

## 14-WORSHIP FROM THE HEART

“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”  
(John 4:24 NASB)

While in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, I visited the largest Hindu Shrine in the world...a golden statue that reaches some 120 feet in the air. It stands at the base of 272 steps, which lead to the Batu caves. Inside the caves are literally hundreds of Hindu gods, and once a year a million Hindus throng to this sacred site to pay homage to some of their 330,000,000 wooden, stone and porcelain gods.

When Jesus met the woman at the well, and their conversation turned to worship, he made an interesting statement about worshipping in “spirit”...He was saying that worshipping God is all about RELATIONSHIP, and needed to take place with an attitude of wholehearted, genuine love. It is impossible to “love” an object that can’t respond!

In the Bible we find many “expressions” of worship: kneeling (Ps.95:6, Eph. 3:14), clapping (Ps. 47:1, Ps. 98:8-9), lifting our hands (Ps. 134:1-2), and singing (Ps. 33:3) to name but a few. EACH of these postures or expressions assumes that the object of our worship can see, hear enjoy and appreciate our adoration! William Hendrickson writes that there are at least 60 references in the Bible to various postures of worship!!

Ray Steadman writes “We have personality because we are spirits dwelling in bodies. Our human spirit is designed to communicate and interrelate with the Spirit of God. That is what Jesus means when He says we must worship “in spirit”. He is referring to our human spirit which is usually referred to in scripture as the “heart”.

God designed us for relationship, and desires that our worship be motivated by a genuine, wholehearted love and adoration for His character, activity and provision. As we worship this week, let’s be sure that our “hearts” are engaged....

THOUGHT: “When I worship I would rather my heart be without words than my words be without heart.” Lamar Boschman