

Lesson 2

The Father Seeks Worshipers

Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve
(Matthew 4:10, KJV).

For they went and served other gods and worshipped them
(Deuteronomy 29:26, KJV).

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The reason for this is that both the Old and New Testaments have two words for worship that parallel each other in their implications. In Old Testament Hebrew, *shachah* means to worship in the sense of bowing down or prostrating oneself, as in Exodus 20:5. In New Testament Greek, *proskuneo* carries the same meaning of worship in the sense of bowing down or prostrating oneself, as in Matthew 14:33. The Old Testament Hebrew term *abodah* means to worship by serving the Lord, as in Joshua 24:15. And the New Testament Greek term *latreuo* carries the same meaning of worship in the sense of serving the Lord, as in Romans 12:1.

So when we put all this together, in God’s eyes the whole concept of worship, in both Old and New Testaments, seems to involve both bowing down before almighty God in focused reverence and acts of serving God as part of a daily lifestyle.

Therefore, we will consider and use the two terms interchangeably in an effort to gain insight and perhaps even revelation into the heart of God. This insight and revelation will begin to shed light into the great importance of worship to our heavenly Father.



Share a personal lived experience of God's presence or power being experienced through praise or worship.

Worship

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud
to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol
him with music and song.

For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain
peaks belong to him.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

(Psalm 95:1–6, NIV)