

## Link between Work and Worship

In the Hebrew language, in which the Old Testament was written, the words “Work” and “Worship” are linked – they come from a common root word *abad*. This word has the meaning “working purposefully, giving service, and directing energies to another’s goal”.

Some examples where this root word is used are:

- “Work”
  - Ex 5:18 ... “So go now and work (*abad*); for you shall be given no straw, yet you must deliver the quota of bricks.”
  - Ex 34:21 ... “You shall work (*abad*) six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest ...”
- “Worship”
  - Ex 3:12 ... “I will be with you ... when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship (*abad*) God at this mountain.”
  - Deut 6:13 ... “You shall fear only the Lord your God; and you shall worship (*abad*) Him ...”
  - Ps 2:11 ... “Worship (*abad*) the Lord with reverence ...”

So our work and worship are inseparably linked:

Worship = Do (work or serve) all as unto the Lord (Col3:23).

Worship = As you do (work or serve) unto the least of these my brethren you do unto me (Matt25:40).

Worship = In all your ways acknowledge Him (Prov 3:6)

Worship = Lift up my hands (working or serving with your hands) in your name.

So when we sing to the Lord and say, “I lift up my hands in your name,” this is worship only if all the above are first in place.

Worship is built into the meaning of the word Worship. So Worship is the “worth” we place on God, which is measured first of all by our attitude and actions in daily life towards others as we serve them as well as our reverential and respectful attitude towards Him as we gather before Him for “worship”.