**Worship: What is it and why does it matter? — Part 2**

1. Worship Terminology in the Old Testament
   1. To bow down, pay homage, worship [*proskyneō* (προσκυνέω) / hištahwa הִשְׁתַּחֲוָה))]
      1. Directed toward dignitaries, kings, or a superior
         1. Sometimes as a greeting to a superior (Gen. 18:2; Ex. 18:7)
         2. Sometimes as an act of submission and expression of inferiority (Gen. 27:29; 33:3; 42:6; Ps. 72:11)
         3. Sometimes as an act of gratitude (2 Kings 4:36-37)
      2. Directed toward God (usually at the temple)
         1. As an act of submission, gratitude, or dependence on God’s promises and character (Gen. 24:26, 48; Ex. 4:31; 12:27; 34:8; Job 1:20)
         2. As an act of thanksgiving for God’s gracious presence and goodness to His people (Deut. 26:1-11; Ps. 138:2; 2 Chr. 7:3)
         3. As an act of praising God for His character and deeds (Ps. 66:3-7; 86:8-10; 99:5)
         4. As an act of grateful submission to God’s authority, Word, and presence (Ps. 95:2-3, 6-7; 99:5; 132:7; Ps. 138:2; Neh. 8:5-6; 9:3)
         5. As an act of fearful reverence and awe (Ps. 5:7; 96:9)
      3. Directed toward idols (Lev. 26:1; Deut. 4:19)
   2. To serve, minister [*latreuo* (λατρεύω) / ‘*abad* (עבד)]

*“The language of service implies that God is a great king, who requires faithfulness and obedience from those who belong to him. Israel’s service in a cultic way (the temple rituals) was to be understood as a particular expression of the total allegiance due to the LORD, who had set them free from slavery in Egypt to serve him exclusively.” (David Peterson)*

* + 1. Directed toward God
       1. Service as the goal of salvation (Ex. 4:23, etc.)
       2. Service through a lifestyle of total obedience and devotion (Ex. 20:1-17; Deut. 10:12)
       3. Service as a joyful and grateful response of devotion (Deut. 28:48; Ps. 100:2)
       4. Service as ministerial priestly service (e.g. Ex. 28:35; 39:1; 1 Sam. 2:11)
    2. Directed toward idols (Deut. 4:19; 8:19; 11:16; etc.)
  1. Worshipping-Service [*proskyneō* (προσκυνέω) with *latreuo* (λατρεύω)]
     1. Toward Idols (Ex. 20:5; 23:24; Deut. 4:19; 5:9; etc.)
     2. Toward the Davidic King (Ps. 72:11)
     3. Toward God (Deut. 6:13; Matt. 4:10)

*“Bowing down to God in the OT, however, is ideally an expression of one’s desire to ‘serve’ him. It is therefore necessary to recognize that, from a scriptural point of view, worship involves specific acts of adoration and submission as well as a lifestyle of obedient service.” (David Peterson)*

**Implications**

1. True worship requires an inward posture of grateful and fearful submission and dependence directed to God for His authority, presence, and goodness.
   1. This inward posture makes itself visible in external acts of worship (in the OT at the Temple, with sacrifice, etc.).
   2. But without this inward posture, any worship activities were empty.
2. True worship involves a lifestyle of total devotion and service to God:
   1. Based on the reality that we belong to Him as His rightful possession (because of creation and redemption).
   2. Expressed in careful and joyful obedience to His commandments.