

Worshiping Alone is a strategy for putting God first and expressing our love for Him on a regular basis. Suggestions on how, when and where to worship alone are included as well as examples of examples of items that may be included in personal worship plans.

Worshiping Alone

By Samuel Dronebarger

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WORSHIPING ALONE

Why and How?



Tools to help include:
Prayers, Canticles, Hymns & Psalms

SAMUEL DRONEBARGER

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What It's All About

I suspect that many people who know God actually know Him only as a belief based on circumstantial evidence. They have heard about Him from others and they have personally seen the world God has made. These circumstances have led them to conclude that God exists.

For some, the word God is another word for truth, beauty or love. For them God may represent life or creativity.

A point in common between these and other people is that while they know God exists, they do not know Him in an intimate, personal way. While they may know things about God that are true, they do not know Him even to the extent they know other people – as they know their friends and relatives. Yet all through the Bible we find passages that tell us we can know Him even more personally and intimately than we know our friends and family. We are told to think of Him as our father and to call Him by that name – Father.

God is real and personal and not just an abstract entity deduced from our surroundings. Our daily lives are diminished and frustrated when we do not recognize and experience the personal nature of God. The enormity of the effect becomes much larger when we attempt to worship Him as an abstractly deduced being rather than as a real, intimate, personal being. This writing is an invitation to come close and know God personally.

How does that happen – to come to know God personally? It happens in very much the same way each of us comes to know anyone – by being with them; communicating with them and investing time with them. Such invested time attunes and

sharpens the soul. Since God is a spiritual being, He is not seen with physical eyes, but through the 'eyes' of one's soul.

If you want to know God deeply and personally, an excellent way to do that is to regularly spend time with Him through personal worship. This book can be your guide for that purpose – a guide to help you get to know God personally.

A strategy is described here for knowing God through personal worship and a plan is set out for doing it. However, this is more than just a set of instructions. I have included examples of personal worship and collections of various things that are customarily used as worship elements. The intent is that anyone entering the practice of regular personal worship will have, in this single volume, a convenient collection of the elements commonly used in personal worship. Of course other sources may be used as well, but the material and ideas included here are likely to be sufficient for most to begin.

Learning personal worship and undertaking it as a regular practice can bring a profound peace to the heart of each practicing believer and thereby strengthen the entire body of Christ.

The practice presented here is principally given from an evangelical view since that is what I know, but the principles can be adapted to fit other views as well.

Worshiping alone or *personal worship* is not meant to replace worshiping together or *corporate worship*. It is meant to supplement it – to be added to it.

Personal worship is not the same as personal prayer times or daily devotions. It differs primarily in approach and depth. Daily devotions can be done mechanically, without ever recognizing or experiencing the personal nature of God. However, even though there are differences, many elements

Worshipping Alone

used in personal worship are already familiar to most Christians. While some elements may be new to some worshippers, many may simply be different applications of long tested components of public worship.

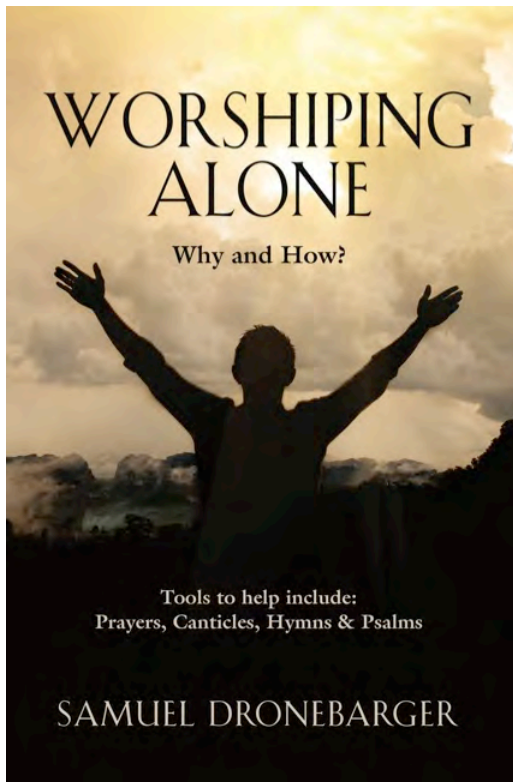
It is almost certain that those who worship God in the way described here will find increased joy, peace and deepened meaning in their lives. This is especially true if you are one of those who find yourself in moving from worshipping “God the Abstraction” to worshipping “God the Person.”

Many people believe the only proper place for worship is inside a church building. But examples of personal, independent worship outside a church building are throughout the Bible. They range from the sons of Adam in Genesis to John’s visionary experiences in Revelation. Together with that, I suspect that many people have never even considered involving themselves in personal, private worship and thereby restricting themselves to feed only on the milk of infants. They have, of course, missed out on the enormous benefits that come from spending time in private, alone with God.

This book is primarily meant for to those who are already involved in corporate worship, but are drawn to add regular, independent personal worship to their spiritual life. But it can also be a guide to anyone wishing to know God and draw closer to Him even if they are not currently involved in corporate worship. It is an introduction to the art, function and purpose of personal, private worship or worshipping alone – that is, apart from the accompaniment of other human beings. It not only describes an approach to personal worship and how to do it, but how to select where and when to do it. Examples of worship elements are included in the appendices that can be used in personal worship sessions. Combinations of those elements are provided as example programs for personal

worship sessions. Ideas are given on what to include and what to exclude. And suggestions are provided for patterns of individual daily worship. The range of ways, means and combinations of elements of worship is infinite, and of course, personal. Those desiring an intimate, soul-deep, rewarding relationship with God are encouraged to select and adapt any of these elements (or add their own) which are the most personally attractive for use in their worship time. In this way, each worshiper will be most pleasing to God and find the greatest personal pleasure.

God is never far away from you. I invite you to release any doubts or disbelief you may have and become open to receiving greater grace and peace. You'll see!



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