

## Five Essentials for Christian Growth – 3: Worship in Spirit and Truth

**Text:** John 4:23–24

**Theme:** Worship is serious business—God commands us to worship Him in spirit and truth.

### Introduction

- **Opening Scripture:** Leviticus 10:1–3
- **Key Idea:** Worship is not casual; it’s an audience with the King of kings.
- **Illustration:** Nadab and Abihu offered unauthorized fire and were consumed by God’s judgment.
- **Transition:** How then should we worship?

### I. Worship Is Regulated by God

- **Scripture:**
  - Exodus 20:3 – *“You shall have no other gods before Me.”*
  - Exodus 20:4 – *“You shall not make for yourself a carved image.”*
  - Romans 1:21–23 – Humanity exchanges truth for a lie and worships the creature.
- **Illustration:** Meeting a king—protocol matters.
- **Principle:** Worship must follow God’s commands, not human preference.

### II. Worship Must Be in Spirit and Truth

- **Scripture:**
  - John 4:23–24 – *“True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.”*
  - Isaiah 29:13 – *“These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.”*
  - John 14:6 – *“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”*
- **Illustration:** Groom texting during vows—physically present, emotionally absent.
- **Principle:** Engage heart and mind; worship grounded in truth.

### III. Prepare to Meet God

- **Scripture:**
  - Exodus 19:10–11 – God commands Israel to consecrate and wash before meeting Him.
  - Exodus 19:16–18 – Thunder, lightning, smoke—Israel trembled before God.
- **Illustration:** Meeting a world leader—preparation matters.
- **Principle:** Prepare hearts through prayer and Scripture before worship.

#### IV. Practical Guidelines for Worship

- **Scripture:**
  - Hebrews 10:24–25 – *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together... but exhorting one another.”*
- **Illustration:** Campfire coals—together they burn brightly; alone they grow cold.
- **Principle:** Faithful attendance and mutual encouragement strengthen worship.

#### Conclusion

- **Scripture:** Hebrews 10:19–22 – *“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith...”*
- **Summary:**
  - Worship according to God’s Word.
  - In spirit and truth.
  - With preparation and reverence.
- **Closing Thought:** *“By those who come near Me, I must be regarded as holy.”* (Leviticus 10:3)
- **Closing Prayer:** Ask God for grace to worship Him rightly.

#### Closing Prayer:

“Father, forgive us for the times we’ve treated worship lightly. Teach us to honor You as holy, to delight in Your presence, and to worship You in spirit and truth. May our lives glorify You, now and forever. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”