

THE SUBJECT OF WORSHIP

JOHN 04: 19–24

Introduction

Man's whole concept and approach to worship is changed by Jesus in this passage.

- I The woman was troubled (v. 19-20).
- II Fact 1: the place of worship is not what is important (v. 21).
- III Fact 2: true worship and salvation are from the Jews (through the Messiah Jesus Christ) (v. 22).
- IV Fact 3: true worship is worshipping God in spirit and in truth (vv. 23-24).

I. *John 04:19–20 The Response to Conviction*

The woman was troubled. Jesus had confronted her with her sin (vv. 15-18), and she could either respond or react. She could have reacted by...

- being angry
- arguing
- ignoring
- neglecting
- counting it as foolishness

However, she did not react. Instead, she was stirred and convicted, and she sensed two things.

1. She sensed that Jesus was a prophet, a man who was in touch with God; therefore, Jesus was a man who could help her.
2. She sensed her sin and the need to take care of her sin, to truly worship God. But where was she to worship? There was a dispute about where God's presence really was, a dispute about where a person could truly meet God. The Samaritans said that God's presence was in Mount Gerizim; the Jews said He dwelt in Jerusalem.

Standing before her was the prophet who wrought the piercing conviction in her that she was to worship. He was a prophet; therefore, He could help and direct her, so she asked Him where to worship. Where could she find help from God?

Thought 1. The woman was under a powerful conviction. She knew that she had to worship God, to make sacrifice for her sin. When a man is stirred and convicted, he needs to turn to God immediately. If he does not know how to turn to God, he needs to ask a person who is in touch with God.

II. *John 04:21 The Place of Worship*

First, the place of worship is not what is important. Note three things.

1. Note the phrase "a time is coming." Jesus said that *a time* was coming that would change the whole nature of worship. The way men approached God was going to experience a volcanic eruption. Worship of God was going to be radically and completely changed. There was a time, an historical event, coming, that would
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change it. Jesus was, of course, referring to His death and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The place of worship is no longer the temple or any other particular location on earth. God's presence now dwells in the hearts and lives of His people. His people worship Him wherever they are, and they can worship Him every day all day long.

1 Cor 6:19-20 *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.*

John 14:16-17 *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

Rom 8:9-10 *You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.*

1 John 2:27 *As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit — just as it has taught you, remain in him.*

Ezek 36:27 *And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*

2. The place of worship is not what is important. Some do worship in Mount Gerizim and some worship in Jerusalem, but the place is not what is important.
3. What is important is *the object of worship*, being sure one is truly worshipping *the Father, God Himself*. A person may be in the temple worshipping, and yet not be worshipping the Father: "You worship what you do not know" (v. 22). A man's whole being must be focused upon the only true and living God, the Father Himself, to be truly worshipping.

Isa 43:10 *"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me."*

Rom 15:6 *So that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Heb 13:15 *Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that confess his name.*

1 Pet 2:9 *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

III. *John 04:22 True Source of Worship and Salvation: Jesus Christ*

Second, worship and salvation are from the Jews. Note three things.

1. The word *salvation* in the Greek has the definite article (he soteria), “the salvation.” The Messiah, who is the salvation of all men, comes through the Jews, not from any other source.

John 14:6 *Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Acts 4:12 *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”*

1 Tim 2:5-6 *For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men — the testimony given in its proper time.*

Heb 8:6 *But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.*

Heb 9:15 *For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.*

Heb 12:24 *To Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.*

1 John 2:1 *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*

2. Jesus said “we.” He identified Himself with the Jews. He was a fully born Jew; He was not of another nationality, nor was He a mixture of bloods.
3. Salvation is from the Jews. All other worship is an expression of man’s own ideas, no matter how rational and highly esteemed and followed: “You worship what you do not know.” (see *Israel, God’s Special People*, John 4:22)
 - a. Men are ignorant of God Himself, of the only living and true God.

Mat 13:15 *For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’*

Acts 17:23 *For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: To an Unknown God. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.*

Rom 1:20-23 *For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from*

what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Rom 1:28 *Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.*

Rom 10:3 *Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.*

Eph 4:18 *They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.*

2 Pet 3:5 *But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water.*

2 Tim 3:7 *Always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.*

Job 21:14 *Yet they say to God, 'Leave us alone! We have no desire to know your ways.'*

Jer 4:22 *"My people are fools; they do not know me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good."*

Jer 5:4 *I thought, "These are only the poor; they are foolish, for they do not know the way of the Lord, the requirements of their God."*

Jer 8:7 *Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do not know the requirements of the Lord.*

Jer 9:3 *"They make ready their tongue like a bow, to shoot lies; it is not by truth that they triumph in the land. They go from one sin to another; they do not acknowledge me," declares the Lord.*

Amos 3:10 *"They do not know how to do right," declares the Lord, "who hoard plunder and loot in their fortresses."*

Micah 4:12 *But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord; they do not understand his plan, he who gathers them like sheaves to the threshing floor.*

Zec 7:11-12 *"But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and stopped up their ears. They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the Lord Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the Lord Almighty was very angry."*

b. Men are ignorant of Christ, the Son of God.

John 1:10 *He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.*

John 4:10 *Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."*

John 9:30 *The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes."*

John 8:19 *Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also."*

John 14:9 *Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

John 16:3 *"They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me."*

Acts 13:27 *The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath.*

1 John 3:6 *No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.*

JOHN 04:22 ISRAEL, GOD'S SPECIAL PEOPLE

*"You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews." **John 04:22***

Why did Jesus Christ come to the Jewish nation and come to earth as a Jew? Very simply stated, the Jews were God's special people. They had been born by a special act of God. It all started long, long ago. God had wanted four things.

1. He wanted a people who would love Him supremely and give Him their first loyalty. (See Gen. 17:7; Isa. 43:10.)
2. He wanted a people who would witness to all other nations that He and He alone was the one true and living God. (See Gen. 12:3; 22:18; Acts 13:26, 47.)
3. He wanted a people through whom He could send the promised Seed, the Saviour and Messiah, Jesus Christ, to all men everywhere. (See Gen. 3:15; 17:7; 22:18; Gal. 3:16; Jn. 4:22.)
4. He wanted a people through whom He could send His written Word, the Holy Bible, and preserve it for all generations. (Rom. 9:4-5; 1 Pet. 2:10-12.)

In searching the earth for such a people, God could find none (Rom. 1:18-32). God could do only one thing. He had to find one man and through him raise a new people, a new nation.

1. God found and chose Abraham and through him established the Jewish nation. (Gen. 12:1-5; 13:14-17; 15:1-7; 17:1-8, 15-19; 22:16-18; 26:2-5, 24; 28:13-15; 31:13; 35:9-12.) God chose one man and challenged him to worship God supremely.

If that man would worship God supremely, then God would cause a special people to be born of his seed. That man was Abraham. Abraham was the first Jew (Gen. 12:1-4; Gal. 3:16). In the Old Testament the Jews and their land (Palestine) were continually pointed to as the very special people and land of God. They were called...

- => God's treasured possession (Exo. 19:5; Deu. 7:6; 14:2; 26:18; Psa. 135:4).
- => the Lord's portion (Deu. 32:9).
- => the Lord's land (Lev. 25:23; Jer. 2:7; 16:18; Hos. 9:3).
- => the holy land (Zec. 2:12).

However, the Jewish nation failed to obey God supremely. The whole plot of the Old Testament centres around God's pleading and dealing with the Jews. Again and again, He gave the nation the opportunity to obey Him. He dealt with them in mercy and in judgment, but at every turn they refused to heed His pleading.

2. God chose the family of David. (see *Jesus Christ, King of Israel*, Jn 1:49). God had no choice but to make another move, so He chose one faithful family within the Jewish nation and gave to that family one great promise. The family was that of King David, and the promise was that of the Messiah, God's great King, God's very own Son. God's Son was to come through the line of David and establish an eternal nation of people who would love God supremely. However, the Jewish nation again failed God. They misinterpreted God's Word — the prophecies of His coming.
 - a. The Jews misinterpreted God's Word by saying the seed of Abraham included only the Jewish nation. In their minds, God had no children except the children of the Jewish nation. The Bible says explicitly that the seed of Abraham is Christ, and the special people of God are those individuals within all nations who worship God supremely (Gal. 3:16).
 - b. The Jews misinterpreted God's Word by saying that the eternal kingdom promised to David was the Jewish nation and the Jewish nation only. They expected Israel to be established as an earthly nation forever and all other nations to be subservient to Israel. But again, God's promise was not that narrow, nor was it that prejudiced. The Bible says there is not, and never has been, any respect of persons with God (Deu. 10:17; 2 Chr. 19:7; Job. 34:19; Acts 10:34; Rom. 2:11; Gal. 2:6; Eph. 6:9; Col. 3:25; 1 Pet. 1:17). God did say that Christ was to come from the Davidic line, but He also said that He was going to establish an eternal nation made up of people everywhere who would love God supremely (Rom. 2:28-29).

By misinterpreting God's promises, the Jews failed to be the missionaries to the world that God had chosen them to be. They became earthly bound and materialistic minded. They twisted the idea of the promised Messiah to fit their own schemes. They conceived of Him as One who was to establish an earthly kingdom for the Jewish nation alone. They failed to see that God was speaking...

- of an eternal kingdom of righteousness.
 - of a kingdom that is of another dimension entirely — the spiritual dimension.
 - of a new heaven and a new earth that would give each person an eternal life beyond just one earthly generation.
3. God had no choice but to make a third move. This He did by sending His own Son into the world through the Jewish nation. God sent Him so that the world through Him might be saved (Jn. 3:16-19). However, man rejected God's Son and crucified Him. This act — the killing of God's Son — was the final blow. When man slew the only Son of God, the whole world was involved. Both Jew and Gentile were represented symbolically in the Jewish religionists and the Roman authorities. They both actually did the plotting, sentencing, and execution. If the world were ever to be saved, it was now perfectly clear that God had to make every move Himself.

This He did once-for-all. In His eternal purpose and plan for man's salvation, God took the sins of all men and laid them upon His Son while He was being slain upon the cross. He allowed His Son to bear the sins of the world (1 Pet. 2:24). Then He took His Son and raised Him from the dead — never to die again. He did what man had always failed to do: in His Son's resurrection God began to build a lasting kingdom of righteousness, a new nation that is presently being made up of men from all earthly nations who desire and are willing to follow Jesus Christ supremely. He is calling out and forming a new people who have genuinely been born again — spiritually. These new born people shall live eternally — beyond just one earthly generation. These people are identified as His church, as a body of people who genuinely believe and follow Him. They are destined to be the inhabitants of the new heavens and earth. Believers become God's new community, new society, new race, new nation of people. They become His church, His new creation — spiritually and supernaturally born again — who comprise the true family of God (Lk. 8:21; Eph. 2:11-18; 4:17-19.)

***Eph 2:18-22** For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

God, acting solely upon His own through the death and resurrection of His Son, has fulfilled His promises to both Abraham and David. All the people of the nations of the world now have the opportunity to become children of God, the special people of God. □

JOHN 01:49 JESUS CHRIST, KING OF ISRAEL

Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are the King of Israel.” John 1:49

Jesus was declared to be the Messianic King. God had given to David and his seed (the Messiah) the promise of eternal government (2 Sam. 7:12; Psa. 39:3f; 132:11).

Note how often Jesus was called the son of David. (Mt. 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9, 15; Act. 2:29-36; Rom. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:8; Rev. 22:16.) It was the common title and popular concept of the Messiah. Generation after generation of Jews had ached and looked for the promised deliverer of Israel. The people expected Him to be a great general who would deliver and restore the nation to its greatness. In fact, they expected Him to make the nation the centre of universal rule. He would, under God, conquer the world and centre the glory and majesty of God Himself in Jerusalem; and from His throne, the throne of David, He would execute *the Messianic fire of judgment* upon the nations and peoples of the world (Mt. 1:18; 3:11; 11:1-6; 11:2-3; 11:5; 11:6; Lk. 7:21). □

IV. *John 04:23–24 The True Worshippers*

Third, true worshippers worship God in spirit and in truth. Note four points.

1. There is a change in worship: “A time is coming and has now come.” Christ changed worship. Before Christ, men worshipped God in special places, for example, in temples and before altars. Since Christ, place and locality mean nothing. Christ has opened the door into God’s presence from any place in the universe.
2. The nature of worship: Man is to worship God in spirit and in truth.
 - a. To worship God in spirit means to worship God...
 - with the *spiritual drive and ability* of one’s soul, seeking the most intimate communion and fellowship with God.
 - with the *spiritual core* of one’s life and being, trusting and resting in God’s acceptance, love and care.
 - b. To worship God in truth means...
 - to approach God in the right or true way. There is only one way, through His Son Jesus Christ.
 - to worship God sincerely and truthfully, not coming half-heartedly with wandering mind and sleepy eyes.
3. The reason for worship. The Father seeks men to worship Him. God desires worship, for He created man to worship him and to have fellowship with Him. Therefore, God seeks men who will worship Him in spirit and truth.

Prov 16:4 *The Lord works out everything for his own ends — even the wicked for a day of disaster.*

Isa 43:7, 10 *“Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” “You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.”*

Rom 8:29 *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the first-born among many brothers.*

Eph 1:4-6 *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.*

1 Pet 2:9 *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

4. There is just one essential thing in worship. It is not the place that is important in worship but how a person worships God. A person must worship God in spirit and in truth. There is no other way. “God is Spirit, and His worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

To worship in spirit means...

- *from* the spiritual drive and depth of the soul
- *from* the spiritual core of one’s life and being

To worship in truth means...

- as God dictates, that is, worship must be in the name of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, in sincerity.

Mat 4:10 *Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”*

Luke 24:52 *Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.*

Heb 10:25 *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Rev 14:7 *He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”*

1 Chr 16:29 *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name. Bring an offering and come before him; worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.*

Psa 95:6 *Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.*

***Psa 29:2** Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.*

***Psa 96:9** Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.*

***Psa 99:5** Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy. ■*

JOHN 4:23 MAN IS CREATED TO WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT

*“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.” **John 04:23***

Man is to worship God in Spirit. Three points need to be looked at to fully understand what this means.

1. There is the creation of man.

***Gen 2:7** The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

The material used to form man was dust; or as Isaiah said, “clay” (Is. 64:8); or as Luther translated, a lump of earth (erdenkloss). Man’s physical material or substance is of the earth; the forming of his body is like that of earthly pottery (Job 10:8-9; Rom. 9:21); the food he eats is of the earth (Job 28:5); and the end of his body is to return to the earth (Eccl. 3:20).

There is a sense in which man is a paradox. He was created with all the dignity and honour possible — created by the hand of God and given the very breath of God. Yet, he was also created out of the most base and lowly stuff of all — dirt. So in one sense man has every reason to glory; in another sense he has every reason to be humble. What is to be man’s attitude, his air? There is nothing wrong with glorying; there is nothing wrong with being humble. It is the reason or object for glorying and being humble that makes one right or wrong. Man is to worship and glory in God — that God gave him life and the dignity and honour (privilege) of life. Man is to walk humbly toward God and toward other men because all men come from the same material, the earth. (Jer. 9:24; see 1 Cor. 1:31; 2 Cor. 10:17; Rom. 11:36; Gal. 1:5; 2 Tim. 4:18; Heb. 13:21; 1 Pet. 5:11). Therefore, man is exhorted to present his body to God as “a living sacrifice” and as “the temple of the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 6:19-20).

But note: man is not only body and soul; he is also spirit. This is man’s distinctive difference from all other creatures. As the Psalmist says, “I am fearfully and wonderfully made....my frame was not hidden from you” (Psa. 139:14-15). Two distinctive facts need to be stressed here.

- a. It is not just the breath of life that is given to man. It is the very breath of God Himself. God's breath is life, eternal life; therefore, man was given the eternal life, the very Spirit of God Himself. Just think! God's very own breath, His Spirit, is within every person who is "renewed" (recreated) after the image of Him that created him.

Eph 4:24 *And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

Col 3:10 *And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

- b. God breathes His own breath or spirit into the nostrils of man. Just imagine the picture. The body of Adam was lying before God; it had just been formed by God's hands from the dust of the earth. Adam was lifeless — just a body — never having breathed. God then breathed into Adam's nostrils His own breath or Spirit, the life of His very own being (which is the life that goes on and on, never ending, that is eternal).

Now, the point is that God made no other creature like this. God gave no other creature His own breath, nor did He use this method of creation with any other creature. These two facts make man's creation distinctive.

What a shame that man cleaves to this earth and its worldliness! "He who ignores discipline despises himself" (Prov. 15:32). How often the spirit of man should breath after God (Mt. 5:6)!

2. The creation of man is in *the image and likeness of God*.

Gen 1:26-27 *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

Whatever *the image and likeness of God* means, it is that which distinguishes man from all other life which God created. No where else does God say He created a being in *His own image* and *after His own likeness*. Only man is in the image and likeness of God. What is the *image and likeness* of God in man?

- a. It is unlikely that it means the *soul* of man. The Bible says all living creatures are souls. They were created as *living souls*. This is clearly pointed out in the Hebrew language of Gen. 1:20 which says, "Let the water teem with living creatures [souls, nephesh]." All living creatures possess the breath of life. (see *Soul*, Mt. 22:37.)
- b. It is unlikely that it means the ability to reason. Apparently animals have the

- ability to reason and learn to varying degrees. Animals show ability to think when facing an enemy or difficulties in the innumerable experiences of life.
- c. It is unlikely that it means the ability to be moral and just. Some animals (both individually and within family groups) have rules, practices, deeds, or acts that lead to moral and virtuous behaviour among themselves and even toward others. There seems to be an exercise of right and wrong among some animals. However, it needs to be pointed out that just as man is far superior to animals mentally, they are also far superior to animals morally. Man is far superior to animals both as a rational being (a being that reasons) and a moral being (a being that is just, relating to others as he should). (Note that being *spiritually* and *mentally renewed* in Christ affects the rational and moral powers of man. Man can be *created* in righteousness and *true* holiness. Man can be delivered from the legalistic bondage and rules of a man-conceived righteousness and holiness. See Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10.)
 - d. It means that God gave man His spirit: His immortal breath. His life that lives forever just like God. God went beyond what He had made when He created the animals of the earth (a soul, an earthly life, a temporal breath); God made man a spirit (an eternal life, an immortal breath) that is just like Himself, just like His own life. To be in the image and likeness of God means “God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship *in spirit* and in truth” (Jn. 4:24). Apparently, no animal is a spirit; animals are only souls. As living souls, they are enabled in varying degrees to breathe, to reason and to relate; but none of them have the inherent power to breathe eternally, nor the drive and ability to reason after God and to relate to God. Man does have that power, that drive, and that ability. *Man is spirit, even as God is Spirit.* Man is not only body and soul as the animals of creation. Man is not only *a living, breathing soul made for this earth; man is a spirit, an immortal being made to live with God eternally.*
3. In light of the above fact, there are at least two distinguishing marks of God’s image in man, two distinguishing marks of man as a spirit.
 - a. God’s image in man is the *spirit or power of immortality*. Man lives beyond this earth, lives eternally just like God. As mentioned above, according to the Bible, no animal is a spirit. Animals are only souls. As souls they are enabled to breathe and to live on this earth, but they do not have the inherent power to breathe eternally. However, man does have that power. Man is spirit, even as God is Spirit. *Man is not only a living, breathing soul and body like the animals made for this earth; man is a spirit, an immortal being made both for this earth and for eternity.*
 - b. God’s image in man is the *spirit or the drive and ability (choice) to worship*. Man has not only the soulish ability to reason and to relate, but an unquenchable

spiritual drive and ability to reason after God and to relate to God. Again, as mentioned above, no earthly animal has that spiritual drive and ability (freedom of choice). The Bible does ascribe to souls varying abilities, but no animal soul has the ability to reason *after God* or to *relate to God*. Worship is a spiritual drive and ability, an ability of spirit (of man) only. Just like animals, *man knows and understands the things* of this earth; but man is to know, believe, and understand God first and foremost (Isa. 43:10). Man is to worship God. God is Spirit and He has created man as spirit: therefore, man is to worship God in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24).

There are two very significant facts to be noted about the image of God in man or of man as a spirit.

1. The rebellion of man against God (man's fall) affected God's image within man. God had created man as an immortal being. Man was to live on this earth and to live with God forever. When man exercised his ability or choice and turned against God, he lost both rights. He could no longer live on the earth forever, nor could he live with God forever. In his rebellion against God, man was saying that he preferred a different world other than God's world and he preferred a different god (his own will) other than God Himself. Man thereby condemned himself to leave this earth (to die, Gen. 2:17; 3:19) and to be separated from God eternally (Jn. 3:18). Note that man was already created as an immortal being.

Therefore, man would continue on, he would exist forever — but he was (a) to be placed somewhere else other than this earth (he had chosen this); and (b) he was to be separated from God forever. It was his choice. The image of God — the power of immortality and the drive and ability to worship and live with God — was marred eternally.

2. The image of God within man can be renewed.
 - a. Man can now put on the new self or the new man.

Eph 4:24 *And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

Col 3:10 *And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

- b. Man can be “born again” spiritually; he can be made alive to God just as he was in the beginning — never to perish. (Jn. 3:3f; 1 Pet. 1:23).
 - c. Man can live and worship God forever (Jn. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:4). He can now partake of God's divine nature and be assured of living forever in the new heavens and new earth (2 Pet. 3:3-4, 8-18; Rev. 21:1-7).

- d. Man is renewed, reborn, recreated in Christ Jesus. “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed” (1 Pet. 2:24; see 3:18. Notes, Rom. 5:1; 2 Cor. 5:1; see 5:17.)

Gen 1:26-27 *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

1 Cor 15:49 *And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. □*

JOHN 04:23–24 SPIRIT, GOD IS SPIRIT

*“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is Spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and truth.” **John 04:23-24***

What is meant by *spirit*? At least three things are gleaned from Scripture.

1. Spirit is not flesh and bone. Spirit is not physical and material. Spirit is immaterial, non-physical, incorporeal. Spirit is of another dimension of being, another dimension entirely different from the physical and material dimension of being.
2. Spirit is the innermost part of being, the very core and heart of life. Spirit is the very *breath of God’s life*, the very *breath of God’s existence*, the very *being of God’s life*. That is, spirit is *eternal existence and being*. It is permanent, unending existence. A spirit has the breath of life, of existence, of *being forever*.

Gen 2:7 *The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

3. God is Spirit. This means He is the very embodiment of life eternal, of permanent, unending existence. His nature is not flesh and bone; for the physical ages, deteriorates, dies, and decays — it ends. But not Spirit, not God. God exists forever and ever. He is life, the very embodiment of life eternal. Whatever life is — in all of its perfection — *God is*. God is the perfect Person, Life, Intelligence, Being. The basic nature of God is Spirit: eternal being, eternal life, the Perfect Being, the Perfect Life.

John 17:3 *Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. □*

MATHEW 22:37 SOUL (PSUCHE)

The seat of man's breath and life or consciousness. The soul is the life of a man, the consciousness, the breath, the essence, the being of a man. The soul is the *animal life* of a man. The soul is the breath and consciousness that distinguishes man and other animals from vegetation.

The world of vegetation lives and man and animals live, but there is a difference in their living. Man and animals are *breathing* and *conscious* beings. The essence of their being is breath and consciousness. They are living souls. This is clearly pointed out in the Hebrew language of Gen. 1:20: "Let the waters teem with '*living souls*' [nephesh]." The "living souls" that God created were different from the vegetation He had just created. The "living souls" were creatures (fish) that breathed and possessed consciousness.

Christ said we are to love God "with all our soul," that is, with all our life, our breath, our consciousness. We are to love God with all the breath and consciousness, all the life and awareness, we have. □