

FROM THE 2018 NEW YEARS RETREAT

# HEALING THROUGH WORSHIP

LECTURE 2

REV. IN KEE KIM

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# TRUE WORSHIP IS TO ENCOUNTER THE DIVINE

Without sensing the divine presence, meaningful worship is not possible.

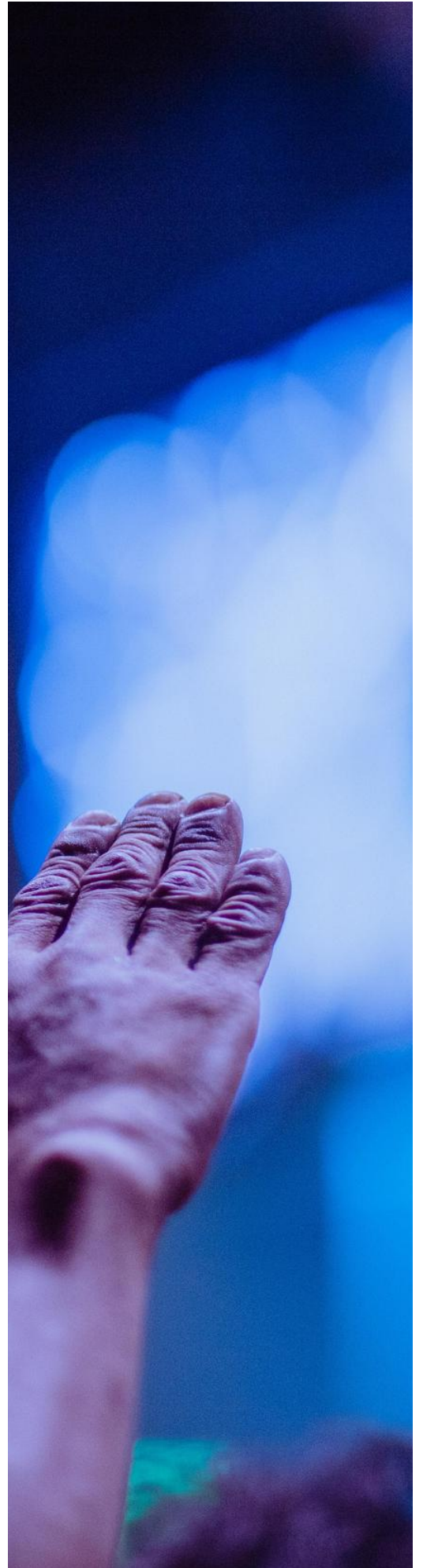
We have to believe **that God is with us** when we worship God.

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"FOR WHERE TWO OR  
THREE ARE GATHERED IN  
MY NAME, I AM THERE  
AMONG THEM"

(Matthew 18:20)

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# ISAIAH 6:1-8

**6** In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

**And I said:** "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

**Then** one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out."

**Then** I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

**And I said,**  
"Here am I; send me!"

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Let us break down what is happening in this passage. Verses 1-4 are a description of **God's presence**. In worship, we **encounter our true self**. In this passage, Isaiah realizes this,

saying “I am a man of unclean lips”. But encountering our true self is not the end of it.

**There is also healing.** Verses 5-8 of this passage is what happens to us during worship. In the passage, seraphs touched the unclean lips with a live coal. This healing is what happens to us during worship. Following this, there was a declaration of the healing: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out”. After he was healed, his ears were opened and he was able to hear the voice of the Lord saying, “whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” (Isaiah 6:8). Finally, the last stage of the passage is **praise**: “Here am I; send me! (Isaiah 6:8b). This is praise: “Here I am Lord”. That is what’s happening during worship: God's presence, encountering ourselves, healing and worship.

True worship lets us see who we are. True worship brings change and healing and sends us into the world.



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# TRUE WORSHIP BRINGS ABOUT CHANGE

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We don't worship God to experience this change. Change is the result or the by-product when we purely worship only God. The important thing is to **meet the Living God**.

William Temple, who was the archbishop of Canterbury beautifully described worship:

“(Worship) is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by God’s holiness; the nourishment of the mind with God’s truth; the purifying of imagination by God’s beauty; the opening of the heart to God’s love; the surrender of will to God’s purpose – and all of this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable.”

- William Temple, the archbishop of Canterbury

All these things happen in true worship. Our conscience is restored. Our mind and imagination get enriched. Our hearts are opened. Our will gets sanctified and strengthened. Worship is not for us, but as a result of true meaningful worship, worship becomes for us. We get tremendous benefits.





Let us look at

## **Romans 12: 1, 2**

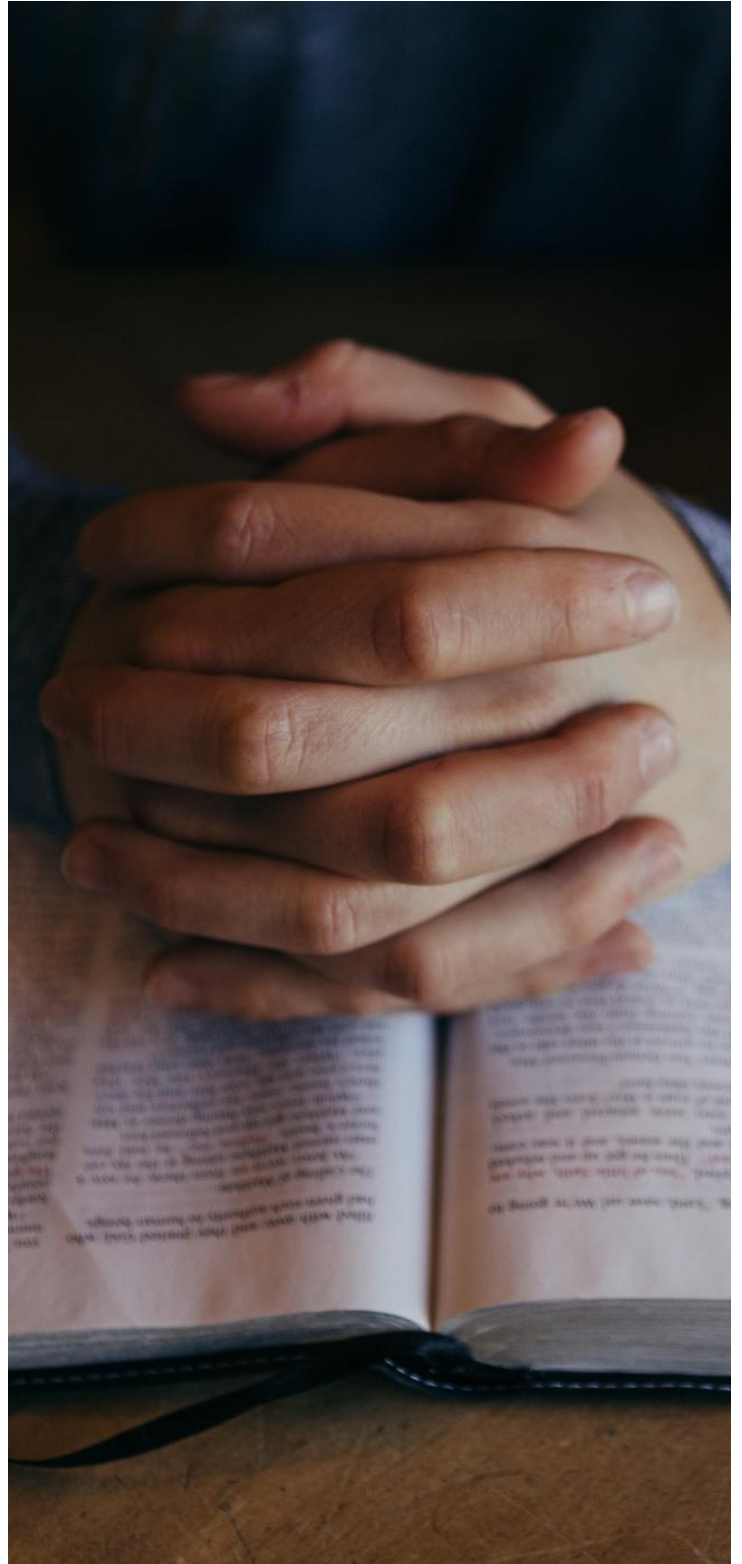
V. 1: I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

V. 2: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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Here, verse 2 is the result of verse 1. Verse two will come naturally when verse one is done well. When we present ourselves to God, transformation follows as a result.

We will have the power and wisdom to not be conformed to this world. We will be able to discern what is the will of God- good and acceptable and perfect.



# Worship Gives Us Power

Worship gives us tremendous power to go through the challenges of life. Don't underestimate what true worship can do to your life. There may not be a visible change, but there is an invisible change that happens over a long period of time.

In worship, we are transported into a higher reality. **The reality of glory.** The reality you experience in worship is different from the reality you experience every day. You may call it spiritual reality or exalted reality. In that reality, you experience **freedom**.

This is what St. Paul said:

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:17, 18)

## DISCUSSION

- a. Read this passage 3 times.
- b. Discuss what this passage tells us about what is going on in worship.

## OUR THEME PASSAGE

“21 Jesus said to her, Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

(John 4:21-24)



This is our theme passage. The Samaritan woman met Jesus and in the course of a dialogue with Jesus, she was transported into a higher reality. The first question she asked was 'Where should we worship?'. This question showed that the desire to worship arose in her.

The Samaritans and the Jews had bad history together and there was a lot of political tension between the two groups. As we discussed in the first lecture, the Jerusalem temple was at the centre of existence for the Israelites. Places were sacred. The locus of worship, the mountain, temple, or Jerusalem was like the heart of spirit and truth.

We should not focus on the place of worship but what's happening during worship. The passage says that the Father seeks those who "worship the Father in spirit and truth". When this happens, you experience the deepest reality.



*Worship in  
spirit and truth*

JOHN 4: 24

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# GOD'S SPIRIT

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God is Spirit and therefore we have to worship God in spirit. Worship is not a physical activity. Worship is our spirit meeting God's spirit. Worship is that spiritual encounter. God's spirit may be invisible but it is there when we worship.

Martin Martyr said, "Worship is pointless but significant.". What he meant was that the physical activity of worship is pointless but the spiritual encounter is significant. Your spirit meeting God's spirit is what is important.

When our spirit meets God's spirit, we don't know what will happen. The Bible says, "The Lord is the Spirit and where

the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3:17). Worship is a **mystery**. I am not talking about ecstasy. The Spirit leads us where the Spirit wills. Therefore in worship, there should be **surrender**.

I would like to introduce the prayer of Ambrose. He was the bishop of Milan when St. Augustine was converted there.

"O God, teach me to seek You, and reveal Yourself to me when I seek You. For I cannot see You unless You first teach me, nor find You unless You first reveal Yourself to me. Let me see You in longing, and long for you in seeking. Let me find You in love and love You in finding." (Ambrose of Milan, 339-397 AD)

Our spirit meeting God's spirit is only possible by seeking. In total surrender, when we seek God, we will be able to meet God's spirit.

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But if God doesn't reveal Himself to us, no matter how much we seek we will not find Him. There is no use. Thankfully, God reveals Himself us to us. He loves to do that.

This is what God said, "When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me."  
(Jeremiah 29:13)

You cannot worship God if you do not have a seeking heart. Our worship will become empty physical activity. This is why Martin Martyr said "Worship is pointless but significant." At the most, it would be just an emotional experience if you are not seeking God. What matters is your heart.

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## REVELATION AND RESPONSE

There are two 'R's in worship:  
**Revelation and Response.**

God reveals Himself and His will through His words. When there is true understanding, our spirit meets God's Spirit. Listening to God's word is a spiritual thing, not a physical thing. That's why Jesus said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" (Mark 4:23)



Let us hear what St. Paul has to say on this:

“9 But, as it is written,

What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,


what God has prepared for those who love him’—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. 13 And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. 14 Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are discerned spiritually. 15 Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else’s scrutiny. 16 ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 2:9-16)

## DISCUSSION

1 What does Paul say about the Revelation?

2 What does this say about our attitudes towards listening to sermons and reading and studying the Word of God?



# WORSHIP BRINGS TRANSFORMATION

The Word of God can bring **true transformation**. The Word of God should not remain in your brain. The Word of God should enter into your soul, into the depths of your heart.

*"12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12 NIV)*

So true worship can bring about transformation. To worship in Spirit and Truth is one flow, Spirit and Truth are connected. Truth leads us into the light. In the light, our spirit meets God's Spirit. When that happens, God's holiness changes us. We are reformed in God's image and we are sent into the world.




*"9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 10' Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. 11The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. 12I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." 13But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" 14I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'" (Luke 18:9-14)*

What is the difference between the Pharisee and the tax collector? The pharisee didn't meet God, he met himself. He didn't come into the light and was not exposed. His spirit didn't meet God's Spirit. This was because of his attitude of entitlement.

"The result of true worship will be that God will change us, transform us, fashion our character after God's holiness – but only if we worship God and not ourselves, if we attend worship services for the love of God." (Marva J. Dawn, Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down)





This year's theme is Healing Through Worship. I pray that our worship may be restored and be worship that pleases God. Then the healing, change, and transformation will happen both individually and collectively.

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God seeks those who  
worship him.

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him." (John 4:23)