

FOLLOW UP STUDY 3: READY TO WORSHIP

Scripture Memory Verse: **John 4:24** *God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.*

Question: What are you thinking and how are you feeling about your meeting times with the church? Let's try to make them even better!

Before Arriving: Maintain a deep conviction about the priority of meeting together. *Heb 10:24-25* *Matt 6:33* (*How has it been going with making all the meeting times?*)

Early Arrival: Respect for God, for brothers and sisters, for teachers, for leaders *1 Cor 14:40* "But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way." Certainly, being on time would fit the overall sense/feel of this passage concerning worship services—having worship services that are orderly and not disruptive. (on time for boss! On time for movies! Etc.) *1 Peter 2:17* Show proper *respect* to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. Coming early allows everyone (including you and your whole family) to enjoy the worship experience!

After Arrival:

Hebrews 12:28-29 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

--Acceptably: This means there can be worship that is unacceptable to God! We are to do it God's way.

--Reverence—Webster's Dictionary definition: honor or respect shown; profound adoring awed respect

--Awe—Webster's Dictionary definition: an emotion variously combining dread, veneration and wonder that is inspired by authority or by the sacred

Meeting Together Is To Have Distinct Elements

Element 1: Singing *Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16; Psalm 95:1; Psalm 96:1*

***Singing Is For Everyone!**--some people are more gifted –more talented than others

--No longer is singing a performance medium--Must be a worship vehicle out of a person's relationship with God

***Singing With Your Spirit And Your Mind** *1 Cor 14:15*

--God does give us specific instruction on how to sing / Need both the youthfulness/emotion of the "spirit" and the maturity/understanding of the "mind".

***Singing is Communication**

--We are to either singing to God, to Jesus, to the Holy Spirit, to our brothers and sisters or to people who are not Christians.--We need to communicate each word of every song!

***Singing Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs**

--In both Eph. and Phil. God says (speaking through Paul) to sing psalms, hymns AND spiritual songs

--this indicates there are 3 different / distinct forms of songs

PSALMS—songs and representing songs taken directly from Scripture

HYMNS—songs based on Scripture and expounds with deeper insights to the song's subject

SPIRITUAL SONGS—songs that come from our hearts, our emotions

--We need to love all 3 types of songs, not just the kind that appeal to us musically

--We are commanded to sing all 3 types because each type ministers to a certain area of our hearts

***Conclusion about singing**

--Take your singing seriously

- Come **READY** to SING!

Element 2: Fellowship Hebrews 10:24-25

God created the church because we need each other to get to heaven! All need encouragement. *(share some practical tips about how to fellowship)*

- Come **READY** to FELLOWSHIP!

Element 3: Contribution 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 13

A pattern was set for collections—on the first day of the week. It was planned giving by each Christian in accordance with a person's income. Given to seek and save the lost and to help the poor. *(Share about your attitude and actions of giving back to God.)*

God wants a generous giver who is also a cheerful giver.

- Come **READY** for CONTRIBUTION!

Element 4: Communion Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

--Pattern by example of NT church was to come together for communion on the first day of the week.

--We are to examine ourselves in our vertical relationship with God.

--We are to examine ourselves in our horizontal relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

--We are never to take the Lord's Supper / Communion lightly.

- Come **READY** for COMMUNION!

Element 5: Public Reading of Scripture, Preaching and Teaching

1 Timothy 4:13; 1 Timothy 4:2; Isaiah 66:2b

Trembling at the word of God being read, preached, taught-- Anticipation to obey; A deep respect; Humbling ourselves and submitting ourselves to the word of God *(taking notes)*

- Come **READY** to hear and obey the Word of God.

Element 6: Prayer Acts 4:23-24a; Acts 12:5 There is power in group prayer. We are to be attentive and praying ourselves as we are led in prayer by others.

- Come **READY** for PRAYER

Meeting Together Is in Spirit and in Truth

John 4:23-24 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

- So this should guide us to be **READY TO WORSHIP**

(Any questions? In what ways has this helped you? Close in prayer.)