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**The True Heart of  
Worship**

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Monica Haefelin



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To reach the author on the internet, visit:

[www.monicahaefelin.com](http://www.monicahaefelin.com)

[www.impact.host](http://www.impact.host)



## **Dedication and acknowledgments**

To God, my heavenly Father! I thank You so much for giving Your Son for me and all mankind so I have a reason to worship You and thank You every day. Words can never describe how much I love You. I see You in all of Your creation, in every plant, every animal, in the whole universe that You created for me.

I thank You that You gave Your Son for me, so that I am in the position to worship You, as Your child that calls You "Abba" Father.

I thank You Jesus for your obedience and humbleness to leave Your place in heaven, and become a human being like us, but without sin. I thank You that you went on the cross, and rose from the grave, opening a path to Father God for us. I thank You that You thought of me when You did all that! You always believed in me and I will always believe in You!

I thank You for the Holy Spirit. What a friend, what a comforter, what a help every day of my life. Without You I couldn't have written one song or one letter in this book!

A big thank you for my husband. What an inspiration. You are a gift of Heaven!

I thank you, my wonderful family. Every day with you is a gift. You guys are awesome and such a help! I love you so much!

Thank you, Norina, for your time and patience in edition all of my thoughts and bringing them into clear, English sentences!

I dedicate this book to Daniel my beloved husband and one of the best Bible teachers I know. I wish the week had more Sundays, so I could hear you teach more often. You have no idea the treasure you are placing in my heart every Sunday. I love you!



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## Foreword

Worship music is not worldly music (even with Christian lyrics). It is of a higher level and so different from worldly music, that if you ever attended a service where the Holy Spirit was in control of leading the worship, you would never want to do it by yourself again.

It is as if you enter heavenly places and flow in the river of life, as if you are eating the bread of life and drinking His living water.

You sing to Him, the Almighty God, and you recognize that your words are never enough. He flows through you. You are in Him, inseparable, forever in the presence of the LORD most high, King of kings of all eternity! That's the place you want to be if you worship the Lord!

I pray that as you read this book, it will help you and inspire you to step into that kind of worship and draw you into that place of holiness.



## **From music to worship**

I was born into a very musical family. My father was a wonderful jazz saxophone and guitar player. My mom sang wonderfully and had the ability to sing harmony. And my grandmother was a classical pianist.

God gave me the talent of singing by ear at a very early age and from the stories my mother told me, I was able to sing an opera by Georg Philipp Telemann by ear at the age of four (I'm sure my mother exaggerated a bit).

At bed time my parents usually sang songs to me accompanied by my dad's guitar playing and me on the ukulele. But it was not until I was eleven years old that I picked up the flute, which I could instantly play. A few years later, I got music lessons on that wonderful instrument.

There was constantly music present in our home. My parents listened to jazz, opera, classical music, folk music, and always discussed the diverse interpretation of music and the different music styles. I can say I was raised in a very broad and diverse range of music.

As a teenager I began to play the guitar and later as an adult I took lessons with a very good voice coach. My teacher was an opera singer with a love for singing. That love was addicting, and I received that passion for expressing myself through my voice. Later, God taught me what a wonderful instrument He gave me to express my love for Him and to proclaim His Word.

I also learned how to play the saxophone and later the piano, which I still play regularly.

As a young adult, I played in bands and we were pretty successful when the Lord called me out of all that.

When I got saved I couldn't sing of worldly love and all those earthly themes anymore. I discovered more and more His true and unconditional love.

So, I left my band and attended a "Word of faith church." I wanted to attend the worship band at that church when

God told me to wait and listen. He wanted to teach me the difference between worldly music and worship music and He started to fill me with His Word about those subjects. One of the greatest adventures began!

## Chapter one

### Music versus worship

Music plays a central role in our daily lives. We are surrounded by it wherever we go. People listen more nowadays to how a song sounds rather than paying attention to the content of the lyrics. Unfortunately, this habit also reaches the church more and more.

As a worldly musician you are always self-centered in your music as well as in your behavior. "Me," "my," and "I" feelings are the ingredients of this worldly music.

Every day new musicians are on the radio or television. Especially now in this age of media, musicians become a product of the music companies more than ever before. As a musician playing for the world you have to be successful; otherwise, a few hundred other musicians are waiting for your job. They don't necessarily need to be better musicians than you are, because there is so much technique out there that a "good sound" can easily be produced by a good microphone or mixing desk and a skillful technician. A lot of musicians are actually very good performers but not necessarily good musicians.

There is so much pressure on worldly musicians to constantly perform. No wonder so many musicians just function on drugs nowadays, otherwise they couldn't possibly stand this enormous pressure.

Before music ever started to play such an important role on the earth, worship music was in Heaven. **Psalm 150: 1-2** *"**1Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! 2Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!**"* Instead of "firmament" a lot of biblical translations use the word "heavens."

In **Revelation 5:8-9** we read *"**8Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll,***

***and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation..."***

So, we can clearly see, there is worship in Heaven. How wonderful and pure worship in Heaven must be. Can you imagine how it must sound when all the angels and elders and people sing in Heaven? Out of their heart, new songs to the One King of kings and Lord of lords!

In Ezekiel we can also read something very interesting:  
**Ezekiel 28:12-19** *"<sup>12</sup>Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, "Thus says the LORD GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. <sup>13</sup>You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. <sup>14</sup>You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. <sup>15</sup>You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. <sup>16</sup>By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, o covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. <sup>17</sup>Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you. <sup>18</sup>You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from you midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. <sup>19</sup>All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror, and shall be no more forever."*

We see clearly, that Satan was at a certain point in time in Heaven. He was created by God as an angel, as a cherub. Cherub in this sense is an angelic being who attended on

God. God created him although he knew that one day, Satan would become rebellious and even influenced other angels to rebel against God. What mercy God shows when He created him after all.

Zechariah, the prophet had a vision about Heaven. We read in **Zechariah 3:1-2** ***"<sup>1</sup>Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. <sup>2</sup>And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"***

**Isaiah 14:11-13** ***"<sup>11</sup>Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, and the sound of your stringed instruments; the maggot is spread under you, and worms cover you. <sup>12</sup>How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! <sup>13</sup>For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'"***

We see how Lucifer who was the cherub of God and was in charge of worship in Heaven became so prideful, that he not only wanted to be like God, but even higher than God. He rebelled, and God banned him out of Heaven. Since that time, Satan makes every effort to tempt men to rebel against God. He started with Adam and Eve and is still playing the same old tricks on us. And he started to corrupt music. He hates when people worship the Lord and he does what he always does, he gives people a replacement, that looks almost like the real thing. In this case he replaces music for worship.

Worship music is something completely different from worldly music. It has the sole purpose to worship God the Almighty! Period! With all in mind that Jesus did on the cross on Calvary, we can approach God totally different in worship. We and the Lord are one.

Now our worship is no longer "I-centered" but God-centered. We step back and let the Lord flow more and more through us. The true purpose of worship is no longer performance, but a true relationship with God, lifting the congregation into the presence of the Lord. There we can rest and find peace. **Psalm 27:1** states, "**The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?**"

The presence of the Lord is the place where the angels and the elders in heaven sing "holy, holy, holy."

This presence of the Lord is described in **Revelations 5:11-14** "**<sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" <sup>13</sup>And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!" <sup>14</sup>Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever."**

What a wonderful place to be and worship the Lord! I think it's time the Church steps up and worships the Lord from a higher level and from a higher perspective, entering the presence of God.

## Chapter two

### How to worship the Lord

Jesus was very clear how we should worship God when He spoke with the Samaritan woman at the well. Let's take a look at **John 4:23-24** <sup>23</sup>***But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup>God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.***

How should we worship? In spirit and in truth.

It's pretty obvious what "truth" means in this context. Let's look what the Bible says about truth. In **John 14:6** Jesus says to Peter ***"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."***

And in **John 1:1-2** it says ***"<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God."*** It says "He" was in the beginning with God, not "it" was in the beginning with God.

So, Jesus was in the beginning with God and He is the living Word of God and He is the truth. **John 1:14: *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."***

The Bible, God's Word, is the truth!

When we become believers in Christ we are in Jesus and Jesus is in us. Look at **Colossians 3:1-3** ***"<sup>1</sup>If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."*** We are raised with Christ and sit at the right hand of God with Christ.

When we become Christians, we become new creatures. **2 Corinthians 5:17** says ***"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."*** The Bible

speaks in this context about the inner man or the spirit of the man. We became new creations in our heart or spirit. The old man, or spirit, is passed away. We still have our body and we still look the same when we get born again or become Christians, but our spirit is a new spirit. Not only do we become new beings, but we are also connected with Christ and become inseparable from Him. We become children of God.

With that in mind we have a totally different perspective of worshipping the Lord!

The Lord Jesus sent us His Spirit when He ascended to Heaven. In **John 16:7** we see that Jesus announced that event. ***“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”***

And in **John 14:26** Jesus says, ***“but the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”***

In **Luke 24:49** Jesus says to his disciples, ***“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”***

### **Rivers of living water**

**John 7:38** states, ***“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”***

Wow! That amazes me the longer I think about it. The Holy Spirit lives in me and rivers of living water flow out of me! It bubbles out of my heart, or inner man, or spirit. But how does it get there? Look with me at **Luke 6:45** ***“A good man out to the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”*** So, we fill our heart with what? With good treasures. The best treasure I can think of is the Word of God.

In **Proverbs 4:23** we read ***“keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”*** Solomon probably wrote down a few advices his father David gave him. But it sure is true for us today as it was in the days of Solomon. We also should keep our hearts with all diligence. But how do we do that? Let’s take a look at **Joshua 1:8** where God speaks to Joshua ***“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”*** Joshua was advised to meditate on this “book of the law” day and night. To meditate on something means to think of or speak of, to murmur, and to write it down. But most of all to read it out loud, so we can hear it.

Why did God advise Joshua to do that? Go with me to **Romans 10:17** ***“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*** This is why God advised Joshua to meditate on the “book of the law” so that Joshua could build up his faith. You see, if you hear things over and over again, you start to believe it. Words flow through you ears and into your heart where they start to rise into your mind where you build thoughts that you will speak. This works in both directions. Either you hear good words or bad words. In order to build up your faith and fill your heart with good words, or a treasure, you have to hear and speak the Word of God. If you need faith in a certain area, you read specific scriptures out loud for that area.

Imagine what would happen when the believers, filled with the Word of God assemble on Sunday morning and worship the King of kings and Lord of lords. I would call this “the celebration of our faith in God and Jesus with the Holy Spirit,” or in other words a “godly party.”

We can worship the Lord with music. But music, although it became so important in the last few years, is just one way to worship the Lord. Let’s look at a few ways to worship the Lord from a biblical standpoint. The list below is in reference to Dr Myles Munroe’s book “Praise & Worship” which I highly recommend to read.

## Different ways to worship the Lord

### Dancing

The Bible has a few things to say about dancing and, especially in the Old Testament, dancing was an essential part of worship.

**Psalm 150:4** *"Praise Him with the timbrel and dance..."*

**Psalm 149:3** says *"Let them praise His name with the dance..."*

And in **2 Samuel 6:14** we see how David danced before the Lord. *"Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod."* David danced before the LORD with all his "might" or we would say today "with his whole heart." What a wonderful attitude to praise the Lord!

Let's look at another event in the Bible when people danced to praise God. This is after God parted the Red Sea so the children of Israel could walk through it. Pharaoh's men chased after the Israelites and were drowned. **Exodus 15:19-21** *"<sup>19</sup>For the horses of Pharaoh went with his chariots and his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea. <sup>20</sup>Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. <sup>21</sup>And Miriam answered them: "Sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!"*

Look at **verse 20** where it says, "Miriam took the timbrel in her hand and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances." Wow, that was one happy festival there when those people danced with all their might and from their heart! And they sure had a purpose to dance.

But how much more do we have a purpose to dance and sing to the Lord! We live in such a better covenant since Jesus went on that cross for us and defeated the enemy

once and for all! Hallelujah! **Colossians 2:15 (Jesus)** ***"having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."*** Isn't that exciting? Jesus disarmed the principalities and powers, or with other words Satan and his powers. Satan is a defeated enemy. In those days when a king defeated another, the defeated one was stripped of his powers and authority. He was mocked and ridiculed. It was very humiliating for the defeated enemy. The same is described in **Colossians 3:15**. That's just one more reason to dance and shout for joy.

### Shouting

**Isaiah 12:6** ***"Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!"***

**Zephania 3:14-15** ***"<sup>14</sup>Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall see disaster no more."***

What a promise the people of Israel could count on. Let's look at another scripture.

**Psalms 47:1** tells us ***"Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!"***

But let's see what the Bible tells us about shouting in the New Testament.

**Luke 17:11-16** ***"<sup>11</sup>Now it happened as He (Jesus) passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. <sup>13</sup>And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" <sup>14</sup>So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was they as they went, they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup>And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, <sup>16</sup>and fell down on his face at His (Jesus') feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan."***

Here we see the thankfulness of the one who came back. Isn't it interesting that of all that were healed, just one returned and gave thanks "with a loud voice."

Isn't that sometimes the same with the believers today? You hear more complaining than shouting for joy and thanksgiving in some churches. How can people shout for excitement during a football or a basketball game but be quiet like little mice in a church on Sunday morning? We have so much reason to shout for joy when we remember what Jesus did on that cross on Calvary. He gave us a new life, and no one can ever snatch us out of His hands. He gave us divine health, his joy, and peace. These alone are reasons to sing and shout, but He also gave us prosperity and the best is yet to come when we are in Heaven. But I firmly believe that we also have Heaven here on earth and that only our flesh parts us from Heaven. Yes, sometimes circumstances speak against us, but that doesn't mean we have to speak according to our circumstances. We can boldly speak what the Word of God has to say. For example, "the greater One lives in me" or "greater is He that lives in me than the one who is in the world" or "I can do all things through Christ who lives in me." When we start to speak words that are in accordance with the Bible, we soon can sing and shout for joy, because we know that the circumstances have to change. They have to submit themselves to the Word of God.

### Singing

Singing is another form of biblical worship. As long as people existed, they expressed themselves through singing. When we sing we can show what we feel better than through any instrument we play. Singing (or our voice) is like the instrument of our heart.

The Bible advises us in **Psalm 100:1-2** "***1Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! 2Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing.***"

And in **James 5:13** "***Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.***"

In **Psalm 13:6** we read ***"I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me."*** What a wonderful verse this is. An encouragement from David to us, to remember what the Lord has done in our lives. The Lord truly has dealt bountifully with us, when He became sin for us on that cross on Calvary. On that day He took not only our sin, but also our sicknesses and diseases, our depressions and poverty, and in exchange, He gave us eternal life, health, joy, peace, and so much more. Plentiful reasons for us to sing for joy!

### Clapping

Clapping our hands is another form of worship. The sons of Korah requested the people to clap their hands in **Psalm 47:1**.

Did you know that we have a lot of nerves in the palms of our hands? When we clap our hands, we stimulate those nerves. This is a good remedy to wake ourselves and get started when we are tired.

We can also use our hands as instruments when we clap them rhythmically. Latin music is a wonderful example of this type of rhythm.

Isaiah describes an event that I would truly love to see. In **Isaiah chapter 55 and verse 12** we read ***"For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."*** What a sight this must be! Hallelujah!

Nature will rejoice when the Lord will reign and we will reign beside Him. In **Psalm 98:8** we read ***"Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity."*** I personally think these two events will take place at the second coming of the Lord, and after the millennium when God makes a new heaven and a new earth for us. This will be a perfect environment with a perfect climate. I think we will have the ability to actually hear the trees and plants – as well as all the stars and planets – singing. The universe does this already in a

way. Astronomers can measure the frequencies in which stars send out waves and with scientific equipment they "hear" stars.

### Speaking and singing in tongues

A lot of Christians have different opinions on this paragraph and if you would look in the internet you could find possibly a million entries on the subject.

I personally love to speak and sing in tongues. Very often when I start out to praise the Lord in that manner He will give me a new song. I enjoy those times together with the Lord very much and my heart is very close to Him. Sometimes I have visions of Heaven in such moments or the Lord tells me things about my life. But let's look at what the Bible says about speaking and singing in tongues.

In **Mark 16:17** for example Jesus himself tells us about speaking in tongues. ***"And these signs will follow those who believe: In my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;"*** Jesus said "those who believe." Believe what or whom? Those who believe in Jesus. That means you and me, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ.

In the book of Acts, Luke, the author of the book, describes an event that happens in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost when the disciples and the first followers of Jesus "were all with one accord" in one place. "With one accord" does not mean they thought all the same or talked all the same or no one was allowed to have their own opinion. But they were together and probably had a good (prayer) time. In **Acts chapter 2 verse 1-4** we read ***"<sup>1</sup>When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."***

You might say “yes that’s alright for them. These were the Apostles of Jesus, but that’s not for us today.” But in **1 Corinthians chapter 14 and verse 5** we read **“I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied...”** and in **verse 14** of the same chapter **“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.”** And in **verse 15** we read **“What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.”** Paul himself requests us to speak and sing in tongues. He himself spoke in tongues how we clearly see in **1 Corinthians 14:18 “I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;”** I personally recommend reading the whole chapter. Paul has a lot to say about speaking and singing in tongues.

### Uplifting of hands

The lifting up of our hands is another expression of our worship. Often times when I am in a service and the music is anointed my hands lift almost by themselves and it is hard for me to hold them down.

The Bible has a lot to say about lifting our hands. Of course I will not write all of them here. I just picked a few.

**Lamentations 3:41** says **“Let us lift our hearts and hands to God in heaven.”** You see how Jeremiah, the author of Lamentations, put the word “heart” before the word “hands.” I like that. When we lift our hearts first to God, our hands will follow. If we do it the other way around we begin to perform instead of worshipping God, which is wrong and empty. But if we lift our hearts to God first, our actions will follow. We become real and live the lives of fulfilled Christians.

David said in **Psalm 63:4 “Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.”** David probably wrote this psalm while he was fleeing from Absalom. Although David was in such a rough situation, he was not complaining and murmuring but still sought God and exalted him. He started this psalm with the words **“O GOD, You are my God.”** Think about that for a moment. With all the problems David had at hand at this moment,

he seeks first God. Not in whining and pitying himself, but in reverence of God the Almighty. David comes before God like a man entering a throne room, giving reverence and respect to the majestic King. He goes on with the words, still in **Psalm 63:1-2** ***"Early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. <sup>2</sup>So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory."*** Awesome! No word about "oh look what Absalom did to me..." No wonder David was called "a friend of God." He was one of the greatest kings Israel ever had!

I'm sure if we have a "David-like attitude" and first seek our Father God in respect and reverence, instead of whining and murmuring when problems occur, so many problems would just dissolve. When we praise and worship, we have another perspective and our trust in God grows, in spite of the problems or situations we are in.

In the New Testament Paul advises Timothy (and us) in **1 Timothy 2:8** ***"I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;"*** Wow, that's genuine worship for me. "Without wrath and doubting." How powerful worship is, when it is genuine, out of the pure heart. Not performed outwardly or acted, but instead honest and real.

In **Job Chapter 11** Zophar the Naamathite answers Job and tells him all the "if's" in order to "lift up his face" to God. In **Job 11:13** Zophar says ***"If you would prepare your heart, and stretch out your hands toward Him."*** How much easier is it for us, that we know God and know what Jesus did on that cross for us, to prepare our hearts and stretch out our hands to Him? We can do so in thankfulness knowing that He loves us so much, that He stepped into his ordination as the Lamb of God to which he was ordained before the foundation of the world! (1 Peter 1:20)

### Music with instruments

Finally, let's take a look at what the Bible tells us about making music with instruments, or worshipping God with or through music.

I found a lot of Bible verses on this subject. So, it must be biblical then to worship God with music.

As a Christian musician and vocalist, it is of high importance for me to know what the Bible says about music. Only when I know the Word of God and have fellowship with God on a daily basis can I serve Him and people the highest and best way.

As a matter of fact, the Old Testament has more to say about worshipping God with instruments than the New Testament. However, that doesn't mean that we should not worship God with instruments today.

**Psalm 150: 1-6** *"<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament! <sup>2</sup>Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness! <sup>3</sup>Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lute and harp! <sup>4</sup>Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! <sup>5</sup>Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals! <sup>6</sup>Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!"*

**Psalm 144:9** says *"I will sing a new song to You, O God; on a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to You,"*

**1 Chronicles 23:5** *"four thousand were gatekeepers, and four thousand praised the LORD with musical instruments 'which I made,' said David, 'for giving praise.'"* Wow, what a band!

Look what John saw and heard in the vision God gave him on the island of Patmos. **Revelation 5:8-10** *"<sup>8</sup>Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup>And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, <sup>10</sup>and have made*

***us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”***

You know, they sing new songs in heaven, and if we are able to get quiet and sit and listen, we can hear these songs in our hearts, and start to sing them on earth. What a different type of worship this will be!

In **Revelation 14:2-3** John tells us more of what he heard. ***“<sup>2</sup>And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. <sup>3</sup>They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.”***

Notice in **Revelations 14 verse 3** how it says ***“no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.”*** These will be the hundred forty-four thousand out of the tribes of Israel, the last evangelists that will preach the gospel during the tribulation. They will be so pure and ***“without fault before the throne of God”*** (**Revelation 14:5**) that only they can sing this song. I’m sure this song will give them power and encourage them while they do the work of the Lord in those last days. It will carry them through the tribulation and it will help draw unbelievers near to God. It will be this type of powerful worship sung and played in these last days, because they can’t afford weaker worship or how I call them “feel good songs.”

**Hebrews 13:15** ***“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”***

There are many more ways to worship the Lord in a biblical way, I’m sure. I just picked a few here. However, the way we worship the Lord should always be biblical (what does the Bible say about a certain subject) and it should come out of your heart.

## Chapter three

### A word to worship leaders

**Psalm 87:7 *"Both the singers and the players on instruments say, 'All my springs are in you.'"***

In other words, "pray, pray, pray." Do this alone and together with your team. Every member of your team should be so full of the Word and fellowship with God that during the prayer time before entering that church stage, the Word of God will bubble out of you.

Prayer does take time before worship, but it is so important and so very worthwhile, because the quality of your worship time will be so enhanced.

I have played in both types of worship teams; the ones that prayed and the ones that didn't take the time beforehand. Believe me, the spiritual quality of the ones that did not pray (or only for a few minutes before entering the stage) was so low that I often compared it with the worldly bands I played in before I came to Christ. Although these worshippers were fantastic musicians, they lacked the most important ingredient: Willingness to follow the Holy Spirit. Yes, they were anointed, because the anointing we have is never for ourselves, but always for the people we minister to.

It is such a joy to follow the Holy Spirit wherever he wants us to flow with him in a worship service. But to let go of ourselves and our control and give the control entirely to Him is a walk on the water. I met a lot of worship leaders that aren't comfortable with this type of worship. Often musicians don't even know what I'm speaking about when I try to explain what it means to "flow in the Spirit and just follow Him wherever he leads us."

Yes, musicians should practice the songs the worship leader wants to play on Sunday mornings, but they should spend even more time fellowshiping with the Lord in the Word and in prayer. Practicing is important because the better the musicians play the songs and play together, the better they can flow together and enjoy that time of worship as a team under the anointing of God.

David spent most of his time in prayer and in the fellowship of the Lord long before he even wrote one of his psalms. As a shepherd boy when his animals were ruminating, and all was quiet, he took the time to have fellowship with the Lord. Maybe he took his flute or lute out and played for the Lord. These times prepared him not only for busy times with his sheep and goats but also for situations where he had to fight the bear or the lion to protect his animals or even fight Goliath the giant.

Our prayer time always prepares us for what is to come. When we take the time to pray and meditate on His Word at home, we prepare ourselves for circumstances we find ourselves in. And then, in times of trouble, we instantly know what to do because the Word of God flows out of us. Sometimes, those situations do not even arise, because we already eliminated and addressed them in our prayer times. When we pray, the Angels who are ministering spirits move on our behalf. **Psalm 34:7 "The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them. (Ps. 91:11-12; Hebrews 1:7)**

When we pray regularly in a team we get to know each other and over time we get more and more united. We then flow better with the Holy Spirit and with our brothers and sisters in the team.

Needless to say as a worship leader, you not only need time at home to pray and be in the presence of the Lord, reading the Word of God and meditating on it, but you should be spending your whole day in the presence of the Lord. You can be aware of His presence at all times in your day, singing to Him, thanking Him, speaking His Word. Of course, if you have a job where you are in the presence of other people, you can do this in the silence of your heart. It is actually more an attitude of the heart than loud words. Be excellent at your job, be a light that people see and will be drawn to the Lord. **Colossians 3:23 "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men."** But be also a light to your family. Be a worship leader in your love to your family and let your light shine there first.

Fill your house with the worship of the Lord and spend time with Him even when no one listens. Those are the

most precious times you can spend. It is then when you stretch your heart out to Heaven and God the Almighty meets you there and, in His presence, He shows you greater things than you can imagine. It is there in His presence where you can lay down your flaws and imperfections and surrender all that is in you, just to rise anew, washed in His wonderful love and mercy. It is there where you kneel before His throne, in the splendor of His light, where you know He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end and that this moment is eternal and changes you forever.

I would rather spend just one moment like that, in the presence of the Lord than a thousand on a stage, "performing" in front of ten thousand people. **Psalm 84:10** ***"For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness."***

Before a worship leader can be a leader, he has to be a follower. A good leader should learn first to be faithful. When we learn how to be faithful in the little things in life, the Lord will set us up with bigger and bigger things. But we have to practice first to be faithful in the small areas of our lives. This can repeat in our lives. We often have to go back to the little things to be faithful there again, before God gives us bigger things. God often tests our hearts. He sees things a little different than we do. Whether we sing or play our instruments in front of 10,000 people or just one or two doesn't make any difference for God, but does it to us? It shouldn't actually. We ought to take every task the Lord gives us seriously, whether it's cleaning the church, teaching Sunday School, or leading the people into worship.

When I first came to the Lord, I joined a church in Switzerland where I come from. I had a friend that I knew from my time as a musician in the world and she suggested that I should join the worship team in the church. One Sunday morning, after I visited that church for some time, I saw the ushers regulating the traffic in the parking lot. I thought to myself "I would not like to do that, at all!" Well, I was still a baby in Christ and did not see the value of the ushers in a church. A few months after

that, God spoke to me very clearly and He said that He would like me to join the usher team. I was astonished. Not only was it the first time that I heard God saying something to me so clearly, but I would also be the first woman that joined the usher team in this particular church. I thought to myself, "if I speak with the leader of this team, maybe he won't be excited about it and I don't have to join." I looked for a way out. Instead, the leader of that team told me that he would pray about it and let me know the answer. Needless to say that soon after that, I joined the usher team. I have learned so many valuable things for the rest of my life, and the time in this team was so precious, that I wouldn't want to miss one second of it. The Lord taught me how to minister to people in so many ways and I've gotten a deep respect for the church ushers, greeters, and parking lot helpers, because that was the area I could take my first steps in ministering to people in the church. During that time, I often heard the worship team of that church and I yearned to join this team. God would open that door later for me.

But before He did, He started to teach me about worship versus music. He filled me with so much wisdom and peeled so many things out of me, ideas I had and feelings about music that did not line up with His Word. He taught me about the musicians in the world and the musicians that play for God and how different they are (or should be). He taught me about the self-centered, prideful, egocentric state the worldly musician is in versus the humbleness of a worshipper that puts God in the center and follows the Holy Spirit when he worships God, rather than his own ideas. He taught me how important it is to hand the control to the Holy Spirit and surrender wholeheartedly to God.

Sometimes the line between worldly musicians and worshippers are thin and we have to be aware of those traps. We have to be in the constant presence of God in our lives, not only on a stage, so that we walk behind Him and do His work rather than "our thing." God never stopped teaching me about worship and music. As a matter of fact, He never stops teaching me. And as long as I live I will never stop giving Him my heart so that He can form it, teach me, and fill me with everything He wants to.

We have to be careful and never see ourselves as “accomplished” and achieved as musicians or worshippers. It is a process that never ends, and we always should allow God to proceed with the work on and in us.

As worship leaders (or Christian leaders in general), we should be the servants of all. Jesus, although He was in the beginning with God according to the gospel of John, left Heaven and became a human baby. Here on earth He worked as a carpenter. Some scholars say He worked as a mason. He went around to teach people, to preach, and to heal. He traveled by foot, not in a private jet. He usually didn't even have a donkey or a horse. He washed His disciples' feet (**John 13:1-38**). Through all He did, He was humble.

We see the value of every person that is around us, especially those that give their time to worship with us. They are so very precious in God's eyes and it is a big responsibility God gave us to not only teach them and lead them, but also to learn from them.

Everyone is equally important in our team, not just the ones that play skillfully, but also the ones that maybe don't play an instrument and just have that desire in their heart to worship the Lord. Love them equally and try to see them through God's eyes. Pray to the Father for them and ask him what they need to grow.

David was together with people under his rank when he formed his first army with people that were outside the society. **1 Samuel 22:2** ***"And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him."***

Later, when David was king we see how he humbled himself before God and all the people.

**2 Samuel 6:14** ***"Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod."*** So, what happened here? This is a Bible verse that I actually really love, because it says so much more than you actually see in the first glimpse.

We see David is dancing and we think ok, this is a form of worship and that's it. But let's look a little closer at this scripture. David humbles himself before the LORD and all the people. A lot of Christians think David makes a fool out of himself because he would dance naked before the LORD. But this is not what this verse is telling us. While he is wearing the "linen ephod" he is actually wearing the same the Levites are wearing. **1 Chronicles 15:27** ***"David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the music master with the singers. David also wore a linen ephod."***

We see in this scripture that David humbles himself and, although he is king, wears the same as the Levites and singers. Let's take a look how his wife Michal reacts to this, and why. **2 Samuel 6:16** ***"Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart."*** Michal was raised as a daughter of a king. She knew the protocols of the court and she grew up knowing that she would one day be part of the politics of her father. She probably had a lot of religious misconceptions.

**2 Samuel 6:20** ***"Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, 'How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!'"*** Michal was offended that David lowered himself before the people and became one of them. She despised him and mocked him. We see the response from David in the next verses when he tells Michal that he would be even more undignified and humble in his own eyes (**2 Samuel 6:22**).

What a wonderful example we have in David. As worship leaders we always should strive to humble ourselves before God. We should never think of ourselves higher than we ought to just because we play an instrument or have a lovely voice or stand on a stage. We should always have an attitude of humility and thankfulness no matter

what we do. And we should do all things as for the LORD and with the same attitude.

When I was a musician in the world I had the opportunity to sing a song with a blues band. The bandleader asked me in the break if I wanted to sing a song and he decided which song I would sing with the band after the break. I never heard the song, so we would practice it within 15 minutes. I was very nervous and had tremendous stage fright. He told me something I never forgot. He said "Imagine you would clean your house and sing at the same time. Now go out there and do the same thing." I did and came through the song nicely, without any fear or nervousness. Later, when I sang in different worship groups, I took this advice with me, not for fear or stage fright, but to get the right attitude.

We sing to God, our heavenly Father, out of our thankfulness for all He did for us, and all He will do. We sing because we can be in His presence day and night until all eternity, because of Jesus who became the door for us! When we are in this attitude, our worship becomes alive and free and we step behind the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit. When we are in this attitude it doesn't matter whether we sing and worship on a stage in front of people or in our living room, because we worship God Almighty.

When we first bought our farm, we had our first 7 goats. Sometimes when I went to the barn in the morning to do the chores I would start to worship the Lord and sing and sometimes even preach the gospel. (I know that may sound a bit crazy for some readers out there.) One morning when I sang to God and proclaimed the blood of Jesus, His name and His Word, it was such an anointing in the barn and I realized the presence of God was right there. When I opened my eyes, I saw all the goats standing there, watching me and listening to the song and words I spoke. (I wish sometimes we had an attendance like that in our churches...)

It really doesn't matter where we are, in an old barn or a beautiful church, in our prayer closet or in our car. God is with us and His anointing is there whether we feel it or not.

As the leader of the team make sure that you encourage the people in your team. Not everyone is a professional musician and often it takes a lot of bravery for people to open up their heart and sing and play on a church stage. The attitude of "if I say nothing, all is well" does not work for everyone. As a matter of fact everyone likes to know where they stand in a team. Everyone likes to be guided by motivation and encouragement.

As a worship leader you should be able to address when someone plays or sing off key. You can do this in a nice and loving manner. You care about the people in your team. They are a precious treasure that are trusted to you by God. You appreciate them, and you appreciate what they do for God, the team, and you. After all they give their time and themselves to you. If necessary you should spend the time and go through the difficult passages of the songs with the person(s) that is having trouble singing or playing.

If someone gets hurt in the team (and this WILL happen sooner or later. After all we are only human and unfortunately still have our flesh.) they should be able to speak about this with the person that hurt them and you as their leader should moderate that talk, watching that it all stays within love. Hearts that are hurt have a long time to heal. Unfortunately, there are a lot of Christians that are hurt in worship teams every day. (As a matter of fact, I believe that in no other team in the church people get hurt as much as in a worship team.) A lot of people walk out of churches with broken hearts. A lot of potential is wasted just because we care not enough for each other or don't take time to understand each other.

Is practice important? With one word: Yes!

Your own practice is important because the better you learn the songs you want to play, the more freedom you have to flow and enjoy the worship times. As a group, your practice sessions can be a valuable time with the Lord and each other. I was in worship groups where the emphasis was only on practice and jam sessions. But I was also in worship groups where the practice times would be laid down to the Lord and the Holy Spirit had full control. Those times were sometimes even better than on Sunday

mornings in the church. The group would grow together and sometimes healing took place.

As a singer it is important that you practice your voice at home. That you know how to breathe and sing, so you don't have to concentrate on those things during the worship sessions and can instead focus on the presence of the Lord.

Give the Lord your best. God can only work with what you give to Him. Be prepared. But then step back and let the Holy Spirit lead you.

Again, practice is important, but more important are your private times with the Lord. In His presence you will be filled with new life. You will be strengthened and renewed, and you will come out refreshed, sometimes even with a new song. The condition of your heart is more important than the music you play.

It is good to have a song list for your meeting because it unites the people in the meeting. The songs can help the people concentrate on the things of God, clean their thoughts, and unite the congregation. At the same time, the songs should be more the structures of the worship and the emphasis should be more in the time between the songs.

A worship leader should always have the courage to veer off the path of the song list and follow the Holy Spirit. Maybe someone has something on their heart to share or it may be a time for quietness. But the worship leader can always lead back to the songs.

And finally, a word about your health. Yes, this is important too. Only a healthy body can bring a full effort to sing and play under the anointing. What you fill into your body determines the strength you will have when you sing or play. A lot of musicians in the world know about this and live a healthy lifestyle with good healthy food and enough rest, because they know how much energy they give during a concert. Opera singers give their voices a lot of resting times where they don't even speak. Again, give the Lord your best.

Another important aspect of health is the health of your soul and mind. **Proverbs 4:23** "**Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.**"

Jesus himself told us in **Luke 6:45** "**A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**" We cannot fill our minds and souls with everything that comes our way. We cannot watch everything that comes on TV or on YouTube, because we really have to guard our hearts. There are a lot of uplifting things on tv, but there are also more and more things that corrupts our souls when we watch it. You can always ask yourself "would I watch this show if Jesus was sitting beside me?" Then you know instantly if this particular show is good for you or not.

**Romans 10:17** tells us "**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**" This goes, I believe, in two directions. Your faith can either grow or decrease by what you hear. There are a lot of people that let the television run 24:7, day and night. I think this is not a good idea, especially not for ministers of God. What you fill into your heart will come out one way or the other. It's good to be careful with what we fill into ourselves. It's called sanctification, which is a word not very popular in today's world, even among Christians. But it's very important that we strive to follow Jesus in every way and lay down what hinders us. Hidden in sanctification lies a great freedom that brings us closer to God. When we lay those things down at the cross we soon see that the Lord fills the empty space up with His greatness. What more can we wish than to lay down what hinders us from coming closer to God and being filled with more of Him every day until we will be with Him for all eternity? There in the heavenly places will stay nothing in between us and God anymore. We will see the whole picture and our worship will be so powerful, united with all the saints and all the angels. Hallelujah!

## Chapter four

### A word to musicians

Dear musicians, the worship leader leads! Fellow musicians follow. Not the other way around. This is especially important during times of spontaneous worship. It needs a great deal of discipline from the side of the team, but at the end it is respect and submission that a worship team should have for their leader. As Christians we should walk all the time in this type of respect and submission towards our brothers and sisters in Christ. **Romans 12:10** *"be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another."*

**Ephesians 4:2-3** *"<sup>2</sup>with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*

**1 Peter 3:8** *"Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;"*

The worship leader leads! I cannot emphasize this enough. That means he chooses the songs you sing as a team, and he determines how you guys play it. If he asks you to choose the songs that's fine. But at the end he is the leader and if he doesn't want to play a song you asked him that you guys can play, that's fine. It's his decision at the end or the decision of the pastor. Church is not a democracy. The worship leader has a great responsibility and even if he fails in your eyes, he still may succeed in God's eyes. We are NOT to judge our fellow sisters and brothers in the Lord and we are not to judge our leaders. The number one reason why team musicians should honor their leader is that they were appointed by God to lead the team. Even if you are the best musician or the conductor of a symphony orchestra, if you are a team member of a worship team, your worship leader deserves your respect.

A lot of disrespect in worship teams happen because of insecurity to one another. Almost every musician was a performer before they grew spiritually and started to worship the Lord. Unfortunately, a lot of worship musicians

still think they have to perform instead of worshipping the Lord.

It can be that you as a musician don't agree with the manner your worship leader leads the team or the kind of songs he chooses or how he wants them to be played. Speak with him about your thoughts or ideas, ask him why he leads that way or why he chooses those songs. I found out that communication often solves a lot of problems even before they start. After all, you could learn a thing or two from your leader too. Stay teachable! Unfortunately, a lot of teams in the church have problems with communication. But I found out that through communication we get to know each other better and learn from each other. Everyone brings different talents, characters, calls, and ideas, and together as a team under God we can learn, move, and be molded by the Father.

If however you have a problem with the songs or the leadership of your church speak to your worship leader first. The better the communication in the team the better you get to know each other.

If you really have a problem with your leader or the songs he chooses (maybe the songs are not very scriptural or you really have a problem to sing them because they are so against what God put in your heart about worship) then maybe you have to think about leaving this team, or even this church, and ask God whether He will help you to find the place that He has for you. It is not a sacrilege to leave a church and sometimes it is best for you (and the church) when you move on. Sometimes the beliefs in that particular church are not the same that God put in your heart. Sometimes this is compatible, sometimes not. Sometimes people or churches move on in a different direction than you do.

If you move on, do it in the nicest way you can. Thank the leader and the team for the opportunity they gave you (remember you always learn something, even if you don't know it) and then move on without bad feelings. Forgive where something needs to be forgiven (maybe you have to forgive yourself) and then come into God's presence and ask Him where the next step is for you. Maybe He tells you right away; maybe He teaches you about some things and

this is a time for you and God. Never despise those times. They are very important for you as a Christian and as a worshipper but also as a child of God. They lead you to yourself (maybe more than you like) and they hopefully lead you towards God. But in any case, they peel your feelings and thoughts and refine you so that you can find out more about yourself and God and His Word. This will ultimately help you to come closer to God, to rest in His Word, and to trust Him. It will enhance the way you worship Him. After all He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, we should be as holy and sanctified as we can to enter His throne room, so that we can be a vessel He can use like He wants to.

Speak with each other! Your team should have an atmosphere of trust and freedom where everyone can speak freely about the things he has on his heart.

Even the disciples had arguments amongst them. **Mark 9:33-35** ***"<sup>33</sup>Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, 'What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?' <sup>34</sup>But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest. <sup>35</sup>And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.'"***

And in **Luke 9:46** we read ***"Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest."***

So we see how open and honest the fellowship was among the disciples. I think a good team has open talks about how they feel about the things that are going on in the team and a good leader encourages an open atmosphere where things like that can be spoken of. Unfortunately, we have a lot of immature leaders nowadays that are good musicians but insecure in who they are in Christ and what their call is. A lot of leaders are afraid of losing their call, or their ministry or job in the church. There is a lot of rivalry and envies going on in today's church, because a lot of Christians think that success in God's eyes would be the same as success in the world. A "bigger crowd" or "better music" or "more money, cars, airplanes" and so on is not bigger and better in God's

eyes. Too much of the world is flowing in the church today and we need to sit back and take another, fresh look at the Bible and how church was in the beginning. What was important in the early church? How did they meet? Who was in the center of their meeting?

**Philippians 2:3 "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."** What a good guideline for a worship team. The Holy Spirit can truly move in an atmosphere like this, because there is great love and freedom in it.

The instruments should be adjusted so that the singers can still hear themselves on their speakers. Otherwise the singers have to scream and strain their voices. Instruments can always be replaced, but a singer has only one voice that can never be replaced.

The worship leader should group the instrumentalists so that the bassist is near the drummer and guitarist.

The singers should have a speaker that also includes the leaders instrument on it, or at least a piano or keyboard. This will help them to have a bit of orientation and help them to hear the song. It depends how many singers there are, but the singers should have a speaker for themselves.

If however the "I cannot hear myself" game is too strong, the leader should always go back to acapella and no speakers and only acoustic instruments. Along with this, good teaching about the purpose of worship should be provided. This way the team goes back to what is important in worship. (After all, we are all musicians and need to be reminded from time to time...)

**PLEASE NO JAM-SESSIONS** before or after the church service. Not everyone is interested in the newest intros or riffs you just learned. Maybe the worship leader can reserve a night for this or maybe you have a special time in your rehearsal nights for this. After all musicians are musicians and they like to play together. Those times can be wonderful times to flow in the Holy Spirit. I attended worship teams where we had Holy Spirit flowing times and

great things happened. The team would grow together and sometimes even healing occurred.

Each member of the team should pray at home during the week. All should be full of the Word of God and in a strong fellowship with the Lord and in this fullness come together as a team to practice or to the service, praising God and flowing together in the things of the Lord under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Everyone may have something on their heart to give. Maybe one has a tongue, one an interpretation, maybe one has a song or an encouraging word. **Romans 12:6-8** ***"<sup>6</sup>Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup>or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>he who exhorts, in exhortation; the who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."***

**Romans 12:4-5** ***"<sup>4</sup>For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."***

I believe in the cooperation of the body of Christ and not that only one person has all the anointing or the call. Too many Christians depend on one "special minister" with the "super anointing," instead of being in regular fellowship with God and in His Word and under Jesus' anointing. What a wonderful thing when brothers and sisters are filled with the Word of God and minister to each other in compassion. Should we not all be cheerful when one member of the body is in joy? Or should we not weep with each other when one suffers? Way too many Christians in the western church are too passive. They become hearers rather than doers of the Word - if they ever hear. A lot of Christians go to church to be entertained. Others may try to flow in the Spirit but are afraid of doing mistakes. Unfortunately, only a few ministers teach the people that they too can minister to others, that they have what is needed to be a vessel for the use of God.

Maybe your team is flowing into prophetic singing. Start to do those things at home before doing it on stage during a Christian meeting. Speak first with your worship leader about those things, to reassure that your leader knows what you are doing.

Know the Word of God, spend time in the Word of God at home. Look into your heart and sing out of it.

When those things were new to us, we had meetings every week as a family where we would praise the Lord and be in His presence. One day I had a Word from the Lord while singing. It started very well and then I had this picture of the three men in the furnace. Only that I sang that Daniel was in the furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Oops, Daniel was never in the furnace. My family and I could laugh about it, but I realized how important our knowledge of the Bible is. The Word that I got that night was from God, but I messed it up. Praise God that His grace is bigger than our mistakes. We are allowed to make mistakes after all. God will not take the call away from us, but it is better for those we minister to that we are prepared to be the best we can. That we give God the best we have!

**1 Corinthians 14:40** *"Let all things be done decently and in order."* This verse speaks for itself. Remember we submit to each other in love. When we have the best in our mind for our fellow brothers and sisters our motivation to minister is right. Sometimes God gives us something on our heart to speak, but the leader maybe will go on or the team flows in another direction, or you simply have no open door, then perhaps it is not the right moment to speak. Submit to it. It is better to submit and flow in love and be quiet every now and then than to speak up in every little possible moment. It is better to listen to your heart and the Holy Spirit carefully before conveying His message. Minister to others, not to yourself. Most of the time the Holy Spirit gives you something to say for others. After all, your call and anointing to minister is for other people, not for yourself.

## Chapter five

### A word to pastors

Dear Pastor, be bold enough to let the Holy Spirit lead your church service. Let him grow your church. You don't have to be an entertainer in order to fill your church.

Give your worship leader time to be in the presence of the Lord, give him more time to be in the presence of the Lord, and give him even more time to be in the presence of the Lord.

Don't expect the leader to do the Christmas production, Easter play, or all the other specials. How can he be anointed and flow in the Holy Spirit when he is so stressed out with all the productions that are going on in the Church? Instead of being in rest and in peace following the Holy Spirit he will most likely perform, which is not the purpose of a worship leader (or a pastor for that matter).

Why not split up the different tasks of a worship leader? Maybe you have someone that is really musically inclined and has the ability to lead a band or do all the specials in the church? Maybe this person can start the worship service and then later on the person that leads the congregation deeper into the presence of God steps in? Maybe you have a person in your church that has the compassion to lead a choir?

It's time that our congregations are filled with people who worship God in Spirit and in truth as Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well. **John 4:21-24** <sup>21</sup>**Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup>God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."**

What a difference it would make to follow the Holy Spirit and have worship services that are led by God himself

instead of the worldly shows and performances we see most of the times in churches today. Oh how glorious it would be to give up our control and let the Holy Spirit have his way. After all, we go to church to praise God and worship Him. We want to give Him all our heart and thank Him. He should be the center of our lives and He should be the center of our Christian meetings.

We should move away of all that performance and entertainment that is going on in the Christian meetings and start to think outside the box. Let the Holy Spirit have His way. Let us give Him room in our hearts, in our meetings. Let Him speak to us and let us expect Him to be present. Let us step close to Him in reverence and adoration. And let us expect miracles and wonders again in our meetings with Him!

## Chapter six

### The sacred place

**Psalm 84:10** *"For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness."*

The best place to be is undoubtedly in the presence of God, all the days we live and at all times. When we are aware of His presence and that we are all in His hands, our circumstances take on a different perspective. We become bolder and stand stronger in the winds of life because we know God and we know that we are always in His hands.

To be in the presence of God and in His throne room should be the thing we crave for in our church meetings whenever we meet as brothers and sisters to praise and worship Him. We should never be content with less than His wonderful presence. Once we step into His sacred place we won't be looking for entertainment anymore. Our worship time becomes honest, fulfilled, and in His glory our hearts will be changed. We will be filled with the compassion to bring this treasure, the gospel, to others so they too can have this new life as a child of God. Our hearts will ache for the needs of this world and we will find a new purpose to touch the people around us with His love and grace.

God wants to spend time with us. He wants us to be in His presence so He can fill us with His love, and change us to what He designed us to be. He wants to speak to us through His Word but also through His Holy Spirit and He wants to teach us about His Kingdom, ideas, and plans. He wants to have our hearts fully and undivided. It is time that we stretch ourselves a bit and grow towards Him.

In **1 Chronicles 16** we can read how David and the Israelites set the ark of God in the tabernacle and how they approached God with offerings of different kinds. They had a tremendous service that day and truly experienced the presence of God in a wonderful way. They came with an attitude of reverence and awe and opened their hearts to God.

In **verse 3** we read that **"(David) distributed to everyone of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins."** That reminds me of the communion we take in the Christian meeting to remember Jesus and what He has done for us.

In **1 Chronicles 16: 8-15** we see this wonderful attitude the children of Israel had in that worship time. **1 Chronicles 16:8-15** **<sup>8</sup>"Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! <sup>9</sup>Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! <sup>10</sup>Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! <sup>11</sup>Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore! <sup>12</sup>Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth, <sup>13</sup>O seed of Israel His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones! <sup>14</sup>He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth. <sup>15</sup>Remember His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations,"**

Should we Christians that live under the New Covenant, or the New Testament, not at least have the same attitude and even more gratitude in our hearts in the knowledge of what Jesus did for us? He came to the earth with the sole purpose to step into this covenant that He made with God as a substitute for us. He was the scape goat for us when He loaded all the sins of the world upon himself. Yes, He became the sin and went to that cross and to hell and rose up on the third day, because God said, "it is enough" and the Holy Spirit raised Him from the dead. Jesus presented His holy blood in Heaven and made a triumph out of the devil and his demons of darkness and sin. **Colossians 2:15** **"Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."**

Hallelujah! Do you know what this means? It means that we are free indeed to worship Him, to step into His Holy of Holies and that we are children of God the Almighty. The price is paid, once and for all. All we have to do in order to step into that Covenant is give the Lord our heart and make Him the ruler of our lives. We just have to believe in

our heart (that God has raised Jesus from the dead) and confess with our mouth and the most miraculous thing happens to us. We become a new creation, the old has passed away.

**Romans 10:9-10** *"<sup>9</sup>that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in you heart that God has raised Him from the dead you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

**2 Corinthians 5:17** *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."*

In this attitude we have to come before God to worship Him, grateful for His masterplan He had for our lives. With this gratitude and adoration, we have to approach Him in His holiness. According to **Matthew 18:20** *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."* Jesus is with us there. When you enter God's presence in praise and worship expect to be strengthened, to get answers, to get healing and wholeness, to be refreshed and equipped to touch this dying world.

Dive into His presence to give Him your heart and soul, your mind, and everything else. Surrender all to Him and He will fill you up with His everlasting life, His love, His peace, His strength, His purpose, His ideas. What a wonderful power source we can be filled up with in our worship and praise times if we only let Father God fill us and if we let ourselves be controlled by the Holy Spirit. If we surrender wholeheartedly to Him, what a difference this makes in our lives.

I pray that the Christians in the whole world come away from entertaining and performing church and that they give God full control not only of their lives but especially of their meetings. I pray that this "money, control, show-attitude" will perish and God's children truly seek Him in humility and gratitude and that joy and peace, healing and wholeness, and miracles and wonders fill the Christian meetings again!



## A life changing prayer

Dear heavenly Father. I come to You in this prayer to give You my life. You have provided everything I need in order to get saved and spend my eternal life with You.

Jesus came to this world to carry my sin on that cross. He said in **John 5:24** "***Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.***"

and in **John 3:16** "***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.***"

I come to you Father God to give You my life. I believe in my heart and confess with my mouth that God raised Jesus from the dead (**Romans 10:9-10**). Jesus come into my life as my Savior and my King. My life belongs to You.

I thank You Father God that I have this everlasting life now. Thank You that I will spend my eternity with You and that nothing and no one can ever take me out of Your hands.

Amen!

