

**To worship in Spirit and in Truth is essential for us if we want to make spiritual progress and if we want to grow in the love of Christ which will always lead us in Truth.**

Jesus emphatically states in Luke 10.40 : Only God must be served! This then is a command corresponding with the Shema (Deut. 6.4) but it is also a command from the Son of God. Shema Israel, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad. Hear o Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Jesus also states in John 4.24 : God is Spirit and those who worship God must be led by the Spirit to worship him (God) according to the truth (The Holy Bible, CEV). The **KJV2000** translation reads: God is a spirit and they that worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth. The **ASV translation** reads : God is a spirit and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth. And from **The Living Bible**, For God is Spirit, and we must have his help to worship as we should.” (God's help because this ties in with what I am about to bring. All of course implying a specific Truth, namely Biblical Truth.

Now, why I am drawing your attention to diverse translations, is because there are Old Latin mss, with reference to Phil. 3.3, reading : **We who serve the Spirit of God...** instead of, as some Older Latin mss also contain, namely, “We worship God in the Spirit”. Augustine who was a proliferate writer on the Trinity also refers to this two conflicting translations as I would word it, i.e. in his first book. Those **Latin translations**, namely to worship in the Spirit, then corresponds to Jesus' words as well as to Pauline doctrine whereas some other Latin translations instructing us to worship the Spirit, indeed opens the door to apostate ideas. I am of course referring to older Latin mss and not to Jerome's fourth century Vulgate.

Now considering the aforesaid, it seems that there was a textual tradition in sway, and **clearly as early as the second century A.D.**, that subtly promoted worshipping the Spirit and obviously **as a Third Person** and then indeed long before the Council of Nicaea (325), i.e. when Church dogma was firmly established.

In my opinion, and taking into account how the New Testament was copied from the autographs (the original writings) and from extant copies, that is what we refer to as the MSS, and of course done by human beings who could err, **the erroneous Latin version, i.e. to worship the Spirit in stead of in the Spirit**, could very well have come from the pen of a scribe who believed in the Mother Worship – the Spirit was depicted as a woman (based on the word, **ruach, in Hebrew morphology**, a feminine noun - and which interpretation must then have suited those who were bent on **adding a mother worship to post-apostolic worship.**

I want to be clear on this: there is neither **any explicit first century apostolic teaching** to worship the Spirit as an independent Person, that is apart or separate

from God Most High, or of a mother worship per se. Should we then read Phil 3.3 according to some Latin MSS, i.e. to worship the Spirit (the Spirit as object), we are **indeed promoting a spirit of error**. This of course requires a separate discussion.

Now, it is essential for us to seriously take note of Jesus' teachings for He made it clear that we, believers, **must worship only one God** and we must also do so in **Spirit and in Truth**.

Therefore, adhering to this direction of our Master, **will indeed bond ourselves two-ways with God, namely in Spirit** (the Holy Spirit) and in Truth. This direction of Yeshua or Jesus will indeed help us to discern between apostasy and Truth and all we can actually do to help us proceed on the path of Truth, **i.e. concerning the Spirit of God**, is to opt for the better translation.

**Jesus gave us good guidance in the Gospels, namely that by the mouth of two and three witnesses every word shall stand (Math. 18.16)**. Cross-reference is therefore essential the minute we want **to ascertain textual truth**. So, let's believe Jesus for He was revealed as the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14.6) and He emphatically states in the Gospel of John that Truth, divine Truth, shall set us free.

**Jesus further drew our attention to the Holy Spirit, as the Spirit of Truth (John 15)**. This Spirit of Truth would, according to Jesus, be sent by the Father. I briefly want to once again stress that should we adhere to those texts that speak from one mind, **in other words if we group those textual references corresponding in essence with one another**, we will arrive at Scriptural Truth (i.e. in accordance with Math. 18.16).

Now, the biggest Scriptural Truth we can gain, is to worship God (the only one) **in Spirit** for then we will also be led by the Spirit of God as Paul rightly says in his epistles. **Worshipping in Spirit means to do so in the Holy Spirit**. Jesus states in Mark 12 that we must love the Lord our God with all our heart, our mind, our strength, our understanding. In other words, we must worship God in a deep spiritual way, not only bringing lip-service.

Now, this brings us to an analysis of our thematic text, i.e. John 4.24: **God is spirit and they that worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth.**

Surely, many are acquainted with the word “worship” but there is definitely more to worship than just applying a mere **conceptual idea** which will only lead to **word (a verbal) worship (you will make the required sounds!)**, yet your worship will be stripped of the deeper dimension, i.e. a real bonding with God through Jesus Christ, meaning that **essential spiritual experience one needs to move one to real faith in a living God and a risen Jesus**.

Worship in Greek is **proskuneuo (proskoeneuou)**, meaning not to only have an

affinity for God **but to adore Him** and to the extent to serve Him hand and foot, **to let go of one's own importance and to subject oneself to God**. Physically this entails prostrating oneself before God.

Now, this practice of bowing one's heart before God, and in a physical sense to bow one's knees in prayer, was something the first century Church must have been well acquainted with. The Greek Orthodox Church to this day shows residues of apostolic worship, i.e. to prostrate oneself in worship before God and some Jews do the same in prayer. **It is a token of absolute surrender to God, to be sold out to God and His absolute will**. Many Christians do the same, especially in private worship but it seems this type of **public worship** has on the whole vanished, and clearly because **the fruit of pride and what I would call, a distorted (puffed up) self-esteem** have taken over in the Body of Jesus.

**The big question then is: Do we really know the One we serve?**

And this brings me **to the word in Greek for serve**, i.e. latreuo (latreeuou), i.e. to minister to God, to pay religious homage, that is the deepest respect to God.

This would mean and especially during one's time of worship, to forget about one's personal needs in order to make the one and only true God **King in our hearts!**

And this is how we then should serve God, namely **to worship God the Father in and through Jesus Christ, His beloved Son who redeemed us on Calvary**, and we can only do so **in the Spirit of God!** This is worshipping from the heart **in the Spirit and of course subjecting our carnal minds to His divine control**. And such approach to worship is indeed Biblical.

Let us therefore approach the Throne of God in prayer and with joy and thanksgiving, fully committed to Jesus as Lord and **once we worship in Spirit and in Truth**, we will shed our **pride, also our self-condemnation**, full knowing that Jesus paid the full price for our Salvation on the Cross and if we confess our sins (also to one another, God is faithful to forgive us (1 John 1.7; James 5.)).

So if we walk in the Light, **serving God in the Spirit and in Truth**, we will indeed be named "children of the Most High God" John 1.7: But if we live in the light, as God does, we share in life with each other." (CEV).

This is Ester

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I will carry on with this theme, namely **to worship in the Spirit of God**.