

1. worship -

...the rhythm of living by the Spirit

We began this rhythm when we are born of the Spirit – when we first receive God in our most treasured place (worship).

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:23-25

“...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Mt. 6:21

We are encouraged by Paul to worship this way:

*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of **worship**.* Romans 12:1

It is about learning a way of life based on **hearing His voice**.

“For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”
Romans 8:14

Whether we realize it or not, being led by the Spirit is the way that we **came** to Jesus in the first place

*“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.’ **Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.**”* John 6:44-46

What we ‘worship’ is defined not by our doctrines or statements of faith, but by the way we direct our **A**ttention, our **T**ime, and our **M**oney (ATM) –

JESUS - OUR LEAD:

- Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. John 5:19-20
- “By this we know that we are in Him (Jesus): The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.” 1 John 2:5-6

- “But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.” Luke 5:16

There is no “plan B” for believers in Jesus Christ. The Pharisees tried to live “by the Book”, and what did it get them? Jesus had words for them in John 5:39-40, **“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”**

There is one thing to do: Continue to listen* to the voice of God and be led by Him – this is the voice (mostly inaudible) that brought us to believe that Jesus is the Son of God. [John 6:44-45] It is the only voice that can do that. [Matt. 16:15-16] Prayer “in the Spirit” [Ephesians 6:18] requires more listening than talking. So the next question will be...

How do I know I am hearing from the Spirit of God?

...good question.

The testimony of Scripture has answers: Ask yourself whether what you are “hearing” (*impressions, visions, influences or “gifts”*) is:

1. **CONSISTENT WITH SCRIPTURE?** - Does it line up with what is already revealed about God in Scripture (Acts 17:11, 2Tim. 3:16)
2. **CONFIRMED BY FRUIT?** – What is the result of what is heard in my life, or the life of others? Fruit (reproductive part of a plant) = *reproduces faith*; (Matt. 7:15, 16)
3. **CONFESSING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST?** – As for the spiritual source of the message, is there a confession of Jesus as Lord, (1Cor 12:1-3), or as having come in the flesh? (1John 4:1-3)

As we become *practiced* in Rhythm 1, we will gain **two things**:

Familiarity with the Testimony of Scripture. Jesus didn’t have to check His scroll in the desert when responding to Satan’s tempting with Scripture. (Matt 4, Luke 4)

Becoming skilled in discernment. Heb 5:14 *“But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.”*