“In Pursuit of Authentic Worship”
John 4:21-26
The Catalyst to Worship:  
The Lord’s Presence!

God seeks worshippers – John 4:23

1 Chronicles 16:9 – “The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.”

Philippians 2:13 – “both to will and work…”

He reveals Himself in His splendor!

He provides REASON to worship
Two Critical Elements of Worship: “In Spirit and In Truth”

Jesus to the woman at the well:
"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth“ (John 4:24).
Authentic Worship Must Be In Spirit

In **HIS** Spirit - “You must be born again” (John 3:3).

“Be filled with the Spirit” – (Ephesians 5:18)

**Motivators:** internal rather than external
Matthew 22:37 (heart) vs. John 4:20 (mountain)
Why God’s Spirit is Essential to Worship

“‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. ‘BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN’”
(Matt. 15:8-9, also Isaiah 29:13).

“He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you” (John 16:14).
And in Truth – 1 John 1:6-10

Goal: **Christian maturity** = “walk matches talk”

Vs. 6 – “If we say we have **fellowship with Him** and yet **walk** in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”

Fellowship = “koinonia” – a sharing.

**Reference**: 1 Corinthians 6:15-17
“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

Response:
“Confession” “say the same thing as the Lord”

“Repentance” “change of mind”
Vs. 10 – Double Down On Eradicating Sin! (Transformation)

“If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.”

Acknowledgement of sin and deliverance from it, stages the presence of “Amazing Grace!”

“I once was lost, but now am found, T'was blind but now I see
Connecting the Dots

Authentic worship:
* begins in response to God’s presence
  e.g. Thomas, (John 20:28)
* happens in His Spirit (John 4:24).
* bathed in truth (John 14:6)
* facilitated by confession and repentance
* results in good fruit (outward behavior)
Results of Being in His Presence!
Fruitful Lives of Service

James 1:27 – “The worship that God wants is this: caring for orphans or widows who need help and keeping yourself free from the world’s evil influence. This is the kind of worship that God accepts as pure and good” (English Rev. V).

Ephesians 2:10 – “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works....”