

FA16. Worshiping God in Spirit & Truth.

We are to worship God in spirit and truth.

FA16a: *We are to worship God in spirit.*

FA16b: *We are to worship God in truth.*

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

John 4:24 (NKJ)

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 4:24 (CJB)

God is spirit; and worshippers must worship him spiritually and truly.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Ephesians 6:18

Philippians 3:3

Revelation 19:10

Related New Testament Mitzvot

AA42 Embracing and Not Suppressing Godly Truth

FA10 Praying in the Spirit for All People

FA39 Praying in Unison with the Holy Spirit

ZA01 Using Our Spiritual Gifts to Serve Others

ZA08 Seeking, Receiving, and Relying on Holy Spirit Power

AB06 Walking in the Holy Spirit through Faith and Hearing

AB07 Being Led by the Holy Spirit

AB08 Hearing the Holy Spirit

AB09 Being Bold in the Holy Spirit

AB11 Living by the Holy Spirit and Not by Our Old Nature

AB13 Conforming Our Mind and Aligning Our Conscience with the Holy Spirit

AB14 Seeking and Pursuing the Things of the Spirit

AB17 Ministering in the Holy Spirit

EB07 Interpreting Prophecy via the Holy Spirit

GB22 Living According to God's Word and Spirit

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Psalms 95:6

Come, let's bow down and worship; let's kneel before ADONAI who made us.

Psalms 145:18 (NKJ)

The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.

Comment

John 4:24 in the New King James Version (NKJ) exhorts us to worship God “in spirit and truth,” whereas the Complete Jewish Bible (CJB) exhorts us to “*worship him spiritually and truly.*”. The way the NKJ translates *πνεύματι* (*pneuma*) in John 4:24 is more well-known, and much has therefore been written about the meaning of “worshiping in spirit” or as some commentators have said: “in THE Spirit” meaning the Holy Spirit. By translating *πνεύματι* “spiritually,” the CJB appears to deemphasize the Holy Spirit and instead appears to be saying: “We are not to worship God in the flesh.”

But is it even possible to worship God in the flesh? Sure it is! Worship literally means bowing down and prostrating ourselves. We may do so physically by merely lowering our bodies to the ground, and we can also do so by paying homage to God with wrong attitudes and for wrong reasons. Looking at it that way, we might conclude that the CJB’s translation is the more correct one because it warns us what not to do. On the other hand, John 4:24 (in both translations) begins by reminding us that “God is spirit.” That would tend to give emphasis to our need to worship God in a very special way of our spirit to God’s spirit. John 4:24 refers to it as worshiping in “spirit and truth,” the “truth” component referencing the one true God and not a god that is false. It would also tend to give credibility to commentators who say that our worship should be produced and directed not by ourselves, but by the Holy Spirit – a view that is supported by Ephesians 6:18 that speaks of praying “in the Spirit.”

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

- A24 Being Clean of Spirit as Well as of Body
- G08 Serving, Worshiping, Praising, & Praying to God.
- O02 Acknowledging & Utilizing Our Spiritual Authority
- Y08 Coming to Yeshua for Spiritual Rest