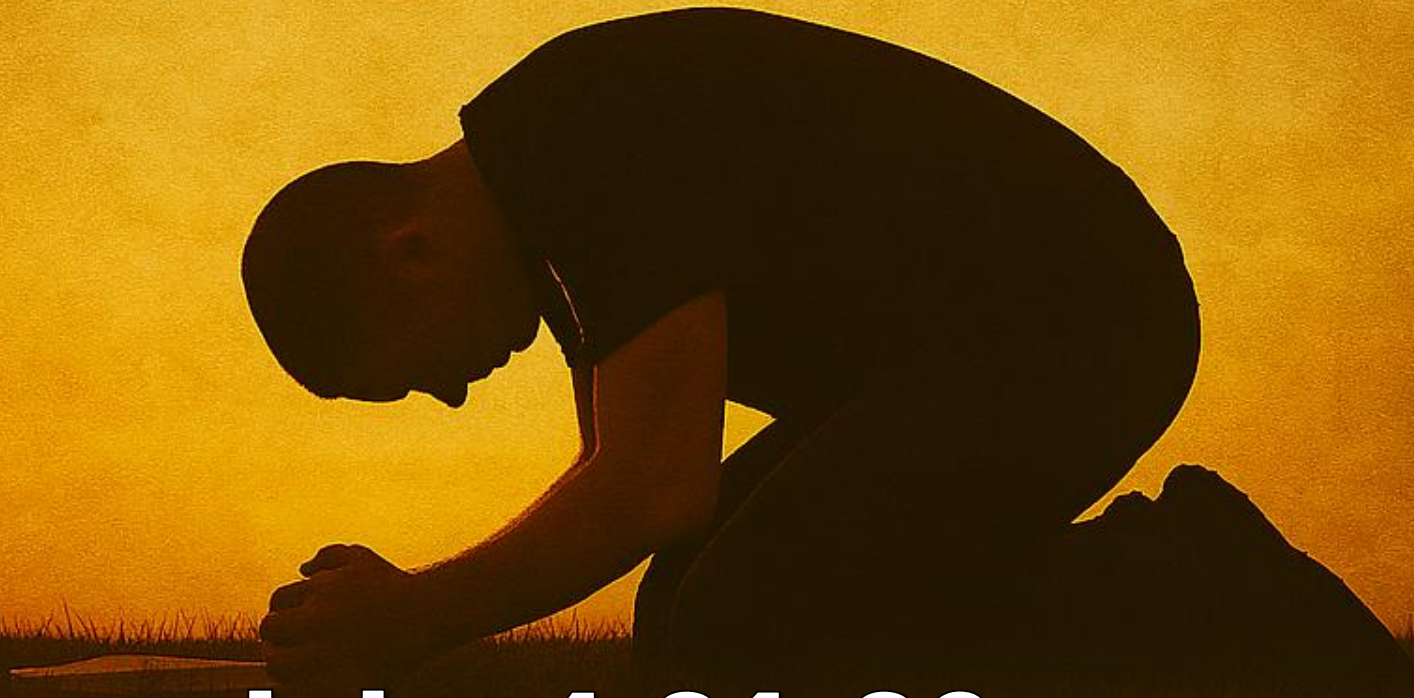


Understanding Acceptable Worship



John 4:21-26

Acceptable Worship is Based on God's Word



Worship: Based on God's Word

- **Worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.**
 - This is what God desires. ***John 4:19-24***



Worship: Based on God's Word

- **Worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.**
 - Consider the history of the Israelites.
 - God warned Israel...
 - Not to add to nor take away from His commandments. ***Deut 4:1-2, 5-6***
 - Not to worship false gods. ***Deut 4:15-19***

Worship: Based on God's Word

- **Worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.**
 - Consider the history of the Israelites.
 - God warned Israel.

However,

→ Aaron built a golden calf. ***Exo 32***

Worship: Based on God's Word

- **Worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.**
 - Consider the history of the Israelites.
 - God warned Israel.

However,

→ Nadab and Abihu offered “a strange fire” to the Lord. ***Lev 10:1-3***

Worship: Based on God's Word

- **Worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.**
 - Consider the history of the Israelites.
 - God warned Israel.

However,

→ King Saul, of the tribe of Benjamin, unlawfully offered a burnt offering.

1 Sam 13

Worship: Based on God's Word

- **Worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.**
 - Consider the history of the Israelites.
 - God warned Israel.

However,

→ Sometimes Israel's worship was pure hypocrisy. Their ungodliness caused the Lord to reject their offerings. ***Isa 1:10-15; Amos 5:21-24***

Worship: Based on God's Word

- **Worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.**
 - Under the New Covenant, true worshippers worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.
 - We seek the instructions and guidance from God's word.
 - *God's word equips us for "every good work" which includes worshiping the Lord.*
2 Tim 3:16-17
 - *God's word gives us all things that pertain to life and godliness.* **2 Pet 1:3**

Worship: Based on God's Word

- **Worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.**
 - Under the New Covenant, true worshippers worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.
 - God's instructions regarding worship should be written on our hearts. **Heb 8:10**
 - *“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”*

Acceptable Worship Begins in the Heart



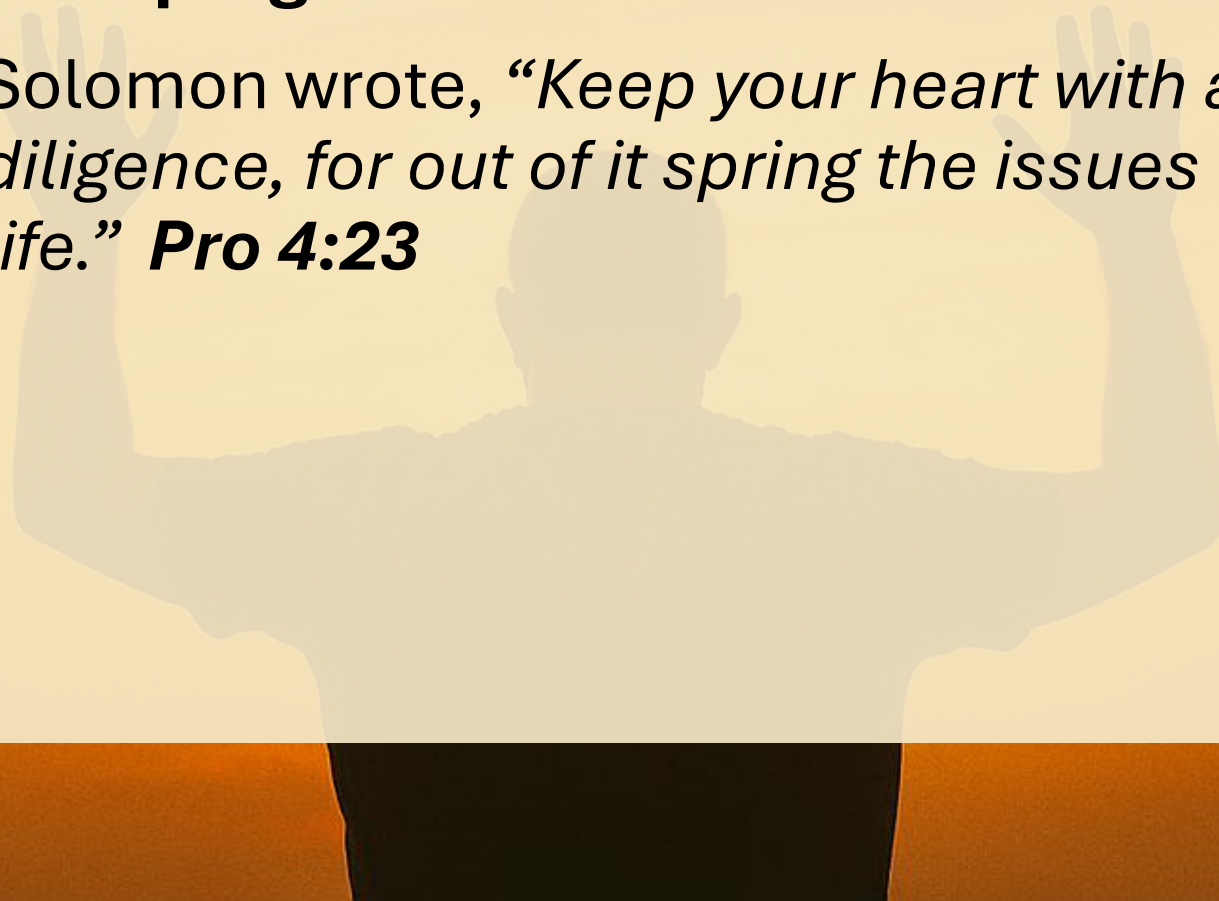
Worship: Begins in the Heart

- Our worship must begin in the heart.
 - *“God is Spirit, and those who **worship Him** must worship **in spirit** and truth.” John 4:24*



Worship: Begins in the Heart

- Our worship must begin in the heart.
 - Our hearts must be **focused on worshiping the Lord.**
 - Solomon wrote, *“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”* **Pro 4:23**



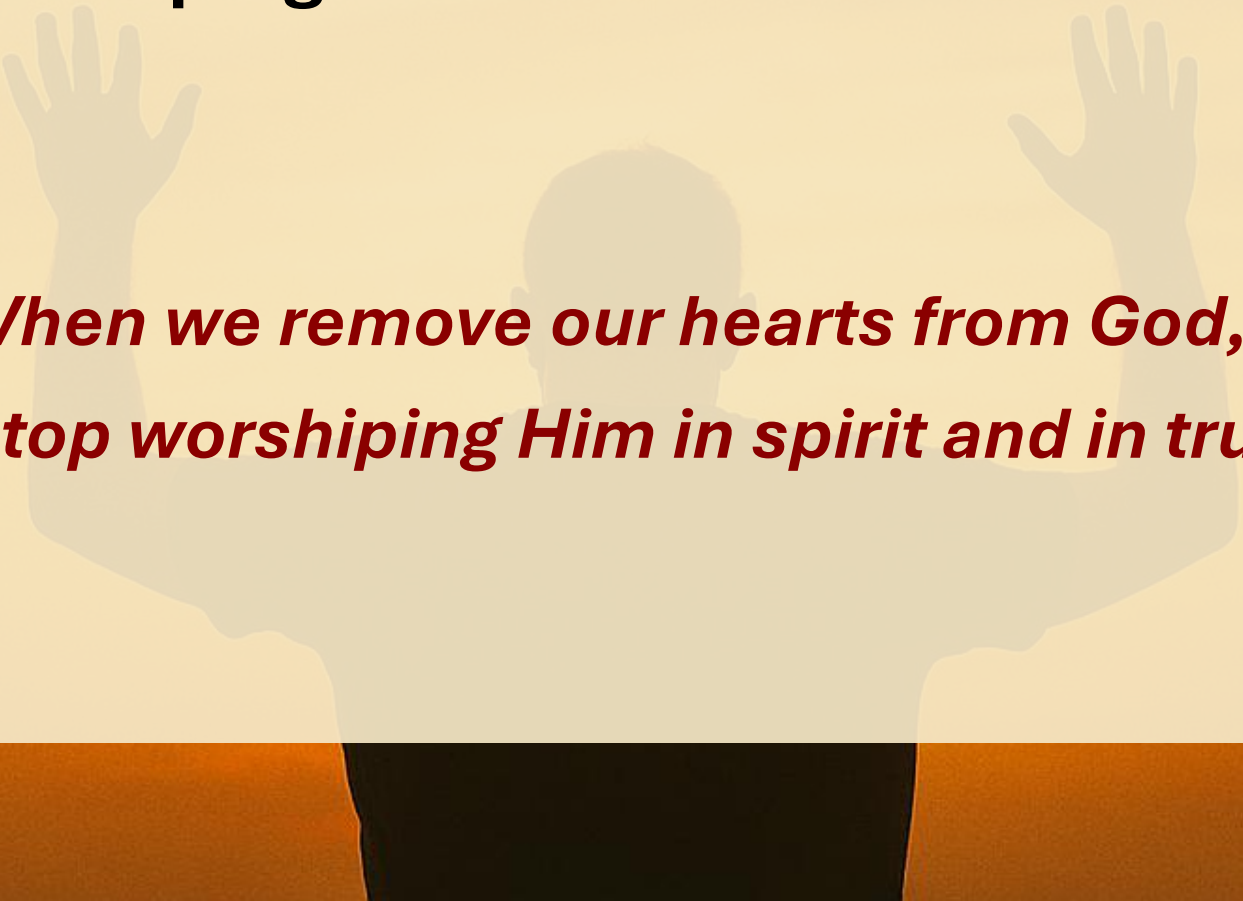
Worship: Begins in the Heart

- Our worship must begin in the heart.
 - Our hearts must be **focused on worshiping the Lord**.
 - Regarding Israel, the Lord said...
 - “Inasmuch as **these people** draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but **have removed their hearts far from Me**, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,...” **Isa 29:13; cf. Matt 15:7-9**

Worship: Begins in the Heart

- **Our worship must begin in the heart.**
 - Our hearts must be **focused on worshiping the Lord.**

*When we remove our hearts from God,
we stop worshiping Him in spirit and in truth.*



Worship: Begins in the Heart

- **Our worship must begin in the heart.**
 - **Our hearts must be filled with reverence and awe for Him** whom we worship.



Worship: Begins in the Heart

- **Our worship must begin in the heart.**
 - **Our hearts must be filled with reverence and awe for Him** whom we worship.
 - Consider the worship seen in heaven.
 - The worship offered to the Almighty God. ***Rev 4:9-11***
 - The worship offered to the Lamb, Jesus the King. ***Rev 5:11-13***

Worship: Begins in the Heart

- **Our worship must begin in the heart.**
 - **Our hearts must be filled with reverence and awe for Him** whom we worship.
 - Let our hearts **bow in humility and reverence** before the Lord.
 - David wrote, *“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.” Psa 95:6-7*

Worship: Begins in the Heart

- **Our worship must begin in the heart.**
 - Our hearts **must be filled with reverence and awe for Him** whom we worship.
 - Let our hearts **bow in humility and reverence** before the Lord.
 - *We should be “soul-kneeling” before the great Creator.*
 - *We, the creation, should stand in awe of the Creator.*

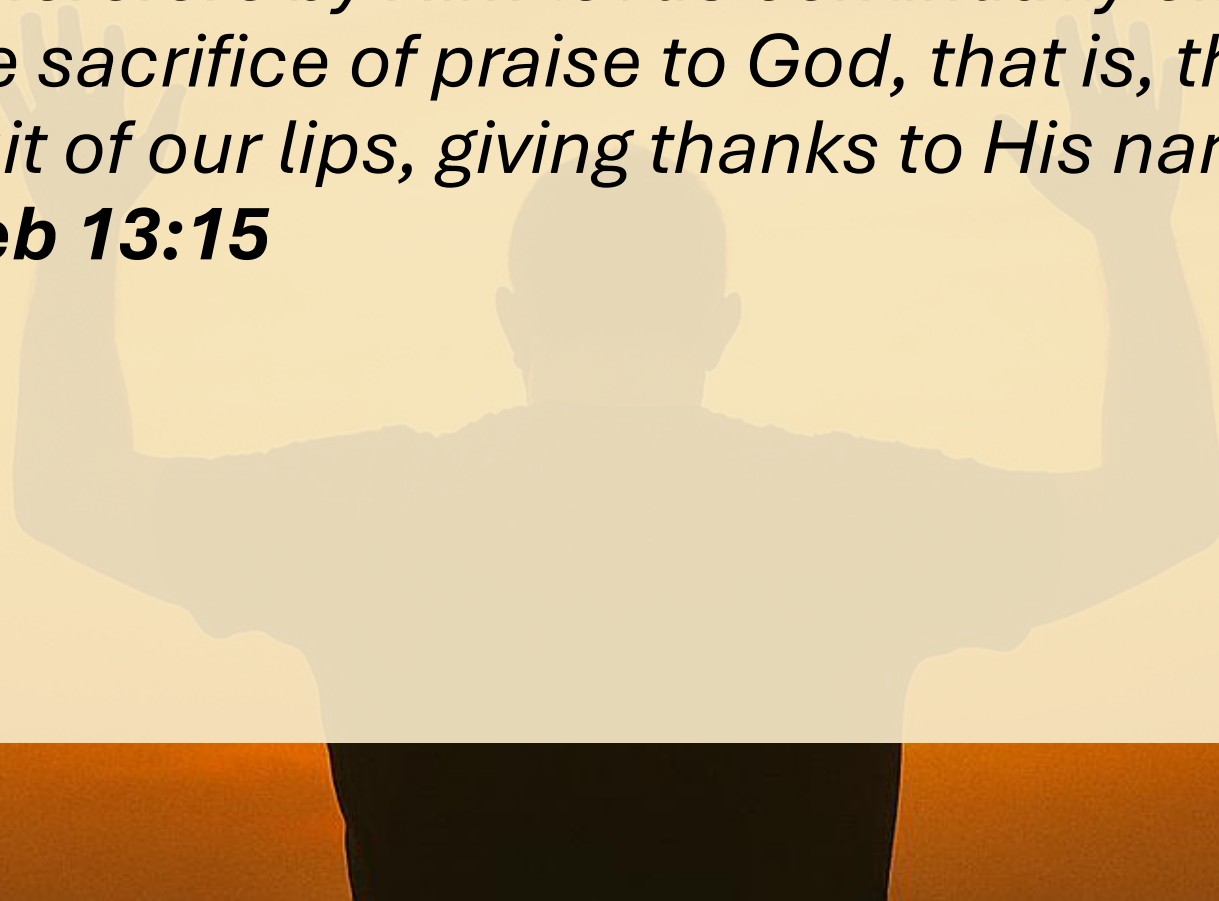
Worship: Begins in the Heart

- **Our hearts should produce the “fruit of our lips.”**



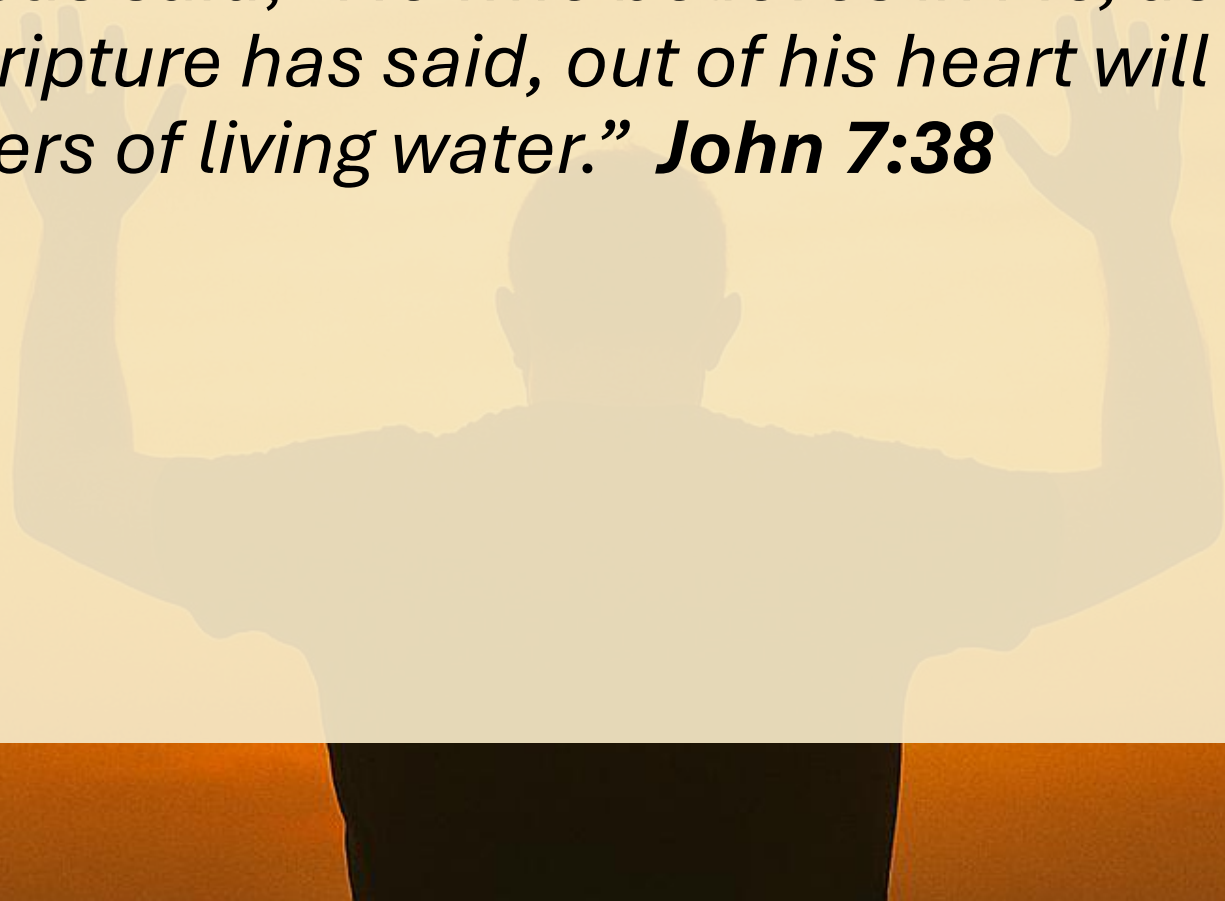
Worship: Begins in the Heart

- Our hearts should produce the “fruit of our lips.”
 - *“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”*
Heb 13:15



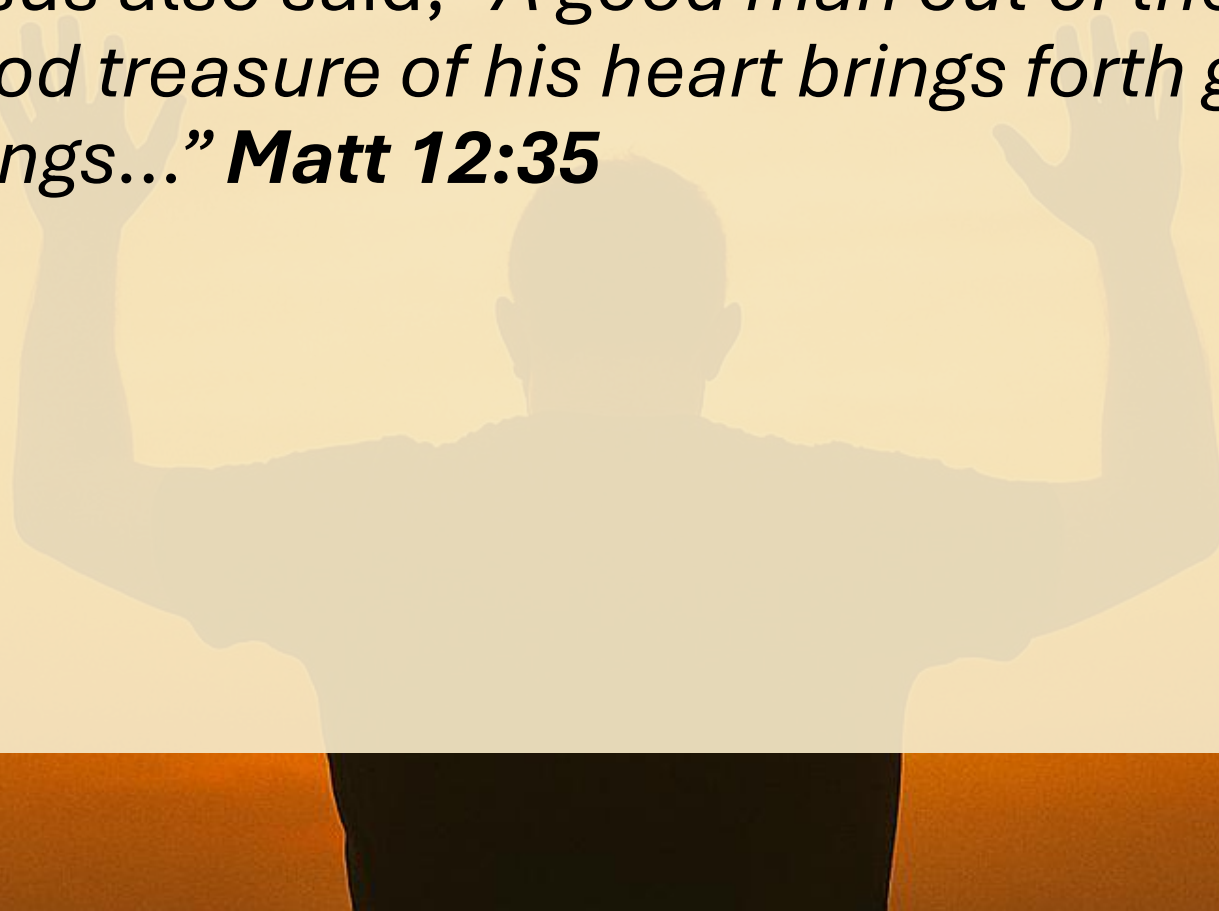
Worship: Begins in the Heart

- Our hearts should produce the “fruit of our lips.”
 - Jesus said, *“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”* **John 7:38**



Worship: Begins in the Heart

- Our hearts should produce the “fruit of our lips.”
 - Jesus also said, “*A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things...*” **Matt 12:35**



Worship: Begins in the Heart

- **Our hearts should produce the “fruit of our lips.”**
 - The “fruit of our lips” will be seen in...
 - ***Songs, hymns, & spiritual songs.***
 - *Prayers offered to the Lord.*
 - *Hearing and studying God’s word.*
 - *Proclaiming Jesus’ death through the Lord’s Supper.*
 - *Laying by in store to help in the work of the local church.*

Worship: Begins in the Heart

- **Our hearts should produce the “fruit of our lips.”**
 - The “fruit of our lips” will be seen in...
 - *Songs, hymns, & spiritual songs.*
 - ***Prayers offered to the Lord.***
 - *Hearing and studying God’s word.*
 - *Proclaiming Jesus’ death through the Lord’s Supper.*
 - *Laying by in store to help in the work of the local church.*

Worship: Begins in the Heart

- **Our hearts should produce the “fruit of our lips.”**
 - The “fruit of our lips” will be seen in...
 - *Songs, hymns, & spiritual songs.*
 - *Prayers offered to the Lord.*
 - ***Hearing and studying God’s word.***
 - *Proclaiming Jesus’ death through the Lord’s Supper.*
 - *Laying by in store to help in the work of the local church.*

Worship: Begins in the Heart

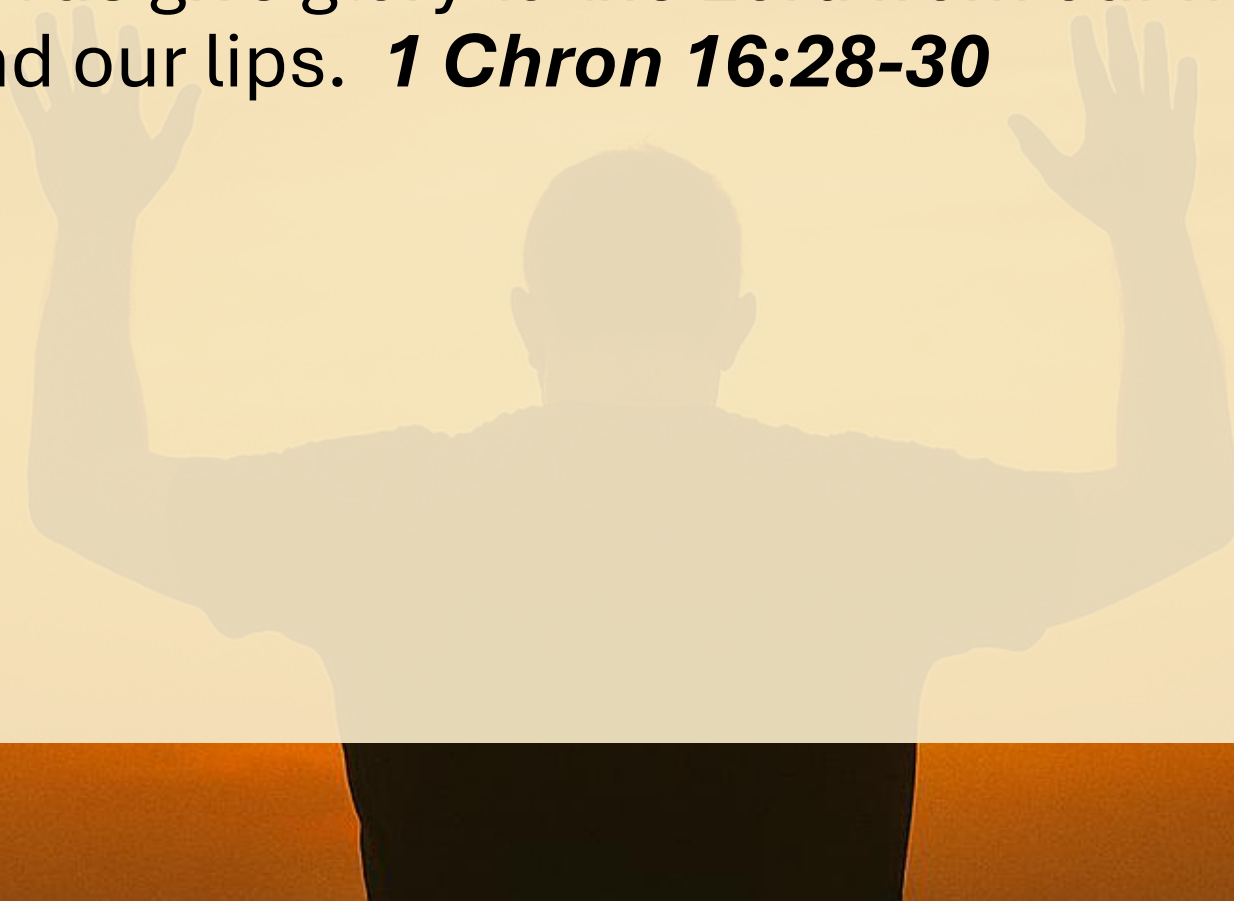
- **Our hearts should produce the “fruit of our lips.”**
 - The “fruit of our lips” will be seen in...
 - *Songs, hymns, & spiritual songs.*
 - *Prayers offered to the Lord.*
 - *Hearing and studying God’s word.*
 - ***Proclaiming Jesus’ death through the Lord’s Supper.***
 - *Laying by in store to help in the work of the local church.*

Worship: Begins in the Heart

- **Our hearts should produce the “fruit of our lips.”**
 - The “fruit of our lips” will be seen in...
 - *Songs, hymns, & spiritual songs.*
 - *Prayers offered to the Lord.*
 - *Hearing and studying God’s word.*
 - *Proclaiming Jesus’ death through the Lord’s Supper.*
 - ***Laying by in store to help in the work of the local church.***

Worship: Begins in the Heart

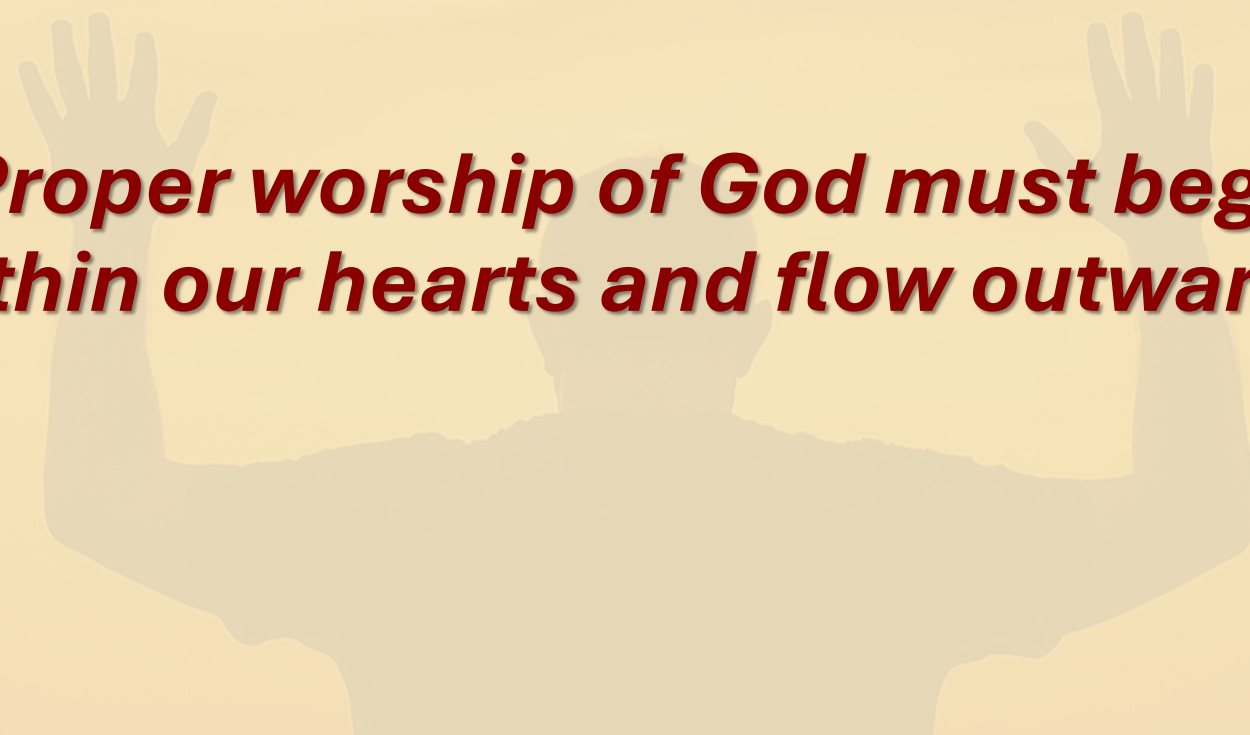
- Our hearts should produce the “fruit of our lips.”
 - Let us give glory to the Lord from our hearts and our lips. **1 Chron 16:28-30**



Worship: Begins in the Heart

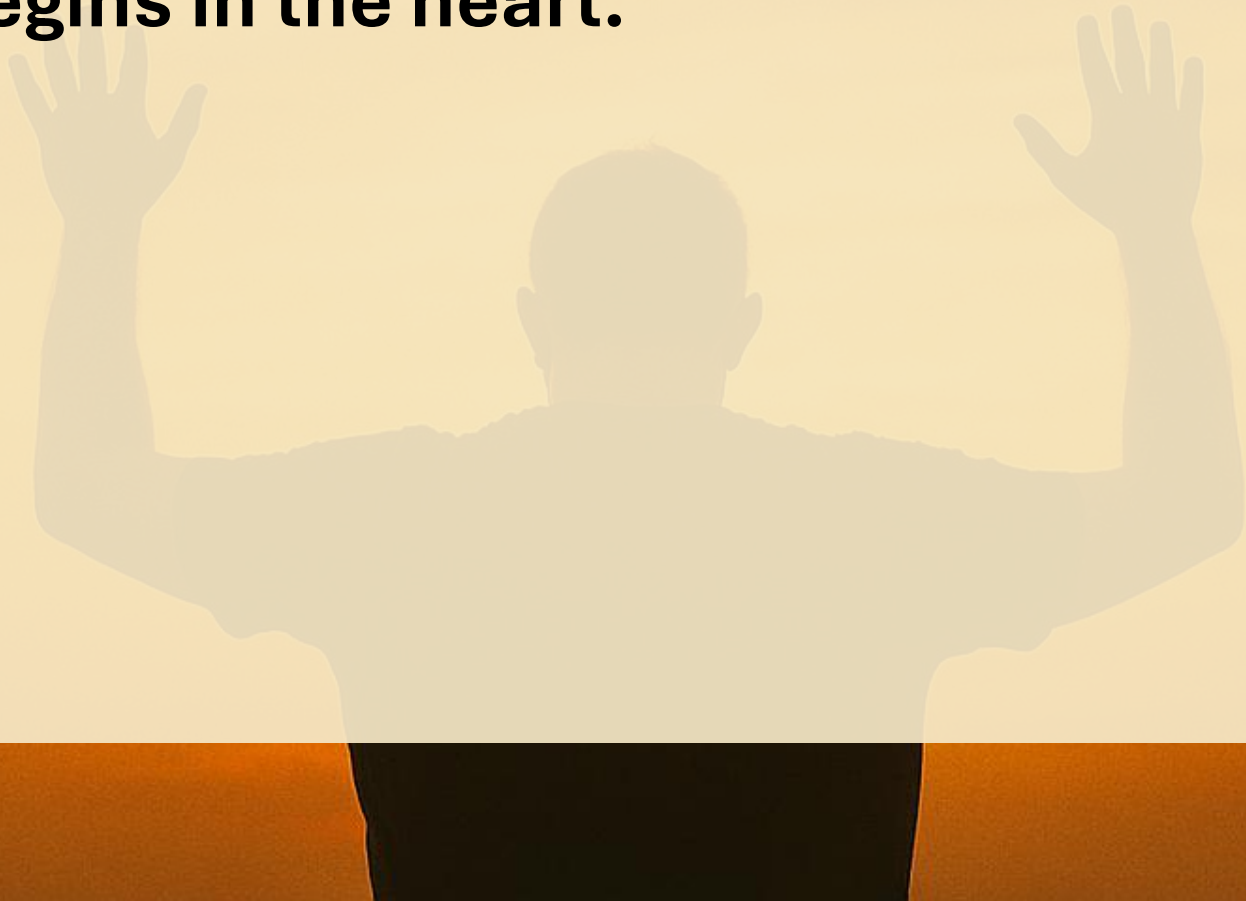
- **Our hearts should produce the “fruit of our lips.”**

Proper worship of God must begin within our hearts and flow outwardly.



Conclusion

- **Acceptable Worship...**
 - **Is based on God's Word.**
 - **Begins in the heart.**



Conclusion

- **Is your worship acceptable to the Lord?**
 - As Paul wrote, “*But let a man examine himself...*” **1 Cor 11:28**
 - Each of us must examine ourselves to make certain our hearts are right with God and that the worship we offer up is pleasing to Him.
 - In the next lesson, we will continue this study.