



In Spirit and Truth

Jn. 4:23-24

- 1. False and True Worship
 - a. In the light of a coming hour in the Tribulation Period when the Temple will be desecrated, and the Anti-Christ will demand false worship (2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 13:15-18). Jn. 4:21
 - b. It is important to not only participate in true worship out then but right now as well. Jn. 4:23

- 2. Faith is what was missing in all Israel. That is the main goal of the Gospel of John. Israel was trying to enter God's program but they were entering through the wrong doors (the doors of the false shepherds of the VRS)— it is not just having the Law, circumcision, the Scriptures, etc. (Rom. 10:1-3; 2:13, 18-21, 28-29; Jn. 5:46) or just being the natural descendant of Abraham (Jn. 8:39, 42, 44), but believing them from the heart, in the spirit) whereby they automatically disqualified themselves.
 - a. Saul/Paul is the ultimate example of false worshipper because he didn't worship in spirit and truth through faith, representing the fallen nation of Israel (Phil. 3:4-9).
 - b. The only door that leads into the Kingdom is the door of Jesus Christ entered by believing. He is the Door and the True Shepherd (Jn. 10:7, 9-11).

- 3. Jn. 4:23-24: But what she, the Samaritans and everyone else in Israel needed to know most was that everything begins with believing—this is the way it has always been—what's most important is not the place but the Person.
 - a. True worshippers wherever they were (and many could not readily go to Jerusalem or Mt. Gerizim) were those who worshipped in S/spirit, in the inner person, from hearts of faith (circumcision of the hearts) in the Words of the Spirit (Scriptures=the Truth) (Deut. 4:29-30, 39; 6:5-6; 11:18; 30:2, 14)
 - --What they needed most wasn't external circumcision but internal circumcision of heart (Deut. 10:16; 29:4), the LORD will have to do for them (30:6). Born of Spirit not flesh by believing the Word of God.
 - b. It all begins the way it began for Abraham: Abraham believed God and God counted His faith for righteousness (Gen. 15:6).

- 4. Everyone born since the fall of Adam—Jew or Gentile—is born spiritually dead in the sphere of sin and death (Eph. 2:1-3, 8-9; Rom. 3:19-21). Therefore, everyone has a God shaped vacuum for a spirit that is dead, separated from its intended function in relationship with God and His life.
 - a. When any sinner believes God and His Word, he believes the words of the Spirit, who enlivens their spirit and connects it to God. This gives them the "antenna" to receive God's "wavelength." Without starting here, nothing else matters.
 - b. We communicate with God (Rom. 8:16), and serve Him with the enlivened spirit (Rom. 1:9).

- c. Faith in Christ—leads to life in God—which leads to worshipping Him in spirit and truth, preferably at the place He designates if possible. But the Person is more important than the place (ex. Daniel in Babylon after destruction of Temple and Jerusalem).
- d. Worshipping in temples without faith is false worship in flesh and lies, which is what Israel was doing (Is. 29:13).