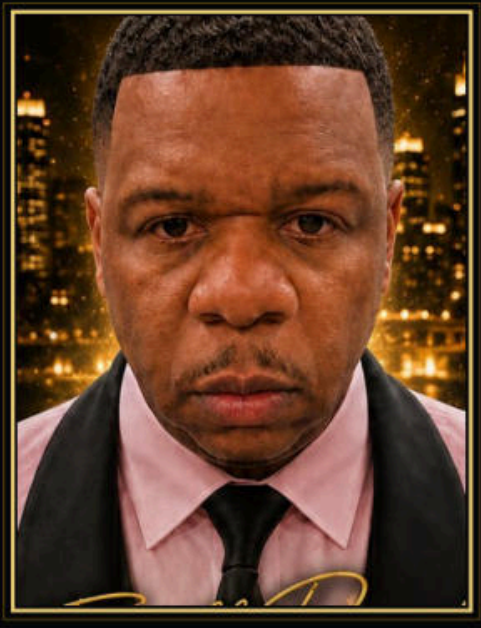
THE BOOKFOLIO

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WORSHIPING THE FATHER IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

A FLIPBOOK — SAGAS 1 TO 5

JOHN 4:23-24 • KING JAMES VERSION



TERRELL POWELL

AUTHOR OF 11:59 BEFORE MIDNIGHT

THE BOOKFOLIO

Worshiping the Father in Spirit and in Truth

A FLIPBOOK — SAGAS 1 TO 5

All Scripture is from the King James Version. The words of Jesus are printed in red.

These are the first five sagas of the 10-day devotional, with the same words shared one morning at a time.

THE FIVE SAGAS

Day 1 — The Woman at the Well (John 4)

Day 2 — Cain and Abel (Genesis 4)

Day 3 — Hannah Pours Out Her Soul (1 Samuel 1)

Day 4 — Elijah on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18)

Day 5 — Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22)

Day 1 of 10 — The Woman at the Well

> "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." — JOHN 4:23

> "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." — JOHN 4:24

THE SAGA — THE WOMAN AT THE WELL (JOHN 4)

For the full setting, read John 4:4-26. Jesus met a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. Their conversation moved from ordinary water to living water, and then to the question of where people ought to worship. Jesus explained that the hour was coming — and had now come — when true worship would not be defined by competing claims about a mountain or Jerusalem. The Father was seeking worshipers who would worship in spirit and in truth.

Notice who heard this teaching first: not a priest, not a big crowd — one woman, at a well, in the middle of an ordinary day. She came for water. She left telling her whole city about Jesus. That is where our ten days begin.

REMEMBER — Jesus does not say that the Father is seeking the loudest singers or the biggest gatherings. He says the Father is seeking true worshipers.

JESUS IN THIS SAGA

Jesus is not just in this saga — He IS this saga. The teaching on worship did not come from a prophet or a priest. It came from the Son of God Himself, sitting at a well. And when the woman spoke of the Messiah who was coming, Jesus told her plainly who He was:

> "Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he." — JOHN 4:26

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THIS SAGA

The woman came for well water. Jesus spoke of living water — water that would be in a person like a well that never runs dry (see John 7:38-39, where He makes plain that this living water is the Holy Spirit, given to those who believe on Him):

> "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." — JOHN 4:14

CARRY THIS WITH YOU TODAY

When you hear the word "worship," what do you picture first? How does Jesus' answer at the well change that picture?

Journal: Read John 4:23-24 again. Write what you believe Jesus is teaching you about worship.

— From “Worshiping the Father in Spirit and in Truth,” a 10-day devotional by Terrell Powell, Open Collaboration

Day 2 of 10 — Cain and Abel

THE SAGA — CAIN AND ABEL (GENESIS 4)

The first worship in the Bible is two brothers bringing offerings. Abel brought the firstlings of his flock; Cain brought the fruit of the ground. Both men came. Both men offered. But the Lord received one and not the other:

> "And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect." — GENESIS 4:4-5

God did not turn Cain away without a word. He came to him with a door still open: "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." — GENESIS 4:7. Cain would not turn his heart, and his worship story ended in his brother's blood. Now watch what this saga teaches: the difference between the two brothers was not the size of the offering. It was the heart behind it.

JESUS IN THIS SAGA

Abel's blood cried out from the ground. But there is a better blood. Abel brought a lamb; Jesus IS the Lamb. What Abel's offering pointed to, Jesus finished at the cross:

> "And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel." — HEBREWS 12:24

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THIS SAGA

The difference between the brothers was the heart — and the heart is where the Holy Spirit works. He does not live in a building made by hands. He lives in God's people:

> "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" — 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16

CARRY THIS WITH YOU TODAY

What does worship on Monday look like — at work, at home, in how you treat people?

Journal: Describe your worship honestly, as it is today. Where is your heart turning — toward God, or somewhere else?

— From “Worshiping the Father in Spirit and in Truth,” a 10-day devotional by Terrell Powell, Open Collaboration

Day 3 of 10 — Hannah Pours Out Her Soul

> "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." — MATTHEW 15:8

THE SAGA — HANNAH POURS OUT HER SOUL (1 SAMUEL 1)

Hannah came to the house of the LORD carrying a sorrow she could not fix: she had no child, and she was mocked for it year after year. She did not perform a polished prayer. She wept, she would not eat, and she prayed with such pain that Eli the priest thought she was drunk — because her lips moved but no sound came out. This was her answer:

> "I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD." — 1 SAMUEL 1:15

She left her burden with God and went away with her face changed — before she ever saw the answer. And when the answer came, in her son Samuel, her worship poured back out as a song: "My heart rejoiceth in the LORD." — 1 SAMUEL 2:1. This is worship in spirit: not staged, not a routine — a soul poured out before the LORD.

JESUS IN THIS SAGA

Hannah's song did not end with Hannah. Many years later, another mother — Mary, the mother of Jesus — sang Hannah's song almost word for word, when she learned she would carry the Son of God:

> "My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." — LUKE 1:46-47

The poured-out heart of Hannah points us straight to Jesus.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THIS SAGA

Hannah had no words left — only tears. The Holy Spirit knows that kind of prayer. He helps us when we cannot find the words:

> "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." — ROMANS 8:26

CARRY THIS WITH YOU TODAY

When have you caught yourself going through the motions of worship? What brought your heart back?

Journal: Answer the day's question in writing: Am I worshiping because I love God — or simply because I am following a familiar routine?

— From “Worshiping the Father in Spirit and in Truth,” a 10-day devotional by Terrell Powell, Open Collaboration

Day 4 of 10 — Elijah on Mount Carmel

> "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." — JOHN 17:17

> "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." — JOHN 14:6

THE SAGA — ELIJAH ON MOUNT CARMEL (1 KINGS 18)

Israel had tried to worship two ways at once — the LORD on one side, and Baal, the idol of the age, on the other. Elijah gathered the people and the 850 prophets of the false gods on Mount Carmel and put the question of the whole saga into one line:

> "How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him." — 1 KINGS 18:21

All day the prophets of Baal cried out, leaped on their altar, and cut themselves — and nothing answered, because there was nothing there. Then Elijah repaired the altar of the LORD, laid the sacrifice in order, and prayed a short, truthful prayer. Fire fell from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the water in the trench. The people fell on their faces and confessed: "The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God." — 1 KINGS 18:39. Worship must be aimed at the real God, as He has revealed Himself — not a version we invent.

JESUS IN THIS SAGA

Elijah's stand did not end on Carmel. Many years later, Elijah stood on another mountain — this time next to Jesus Himself, shining with glory, and talking with Him about the cross:

> "And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him." — MATTHEW 17:3

(Elias is the New Testament name for Elijah.) The God of Carmel and the Jesus of the mountain are the same Lord.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THIS SAGA

Elijah stood almost alone against 850 — but he was not alone. The Holy Spirit still gives God's people the power to stand when the whole crowd bows the other way. Jesus promised that power to His own:

> "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." — ACTS 1:8

CARRY THIS WITH YOU TODAY

Why is it dangerous to worship a version of God that we invent?

Journal: Write down one truth from God's Word that you will worship by this week — and how you will obey it.

— From “Worshiping the Father in Spirit and in Truth,” a 10-day devotional by Terrell Powell, Open Collaboration

Day 5 of 10 — Abraham and Isaac

THE SAGA — ABRAHAM AND ISAAC (GENESIS 22)

God asked Abraham for the one thing he could hardly give: his son Isaac, the child of promise. Early in the morning Abraham rose, saddled his ass, took the wood and the fire and the knife, and walked three days toward the mountain. When he left the servants at the foot of it, listen to what he called the hardest obedience of his life:

> "Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you." — GENESIS 22:5

Worship. That is the word Abraham put on total surrender. And when Isaac asked where the lamb was, Abraham answered with faith: "My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering." — GENESIS 22:8. God did provide — a ram in the thicket, and a promise over Abraham's family forever. This is the worshiper the Father seeks: one whose heart is so surrendered that obedience itself is his worship.

JESUS IN THIS SAGA

On that mountain, God provided a ram in place of Isaac. But He was pointing to a greater Lamb, who would be provided in place of us all. Jesus said Abraham saw His day coming, and was glad:

> "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad." — JOHN 8:56

And John the Baptist named that Lamb when He came: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." — JOHN 1:29

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THIS SAGA

The blessing God promised through Abraham reaches us the same way Abraham received it — by faith. And the promise that faith receives is the Holy Spirit Himself:

> "That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." — GALATIANS 3:14

CARRY THIS WITH YOU TODAY

What changes in you when you know the Father is seeking worshipers — He is not waiting for a performance?

Journal: Write your answer to the question above — then write what you want the Father to find in you.

— From “Worshiping the Father in Spirit and in Truth,” a 10-day devotional by Terrell Powell, Open Collaboration



ABOUT THIS FLIPBOOK

Jesus said the Father is seeking people who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. These are the first five sagas from the ten-day devotional — the same words shared one morning at a time.

Each saga gives you one true story from the Bible, then two parts that hold the whole book together: Jesus in the saga, and the Holy Spirit in the saga. A question to carry with you and a journal prompt close each day.

Sagas 6 to 10 are still to come, one morning at a time. When all ten are shared, the full book will stand complete.

THE FIVE SAGAS

1. The Woman at the Well
2. Cain and Abel
3. Hannah Pours Out Her Soul
4. Elijah on Mount Carmel
5. Abraham and Isaac

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth."

— JOHN 4:23 (KJV)

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