

## Genesis 22:5

*And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."*

When you hear the word “worship” what do you usually think of? I think most, if not all of us would say, singing, or music or even an offering like a tithe. But would you ever associate the word “worship” with obedience?

Here in today’s devotional verse in **Genesis 22:5**, this is the very first time that the word “worship” is mentioned in the bible.

Now if you think about what’s going on here, God had told Abraham to *"Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."* **Genesis 22:2**

So what did Abraham do? Well, he and Isaac broke out in a song and dance, because it clearly says that *the lad and I will go yonder and worship.*

Ok, that’s not what really happened, but if we take our definition of what we call worship, that’s just what we would translate this verse into.

But worship had nothing to do with singing or dancing or writing a Psalm like King David is known for doing. Even if you look up the meaning of the word Worship, there is no reference of anything to do with music at all.

Strong's Greek & Hebrew Dictionary define worship as: *a primitive root; to depress, i.e. prostrate (especially reflexive in homage to royalty or God) :- bow (self) down, crouch, fall down (flat), humbly beseech, do (make) obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop, worship.*

Yet we do associate songs and singing as worship. But don’t get discouraged, because it is a form of worship as you *do reverence*. But if you check your bible, the first time the words “sing, sang & song” are used is not until the book of Exodus, and all three are in the same verse in **Exodus 15:1**

† *Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!" (underlined for emphasis)*

And why were they singing? Because the Lord had delivered them from their enemies, the Egyptians, or as we would think of it today, the Lord saved them from the world (Egypt is a type of the world). So we sing to the Lord because He has saved us from the world and He did it through His Son Jesus Christ.

So, if you think about those times when we say “*I worship You Lord*”, we are usually lifting up our hands when we say it, don’t we? But when you lift up your hands to the Lord in worship, what that usually signifies is that you are offering your all to the Lord. You are saying in a sense, “*Here I am Lord, take all of me, I am Yours.*” Which is a good thing, because in order for Jesus to be Lord of your life, He should have free reign over all of your life, and you should be willing to give Him every aspect of your life. Just like Abraham did, when he was willing to give his most precious possession, his only son, Isaac. Or you could call Abraham’s worship, obedience, as he was being obedient to the Lord when he was told to offer his son Isaac.

But think about when we were kids, and we used to say, “*Honest, I’m telling you the truth*” and while we said that, we had one hand behind our back with our fingers crossed, thinking that would mean that what I just told you was not true, but it’s ok because I had my fingers crossed and you didn’t see it.

But do we do the same thing with the Lord, while we are raising your hands and saying, “*I worship You Lord*” offering our all to Him, yet we still have stuff hiding behind our backs that we are not truly willing to give up. Be it an addiction, or your favorite \_\_\_\_\_, or is it a particular person named \_\_\_\_\_ that the Lord is telling you that this is a bad relationship that you are in, but you are hanging onto him or her because you want to worship yourself and not the Lord by being obedient to your wants and not the Lord’s?

Remember Jesus said in the book of John: ***But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. John 4:23-24***

Did you catch the two things that worship is? We tend to think that we are worshipping the Lord in the ***spirit***, and we strive for that as we asked to be filled with the Holy Spirit. But we tend to ignore the second half of worship, which is worshipping in ***truth*** as well. Jesus says ***for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.*** Not just to worship Him in the ***spirit***, but also in ***truth*** as well.

We know the story of Abraham and how he was willing to worship the Lord in ***truth***, because he was willing to give up what the Lord had asked him to.

† ***Genesis 22:12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."***

So do you really want to worship the Lord? Then as you have been reading through this devotional, maybe the Holy Spirit has been reminding you of what you already know that He has been asking you to give up or give to Him. Is this the hour that you will make that happen?

† ***But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.***

One final note on worship, we have seen the first instance of when worship is mentioned in the bible, but where is the last mention of worship in the bible?

† ***Revelation 22:9 Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."***

Which is a reminder for us that we all have our favorite worship groups or person who draws us before the throne of God to worship Him. But we must always remember that we should never walk away thinking how great a musician or teacher of the bible that person(s) is/are. But rather we should walk away thinking how awesome our God is that we just finished singing out to, or hearing from through His word.