

God Seeks to Be Worshiped Through Giving
(John 4:23-24)

Introduction:

1. According to John 4:23, God seeks "true worshippers" to worship Him.
2. True worshipers as those who worship the Father *"in spirit and in truth."*
3. In this lesson we are concentrating on passages which show that "true worship includes giving."
4. The first point we need to make is that . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE NEW TESTAMENT AUTHORIZES CHRISTIANS TO GIVE IN WORSHIP
 - A. This is where we need to begin because we are to only say and do those things that Christ has authorized in His Word (Colossians 3:17, 16a).
 - B. The Scriptures teach that the church is to participate in a number of activities that require financial support, including:
 1. helping the needy (Acts 20:35)
 2. supporting those who preach (1 Corinthians 9:14)
 3. sending preachers to other areas (Romans 10:14-15a).
 - C. In 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, God has given a plan for collecting funds so these activities can be supported.
 - D. The New Testament clearly teaches Christians to give in worship.
 - E. Since this is the case, we must give *"in spirit and in truth."*
 - F. Let us consider several . . .
- II. PRINCIPLES THAT RELATE TO GIVING *"IN TRUTH"* [according to God's revealed will in the New Testament]
 - A. When: We are to give *"upon the first day of the week"* (1 Corinthians 16:2).
 - B. Who: *"Every [each] one of you"* is to give (1 Corinthians 16:2).
 1. Everyone who prospers is to give.
 2. When everyone gives, no one is burdened (2 Corinthians 8:12-15).
 - C. How: Each Christian is to give:
 1. *"as God hath prospered him"* (1 Corinthians 16:2)
 2. *"bountifully"* (2 Corinthians 9:6).
 - a. Our giving is a reflection of our appreciation for God's blessings.
 - b. Presenting a gift to the Lord involves a sacrifice (2 Samuel 24:24).
 - D. Let us turn our attention to several . . .
- III. PRINCIPLES THAT RELATE TO GIVING *"IN SPIRIT"* [from the heart, sincerely, having the proper disposition]
 - A. Each Christian is to give *"as he purposeth in his heart"* (2 Corinthians 9:7a).
 1. This involves forethought and planning in our budgets.
 2. We are to purpose in our hearts and give accordingly.
 - B. To give in spirit, we must avoid:
 1. giving *"grudgingly or of necessity"* (2 Corinthians 9:7b)
 2. making a show before men (Matthew 6:1-4).
 - C. Giving in spirit involves:
 1. giving cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7c)
 2. giving with love (1 Corinthians 13:3).

Conclusion:

1. When we give as the Bible teaches,:
 - a. God is well pleased (Hebrews 13:16)
 - b. God will bless us in return (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).
2. The key to sacrificial giving is giving yourself to the Lord (2 Corinthians 8:5).
3. If you have not given yourself to the Lord, do so today.