



Ancient Vedic Mantras and Rituals





Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Chapter-4 Shalok-11 | श्रीमद् भगवद्गीता अध्याय चार-श्लोक ग्यारह | PDF

Chapter 4 – Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga Verse 11

Sanskrit Verse

Ye yathā mām prapadyante tāmś tathaiva bhajāmy
aham |

Mama vartmānuvartante manuṣhyāḥ Pārtha sarvaśhaḥ
॥11॥

Simple Meaning

Lord Krishna said:

O Arjuna, in whatever way people surrender unto Me, I reciprocate with them accordingly. Everyone, in every way, follows the path that ultimately comes through Me.

Detailed Explanation

The Divine Response to Human Surrender

In this verse, Lord Krishna explains an important principle of the relationship between the individual soul and the Supreme Lord.



The words **ye yathā mām prapadyante** mean “as people approach or surrender unto Me.”

Every person approaches God with a different level of understanding, faith, devotion, and purpose. Some seek relief from suffering, some seek material benefits, some seek knowledge, and others seek the Supreme Lord out of pure love and devotion.

Lord Krishna explains that He responds to each person according to the sincerity, attitude, and nature of that person’s approach.

This does not mean that the Supreme Lord is partial. Rather, it reveals that the Divine responds to the inner consciousness and degree of surrender of each seeker.

Ye Yathā Mām Prapadyante – As People Surrender Unto Me

The phrase **ye yathā mām prapadyante** describes the different ways in which people turn toward the Supreme Lord.

Not everyone begins the spiritual journey with the same understanding. A person may first remember God during difficulty, fear, uncertainty, or suffering. Another may approach God seeking success, prosperity, or fulfillment of a particular desire.



A sincere seeker may gradually begin searching for spiritual knowledge and the deeper meaning of life. Another may develop pure devotion and seek nothing except a loving relationship with the Supreme Lord.

Lord Krishna accepts the approach of every sincere seeker and provides opportunities for spiritual growth according to that person's level of consciousness and intention.

Tāms Tathaiva Bhajāmy Aham – I Reciprocate Accordingly

The words **tāms tathaiva bhajāmy aham** mean “I reciprocate with them accordingly.”

The relationship between the seeker and the Divine is deeply connected with the seeker's own attitude and surrender.

When a person sincerely turns toward God, spiritual guidance, inner strength, wisdom, and opportunities for growth gradually become available according to that person's spiritual development.

A person who approaches the Lord with devotion experiences the path of devotion. A seeker of knowledge receives opportunities to deepen understanding. One who seeks temporary worldly results may receive the results connected with personal desires and actions.

The deeper teaching is that the sincerity and direction of one's consciousness play an important role in spiritual experience.



God Does Not Show Partiality

This verse clearly reveals that the Supreme Lord does not arbitrarily favor one person while rejecting another.

Every person has the opportunity to turn toward the Divine.

Differences in spiritual experience arise from differences in understanding, faith, desire, effort, and surrender. The Divine remains available to all, while each individual responds according to personal consciousness and free will.

Therefore, the path of spiritual growth is open to everyone.

The more sincerely a seeker moves toward truth, wisdom, and the Supreme Lord, the greater the opportunity for inner transformation and spiritual realization.

Mama Vartmānuvartante – Everyone Follows My Path

Lord Krishna then says, **mama vartmānuvartante**, meaning “they follow My path.”

This statement reveals the universal nature of the Divine order.

Human beings may follow different paths, beliefs, disciplines, duties, and spiritual practices. Their goals and motivations may also differ. However, all actions take place within the universal order established and sustained by the Supreme Lord.





Whether a person seeks knowledge, performs duties, practices devotion, pursues material goals, or searches for liberation, every journey unfolds within the larger reality governed by the Divine.

This does not mean that every path produces the same result. Different intentions and actions naturally lead toward different outcomes. However, the Supreme Lord remains the ultimate foundation and source of all existence.

Different Approaches to Spiritual Life

People approach spiritual life in many different ways.

Some begin with prayer during difficult times. Some worship with the hope of receiving material benefits. Some follow spiritual disciplines in search of peace and wisdom. Others devote their lives to loving service and complete surrender to the Supreme Lord.

This verse teaches that spiritual growth can begin from different levels of consciousness.

However, as understanding deepens, the seeker can gradually move from self-centered desires toward greater wisdom, devotion, selflessness, and surrender.

Thus, the spiritual journey is a process of inner development.



Connection with the Previous Verse

In Verse 10, Lord Krishna explained that many seekers attained His divine nature by becoming free from attachment, fear, and anger, absorbing their minds in Him, taking refuge in Him, and becoming purified through spiritual knowledge.

Verse 11 now explains the universal principle behind this spiritual journey.

Those who approach the Supreme Lord with sincerity receive a response according to their attitude and level of surrender.

The seekers described in the previous verse attained a high spiritual state because they gradually purified their consciousness and developed deep absorption and surrender to the Lord.

Thus, Verse 11 expands the teaching by showing that the Divine relationship responds to the individual's approach and inner development.

The Role of Sincerity and Inner Attitude

The external form of spiritual practice is important, but this verse places special emphasis on the inner attitude of the seeker.

Two people may perform similar practices while having very different intentions.



One may act only for personal gain, while another may act with devotion, gratitude, and a sincere desire for spiritual growth.

The inner purpose behind an action influences its spiritual significance.

Therefore, a seeker should gradually examine personal motives and develop greater sincerity, humility, faith, and selflessness.

True surrender does not mean becoming inactive or abandoning responsibility. It means performing one's duties while recognizing a higher spiritual purpose and placing trust in the Supreme Lord.

Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga in Practice

This verse fits naturally within the teachings of **Jnana Karma Sannyasa Yoga**.

Spiritual knowledge helps a person understand the relationship between action, intention, surrender, and spiritual progress.

A person does not need to abandon all duties to move toward the Divine. Instead, actions can gradually become purified when they are performed with wisdom, detachment, and a spirit of surrender.



Different people may begin this journey from different points. Some may start through duty, some through knowledge, some through devotion, and others through the search for relief from suffering.

Through sincere spiritual practice, the seeker can gradually rise toward greater purity, selflessness, wisdom, and devotion.

In this way, knowledge, action, and surrender work together to guide the individual toward spiritual realization.

Key Points

- **Ye yathā mām prapadyante** means that people approach the Supreme Lord in different ways.
- The Supreme Lord reciprocates according to the sincerity and nature of a person's surrender.
- God does not show arbitrary favoritism toward any individual.
- Every sincere seeker has the opportunity for spiritual growth.
- People may approach God for relief, material benefits, knowledge, peace, or pure devotion.



- Spiritual experience develops according to one's consciousness, intention, and surrender.
- **Mama vartmānuvartante** teaches that all human paths exist within the larger Divine order.
- Different actions and intentions may lead to different results.
- Sincere devotion gradually transforms selfish desire into greater wisdom and selflessness.
- Knowledge, action, devotion, and surrender can work together on the spiritual path.

Profound Spiritual Meaning

This verse reveals a profound truth about the relationship between human consciousness and the Divine.

The Supreme Lord is equally available to everyone, but each individual experiences and approaches the Divine according to personal consciousness, faith, understanding, and surrender.

A person who approaches God only for temporary benefits may remain focused primarily on temporary results. A seeker who approaches with a desire for wisdom gradually develops deeper spiritual understanding. One who approaches with love and complete surrender progresses toward a more intimate spiritual relationship with the Supreme Lord.



The phrase **ye yathā mām prapadyante** teaches that the spiritual journey begins with the direction of the heart.

The phrase **tāṁs tathaiva bhajāmy aham** reveals the Divine principle of reciprocation. The Supreme Lord responds to sincere spiritual effort and allows the seeker to progress according to the path that has been chosen.

Mama vartmānuvartante manuṣhyāḥ Pārtha sarvaśaḥ further reveals that despite the great diversity of human goals and paths, all beings live and act within the universal order of the Supreme.

The deeper message is that **the more sincerely a person turns toward the Divine with wisdom, devotion, and surrender, the more deeply spiritual transformation can take place within one's consciousness.**

Word-by-Word Meaning

Ye – Those who

Yathā – In whatever manner, according to the way

Mām – Me

Prapadyante – Surrender unto Me, approach Me, take refuge in Me

Tān – Them



Tathā Eva – In the same way, accordingly

Bhajāmi – Reciprocate with, respond to, bestow grace upon

Aham – I

Mama – My

Vartma – Path

Anuvartante – Follow, proceed along

Manuṣhyāḥ – Human beings, people

Pārtha – O son of Pritha, Arjuna

Sarvaśhaḥ – In every way, by all means

Message of the Verse

Lord Krishna teaches that **people approach the Supreme Lord with different intentions, levels of faith, and forms of surrender, and the Lord reciprocates with each person according to that approach.**

This verse teaches us that spiritual life is not merely about external practices. The sincerity, intention, devotion, and consciousness behind one's actions are deeply important.



Through **spiritual knowledge, selfless action, devotion, inner discipline, and sincere surrender to the Supreme Lord**, a seeker can gradually purify consciousness and progress toward deeper spiritual realization.

The central message of this verse is that **the Supreme Lord is available to everyone. As a person sincerely turns toward the Divine, spiritual guidance and inner transformation develop according to the depth of one's faith, understanding, and surrender.**

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