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Worship in the New Testament

Reflections

Our Response to God

WORSHIP AND PRAISE WHO?

Recently, my 8 year old son expressed confusion about the object of our prayer and the idea of worship. He referenced two concerns. **Who do we worship? To whom do we direct our prayer when making a request?** (I cleaned up the grammar a little, but these were his concerns.)

As I visit churches both here and abroad, I have noticed the confusion evident in the prayers and praise uttered by many believers. My sons' confusion was based on the worship services we attended. The songs that we sang randomly directed worship to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The prayers offered were address to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There was often confusion, on the part of leadership, as to the direction of prayer and the object of praise.

In this study, we will review the writings of nine New Testament authors in order to find an answer to the above concerns.

In preparation for this study, I exported the New Testament into a spreadsheet and added 3 columns to the right hand side of each verse. The purpose of the study was to determine what the Bible teaches regarding how we are to respond to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We will focus on the three following questions:

1. How should we respond to Father?
2. How should we respond to His Son?
3. How should we respond to the Holy Spirit?

After extracting every reference made to our actions, I then proceeded to organize the verses and then provided a summary of my findings. To the right side of some

references, you will find, in parenthesis, the number of times a particular action was cited in each writing.

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WORSHIP ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO FATHER?

As we review the gospel according to Matthew, we are informed that Jesus **prayed to** Father (10) and we are directed to do the same. We are to **ask** (9), **seek** (3) and **knock**. We are to **plead for** deliverance from both evil and temptation. We are to **request** our daily bread and the power to forgive. We **pray** that His kingdom come and His will be done on earth as in heaven.

We **worship, fear, glorify** (3), **serve** (3), and **sanctify** His name. We **savor** those things that belong to Him, **do His will** and **love** him with all our heart, soul, and mind. We **bring forth fruit, perform our oaths** to Him and **live by every word** that proceeds from His mouth.

There are also certain things that we are to shun or put away. We do not transgress His commandments or make them of none effect by our traditions. Nor do we worship Him in vain by teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. We avoid calling any man father upon the earth, because God is our Father in heaven. We avoid tempting Him and do not put asunder what He has joined together. In reference to His house of prayer, we do not make it a den of thieves.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO HIS SON?

Matthew provides the reader with various examples of those who interacted with Jesus. We are informed that Jesus **was worshipped** by wise men, a certain ruler, a leper, men on a boat who witnessed his power over nature, the mother of Zebedee's children, several women at the tomb and eleven apostles. Matthew states that we are to **believe in, come to** (4), **follow** (15), **receive** (3), **call on** (2), **confess**, and **gather** (3) unto him. We are to **love, honor, and trust him**. We are to **learn from, hear** (3), **have faith in** and **obey** him. We are to **watch** for his coming.

We believe the message of Jesus and understand that he desires to heal us. We **bring to him** all our sick, diseased, tormented, possessed, lunatic, lamed, blind, dumb, maimed and palsied. He baptizes us in the Holy Spirit and saves us from our sins.

There are certain things that we are to avoid. We do not deny him before men or speak a word against him.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

In the gospel according to Matthew, we are to **receive the baptism** of the Holy Spirit. He **leads** and **speaks in us**. We are to avoid speaking or blaspheming against him because there is no forgiveness in this world or in the one to come for those who commit such a sin.

WORSHIP ACCORDING TO MARK

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO FATHER?

In the gospel according to Mark, we are informed that we are to **worship, glorify**, have **faith in**, and **honor** him with our lips and heart. As believers, we **love** Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. We **do His will**, **savor** those things that belong to Him, **seek** to know the Scripture and **experience His power**. We **pray to** Him as Jesus prayed (5). Our **requests** are made known to Him and we **believe** that we receive the things for which we ask. We do not make His word of none effect nor do we reject or lay aside His commandment. We do not make His house a den of thieves nor put asunder what He has joined.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO HIS SON?

According to Mark, the **Son baptizes us** with the Holy Spirit. We are to **see, hear, touch, believe in** and **receive** him (6). We **follow** him (8) and **believe in his power**. We **come to** and **after** him (7). We **gather to** him (4), **receive his teaching, forgiveness** and **healing** (3). He expounds all things to us through his teaching. He sows the seed of his word in our heart. We **repent** and **respond** to him. We **bring our sick** to him. We **believe in** and preach his gospel to every creature throughout the whole world. We **tell of the great things** He has done for us.

We are not offended at him nor are we ashamed of him or his words. We do not harden our heart or limit his power through unbelief. Mark informs us that a demon possessed man worshipped him.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

According to Mark, we are to **speak by the Holy Spirit** and **allow him to speak through you**. We are **led by** and are **baptized with** the Holy Spirit. We do not blaspheme against him by crediting the work of Christ to an unclean spirit.

WORSHIP ACCORDING TO LUKE (GOSPEL)

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO FATHER?

Luke reports that a multitude of heavenly hosts **praised Father** and the angels **declared glory to Him** in the highest. As we approach Father, we are to **draw near** with the understanding that nothing is impossible to Him. We are **amazed by His wonder-working power** and **bless** (2) Him. We **fear** (2) Him from generation to generation. We **rejoice** in (2), **magnify**, and **glorify** (8) Him. We **worship** and **praise** (5) Him for all His mighty works. We seek to **serve** (4) Him alone with fasting and prayers, in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life. We **love** Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We have **turned to Him** and **walk in** His commandments and ordinances. We **go before His face** and **hallow His name**. We seek to **live by** and **keep every word** that proceeds out of His mouth. When we **seek Him first**, all our needs are met. Our search for truth is never in vain. We **render to Him those things that belong to Him**.

Our **prayers are directed to Him**. When we **ask for the Holy Spirit**, He gives it. When we **approach Him**, we request our daily bread, forgiveness, the power to forgive, the ability to shun temptation and deliverance from the evil one. We do not reject His counsel. We do not serve money, instead, we seek to be rich toward Him.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO HIS SON?

According to Luke, great multitudes **gathered to him** and he was **glorified by all**. They **acknowledge him as the Christ**, the Son of God and **rejoiced in all the glorious things done** by him.

We **believe** that Jesus has come to baptize us with the Holy Spirit and fire. As his disciples, we **receive** him (4) and are **taught by him**. We **confess him** before men and are not ashamed of his words. We **follow** (15) him, **hear** him (7) and **obey** his sayings. The leper thanked him and his disciples **worshipped** him when they saw him in his resurrected state.

We do not deny or despise him before men. We desire that his words sink down into our ears and we will publish the great things he has done for and in us.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

According to Luke's account of the gospel, we are to **walk in his power**. He comes upon us and **reveals the hidden things of God**. He **moves, leads, fills and teaches us**.

We **receive** the Holy Spirit when Father gives him to us. Take heed that you do not blaspheme against him.

WORSHIP ACCORDING TO LUKE (ACTS OF THE APOSTLES)

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO FATHER?

According to Luke, we are to **worship** (3), **praise** (3), **thank**, **glorify** (2), **sing unto**, **rejoice in**, **believe in** (2), **seek after** (3) and **call upon Him** (2). We daily **present ourselves to** and **walk in the fear** of the Lord. As believers, we **lift our voice to Him** in one accord. We **pray to Him** always and without ceasing (6) and He hears our prayer. We seek to **be faithful to Him** and **continue in His grace**. We both gather to and desire to **hear His word**. We **declare all his counsel** and those things which He has done for us. We **hear all things commanded** (4) by Him and **obey**.

Our alms to the poor come up before Him. We **do works meet for repentance** and **ensure our heart is right** in His sight. We **expound His way** more perfectly.

We have **turned to** and **found Him** who made heaven, earth, the sea and all things that are therein (3). We **fear Him** (4) and **feel after Him**. We **know** and **fulfill all His will**. Our **hope** is toward Him. When He calls, we **hear His voice** (4).

We **rehearse all that God has done for us**. We feed the church which he purchased with his blood. We live in all good conscience before Him. We **receive His gift** of the Holy Ghost. We do not pervert the right ways of the Lord nor do we tempt the Spirit of the Lord.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO HIS SON?

According to Luke, we are to **believe** (13) with all our heart that **he is** the Son of God and **that through his grace** we are saved, justified, receive the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. As we **turn** (2) to him, we are to **call upon** and **be baptized in his name** (3). We **cleave to** and **give witness to** him. We have **faith in** (2) and **glorify him**. We **hear his voice** (2) and **magnify** his name. We preach peace, repentance and forgiveness of sins by Jesus.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Luke informs us that we are to **be filled with** the Holy Spirit (2). When he comes upon us, we are to be sensitive to his bidding and **receive his power**. We are to **receive** the gift of the Holy Spirit (2). We take heed that we do not lie to, resist or tempt the Holy Spirit.

WORSHIP ACCORDING TO JOHN (GOSPEL)

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO FATHER?

In John's account of the Gospel, we are to **worship** (6) Father in Spirit and truth (2). We are to **believe in** Him and the fact that He sent His Son (2). We **know** He is the only true God and that He seeks worshippers. We are to **do His will, receive** His commandments (2), **glorify, praise** Him, **please** Him and **become disciples** to His Son by **bearing fruit** (4). We **honor** Him, **hear** and **keep** both His **word and doctrine**.

We are to **make our prayer requests** known to Father in the name of Jesus (3) in order to receive our petitions. We are to **receive** both the **glory** he gave to Christ and the **Comforter** He sent.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO HIS SON?

According to the gospel of John, we are to **serve** and **honor** the Son. We **behold his glory, abide in him** (7) and **bear him much fruit** (2). When we present our petitions to Father, we **ask in the name** of Jesus (3). We **acknowledge that he is a teacher** come from God and **allow his words to abide in us**. He is our mediator to Father. When we **ask him** for anything, it is done for us. We **bear witness** to the Light (2) and are glad when we see him.

We **believe in** and on him (10). When we believe in and on him, multiple benefits follow: We receive life in his name, see his glory, and escape death. We **receive** eternal and everlasting life (4). When we believe in him, we do greater works, we experience rivers of living water flowing out of our belly, and we never hunger or thirst. We are to **believe in and on his name** (3) through the word. We believe he is come from God and that he is in the Father. Be believe that He is the Christ and the Son of God. We believe the words he speaks (2). We believe in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

When we **come to him** (7), he does not cast us out. Instead he, raises us up. He has conquered death in and for us.

We are to continue in his word because we are his disciples. We decrease so he can increase. We do to others what he has done for us. We **dwell in him**. We **eat his flesh and drink his blood** (7) and thereby **live by him**. As a result, we acquire eternal life, are raised at the last day, have life and live forever (4). We have **found him** (2) **and follow him** (9). We do not walk in darkness, but have received and possess the light of the world (2). **We now go forth** – Father sent his Son and now the Son sends us. As we look on the fields, we see that they are white and ready to harvest. **We go forth** – and tell others that Jesus has ascended to his Father and his God. **We go forth** – and sin no more. We now **hear from him** (7) and verify his truth. We **learn and live by him**. We **keep his commandments, words, and sayings** (5). By doing so, we **abide in his love** and **demonstrate our love for him**. We are promised to never see or taste death (2). We **know him** (7). We know his voice. We know him as the gift of God and shepherd of the sheep. We know his truth and are happy.

According to John, we who **live in him** will never die. We are to **love him and feed his sheep**. He manifests himself to us and the love of Father rests upon us. We **receive, keep and obey his commandments** to love one another (3). We **receive** him. We receive his fullness, testimony, abundance, living water, and the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world. **We receive** the Holy Spirit and those sent by him.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

According to John's account of the gospel, we are to **receive the Holy Spirit**. There are no references to any other response in this account of the gospel.

WORSHIP ACCORDING TO JOHN (1-2-3 JOHN)

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO FATHER?

According to the three epistles of John, we are to **direct our prayers** (3) to Father and **make our requests** according to His will. We know He hears us. We **love** and **believe in Him**. We **believe in the record He bore** of His Son.

As His sons, we **dwell in Him** (3) and **enjoy His fellowship**. We are to **continue in** Father. We **love Him** (7) and therefore **keep His commandments** (4). We **have confidence toward** Him. We **know Him** (5) and therefore **keep His word**. In **obedience to** His command, we believe in His Son. We have **perceived His love** and desire to **please Him in all things**. We **seek to do the good** to others and shun evil.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO HIS SON?

According to the three epistles of John, we are to **abide in Christ** (2) and **in his doctrine** (2). We are to **fellowship with him, confess** that he is the Son of God and that he has come in the flesh (4). We are to **acknowledge and believe in the name** of the Son of God (4). As we continue in the Son, we will **have confidence before him** at his coming. We have the responsibility **to know** (4), **live through** and **walk in him**. We desire to **keep his commandments** (2) and **word**. We **are in him** (3) who is both eternal life and true God.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

According to the three epistles of John, we are to **know and abide in the anointing** given us by Father. We are to **allow that anointing to teach us** all things.

WORSHIP ACCORDING TO JOHN (THE REVELATION)

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO FATHER?

According to John's Revelation, we are to **worship** (13) Father and give Him **blessing** (2), **honor** (6), **glory** (7), **power** (4), **wisdom**, **thanksgiving** (3), **might**, and **dominion**. We are to **praise** (3) and **glorify** (2) Him. We **rejoice in**, **serve** (2) and **fear** (2) Him. We are to **keep His commandments** (2).

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO HIS SON?

Regarding the Son, we are to **bare record of his testimony** and **hold fast his name**. In our **love** for him, we are to be hot, not lukewarm. We **follow him** where ever he goes. Because he was slain, he is worthy to receive **blessing** (2), **honor** (2), **glory** (2), **power** (2), **riches**, **wisdom**, and **strength**. When he knocks on the door of our heart, we are to **open**. We are to **hear** for his voice and hold fast until he comes. We are to **keep his sayings** and **do his work**. We **keep the word** of his patience. We are to ensure that we do not deny his faith (2) or his name.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

In regard to the Holy Spirit, John repeatedly declares that we are to **hear what the Spirit is speaking to us**.

WORSHIP ACCORDING TO PAUL (13 EPISTLES)

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO FATHER?

According to the epistles of Paul, as ministers of God, we have **turned** to Father and are called to **worship** (3), **pray to** (5), **honor** (3), **laud, praise** (3), **abide with, hope in** and **attend to** Him. We are to **seek to know** (3), **serve** (5), **yield, give ourselves to** and with open face **behold** His glory. We are to **give him glory** (5). We **love** (5) and **live unto** Him. Our tongues **confess** and **call upon** his name (5). We **glorify** (8) Him for His mercy. Our knees **bow** to Him. We **care for** those things that pertain to Him (2). We **thank him** for his unspeakable gift always and without ceasing (23). We thank him because he gives us the victory and causes us to triumph in Christ. We **serve** and **delight in** his law (2). We are His **followers** (2). We **make our request known to Him**. We **believe** (5) in/on the living-true God who raised Jesus from the dead. We **bless** Him as Father (3) and **glory in** Him (3). We **have faith in** and **boast in** Him. We **trust** the living God (6), **seek** His pleasure (5) and **walk worthy of** Him.

We are **zealous** for God and **bear fruit unto** Him. We **labor together with** (3) and **retain Him in our knowledge**. We **fear Him** (3) and **do all things heartily as unto** Him. We **glorify Him** in both body and spirit. We **do all to His glory**. Paul repeatedly praises God by declaring, "Unto our God and Father be **glory forever** and ever" (4). We are to **show ourselves approved to** him.

We will not glory before Him. We will not corrupt His Word. We will not resist his ordinances. We will not provoke Him to jealousy.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO HIS SON?

According to Paul, as ministers and obedient servants of Christ, we are to **preach** and **believe** (2) in him to life everlasting. We **love**, and **serve** (2) him as we preach the good

news of his unsearchable riches. We have **faith in** him (2) and in his blood. We **hope in** and **seek fellowship with** him. We **confess** him with our mouth and **declare that he is Lord**. We **admire** and **desire to be with** him. We **do all in his name**.

We **thank** and **trust** him because we know him. We are **subject to his gospel** and seek to be godly by departing from iniquity. We keep ourselves from becoming guilty of the body and blood of the Lord when we sit at his table. We **discern** his body. When we celebrate at his table, we **remember him** as we drink his cup and eat his bread. We show his death until he returns.

We are Christ's sweet savor to God. We **walk and live with** him (2). We **know** his love, his sufferings, and the power of his resurrection. We **learn from** him. We are being **rooted, growing up and being built up in** him. He is **being formed in** us. His **word richly indwells** us as we **live by** his faith. We are **being filled with** the fruit of his righteousness. We seek to **please him, receive him** and **put him on**. We **live by** him, **rejoice in** his day and seek those things above where he sits at the right hand of Father.

We are to **speak the truth, stand fast in, turn to** and **trust him**. We are his ambassadors and **messengers of his glory**. We patiently **look for his appearing** and **wait for his coming**. (2) We **believe** that we will live together with him forever. We pray on behalf of Christ that those standing outside his grace would be reconciled to God. We do not sin against or tempt Christ. We edify his people. (His body).

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

According to Paul, as spiritual, we not only **speak by** the Spirit, but also **hear** and **enjoy the fellowship and communion of** the Spirit. We **pray in** the Spirit and cooperate with him as he **writes** the epistle of Christ on the tablets of our heart. We were **born of** and had our **beginning in** the Spirit. We **drank into, live in** (3), **walk in, walk after** (3), and are **being led** by the Spirit. We **sow to** the Spirit and have been **empowered to bear** his

fruit. We **minister** the Spirit by the hearing of faith and are in a position to **receive** the **earnest**, the **promise**, **gifts**, **revelations** of and the **manifestations** of the Spirit.

As we cooperate with the Spirit, he will **wash**, **renew**, **strengthen**, **fill**, **seal**, **justify**, and **sanctify** us. We are to **keep those things** the Spirit commits to us. We are to **mind the things of** the Spirit and **keep the unity** made possible by him.

We do **not grieve** or **quench** the Spirit. As ministers of the Spirit, we **wield** the sword of the Spirit and **mortify** the deeds of the body.

WORSHIP ACCORDING TO HEBREWS

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO FATHER?

According to the writer to the Hebrews, we have **tasted** of His good word. We **continue in His covenant** and **subject ourselves to** the Father of spirits and live. We are to **draw near** to Him with a true heart in full assurance of faith and **believe that He is** the living God. We have **faith in and toward Him**. We **believe that He exists** and that **He is a rewarder** of those who diligently seek Him. We **come with boldness unto His throne of grace** and find there mercy and help in time of need. We who believe in Him have found rest. We **serve Him** (2) with reverence and godly fear and **seek to know His ways**. We **hear His voice** (4) and **seek to please Him**. We **do His will**. We **seek to learn** the first principles of His oracles and **receive His blessing**.

There are several things that we shun. We do not depart from or draw back from Him. We do not despise His chastening, but endure it. We do not fail His grace or faint when he disciplines us. We do not grieve, prove, provoke or tempt Him. We do not harden our heart (2).

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO HIS SON?

We **look unto Jesus** who is worshipped by angels and is the author and finisher of our faith. We **consider him** that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself. We consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession. We **seek to know** the principles of his doctrine. We do not crucify the Son of God afresh or put him to open shame. We do not neglect his great salvation.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

We are to seek to **listen to** the Holy Spirit when he speaks. We **receive his witness** and do no despite to the Spirit of grace.

WORSHIP ACCORDING TO PETER

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO FATHER?

According to Peter, we are to be **found in** God. We are to **live** not only **according to** but, **by** Him. We **believe in** Him who raised Jesus and gave him glory. We are to **bless, call on, trust in** and **cast all our cares upon** him. We **glorify** him in all things, especially on the day of his visitation. We have **placed our faith** and **hope in** Him and **offer spiritual sacrifices to** Him. We **sanctify** the Lord God in our hearts and **show forth His praises**.

We will one day give an **accounting to** him. We **look for** and **hasten unto** the coming of the day of God. Until then, we **obey** the gospel of God and become **partakers** of His divine nature. As ministers, we **speak as** the oracles of God and **submit to** His mighty hand. We **declare glory** and **dominion to** Him for ever and ever. **To Him be praise**.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO HIS SON?

According to Peter, we **believe in** Jesus. We **believe** that he is precious. We **follow in his steps**. We **offer** God acceptable spiritual **sacrifices through Jesus**. We have **received precious faith through him**. We are to **return to** the Savior, Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

According to Peter, it is through the Holy Spirit that we **obey the truth**.

WORSHIP ACCORDING TO JAMES

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO FATHER?

According to James, as servants of God, we are to **ask God for wisdom**. He gives it liberally and does not upbraid us for asking him. We must **ask God in faith** otherwise, we should not expect to receive anything from Him. Father has promised those that **love him** a crown of life. We are to **believe Him** as Abraham believed him and was called a Friend of God. We **bless** God even our Father.

We are to **submit to** and **draw near to** Him. He will draw near to us. We **humble ourselves in His sight**. When we face injustice, we are to cry out to Him. He hears us. When we ask the elders in the church to pray the prayer of faith, it is the Lord that raises us up.

We should never accuse Father of testing us. He cannot be tempted with evil. The Father of lights is the source of every good and perfect gift.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO HIS SON?

As servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are to **take up his worthy name**. We **await his coming** because it draws near. When we pray for the sick, we **anoint** them with oil **in the name of the Lord**.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit dwells in us.

WORSHIP ACCORDING TO JUDE

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO FATHER?

According to Jude, we are to **keep ourselves in the love of God**. We are to ensure that we do not turn the grace of God into lasciviousness or that we deny the only Lord God.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO HIS SON?

Jude informs us that we are **servant of Jesus Christ** and that we are preserved in him. We are to ensure that we do not deny him. He will come with 10,000 to execute judgment upon the ungodly. We are to **look for his mercy** unto eternal life.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Jude encourages the believer to **pray in the Holy Spirit** and reminds us of the fact that not all have the Spirit.

THE CONCLUSION

As we review the content of the New Testament, we are able to see how Father, Son and Holy Spirit have been addressed historically. What follows is a brief summary of my conclusions.

FATHER - SON - HOLY SPIRIT

There are some actions and behavior that are directed toward the three persons of the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. For example, we are to enjoy fellowship with all three members of the Trinity. We are to hear Father (F14), Son (S13), and Holy Spirit (HS10). We are to abide in Father (F2), Son (S15), and Holy Spirit (HS1). We are baptized into the name of the Father (F1), the Son (S3) and the Holy Spirit (HS1). We are called to live by Father (F5), Son (S5) and Holy Spirit (HS5).

FATHER AND SON

There are some actions and behavior that are directed toward both Father and His Son. We are to keep the commandments of Father (F9) and the Son (S11). We are to believe in Father (F7) and the Son (S47). We behold both the glory of Father and Son.

We call on (F5) (S3), confess (F3) (S9), glorify (F36) (S2), magnify (F) (S), hope in (F3) (S1), honor (F11) (S2), obey (F3) (S3), please (F3) (S1), and follow (F2) (S59).

We love (F17) (S4) and rejoice in all the glorious things done by (F4) (S1). We have faith in (F5) (S23), seek (F6) (S1), serve (F12) (S4), thank (F29) (S2) and trust (F7) (S3). We have turned to (F1) (S3), walk in live in (F1) (S2) and give wisdom to (F) (S).

ONLY FATHER

There are also some actions and behavior that are only directed toward Father. We are to lift our voice and show forth His praises as we stand before His face. When we draw near (F2) and come into His presence, we do it with boldness. We are to have confidence in Father. We direct our pray to Him (F23), worship (F28), bless, laud, boast

in, bow to, fear (F12) and praise Him (F17). We are to give glory to Him forever (F4) offer spiritual sacrifices to and do all to His glory. We are to feel after, find (F2) and follow His name.

As His people, we know, do (F4), fulfill and make all our requests according to His will. We bear fruit unto (F6). We are to walk in his commandments and ordinances. We continue in Him (F3) and declare all His counsel. We declare and give dominion to him. We give glory (F7) to, and cast all our cares upon Him. We submit, yield (F3), and humble ourselves before Him.

We are to keep His doctrine. We are to be rich unto Father. We are to savor (F2) and care for those things that pertain to Him. We will do all things heartily as unto Him. We will sanctify Him and His name. We will walk in His fear and be partakers of His divine nature.

There are also several things that we must avoid in regard to our response and relationship to Father. We are not to accuse Him of tempting us with evil nor should we deny Him. We are not to despise His chastening, draw back from, depart from or fail His grace. When He disciplines us, we will not faint.

We will not grieve, prove, provoke to jealousy or tempt Him. We will not corrupt His Word, lay aside, transgress, reject His commandments or make them of none effect by our traditions. We will not make His word of none effect, or pervert His ways.

We will not glory in ourselves or harden our heart (F2). We will not reject His counsel, resist His ordinances or tempt His Spirit. We will not serve money or make His house a den of thieves or a house of merchandise. We will not turn His grace into lasciviousness nor worship Him in vain by teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. We will not put asunder what He has joined (F2) or call any man our father on earth.

ONLY THE SON

In reference to the Son, we are to look to, acknowledge and believe in his name (S4). We have touched, received (S13) and admire him. We bare record to his testimony and are subject to his gospel. We bear witness to him (S2) and have become his disciples. We come to and after him (S18). We cleave to and give him glory (S2). We are growing up in Him. We know (S10), honor (S2), give witness to, learn and live by him (S5). We receive eternal life from him (4).

There are nine references to Jesus being worshipped by individuals and groups in the four accounts of the gospel. There are no reference to the worship of Christ in the remainder of the New Testament.

There are also several things that we must avoid in regard to our response and relationship to the Son. We will not be ashamed of him or his words before men. We will not be offended at him. We will not deny, despise, or speak evil of him before men (2). We will not crucify him afresh, neglect his great salvation or put him to open shame. We will not harden our heart nor will we limit his power through our unbelief.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

As we review the pages of the New Testament, we are also able to see how we are to respond to the Holy Spirit.

We are to enjoy communion and fellowship with him. When we speak the word of faith, we minister the Holy Spirit to others. We are to be led by, live in (4), and walk in (HS3) the Holy Spirit. We are to abide in his anointing and allow him to write the epistle of Christ on the tablets of our heart. He are to be filled and baptized with and by the Holy Spirit. We have been born by and have our beginning in him. We hear and listen to him. He speaks to us often. We drink the Spirit and he empowers us to bear fruit. He justifies us.

We mind the things of the Spirit. It is through the Spirit that we obey the truth. We pray in (2), sing in, bless in and speak in the Holy Spirit. We keep all the things he has committed to us. We keep the unity of the Spirit. We know him. We sow to the Holy Spirit and reap everlasting life.

He leads (4), moves, seals, strengthens, and washes us. We mortify the deeds of body by Spirit. We are to receive the gift (7) and earnest of the Holy Spirit. We are to receive his power, witness, revelations, and promise. We are renewed, indwelt, and taught (2) by him. His anointing teaches us all things. He reveals the hidden things of God to us. He not only speaks to us, but in and through us. We walk in his power and wield his sword.

ONLY HOLY SPIRIT NEGATIVE:

There are also several things that we must avoid in regard to our response and relationship to the Holy Spirit.

Not all possess the Holy Spirit. We will not blaspheme against (3), grieve, lie to, quench, resist, tempt or speak against the Holy Spirit. We will not do despite to the Spirit of grace.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

We began this study by expressing several concerns. **Who do we worship? To whom do we direct our pray when making a request?**

Whom do we worship?

There is evidence of Jesus being worshipped in three of four accounts of the gospel. Matthew provides us with 7 examples (The wise men, a leper, a ruler, men who witnessed his mastery of nature, the mother of Zebedee's children when requesting a position for her two sons, several women who witnessed the resurrection of Jesus and the eleven disciples) Mark, in his gospel provides one example of Jesus being worshipped. (a demon possessed man approached and worshipped him calling him the Son of the Most High God). Luke also provides us with one example of Jesus being worshipped. (Men who watched Jesus ascend into heaven worshipped him). It is interesting to note that there is no evidence of the worship of Jesus in the writings of John, Paul, Peter, James, Jude, or the writer to the Hebrews.

Who do we worship? The focus of worship appears to be Father. Jesus himself bears this out while being tempted by the devil in the wilderness. Satan asked Jesus for worship. Jesus stated that worship belongs exclusively to Father. The rest of Scripture bears this out. As we boldly stand in His presence, we are to lift our voice and show forth Father's praises. We are to offer spiritual sacrifices to Father. We are to praise Him alone (17 times) and give him glory forever (11 times). Jesus taught us that Father sought after those who worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

In the book of Revelation, John states that 24 elders cast their crowns before the throne, fell on their faces and worshipped God who lives for ever and ever. We are told that four beasts also fell down and worshiped God. The four beasts and all the angels in

heaven stood around the throne and worshipped. An angel informed men to fear God, give him glory and worship him.

The writer to the Hebrews informs us that all the angels were instructed to worship Jesus, but not once are any specific instructions given which indicate that we are to worship the Son or the Holy Spirit.

To whom do we direct our pray when making a request?

According to the writers of the New Testament, we are instructed to direct our prayers and make our petitions known to Father alone. While Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he informed them that they should direct their pray to "Father, in heaven..." Jesus models this direction of prayer. As we review the four accounts of the gospel, we find there are 28 references to Jesus directing his prayers to Father. (Matthew: 7 references; Mark: 5 references; Luke: 11 references; John: 5 references) In the other writings of the New Testament, we have two examples of Jesus praying to Father. (Hebrews: 1 reference; Romans: 1 reference.)

The writers of the New Testament agree. We are taught to pray to Father (23 times). On three occasions, we are informed that we should pray to Father in Jesus' name, but not once are we instructed to pray to Jesus or the Holy Spirit. In fact, we are taught that Jesus and the Holy Spirit intercede and pray for us according to the will of Father.

This study is not intended to detract from the wondrous work Christ accomplished for our redemption, nor is it presented to weaken our doctrine of the Trinity. It is written to avoid confusion related to the two issues in question. My conclusion is that we are to worship Father in Jesus' name. We are to present our requests to Father in Jesus' name. Our access to Father and the fact that we are able to enjoy His awesome presence is made possible ONLY by the work accomplished by Jesus Christ and through the agency of the Holy Spirit.

Note:

It may seem that the teaching presented here is an unnecessary and obvious truth, but the fact is that, contrary to the teaching of Scripture, churches across the world will continue to offer sacrifices of praise and worship to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Contrary to the truth of Scripture, they will continue to direct their prayers to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If we are to enjoy the blessing and outpouring of God's Holy Spirit, we must align ourselves to the truth as it is found in the Word of God. Recently, while gathering with an organization which consists of hundreds of church worldwide, I was struck by the fact that its leaders direct their prayers and praise to Jesus alone. When I heard the members of this organization pray, they likewise direct their prayer and worship to Jesus alone. While visiting various Community churches in the area where I live, again, I was struck to discover that there is confusion about the object of our pray and praise.

OTHER BOOKS AND QUICK READS

BOOKS

The Narratives of Christ (Gospel)
Is God Speaking? (Minor Prophets)
God's Life-Changing Curriculum (An Agent of Change)
Worship (In the New Testament)

QUICK-READS

The Authority of the Believer
Transforming Power
Redeemed from the Curse (Entitled to the Blessing)
Emotional Intelligence (Models: A Brief Review)
Why He Came
The Kingdom (13 Parables)
Divine Transition
Divine Expectation
Unclaimed Wealth
Times of Refreshing
Unlocking God's Diary
The House of James
The Will of God (In James)
The Pure Gospel (Galatians)
Paul's Vision of God (Ephesians)
The Journey

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