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## Worship as an Activity

Acts 2:43-47

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**“W**ow!” said Bob, “I could hardly believe it. Thousands of guys singing and praising God. The teaching was great. So was the prayer. And the thousands that were saved! I wouldn’t have missed it for the world.”

“I would,” replied Ron flatly, “I just don’t get into all of that showy stuff. I’d rather worship more quietly, more intimately. I want a teacher who is going to go through the Bible verse-by-verse, so I can learn. As for the singing, give me those old hymns that we sang in church when I was a kid. These tunes make me nervous. They’re just too much.”

### Reflection

When you think of worship, what comes to mind? Songs? Prayer? If you have a religious tradition, you may think of the style you grew up with. As long as the traditions continue to point us toward an intimate relationship with God, they are good. But that is not always the case. Sometimes, instead of merely providing a framework for a relationship with God, traditions have a tendency to replace it.

This is not the fault of the clergy. It’s just human nature. Routines often replace relationships. As the focus gradually shifts from what is loving to what is “right,” worship can create an exclusive atmosphere rather than one that includes everyone. To put worship and relationship in perspective, let’s take a look at the early church described in today’s Scripture passage.

What did they spend time doing?

What was the ultimate outcome of their worship?

What does it say about your personal devotional life?

### Accountability and Application

Worship in the early church was the result of a relationship with God experienced with others. Rituals and routines were far off. The bottom line was that they wanted reality with God in their everyday lives.

Think of worship not as an event, but as a process—an ongoing expression of our relationship with Christ.

Write about your perception of worship. How is it narrow? Now write a commitment to worship the Lord in a larger context, as an ongoing process of everyday life.

**PRAYER:** Lord, forgive me where I’ve been narrow or hypocritical. Lead me to be more genuine in my worship of you. Lead me to be more open with you. Help me to take risks where necessary; and to expand my concept and practice of worship.

## Acts 2:43-47 (English Standard Version)

<sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.