



**WELCOME  
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GRACE**

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**Worshipping  
in  
Spirit and Truth**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Worshipping in Spirit and Truth.

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- **John 4:23–24:** But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Based on this verse some claim a sinner must know the truth of the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation before they can be saved and water baptised, but is this what Jesus words, “those who worship the Father will worship in spirit and truth,” really mean. The best way to discover the answer is to look at the context the words are spoken in. Jesus is speaking to a Samaria woman, and says to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” (John 4:7–10). The gift of God in this context is Jesus, and the living water is salvation and eternal life.

The woman then asked, “Where do you get that living water?” Jesus replied, “whoever drinks of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again, because the water I will give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:11–14). The living water Jesus gives, embraces his word, which proclaims, he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, which means he is the spring of water that wells up within us to eternal life. (John 4:11–14).

Jesus then says to the woman, “the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him, for God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23–24). In response to this the woman says, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ), when he comes, he will tell us all things.” (John 4:25). These words of the woman show she clearly understood the prophecies of the Old Testament prophets concerning Israels Messiah, and that when He came, He would teach them all things (i.e., lead them into all truth).

Then Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” (John 4:26). Here Jesus claims to be the one who all Old Testament prophets proclaimed was to come, and a little later tells his disciples, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work, and that some are already gathering fruit for eternal life.” (John 4:31–36). Then we read, many believed in him because they heard him speak, and now know that he is the Savior of the world. (John 4:39–42). From these verses we learn the following four truths:

1. God sent Jesus to accomplish the plans He purposed for mankind’s salvation in His eternal mind before the world began.
2. Jesus came to accomplish and fulfil the eternal plans and purposes his heavenly Father planned and purposed before time began.
3. Some who have already heard the words of Jesus are gathering fruits for eternal life.
4. After hearing Jesus speak many believed, because they recognised, He is the Savior of the world.

From all that has been said to this point, the entire context is upon the truth, salvation to eternal life, is solely set upon having faith in the Saviour of the world, who is the Lord Jesus Christ. No Christian (at least the ones

I know) would doubt it is an enormously wonderful blessing to have a full understanding of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, but as wonderful as having this knowledge is, nothing in Jesus words, true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth," for the Father is seeking such people to worship him" (John 4:23) indicate a sinner must have such enormous knowledge before they can be saved and water baptised. The fact Jesus repeats the words, "the Father is seeking true worshipers who will worship Him in spirit and truth," magnifies what he is saying, and shows the enormous importance of understanding what they do not mean, and what they do mean.

**WHAT THEY DO NOT MEAN:** a sinner must understand the Bible from Genesis to Revelation before they can be saved and water baptised.

**WHAT THEY DO NOT MEAN:** a sinner must believe Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world, repent of their sin before God, accept Jesus as their Lord, King, and Saviour, and follow Him with honesty and integrity of heart, in contrast to the religious leaders of Jesus day (the chief priests, Pharisees, and scribes) who followed God in hypocrisy, and for power and importance.

The words, "the Father is seeking true worshipers who will worship Him in spirit and truth," carry the idea of worshipping from the heart without concealing anything before God, in truth does not mean understanding the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, but understanding the New Testament Covenant and Gospel concerning Jesus, and being honest before God, as opposed to being hypocritical like the religious leaders of Jesus generation who Jesus rebuked with the condemning words:

- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness (Matt 23:27).

Worshipping in Spirit and Truth also embraces the idea of acknowledging one's own sin before God, contrasted to living a life of self-righteousness. The focus is not about understanding every detail of doctrine from Genesis to Revelation, but upon faith in Jesus, and honest worship from the heart (i.e., worship without any pretence). The only truth a sinner needs today to be saved to eternal life is the truth, Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that no one comes to the Father except through Him. (John 12:6). There are times when those witnessing may need to use the Old Testament Scriptures to prove Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, but once a sinner believes Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and they are willing to repent and accept this truth, there is no need to continue to spend weeks or months (as some do), to prove He is, or to teach Old Testament teachings of the Bible.

When I was in the world of sales, it was very clearly taught, "once the sale is made stop talking," applying this principle to Christianity (as crude as it sounds), it would be stated, "once a sinner recognises, they are a sinner before God, honestly repents, and is willing to accept Jesus as their Saviour, there is no need to continue to prove He is." Worshipping in, 'Truth and in Spirit' is coming to God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and endeavouring to walk in a manner that brings honour to God, a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith, in contrast to confessing to be a Christian, and attending church every Sunday, but giving God no thought every other day, and living as one pleases.

**NOTICE:** the apostle Paul who wrote the major portion of the New Testament, does not say, "we should all build each other up in the knowledge of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation," but instead says:

- Build up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, and to the fullness of Christ, so that we would grow up in every way into Christ who is the head of the whole body.” (Ephesians 4:11-16).

The entire focus is Christ, and the focus of the; ‘New Testament Covenant’ is salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ, who all Old Testament prophets and Scriptures proclaimed was to come, which means the words, ‘worshipping in truth and in spirit’ do not mean, before we can worship God we must have a full understanding of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, but that we must have a full understanding of the following three truths:

1. Jesus is the Son of God and Saviour of the world.
2. The Gospel, Jesus gave to apostle Paul to proclaim to the Gentiles.
3. Jesus is the only path to salvation and eternal life.

No sinner, honestly seeking God and salvation needs to know the Bible from beginning to end before they can be saved and water baptised, but they must believe and accept these three truths. Now here is the beauty of these three truths, all can be found in the New Testament, which means a sinner seeking God and eternal salvation, does not need to spend weeks studying the entire Bible before they can be saved, this is the beauty of the New Covenant, and the Christian faith, the Gospel that leads to eternal life is easily found.

Every Ecclesia and church that proclaims repentant sinners seeking Christ who understand they are a sinner before God, and that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only hope they have for eternal salvation, must attend a six week plus Bible class to learn the Bible from Genesis to Revelation before they can be saved and water baptised, is in my understanding of the Gospel Jesus gave to the apostle Paul is, putting a stumbling block, and an enormous intellectual hardship, before them, it also means, no repentant sinner can be saved until they fully comprehend the Bible from beginning to end.

Over fifty years ago, I had very little knowledge of the Old Testament, in contrast to this, I had a very clear understanding of the Gospel of salvation, and based on this knowledge I accepted Jesus as my Saviour, and from that day onward, my life changed, from loving the things of the world to loving the things of God, and faithfully endeavouring to follow Jesus (sadly not as perfectly as I wished I could), who laid His life down for me, and now fifty years later I do have a good understanding of the Old Testament, and learning new truths, contrary to those I fully embraced in my early years of the Christian faith.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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