

8/13/23 “A Special Worship Service,” Eph. 5:15-21, NLT

**INTRODUCTION:** Feel world spinning out of control? LASB: John shows us heaven before showing us earth so that we will not be frightened by future events. following rapture (last use of church ch. 3 till ch. 22)

Not chronological order; 4 living beings = cherubim; 24 elders (uncertain), ? 12 sons of Jacob, 12 apostles; symbolize redeemed

We are so much about *this* life, we forget there are other realities...heaven & hell

**MAIN IDEA: Let’s worship God here on earth.** (What do I worship? Time/\$/heart/dedication) How? Here are three aspects of such worship.

### I. First, it’s in the Spirit (2)

7 torches, 7-fold Spirit (5) = Holy Spirit (Pentecost, tongues of fire)

#### A. Cautions

1. Some people are moral but don’t have the Spirit
2. Some have the Spirit but are not walking in Him

B. HS reveals God... a person, but light: jasper (like diamond), carnelian (red), emerald (rainbow, mercy)

C. HS brings us into God’s presence (He’s here & in heaven)

D. HS empowers our worship of Him

**John 4:24, NLT:** For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.

1. our spirit with His (tongues a good example)
2. His Spirit speaking truth to us

**Warning:** living apart from Him leaves us stranded

#### ILLUSTRATION:

### II. Second, it’s focusing on the Father (think Lord’s Prayer)

A. much of our lives we focus on ourselves; must ↗

B. exalt who He is...holy, almighty, eternal, worthy to receive glory, honor, power

B. proclaim what He has done...Creator of all that exists

**Warning:** we must repent of worshiping anything, anyone else

#### ILLUSTRATION:

**TRANSITION:** We have only what He has given us. If all that He has given us were removed, we nor those we love would exist.

### III. Finally, it’s what we do (10)

A. earn crowns here to give Him there

**James 1:12, NLT:** God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. [see also Rev. 2:10]

**2Timothy 4:8, NLT:** And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

**1Peter 5:4, NLT:** And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.

B. live to please Him in all we do

C. surrender ourselves & all we have to Him (10)

- when wronged
- amidst everyone else’s rebellion
- when tempted to lust, conform, lash out in “righteous anger”

#### ILLUSTRATION:

#### **CONCLUSION:**

**ALTAR:** Will you worship God? Will you seek to be filled? Refilled?

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