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WORSHIP IS NOT A FEELING—IT'S A SPIRITUAL CONNECTION!

Dear Chosen One: I want to encourage you to invest some time in worship since this kind of investment pays out the highest surplus and you cannot lose. God always shows up to inhabit the praises of His people especially when our worship is genuine and sincere. If you want God's attention—start worshipping Him.

When you go before God's Throne of Grace worship Him for who He is, and not for what He can give. You will get His attention because worship means something to Him. What you are saying is, God, I worship You because I know that You are the Creator, and I am Your creation. Lord, I worship You because You are the True and Living God and there is none besides You. I bow down before You and acknowledge that You are the Great "I AM." Lord, I choose to live a lifestyle of worship because you alone are worthy of all the praise, glory, and honor.

When praise and exaltation start to come out of your mouth, God pulls the curtain in heaven and looks down. Rick Warren says, "**When we worship, God looks past our words to see the attitude of our hearts.**" God enjoys listening to you and me as we exalt His Holy Name and give Him heartfelt worship.

Oftentimes, people go to church and neglect to participate in the worship service. They feel as if they are here out of a duty—they owe God for

something He has done and now they are paying Him back by attending church. They have an attitude of obligation, so they think that they don't have to do anything other than to show up for church. Society is filled with these kinds of individuals. They hate their jobs, but they show up for work because it pays the bills and puts food on the table. Yes! Some people don't like going to church, but they go just to receive blessings or to listen to their favorite songs and, should I add, to gossip or meet a friend.

To worship is to honor and exalt God because He is worthy; even if God does not do anything again for you—He is still the Creator and He created you for His purpose.

On the other hand, some people feel that if they participate in cooperate worship, others might see them as being phony. These are the people whose behaviors contradict their Christian faith. They are holy in church and worldly outside, living a double standard. Let me remind you that when you are in God's presence nothing else matters. Your time in God's presence is the only moment that counts—the time which you have dedicated to worship God in the beauty of holiness. (Psalm 96:9)

When the Spirit of God shows up, even demons will bow down to worship Him. The Apostle Paul told the church at Phillipis that "**God**

Merry Christmas! Jesus is the reason for the Season!

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also has highly exalted Him (Jesus) and given Him the Name, which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11)

Worship is the spiritual connection that the devil wants to stop. The devil feels that our worship should be directed to him and not to God. The devil knows that God adores worship, and He lavishly blesses those who worship Him in Spirit and in truth. When worship is taking place people get healed and deliverance takes place. Moreover, liberation starts to manifest, locked doors are opened, and spiritual wickedness gets shattered.

When Paul and Silas were in prison, at midnight they started to worship, singing hymns. In the midst of worshiping, the prison doors opened, and the chains fell off all the prisoners (Acts 16:25-26). It started in the spirit realm and manifested in the natural.

James says we can pray amiss by asking God for all the wrong things—things for our own pleasure (James 4:3). You can pray thinking about your needs and wants, but when you are in a worship position with your hands lifted up, you are surrendering yourself to God and everything shifts from you to God.

You don't need music to worship because sometimes we get caught up in our emotions and this could be our biggest distraction and deprive us from that intimate time with God. Worship is not about us—it's all about God, therefore, we don't start worshipping God by asking for anything.

The Bible says a time is coming when you and I must worship Him in spirit and in truth. I want you to start setting aside some time every day in your private moment to worship God, so when we come together as the Body of Christ, worship will not be something unfamiliar to you. Every successful pastor, evangelist, missionary, lay man or woman had private worship experiences before they launched out publicly.

Together let us exalt the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Let us give Him all the praise and glory that He deserves. Forget about your present situation, what is happening at the workplace, your dinner schedule, your health issue, your overdue bills, your children's whereabouts, and your financial dilemma. Just lift up your hands, open your mouth and start to worship God, in spite of how you feel. Tell the Lord how you love and adore Him. Tell Him:

He is the King, and you are the subject.

He is the Shepherd, and you are the sheep.

He is the Owner, and we are His possession.

He is the Bread of Life.

He is the Alpha and Omega.

The Prince of Peace and the Rose of Sharon

He is the Lily of the valley and the Bright Morning Star.

He is the Lover of your soul...continue to add who God is to you in your private worship session. Trust me, you will experience a shift in the atmosphere and changes in your emotions. As we celebrate this Christmas Season, let us offer up worship as our gift to God for sending His Son Jesus Christ.

This Christmas, I would like to offer the gift of **SALVATION** to those who don't know Jesus as their Lord and Savior!