

## Worshiping God through Prayer

Read [Genesis 3:1–24](#)

Jesus' plan for knowing God through prayer starts with worship.

Let's answer three questions about worshiping God through prayer:

- 1) What does it mean to worship?
- 2) How do I worship God through prayer?
- 3) What will it do for me?

We worship God through prayer by giving thanks, by praise, and by adoration. Let's look at the third question about worshiping God through prayer:

### *What will it do for me?*

Worship will connect you to heaven. Remember, the key to understanding the Model Prayer is to understand that Jesus would not have told us to pray a prayer that didn't work. Jesus told us to pray in this first verse of the Model Prayer, "*Our Father in heaven*" (emphasis added). If Jesus told us to address God in heaven, it must mean that we *connect with heaven* when we pray a prayer of worship!

**Psalm 100:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup> "*Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.*"

Worship will connect us to heaven. We see this confirmed in other Scriptures. [Psalm 100:4](#) says, "*Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.*" The "*gates*" and "*courts*" were those of the Old Testament temple, where God lived in those days. This verse was telling the worshiper how to enter God's presence: with "*thanksgiving*" and "*praise.*" That is, with worship.

Since the death and resurrection of Jesus, God doesn't live in a physical building anymore. Jesus has made it possible for believers to access his eternal temple in heaven. But the way we do it remains the same: with "*thanksgiving*" and "*praise.*" With worship! We connect with heaven through worship.

Another Scripture:

*"Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel."*

[PSALM 22:3](#) (emphasis added)

Notice the connection between God being “*enthroned*” (ruling in our lives) and “*praise*.” God comes to sit as Ruler in our lives when we worship him. **The King James Version** translates this same verse, “*But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel*” (emphasis added). God *inhabits*—that is, *lives in*—our praises, our worship. Our worship connects us to him.

One time an enemy army came to attack Jerusalem ([2 Chronicles 20](#)). They were too vast an army for the men of Jerusalem to defeat on their own. They went to the temple and prayed, and King Jehoshaphat had an idea. As they went out to face the invaders, he placed singers in front of his army! What were they doing? Singing praises to God. The Bible says they sang, “*Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever*” ([2 Chronicles 20:21](#)). So as they marched out to battle, a choir led the way!

What happened? Surely they must have been slaughtered.

No, when they reached the battlefield, they found the enemy already dead!

<sup>22</sup> **When they began singing and praising, the LORD set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were routed.**

<sup>23</sup> **For the sons of Ammon and Moab rose up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir destroying *them* completely; and when they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.**

<sup>24</sup> **When Judah came to the lookout of the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude, and behold, they *were* corpses lying on the ground, and no one had escaped.**

[2 CHRONICLES 20:22–24](#)

As the people of God worshiped, God himself came down and fought for them. They won the battle without lifting a sword. Why? **Their worship connected them to heaven.** God came on the scene and fought their battle for them.

He will do the same for us, for [Romans 2:11](#) says, “*For there is no partiality with God.*” In other words, “*God does not show favoritism.*” If you have a battle you need help with, try lifting a song instead of a “**sword**” (instead of a fist, instead of an angry voice). Your worship will connect you to heaven and God will come and help you. He is still the One who “*inhabits the praises*” of his people ([Psalm 22:3, KJV](#)).

*What will worship do for me?* It will connect me to heaven.

## SUMMARY

When we lose our vision, we lose our way. One way we keep our vision is through worship. One way we worship, Jesus taught, is through prayer. *What does it mean to worship?* Worship means acknowledging God’s worth, specifically his worth as our Heavenly Father and as our holy God. *How do I worship through prayer?* I worship with thanksgiving, praise, and adoration. *What will worship do for me?* It will connect me to heaven—bring God on the scene to bless and help me.