



## Sermon Notes

**Term** – Spring 2020

**Series** – Worship

**Gathering & Date** – the 5, 26 January

**Title** – John 4:7-24 (... in spirit and truth)

**Preacher** – Paul Langham

**Reading** – John 4:7-24

You can listen to this sermon here: <https://www.ccweb.org.uk/Media/AllMedia.aspx>

Recap

1. in spirit

*May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23*

Our human reality is as body, soul and spirit:

**Body** = not mere 'casing' but an integral part of being human

**Soul** = essence of the individual, what makes you you (and in biblical terms expresses this as 'heart' and 'mind')

**Spirit** = that part of us capable of relating to God

*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Romans 8:16*

All humans are born with these 3 components – but until we are 'born again' our spirit is inactivated (this is what we mean by 'original sin')

Our spirit is the origin of worship and our spirit can 'instruct' our soul and body to worship, as David does

*Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Psalm 103:1*

2. in truth

If our spirit is the origin of worship, truth is what frames worship – this truth is the unchanging reality of who God is, and in particular the reality of the life, ministry, saving death and resurrection of Jesus

### Questions

If it is true that our spirit, awakened and activated by the Holy Spirit, is the source of the worship that the Father requires ('spirit' to 'spirit' as John 4:24 implies), how can we ensure we are worshipping 'in spirit' and not simply according to the way we feel?

How does the teaching about our spirit instructing our soul (inner being) and body change the way we view the influence body and soul so often have on our worship (physical tiredness, embarrassment, doubt, feelings of unworthiness etc.)?

If our worship is to be framed by the truth of who Jesus is, this means our worship cannot be dependent on our circumstances or experience. How do you respond to this? What needs to change as a result?

How will you prepare yourself for corporate worship when you next come to a Gathering?

How can you as a group help each other to worship 'in spirit and truth'?