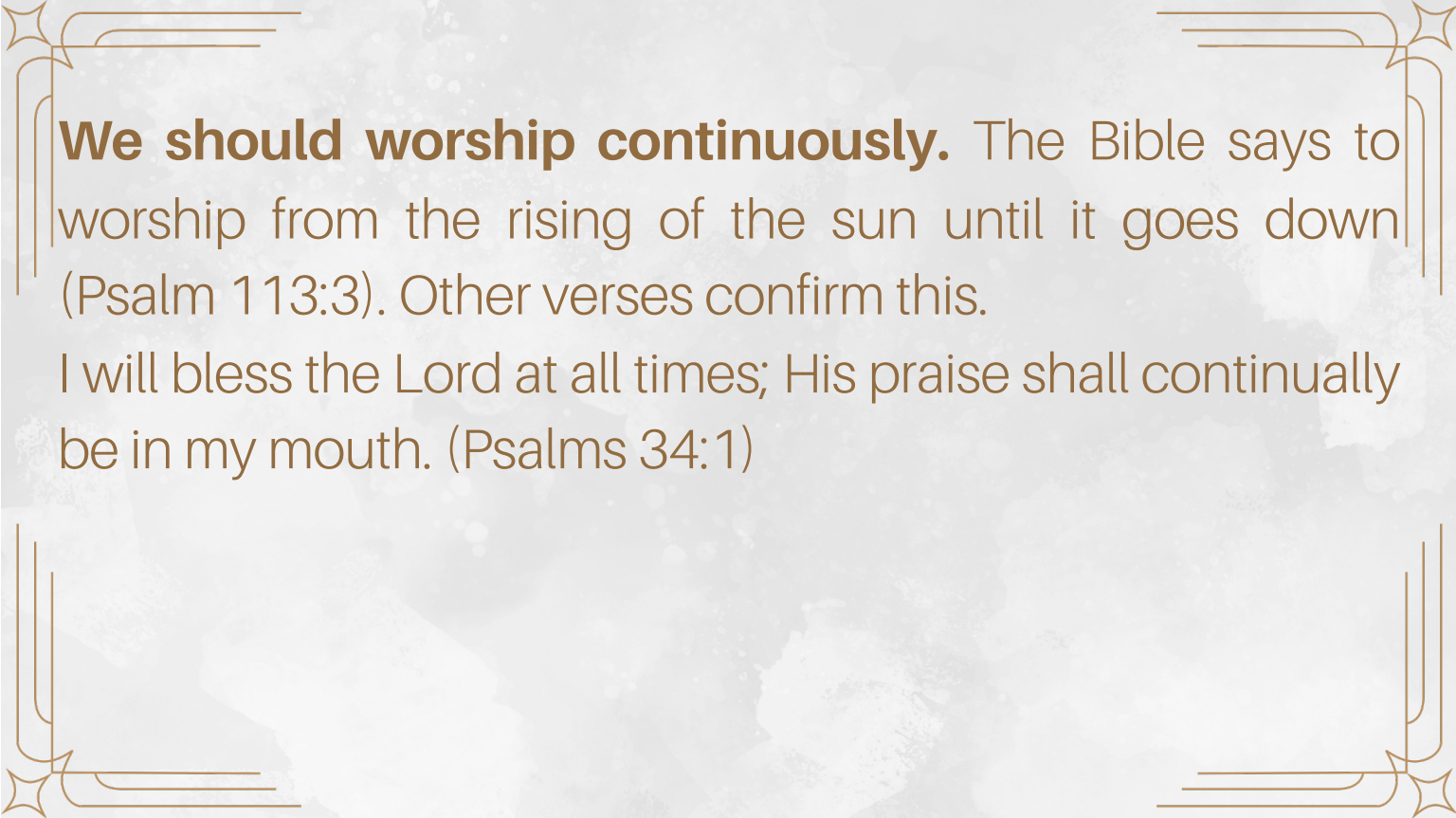
**We should worship when we are in crisis.** David worshipped God before and after the death of his child. This is a true sacrifice of praise. Psalms 27:5 speaks of times of trouble, yet verse 6 speaks of offering "sacrifices of joy" despite the circumstances. David said:  
I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord. (Psalms 116:17)



**We should worship in all we do.** You do this when you do everything for the glory of God. Live a lifestyle of worship:

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

(1 Corinthians 10:31)



**We should worship continuously.** The Bible says to worship from the rising of the sun until it goes down (Psalm 113:3). Other verses confirm this.

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. (Psalms 34:1)



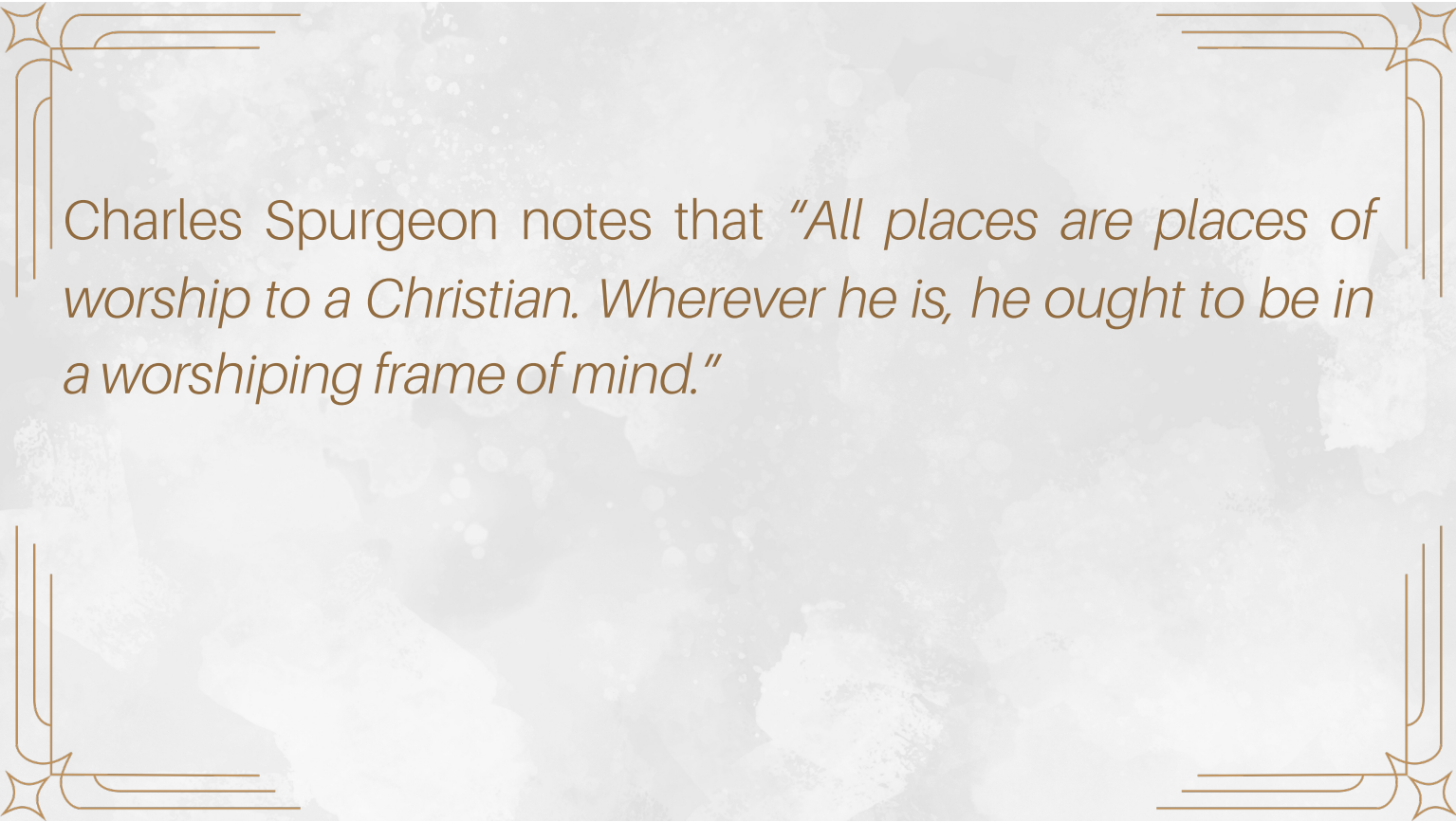


**We should worship forever.** The psalmist declared, "I will praise thee forever" (Psalms 52:9).

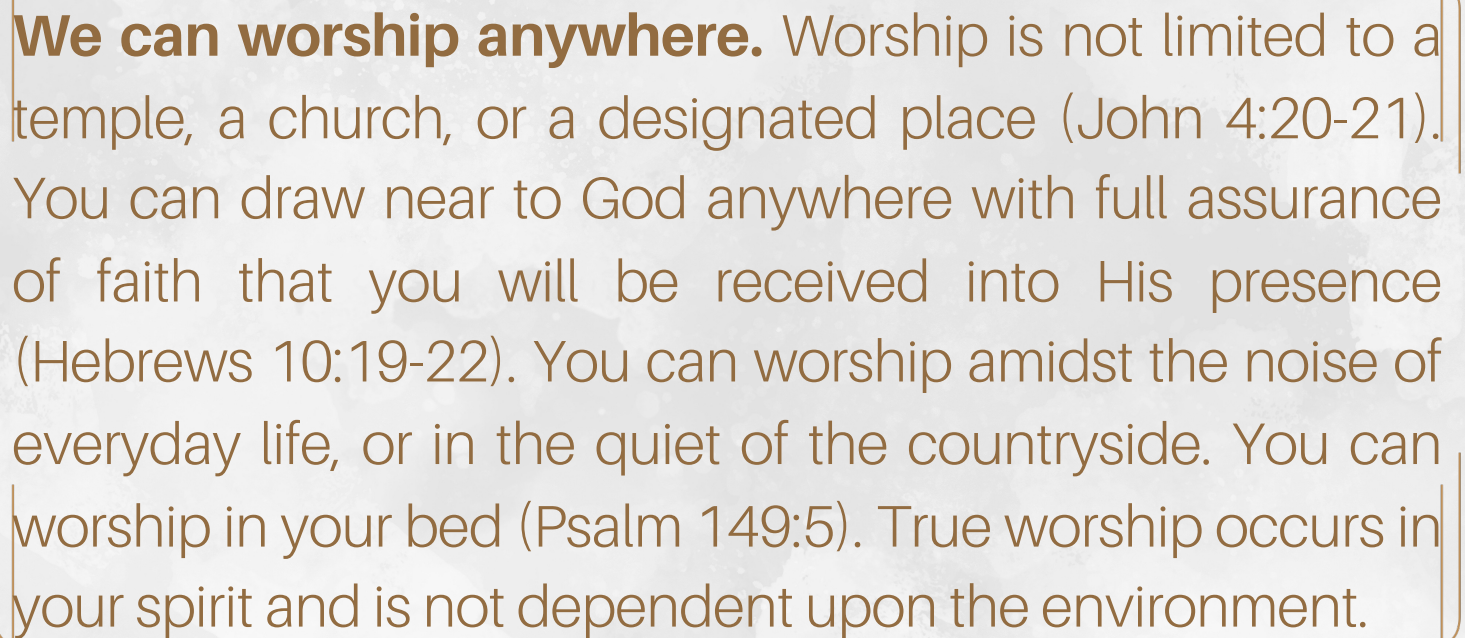


# Where to Worship.





Charles Spurgeon notes that *“All places are places of worship to a Christian. Wherever he is, he ought to be in a worshiping frame of mind.”*



**We can worship anywhere.** Worship is not limited to a temple, a church, or a designated place (John 4:20-21). You can draw near to God anywhere with full assurance of faith that you will be received into His presence (Hebrews 10:19-22). You can worship amidst the noise of everyday life, or in the quiet of the countryside. You can worship in your bed (Psalm 149:5). True worship occurs in your spirit and is not dependent upon the environment.



**We should worship corporately.**

I will declare thy name unto my brethren; in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. (Psalms 22:22)

I will give thee thanks in the great congregation; I will praise thee among much people. (Psalms 35:18)



**We should worship privately.**

Let the saints be joyful in the glory and beauty (which God confers upon them); let them sing for joy upon their beds. (Psalms 149:5, TAB)

**We should worship before unbelievers.**

And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God; many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord. (Psalms 40:3)

Sing unto the Lord, bless His name, shew forth His salvation from day to day.

Declare His glory among the heathen, His wonders among all people.

(Psalms 96:2-3)

**We should worship before the nations of the world.**

I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people; I will sing praises unto thee among the nations. (Psalms 108:3)

Declare His glory among the heathen, His wonders among all people.

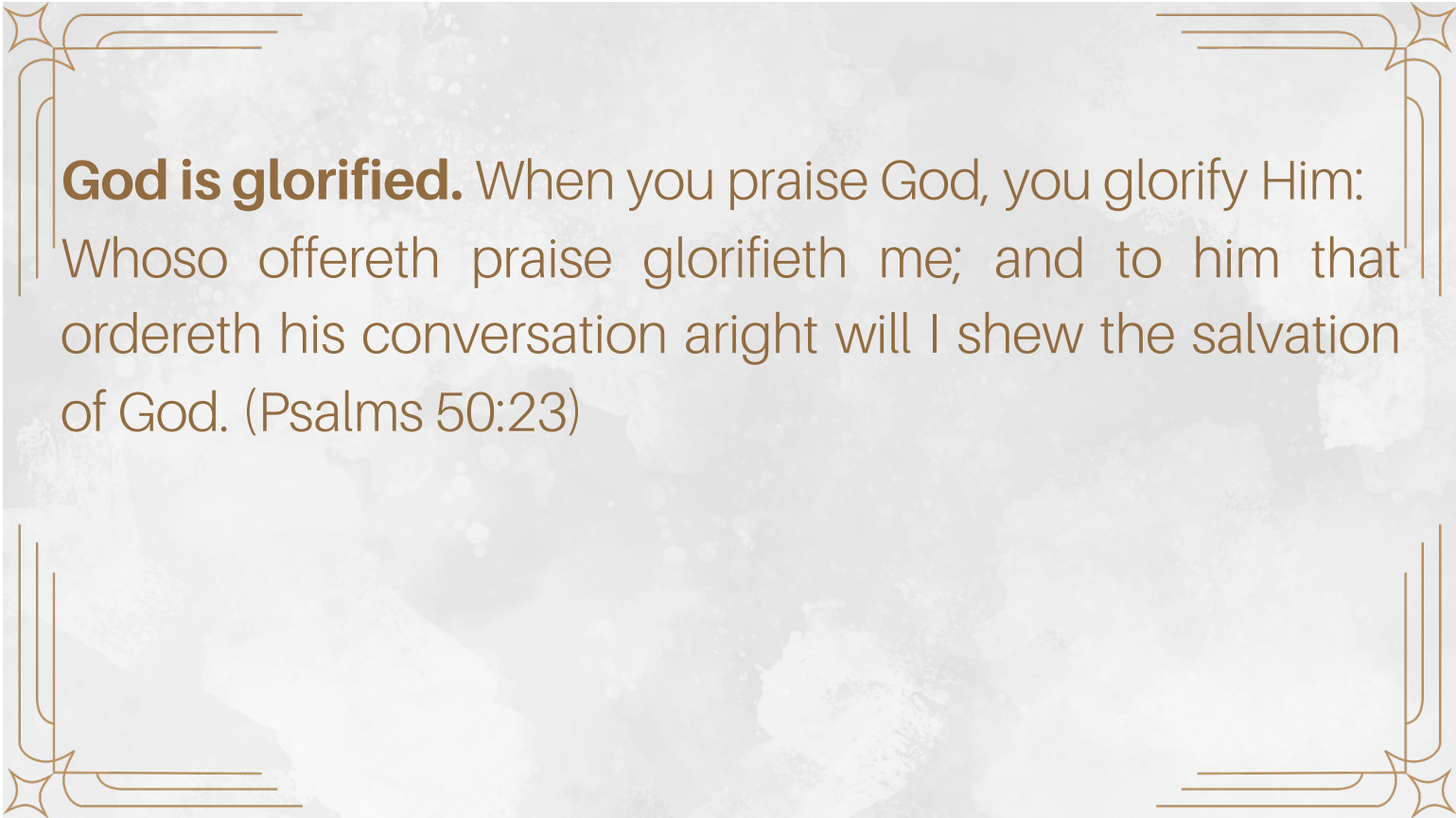
(Psalms 96:1-3)





THE RESULTS OF  
WORSHIP





**God is glorified.** When you praise God, you glorify Him:  
Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me; and to him that  
ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation  
of God. (Psalms 50:23)

**Worshippers are recognized.** Seekers are received into the presence of God:

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. (Psalms 100:4)

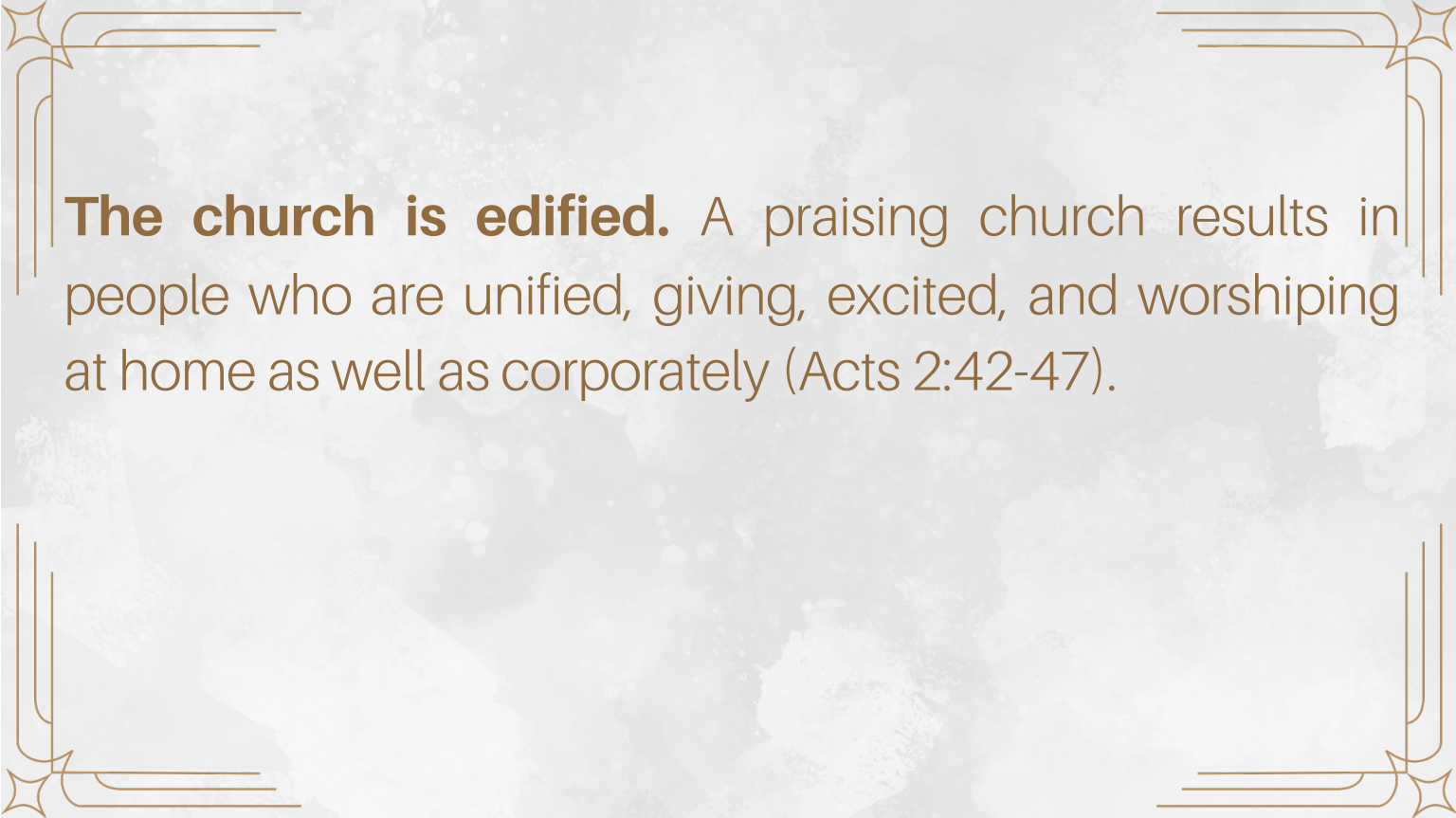
But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (John 4:23)

**Believers are purified.** When you come into the presence of God through worship, you are purified:


As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so is a man to praise. (Proverbs 27:21)

As you worship, the impurities of your life are separated from the precious things and rise to the surface so you can get them taken care of at the cross. When you spend time in His presence, you are changed:


- Moses reflected the glory of God upon His countenance.
- People noticed that the disciples had been with God.
- Isaiah, a man of unclean lips, was purged by the fire of God.




**The church is edified.** A praising church results in people who are unified, giving, excited, and worshiping at home as well as corporately (Acts 2:42-47).



**The lost are evangelized.** Acts 2:47 records that as Believers worshipped, others were added to the Church. When you worship biblically in spirit and in truth, unbelievers coming into your midst are drawn to God.



# Biblical Definitions



**Todah:** To lift or extend your hand, adore, offer a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

This word indicates a conscious choice that takes you beyond your feelings and causes you to praise God no matter what your circumstances.

**Yadah:** To hold out the hand, to make an action like throwing, to worship with extended hands. This is a dimension of praise where you begin to take control over your body and your mind.

**Halal:** To praise, rave about, boast about, and to be clamorously foolish in adoration of God.

**Shabach:** To address in a loud voice, with a voice of triumph



**Zamar:** To play a musical instrument, to celebrate in song and music.

**Shachah or hishahawah:** This word means to prostrate, bow, or fall down flat in reverence. Shachah is used most frequently for worship in the Old Testament.

**Barak:** To kneel or bow in reverence to God.

**Tehillah:** To sing a new song, a spontaneous hymn of praise that glorifies God.



## The following Greek words for worship are used in the New Testament.

**Proskyneo:** This word refers to paying homage, kneeling or being prostrate to honor the Lord. It is the most frequently used word for worship in the New Testament, appearing some 54 times.

**Sebo:** This word appears ten times in the New Testament and means “to revere, to worship”.

**Eusebeo:** This word appears only once in the New Testament in Acts 17:23. It means to “act reverently towards God, one’s country, magistrates, relationship, and all of those to whom reverence is due.”

**Latreuo:** This word appears 21 times in the New Testament. It means to “render religious service, to worship, to perform sacred service, offer gifts.”

**Pipto:** This word appears only in Matthew 4:9 and Revelation 4:10. It means “to descend from an erect position to a prostrate position, to fall down, and to prostrate one’s self.”

Here are some words related  
to worship in Scripture:



**Thanksgiving:** To give thanks means to acknowledge, express gratitude, celebrate, and confess. The psalmist exhorts us to come into God's presence and enter His gates with thanksgiving (Psalms 95:2; 100:4). He also exhorts us to sing to the Lord with thanksgiving (Psalms 147:7) and offer sacrifices of thanksgiving (Psalms 107:22).

**Praise:** Praise means commendation. It is preoccupied with who God is and what He has done, His acts in behalf of His people. The Bible describes praise occurring in many ways. One of these is to "twitch or twang" as you do a stringed instrument. Praise includes singing psalms of praise, confessing, blessing, celebrating, boasting about, shouting, and jubilation. Actually the word "praise" has eight different meanings. Two meanings are very interesting. They are to "release before the Lord" and to be "clamorously foolish."



**Glorify:** To give honor to, admiration rank, beauty.

**Honor:** To exalt, show preference.

**Magnify:** To ascribe greatness.



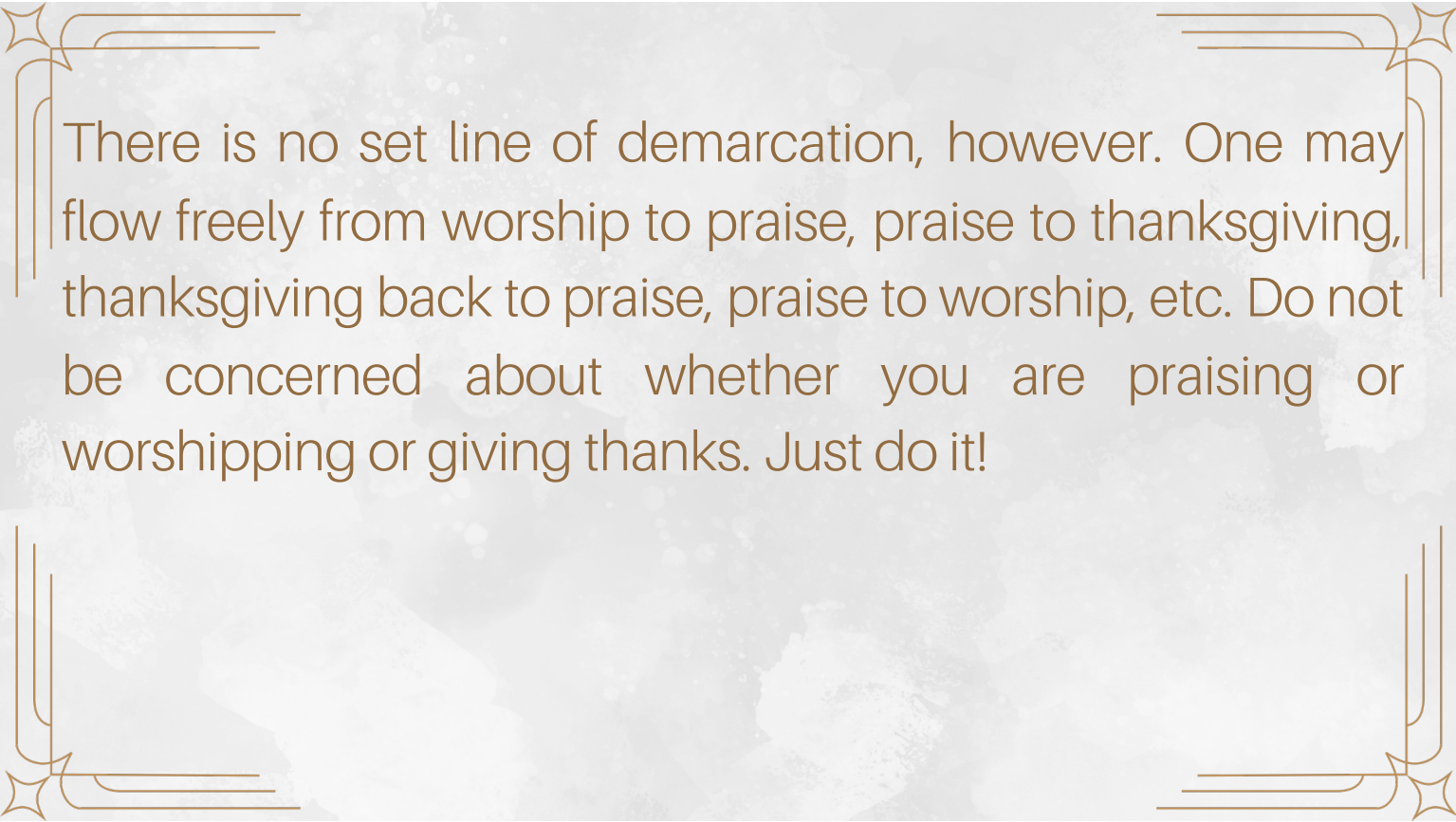
**Thanksgiving** focuses on what God has done for you.

**Praise** focuses on God, who He is, and His works.

**Worship** is your ministry of love and adoration of God, reflecting on His worth.

Just as there was a prescribed way to enter the Old Testament tabernacle, there is a proper way to enter God's presence. You "enter His gates with thanksgiving and come into His courts with praise." You move towards the destination of His presence by thanksgiving and praise. As you praise, you build a spiritual place for God to come down and inhabit so you can worship Him in spirit and truth: "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel" (Psalm 22:3).





There is no set line of demarcation, however. One may flow freely from worship to praise, praise to thanksgiving, thanksgiving back to praise, praise to worship, etc. Do not be concerned about whether you are praising or worshipping or giving thanks. Just do it!



# Expanded Definitions



"Worship is when the mind apprehends great truths about God, and the heart kicks in with deep feelings of brokenness or wonder and gladness and admiration and gratitude, and the mouth says something like, 'Blessed be God! O blessed and praised and honored and glorified be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.' ...Strong affections for God, rooted in and shaped by the truth of Scripture - this is the bone and marrow of biblical worship...Worship is a way of gladly reflecting back to God the radiance of His worth. This cannot be done by mere acts of duty. It can be done only when spontaneous affections arise in the heart." *John Piper*

"Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose--and all of this is gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable and therefore the chief remedy for that self-centeredness which is our original sin and the source of all actual sin." *Dr. William Temple*