

## 116 The Top Level of Worship—Adoration and Devotion

- 1] The foundational level of worship is appreciation “THANKS”  
with expressions of gratitude and thankfulness for personal favors  
It is the most wide-spread, the most expected and the most natural.
- 2] The next higher level is admiration with expressions of “PRAISE” and “HALLELUJAH” on our lips for all of God’s general and universal activities and blessings.
- 3] The highest level of worship is adoration and devotion with often such profound depths of feeling as to leave a person speechless. How then does one respond at such moments of “transcendent wonder”?  
(Thomas Carlyle)

### Physical Responses

The original word in Hebrew for worship is *Shawkhaw*, to prostrate oneself before another with the face on the ground and the arms and hands spread out in front of oneself. The word is often followed with “worshiped and bowed down.”

*Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped.* (Job 1:20)

Other physical manifestations include bowing the head, kneeling, closing the eyes, lifting of the hands, singing, shouting, dancing, laughing, clapping, foot tapping, eyes filled with tears of joy  
Is kneeling necessary for proper worship? Is kneeling helpful?

### Mental/Emotional Responses

**Reverential fear** *Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.”* (Ex.20:18-19)

There are many instances of this with the common command, “Fear not!”

**Repentance** *I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*” (Job 42:5-6)

*And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”* (Isaiah 6:5)

*Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments.* (Daniel 9:3-4)

**Fasting and Weakness** *In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks.* (Daniel 10:2-3)

*I said to him who stood before me, “O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength. How can my lord's servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me.”* (Daniel 10:16-17)

### Spiritual Responses

An awareness of God’s worthiness

An overwhelming love leading to total surrender of one’s self, i.e., (Deut. 6:5)

An awesome adoration, holding God very dear that results in an astounding devotion and dedication

A flooding of the soul with joy unspeakable and full of glory (1 Peter 1:8)

An experience of unbelievable peace and contentment (Phil.4:6,7)

The book of Psalms (the worship book of the Bible) gives examples of all these