



Episode 71 - Unveiling the True Worship: God is Spirit

2025-03-19

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In this episode, Scott Stanley of DTG Ministries continues the Revelation podcast with a transformative message exploring the profound concept that 'God is spirit.' Drawing insights from the Gospel of John and various scriptural references, Scott delves into the nature of worshiping God in spirit and truth, challenging established doctrines and highlighting the contrast between God's true church and the universal church.

Listeners will journey through scriptural interpretations that reveal how God's spirit influences our minds and actions, shaping our understanding of faith beyond physical manifestations. This episode encourages contemplation on what it means to serve and worship God genuinely, emphasizing the spiritual connection between believers and the divine.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are directly transcribed with notations. See KJV for actual wording.

Hi. This is Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries. I am continuing the Revelation podcast today with a special message. My understanding of God has been expanding since

starting this podcast over a year ago, and I have finally entered into a truth that separates the light from the dark. I have been sharing about the universal church and the doctrines they teach, how they carry the spirit of antichrist as defined in 1 John 2 and 1 John 4. Today, I think the Lord is giving us an understanding that really helps us to know the danger of the universal church and where these people are- I could say where they are not.

There is a verse in the Gospel of John, chapter 4, where Jesus is speaking to the woman at the well. I want to read verses 23 and 24. It says,

Joh 4:23 The hour comes and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father is seeking such to worship him.

Joh 4:24 God is Spirit. They that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth.

For a long time, this idea of "God is Spirit" was something that bothered me because I couldn't be exact about what it meant. I wanted to know exactly what Jesus meant, *God is Spirit*. I'm not saying God is a spirit because, in the Greek, there is no indefinite article. It says "*God is Spirit*," and my tendency when I read that is to see it outward and literal, like God is Spirit, what does that mean? Is that like a cloud of smoke? Does that mean he doesn't have a physical form or shape? What does it mean? But for him to say God is Spirit, after I considered it, I remembered Psalms 104, reading verses 3 and 4, speaking of God,

Psa 104:3 He lays the beams of his chambers in the waters: he makes the clouds his chariot: who walks upon the wings of the wind:

Psa 104:4 Who makes his messengers spirits... (Now the words "spirit" and "wind" are the same word.) His ministers are a flaming fire.

So whatever spirit means, God makes his messenger spirit. That word "angel" is simply the word "messenger," and you'll discover that it applies to people or visions of messengers. But he makes his messengers spirits. What does that mean? God is Spirit, but he makes his messengers spirits. Well, remember in 1 John 4:1,

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

I remember in 1 Kings 22:21, the prophecy of Micaiah, that he saw lying spirits or he saw spirits before the Lord.

1Ki 22:21 There comes forth a spirit before the LORD, and says, I'll persuade him.

1Ki 22:22 ... I'm going to go forth, and I will be a lying spirit ...

Well, all of the king's prophets were lying spirits. That lying spirit was in all of his prophets, telling the king that he could go forth and win the battle. Of course, he goes forth and is killed. But what does it mean, God makes his ministers spirits? He makes his messengers spirits, ministers of fire. Beware of false prophets. They are lying spirits. God is Spirit, and how do you roll all of that together? How do you put that together?

Well, I don't think what we're reading in the Gospel of John 4, where God is Spirit, has anything to do with an outward picture of God because I know of no outward picture other than what we read in Daniel 7, the Ancient of Days. That's the Father. But that's a vision. I don't think the Father looks like that literally. So what do we mean? How can I take what Jesus has stated in John 4, "*God is Spirit, and you must worship him in spirit and truth*"?

I've said before, at least during our weekly conference, that Paul states in Acts 17, speaking of the Father, "*For in him, in him, we live and move and have our being*" (Act 17:28). If I were to think of a symbol that would picture the Father, it would be the air itself, because the air itself, you breathe it. It is in you, and you are in him. Without that air, you die. I thought, well, that is a good similitude of God. *In him, I live, I move, and I have my being.*

But when I look at literal air, just bear with me- let's just work through this because I want something to leap out at you when we get there. I want you to see something. The literal air needs to be filtered sometimes before you breathe it. In literal air, you can get things into your body. Things can come into your body that you don't want to be there. So many times, you have to filter that air, or you're going to hurt yourself physically. You could get a disease. You could breathe heavy smoke, dust ... you get the picture. Speaking of literal air, if it's a similitude of the Father, there are things in literal air you don't want.

But if I say that God himself is like that air, there is nothing in God you don't want. In other words, anything from God coming into me would bring health and well-being. In fact, we would even call it treasure. This is something that you want. You want what God has to come into you. So what does he mean by "*God is Spirit, beware of false spirits, false prophets. God makes his messengers spirits*"? Well, I realized a spirit is someone who can come into your mind and affect the way you think. God's teachers are spirits. It doesn't mean you're going to let them do that. It doesn't mean you'll believe every false prophet. It just means they have the ability to come into your mind and alter the way you think.

Now I'm sitting here considering people in my town, for instance, my neighbors. They can't do that to me. I will not give them that ability. They are not spirits able to enter into my thinking because I don't consider what they say. But if you're going to consider what somebody says, you possess a brain-mind, and through the Old and New Testament, the mind is equivalent to your spirit. It's the way you think. Because you possess a spirit, another spirit can come into your thinking. Well, God is Spirit.

Again, we're not talking about what he looks like. We're talking about the fact that his understanding and his thinking can come into you and influence you. But he chooses vessels of his ministry. He chooses people who can speak to you spiritual truth, and bring his understanding into your mind. Remember in 1 Corinthians, chapter 1, verse 21,

1Co 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God, in God's wisdom, the world by its wisdom didn't know God, ... (There's no way the world understands God by the wisdom they possess.) It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

That "save" is "to redeem you from iniquity, to heal you." So God has chosen preaching to bring his mind into our mind and change the way we act, change the way we think, redeem us from all the iniquity that we have. 1 Corinthians, chapter 2, let me start at verse 2.

1Co 2:2 I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

1Co 2:3 I was with you in weakness, and fear and much trembling.

1Co 2:4 My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom. My speech and words demonstrated the Spirit and ability of God.

Now you have to demonstrate it for people to get the picture. A demonstration of the Spirit is what we see on the cross. So God is Spirit. He is able to come into your mind. He is able to come into your mind and give you his understanding.

2Co 6:16 ... I will dwell in them, I will walk in them. I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

He does that through the spirit, his Spirit being in you, his understanding being in you. *"God is Spirit, and they who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."* Well, what does it mean to worship him in spirit? Let's start reading in Romans 12.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercy of God (though the mercies of God), that you present your body a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

There is the reason for the cross. It is the cross that will allow you to present your body as a sacrifice, but you're living. This is something we have been studying and recognizing- when Christ was on the cross, he was portraying the soul of humanity, and by understanding what happened at the cross, he can set you free from iniquity. So look at this again.

Rom 12:1 ... that you present your body a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Well, "reasonable service" could be translated as "spiritual worship." For years, I have looked at this reasonable service, my service to God of reasoning. Well, that's in the mind, and that's spiritual, and your service to God, this is spiritual service. This is spiritual worship.

Again, you remember the cross, and you find death to self and manifest the spirit of God in your life. This is spiritual worship, and this is defined in Romans 6 (we've been over Romans 6 many times). Look at Romans 6:3- *Know ye not*, verse 6- *knowing this*,

verse 9, *knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dies no more*. See, there are three "knows" in here, and they're all different. But it still means "to know."

Rom 6:3 You know, you're not ignorant, that if you've been immersed into Jesus, you're immersed into his death?

Rom 6:6 You know, you experience that your old man died with him, ...

Rom 6:9 Knowing, or perceiving that Christ being raised from the dead dies no more; ...

The three "knows," and then you come to verse 11.

Rom 6:11 Likewise reckon, consider you also yourselves to be dead indeed unto iniquity, the sin, but alive unto God in Jesus Christ our Lord. (That is spiritual worship. That is your spiritual service to God. Let's keep reading.)

Rom 6:12 Let not iniquity, the sin, therefore reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in the lust of it.

Rom 6:13 Neither yield you your members as instruments of iniquity unto iniquity, the sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Again, Romans 6:11-13 is spiritual worship, just like he stated in Romans 12 and just like Jesus stated in John 4.

God is Spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth. There's a great big word in that verse. It's "must." You must worship him in spirit and truth. It's defined in Romans 12 and 6, and this is something the universal church has never understood. They have never done it, at least in my lifetime. I don't know of anyone who understands the cross, who is able, then, to worship God in spirit and in truth. They will have their own definition of it. It definitely is not looking at the cross as you're looking in a mirror and being changed from glory to glory (1Co 13:18). This thing about glory is just mind-boggling to me. In Romans 5:2,

Rom 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace ... Remember, by faith, God chose that the world would learn his wisdom through preaching. That's how you get faith. We have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

It hit me the other day as I was reading these verses that we actually have a hope of possessing God's glory. God's glory is defined in Exodus 34, and his glory is long-suffering and patience, meekness, and merciful. You see in 2 Thessalonians 2:14,

2Th 2:14 Whereunto he has called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of Jesus Christ.

At one time in my Christian life, my life had fallen apart, and I cried out to God to help me because I didn't have anywhere else to turn. I knew intuitively that there was a God. I had been raised that way, that there's a God, and I know he can help me, and I cried out. When I did that, I just simply wanted my problems fixed. Of course, God had something bigger in mind. I just wanted to be fixed. I wanted my family to be fixed. I wanted to finally have peace in my home and stop the alcohol and drugs, and just everything. Just "God help me." That's basically where I was.

As time went on and I studied the Bible ... of course, you want to be forgiven of your sin, and then you want to please God. You want to be pleasing to God, and you want to stand up for God and fight for God. But I finally reached a point in my life as to why am I serving God? Because he has given me the hope of being made in the image of his only begotten Son.

Our gospel should contain the fact that you can obtain the glory of Jesus Christ who is the image of the invisible God, who is spirit, who can come into your mind through his ministry ... who can interpret the scriptures, the holy scriptures, the word of God; who can bring that into you, and you, by means of faith, can be redeemed from all iniquity and apply that faith worshiping God in spirit; looking at the cross, letting that come into your mind and then acting on it. You know, we can be told and people can read the verses to us that God is long-suffering and patient and merciful and just, all of the things that he is. It's wonderful. But that is like reading the driver's manual.

Those are words about God, but the cross is something different. On the cross, you look at the cross as if you're looking in a mirror, 2 Corinthians 3:18. You look into that mirror, and you remember what you did to bring that crown of thorns on you, the guilt; what you did to have the stripes, what people did to you that you couldn't forgive. You

remember those times you acted on your own nakedness. You remember the darkness that you were in. You remember all of that. Looking in the mirror, you look at all that. You remember all of that, and you realize God was patient and long-suffering with you.

Now you're having an experience. You're not reading the manual; you're driving the car. You're experiencing the love and long-suffering, the kindness, the patience of God when you wore your crown of thorns, when you were beaten and could not forgive anybody. You're looking at that cross. This is the wisdom of God.

He is demonstrating his Spirit to you. He has created a similitude of the human soul, allowing you to remember it and realize his love for you. The mere fact that is *his Son* hanging on the cross shows you God loves you. Jesus is bearing witness to the love of God. He's bearing witness to the effect of iniquity, and he bears witness to how to overcome it.

Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. God is spirit, and those who worship him must... You must worship him in spirit and in truth. No one is doing that. There isn't a church on the planet that is worshiping God in spirit and in truth. They might have some spiritual symbols they know. They might have a song service, and they're lifting their hands or they're speaking in tongues, whatever it is they're doing. They are not fulfilling Romans 12 and Romans 6. They are not worshiping God in spirit. They are in confusion about God. This truth, this understanding, separates God's church from everyone else.

We know that we know God because he has given us of his spirit. It is that spirit that we worship him in, in spirit and in truth. It separates God's church from everyone else. God's church needs compassion from its members. God's church needs forgiveness, long-suffering, and patience. God's church needs support. There is no other church on the planet like God's church. There is one Lord, one faith... one faith, one faith, one faith. Think about it. God the Father is spirit and can come into your mind and bring his understanding into you, and he will walk in you. He will live in you. You will be his people. He will be your God, and he will love you in such a way that he will redeem you from all iniquity if you let him.

God has his ministry. I pray that we get an understanding of who we are in Jesus Christ, what it means to be living at the time in which we live, and be able to bring the spirit of

God to another person. God makes his messengers spirits, able to come into the mind, giving you the ability to overcome all iniquity. That's another word for that, too. It's a priest. A priest can minister to you. A priest can help you with that sacrifice and help you to understand how you can overcome sin in your life.

Worship God in spirit and in truth. This is spiritual worship. This is your reasonable service. This is the truth in Jesus Christ.

Most gracious Heavenly Father, thank you. Touch us. Help us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.