

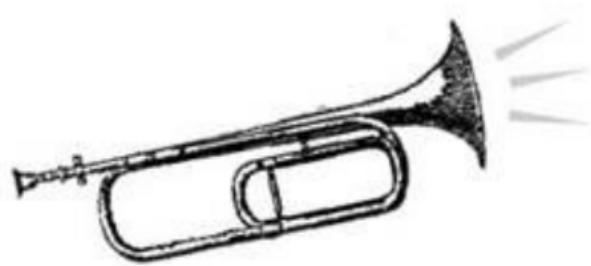
*The*  
**MINISTRY**  
OF THE  
**PSALMIST**



MUSIC MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

FOREWORD BY KIM CLEMENT

**TOM INGLIS**



# THE MINISTRY OF THE PSALMIST

The  
**MINISTRY**  
◀ O F T H E ▶  
**PSALMIST**



MUSIC MINISTRY IN THE  
LOCAL CHURCH

*A Book for Everyone Involved*

*in Music Ministry*

**TOM INGLIS**

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Unless otherwise identified, Scripture quotations are taken from the New King Version of the Bible.

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# Dedication

This book is dedicated to my wife Barbara, a gracious and precious gift from God. Also to my wonderful children Kirsty, David, Andrew and Jessica who use their musical talents as worship to God.

This is a special acknowledgement to my eldest daughter Kirsty because after we left America to pioneer a church in Sydney Australia, she faithfully led and developed the worship team through some challenging years. I appreciate the tremendous spiritual foundation she prepared for our music ministry to build on, led now by my eldest son David.

Lastly I dedicate this book to our first grandson, Julian David Inglis. I know that he will serve the Lord all the days of his life with a worshiping heart, bringing much pleasure to God and his mum, Lesley and his dad, David.

I also want to dedicate this book to everyone who has encouraged and supported me through the years, as I have worked to take the message of worship to the nations. I am deeply grateful and look forward to working with you in the years ahead.





# About The Author

Tom is recognized by many as an apostle of worship who carries a prophetic word that is fresh and relevant for the church today. He has travelled into many nations teaching the message of “worship as a lifestyle” and is considered by many as a pioneer in this field.

Those who hear Tom speak on the subject recognize the prophetic anointing and authority he carries in this area in relation to the role of worship and revival in the church.

His passion is focused on helping raise up a generation of worshipers, and believes this will be one of the great hallmarks of the church before Jesus returns.

Tom was born in Scotland and moved to South Africa as a 14 year-old boy with his parents. He and his wife Barbara were saved in December 1976 shortly before he graduated from university with a master’s degree in Science in 1977.

He had his own business as a chemical consultant until joining ministry full time in 1982 as music director at the Rhema Bible Church, Randburg, South Africa.

During the years 1985 -1988, he recorded three songs that charted on the top 40 secular music charts, giving him access to the secular media with the gospel message.

In particular, the song “Champions of Love” outsold many of the popular secular artists of the time and given air play for 37

weeks while on the charts. “We are One” is another highly successful album and video recorded in 1993 live at Rhema Bible Church by Integrity Music. This opened up doors for concerts in South Africa, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Austria, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia and Philippines.

In 1984 Tom had an unusual encounter with the Lord in his study for about forty minutes where the vision of “Psalmody International” was birthed. He continued fulfilling various duties at the Rhema church until 1987 when Tom felt it necessary to focus on the ministry of “Psalmody International”. After another seven years of serving in this church Tom and his family immigrated to San Diego, California.

Tom ministered across the United States and internationally for four years, teaching mostly on worship lifestyle. Following this Tom took an appointment in 1998 as worship leader and assistant pastor at New Covenant Fellowship in Temecula, California. During the next few years the church prospered.

It was during this time God birthed a vision in Tom to pioneer a church in Sydney, Australia. It was April 1<sup>st</sup> 2002 when the family arrived in Sydney, Australia. After a few weeks, Tom and his family opened the doors to “Sydney Life Church” in the northern suburb of Mosman, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

He is married to Barbara and they have four children who are all serving God in some capacity.

For more information about the church visit  
[www.sydneylifechurch.com](http://www.sydneylifechurch.com)





# Endorsements

The Ministry of the Psalmist is an extremely enjoyable read. Very interesting and exceptionally informative.

This book covers every aspect of music in the Bible in the church and in our private lives. It teaches on the power of worship, and how to enter the supernatural realm of freedom and power with God through worship. This will be the missing link for many people who have struggled in their faith. I highly recommend and endorse this exceptional detailed and meticulous research and study of this subject. Clearly divine revelation has been received for the church worldwide. A must read for every believer and especially those in the ministry.

Dr Theo Wolmarans, Senior pastor

Christian Family Church International

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I have known Tom for 30 years and could not endorse a greater man of God than him. Not only does he live what he teaches but his knowledge of Praise, Worship and the Music Ministry cannot be bettered anywhere else in the world.

I recommend this book to all church leaders and congregations around the world.

Martin Phelps, Senior pastor

## Rhema Church London

“Worship is a lifestyle” is a phrase that I came across many years ago when I first came to know Tom. This revelation of worship changed my world - practically and spiritually, and the way that I minister.

Over the years as I have watched Tom’s life and ministry, I have seen in him an authentic desire to live in such a way that exemplifies this phrase. Tom is an anointed and passionate worshipper.

His capabilities as a worship leader, pastor and teacher are second to none and this book suggests nothing less.

Tom has captured the essence of worship and the heart of God throughout his writing. Particular notice is given throughout this work to qualify why we do what we do; not only as musicians, singers and worship leaders, but as children of God, as His creations of worship in our every day lives.

“We should give Him thanks because we love Him in the knowledge that His love is infinitely greater than ours and so is His giving, whether to deliver us or to bless us.”

The Ministry of the Psalmist will bless you and your team as they are brought back to origin and purity of worship, in all that we do, but particularly in the context of your local church.

Ted Evans

Itinerant Minister

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks to Judi Hogan. Your easy-going manner combined with a high standard of professional excellence you operate in, made it easy for me to relax knowing the editing was in very good hands.

Big thanks to my son Andrew, for Art Direction, Design and layout. Love your work. It is always so good!

Thanks to Tom Gibson for back cover photograph.

# FOREWORD

I have read many books on thanksgiving, worship, singing and various expressions of praise, but very seldom have I stopped, put a book down and out of a sudden revelation, burst out in fresh praises to God. This is exactly what I did during the awesome experience of reading “The Ministry of the Psalmist.”

During the past 38 years while working as musician and a psalmist, I thought I had covered the topic in a beautiful expression that did not need alteration. However after reading “The Ministry of the Psalmist” I have discovered a new dimension to praise and worship. This well researched text follows the scriptures explaining the historical position of the psalmist while at the same time drawing out the role and importance of “youth” in this expression.

Often in our Christian walk we tend to allow truths to retire, get old and in many instances die, only to be placed in a tomb. This is what I describe as “tomb” worshipers, which is historical. The other type is the “womb” worshipers, which is creative. Both are necessary. Truth in the tomb is historical truth and is different from truth in the womb, which is creative truth.

While reading this book, some of my expressions were resurrected and as I read the life-giving words scribed by this seasoned psalmist, new expressions were born and I became

aware of unrealised truth and sounds in my spiritual womb.

In my next prophetic gathering while ministering to God my expression was fresh. The atmosphere was suddenly filled with anticipation and there was a stirring of the spirit within the people. I am no stranger to God's presence, but I found that there was a greater weight of glory that came because He felt a greater welcome to join us as we praised.

"The Ministry of the Psalmist" is an excellent read!

Kim Clement,  
[www.kimclement.com](http://www.kimclement.com)

# PREFACE

I believe every pastor and leader should read this book as well as those involved in music ministry because of the important role worship plays in the life and spiritual growth in the local church. God gave King David the blue print on how to respond to His presence with worship in the tabernacle, and although we are certainly not trying to duplicate the grandeur of these instructions, there are principles from this that apply for local church worship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are instructed to gather together to worship in the local church with the promise that God will inhabit our corporate praises (Psalm 22:3).

Corporate praise and worship in the local church is our invitation for God to enthrone Himself in our midst, circumstances and community. As we gain greater understanding of the importance of this and the amazing consequences it brings, there will be a Holy Spirit quickening for greater change because we are prioritizing His presence more than anything else.

The history of the church, certainly in recent times, shows that every major move of God or revival has been accompanied with praise and worship. We should expect no less as we head toward the glorious end of this church age. God is preparing the church for a great outpouring of His Spirit and emphasizing the importance that worship has in it. This book outlines God's plans and purposes for worship in the local church and the

benefits we can expect from it. It is very practical, as well as, based on sound biblical principles and a must read for anyone involved in music ministry. My heart is to see revival in every local church and I trust this book will help affect a stirring of God's presence in a greater way where you serve as a music minister.

Blessings, Tom Inglis  
Sydney, Australia, April 2012

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## **Afterword**

# **NOTE**

This book is intended to be used by music ministries using the chapter reviews.

Answers to the questions can be found at: [www.tominglisministries.com](http://www.tominglisministries.com)

# PART 1

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# FOUNDATIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF MUSIC MINISTRY

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# THE DIVINE GIFT OF MUSIC

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## *What is Music?*

Encyclopedia Britannia defines music as “an art that in one guise or another permeates every human society.” The Oxford dictionary says “It is an art of combining sounds, with a view to beauty of form, and expression of emotion.”

It is a sequence of sounds arranged to make a melody, combined with other sounds to create harmony, moving in a definite time pattern called rhythm.

Music is an artistic form of auditory communication incorporating instrumental or vocal tones in a structured and continuous manner. It is also referred to as an art, or science, of combining notes together, in such a way to produce something structurally complete, beautiful to listen to and emotionally expressive (Oxford Dictionary). Musicologists believe that music has some basic rules that give it structure, with melody supported by harmony and rhythm. The melody is made up of notes that identify the composition, without which every piece of music would be unrecognizable, or unrepeatable. The

melody can be seen as the basic building block of the music, upon which rhythm and harmony are added. If rhythm and harmony overpower the melody to the extent that the composition is no longer identifiable, then it has lost structural integrity as music, and is no more than a noise.

The apostle Paul makes reference to making distinct musical sounds when using trumpet calls for battle preparations.

*“Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?” (1 Corinthians 14:7-8).*

The ancient Jews in the wilderness wanderings had to be familiar with different trumpet sounds for moving camp and preparing for war (Number's 10:2-9). If they didn't hear the sounds it could have been disastrous.

Music is described as beautiful or enjoyable to listen to. Although this is arguably in the ears of the listener, it is referring to the fact that it should not be harsh on the ears or difficult to listen to, irrespective of genre. Lastly, it should be emotionally expressive, stirring deep-seated feelings in the

listener.

## KEY POINT

Music is referred to as an art, or science, of combining notes together, in such a way to produce something structurally complete, beautiful to listen to, and emotionally expressive.

## MUSIC AND WORDS

When music is accompanied with words, it becomes a very powerful tool of communication. I once asked a Jewish professor of music at one of the universities in Israel what was more important to the ancient Jew, the music or the lyrics. He promptly replied that the words were always more important than the music, because the Jewish nation sang God's word. The music was simply the vehicle by which they could express their faith and joy to a covenant keeping God, who had commanded them to sing His word (Psalm 56: 2, 10, Psalm 47:7).

*"For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding" (Psalm 47:7).*

The word "understanding" in the Hebrew is SAKAL (Strong, 1996) H7919. This means "to understand, be wise, prudent and

have insight regarding the promises of God in such a way that will bring success" (Joshua 1:8).

Singing praise with understanding means to consciously think about the lyrical content of what is being sung rather than singing the words subconsciously. Faith comes by hearing and also singing God's word or the truth about God's word. For example, when you sing of God's power, and consciously think about it as you sing, faith will rise within you to receive His power and even release it to others (Romans 10:17, Hebrews 11:6).

It is well documented that praise is the highest expression of faith, because it is an outward expression of an inner belief, and this is why lyrics of the song are of primary importance compared to the music, irrespective of how strong the melody or how beautiful the musical arrangement.

Many of the old church hymns written long ago are testimony of this as they still hold a profound theological message. Although time has past, they continue to build faith in those who hear and sing them because the great melodies are surpassed with sound doctrine.

It was a common practice for most of the Old Testament to be sung, and God used the principle of singing to get His people to memorise His word. By memorising the words of the songs', faith comes, and by singing them, faith is released (Romans 10:17). This does not mean that music alone without words cannot inspire praise or be classified as praise.

## KEY POINT

It is important to consider the power of words that accompany music when choosing song material for worship.

## HEBREW IS A MUSICAL LANGUAGE

The ancient Hebrew language is unique, because it did not evolve as other languages. Many Bible scholars believe it is the language God spoke to Adam in the Garden of Eden, and supernaturally preserved by his descendants. The Jews continued to use this language even though they did not have their own homeland for hundreds of years. Hebrew was God's choice of communication, to His people, and from His people back to Him. When God gave them their language, He must have considered that it should be used to praise Him.

*“This people, I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My praise” (Isaiah 43:21).*

Hebrew researchers believe that each of the twenty-two letters found in the ancient Hebrew alphabet, represent a musical note, and that music is embedded into their language. When David played his harp in the presence of the demon-tormented King Saul, the demons fled, yet there is no mention of David singing. Perhaps he did sing, however the emphasis is

on how well he played as a musician.

And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. Let our Master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well" (1 Samuel 16:15-16).

Although we are commanded to sing praises with understanding, we cannot underestimate the power associated with music played alone by an anointed musician. When the demons fled, it is reasonable to believe that they responded to the musical sound coming from the notes David played on the harp. Perhaps in the spirit realm, musical notes played under the anointing of the Holy Spirit are equivalent to God's Word going forth to deliver and heal. Could it be that when David played the lyre to King Saul, the demons left because through the notes played, they "heard" God's Word, commanding them to depart? Although this cannot be proved, there is no doubt that the spirit realm responds to Holy Spirit inspired, worship music and David certainly played Holy Spirit inspired, worship music. As more research reveals the mysteries the language holds, we will no doubt discover that in some way everything in the universe is associated with the letters that make it up. This includes color, music, and the structure of the universe at a sub-atomic level, because when God spoke, everything we understand came into existence because of His words.

## **KEY POINT**

We cannot underestimate the uniqueness of the Hebrew language or the connection it has to divine power associated with music.

## CREATION'S PRAISE

In God's creation there is potential for praise even at an atomic level. Jesus said that if humanity would not praise Him, the rocks would literally complain of the injustice of denying the opportunity.

*But he said, "If they kept quiet, the stones would do it for them, shouting praise" (Luke 19:40 The Message).*

It is not surprising that the entire universe responds to the Creator with praise! Structured into the atoms making up the molecules in the rocks is the inherent capacity to praise. The inanimate objects have within them, a consciousness of the Creator and an inherent ability to respond to Him with praise. Scientists have recorded sounds coming from distant galaxies that are explained as the sound of chemical reactions (Gray, 2010). Further, it is from within the sub-atom particles where there is the sound of praise. The Bible says that the stars praise Him, the heavens sing, along with all creation.

“..Stars praise” (*Psalm 148:3, 65:13*).  
“..Valleys sing” (*Isaiah 44:23, 49:13*).  
“..Mountains sing” (*Isaiah 55:12*).  
“..Trees sing” (*1 Chronicles 16:33*).  
“..Heavens sing” (*Isaiah 44:23, 49:13*).  
“..Waste-places sing” (*Isaiah 52:9, 1 Chronicles 16:32*).  
“..Sea roars praise” (*Psalm 98:7, 69:34*).  
“..Birds sing” (*Psalm 104:12*).

Because God created everything that exists, everything that exists responds to Him with praise. The universe is an endless testimony of praise to the glory of God.

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun”*

*(Psalm 19:1-4).*

## **KEY POINT**

If all of creation praises God, how much more should we, who are the pinnacle of all His creation, made in His own image and likeness.

## **MUSIC IS A GIFT TO THE ANGELS**

Since God gave music to the angels to worship Him in eternity past, we have to conclude that it is an eternal attribute of God. Worship using musical instruments was happening long before the nation of Israel existed and indeed before the creation of the earth. God created innumerable angels who were placed under three archangels: Lucifer, Gabriel and Michael. The name Lucifer means “light bearer” or morning star, presumably from the reflection of God’s glory on the precious stones that covered him. He shone above all other angels in his beauty, wisdom and perfection. Only to be used for worship in the presence of God, he had musical instrumentation built into his make up.

*“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. 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”*

*(Ezekiel 28:12-13).*

*“Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, and the sound of your stringed instruments; the maggot is spread under you, and worms cover you. How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are art cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!” (Isaiah 14:11-12).*

Lucifer was singled out among the archangels and anointed by God to use his gift of music in leading the rest of the heavenly hosts in worship. Whether there were other angels or celestial beings that played instruments as well as Lucifer is not clear, but he undoubtedly was the orchestra leader, choir director and master musician. There is no other logical reason why God would create him with instruments, except for worship.

*“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” (Ezekiel 28:14).*

Before his fall Lucifer was created as a symphony of worship to God. However, a seed of iniquity grew in him until he rebelliously declared,

*“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” (Isaiah 14:13-14).*

His beauty, perfection, influences and anointing deceived him into believing he could actually replace God, and be worshiped as God. It does not seem possible to lead worship to God one day and then attempt to dethrone Him the next. His worship toward God would have deteriorated over a period of time, as his heart progressively became antagonistic toward God. The Message translation brings out the insatiable desire of Lucifer to rule over the angelic hosts, and God.

*“You said to yourself, “I’ll climb to heaven. I’ll set my throne over the stars of God. I’ll run the assembly of angels that meet on sacred Mount Zaphon. I’ll climb to the top of the clouds. I’ll take over as King of the universe” (Isaiah 14:13-14, The Message).*

We have to be continually conscious that the calling, gifts, talents and anointing God has so graciously given us are used exclusively for His glory and not our own. It is a fearful thing if

any trace of self is still alive in us when being used so mightily by God in the area of music ministry. The devil knows those involved in music ministry can be susceptible to pride and self-seeking. To escape falling prey to devilish traps in these areas, the music ministry has to exude a spirit of humility and submission to leadership at all times.

## **KEY POINT**

Your calling and anointing are not a guarantee of immunity from a rebellious heart. Worship, humility and dependency on God are keys to maintain and fulfill your call as a singer and musician.

## **MUSIC IS A GIFT TO HUMANITY**

God gave the gift of music to Jubal, an ancestor of Cain who is referred to as the father of music (Genesis 4:21). There is little recorded about him except for this statement, and it cannot be assumed he used music for good or evil. Although he did not survive the flood, He did leave a legacy in the form of how musical instruments were used for a variety of reasons by the ancient Israelites. The Jewish nation made no distinction between sacred and secular music. Music was generally understood as a means of communicating praise to God, whether in times of war, wedding feasts or harvesting (1 Corinthians 10:13). Many of the great composers

acknowledged that music is a gift from the hand of God for our pleasure and also for the purpose of worship to Him.

Martin Luther said, “Next to theology, I give music the highest place and honor. Music is the art of the prophets, the only art that can calm the agitations of the soul. It is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us” (Luther, trans. n.d.). Johann Sebastian Bach said, “Where there is devotional music, God is always at hand with His gracious presence” (Bach, trans. n.d.).

Music is a gift God has given to the saved as well as the unsaved, and there are many people throughout history, and currently who write it solely for pleasure and not for the purpose of worship. The question often arises if Christians should listen to music written for pleasure. Obviously, a Christian should never listen to songs with lyrics expressing rebellion, death, sex or with any subject content that is contrary to God’s word (Philippians 4:8).

Today there is gospel music available to appeal to all tastes. Those involved in music ministry should be most of the time prioritizing worship music as their preferred choice. This does not mean you should not listen to secular music at times, it just means that you do not prioritize it in your life.

We are instructed to make melody in our heart to the Lord. If you always have a song in your heart for the Lord, there will be little room for other music to distract you. Scripture puts it like this.

*“And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives; words, actions, whatever, be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way” (Colossians 3:17, The Message).*

When listening to a great piece of classical or modern music that is not written intentionally to glorify God, one can give glory to God for the gift of music He gave the composer. Scripture declares that every good and perfect gift comes from Him (James 1:17).

God told Moses to write down a song and to teach it to future generations. It was written by Moses but inspired by God for the purpose of memorizing His Word (Deuteronomy 31:19). God knew if He could get His people to sing about Him they would remember Him. The ancient Jews sang most of the Old Testament, like the Psalms, vast portions of it was given specifically with musical instruction. We also understand that God has a future purpose for music. Man and angels will use it throughout eternity as an expression of worship to God (Psalm 30:12, 44:8, Revelation 4-5).

## **KEY POINT**

As a music minister, you will probably enjoy listening to secular music, and you should not feel condemnation if you

do. However the preferred choice should be praise and worship, and you should constantly be making melody in your heart to the Lord.

## **WORSHIP IN THE PERSECUTED CHURCH**

A mention of the persecuted church is in order at this time. Although God has a plan for music ministry in the local church, it does not mean that churches that do not have musical instruments cannot express worship that is fully pleasing to God. Persecuted churches in many nations function secretly and do not have instruments to support the expression of praise and worship. Under persecution, they can flourish and prosper without instruments, but not without praise and worship. Many of these churches are an example of how to worship without the assistance of musical instruments.

Over many years our ministry has been able to help with the distribution of Psalmody “School of Worship” (Inglis Ministries) material to the underground churches in persecuted nations. Through this teaching they have learned that the greatest hindrance to worship is not the lack of instruments, but the lack of knowledge from God’s word concerning, how to develop worship as a lifestyle, independent of instruments. God’s word clearly points to the use of instruments to accompany worship, but He is far more interested that we are able to worship Him without the dependence of them.

This is the foundation of developing worship as a lifestyle; we acknowledge the divine purpose of using instruments in worship, but we are equally content and unrestricted to worship Him without them. This should encourage us to consider it the greatest privilege to be able to worship using musical instruments.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## The Divine Gift of Music

**1. Musicologists generally believe that music has some basic rules that give it structure. What are they?**

a) \_\_\_\_\_ b) \_\_\_\_\_  
c) \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What was more important to the ancient Jew?**

Circle the correct answer. Music Lyrics.

**Why was this important? Give a brief description**

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**3. Complete the sentence.**

God used the principle of getting His people to  
\_\_\_\_\_ His word through song.

**4. There is biblical evidence that worship music has an influence in the demonic realm. What scripture confirms this?**

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**Give a brief description why.**

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**5. The universe is an endless testimony of praise to the glory of God. What Psalm confirms this?**

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**6. Who said? “Next to theology I give music the highest place and honor.”**

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## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

A person’s calling and anointing is not a guarantee of immunity from a rebellious heart. As a group, discuss the scripture associated to this, and make notes.

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# THE POWER OF MUSIC

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## *What is Music?*

No two voices are the same! The spectrum of frequencies that make up the human voice or sounds we make when we speak or sing is unique in every individual. The voice can be described as the most distinguishing hallmark of the individual, and the most powerful. Your voice is the greatest communication tool you have, for with it you bless God with your words and invoke His presence and power through praise and prayer.

*“Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, For to You I will pray. My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up” (Psalm 5:2-3).*

*“For I Myself will give you a mouth and such utterance and wisdom that all of your foes combined*

*will be unable to stand against or refute" (Luke 21:15, Amplified Bible).*

Your voice is also your most lethal weapon to silence the enemy. The Bible repeatedly tells us to watch how we use words, because they are the carriers of life and death (Proverbs 18:21). The words you speak are never unheard or insignificant. They bring into manifestation the things they describe. Words eventually become "things." That is their ultimate objective.

*"You will also declare a thing, And it will be established for you; So light will shine on your ways" (Job 22:28).*

This is the way God has purposed the use of words. Both the word of God and our words spoken respond to this principle in the spirit world. As a spirit being, you are "tuned in" to hear the voice of God.

*"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (John 10:27).*

It should be normal for a Christian to hear the voice of God, not necessarily in an audible way, but as a “still small voice” in your spirit (1 Kings 19:12). The more you spend time with God in reading His word and praying, the clearer His voice becomes, because you have tuned into the same frequency as God. This is a key to life because it is the way God leads us into all things (John 16:13).

It is also the only way to accomplish the impossible, for God has created all things to respond to words. In Genesis 1:3, Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. The subatomic particles responded and arranged themselves accordingly to produce the thing that God had spoken, namely light. Every atom responds to God’s word and the creation of all things is based on this principle. When we speak or sing God’s word, things around us respond accordingly. According to God’s word, faith in what we speak or sing causes things to become ordered (Hebrews 11:1).

## **KEY POINT**

Your voice, whether speaking or singing is your most powerful asset, for with it your world is framed.

## **GOD SINGS OVER YOU**

The dictionary describes singing as uttering words in tuneful succession, but it does not really describe what happens.

A noted scholar in the field of speech and song said, “The difference between speaking and singing is flow. In singing, the flow of tone is unbroken between the words, but in speaking it is interrupted. In singing, tone is sustained and changed from one pitch to another by definite intervals, over a wide compass that includes notes not attempted in speech. In speaking, tone is unsustained, not defined in pitch, it is limited to a narrow compass, and the length of the tones is not governed by the measure of music” (Fillebrown, 2006).

God uses His voice to sing, and scripture says His voice is the sound of many waters, an uninterrupted flow of words clearly descriptive of singing (Revelation 1:15, Ezekiel 43:2). Not only does God sing but you are the object of His song, simply because you are His redeemed child. His love for you causes Him to sing, not because of what you have done but because of what Jesus did, that has brought us together into a mutual relationship of love. Imagine the river of God’s love, compassion, mercy and grace that streams toward you expressed through His singing voice. The following scripture confirms this.

*“The Lord your God is in the 'midst of you, a <sup>2</sup>Mighty One, a Savior <sup>3</sup>Who saves! He will ~~rejoice~~ over you with ~~joy~~; He will rest in silent satisfaction and in His love He will be silent and make no mention of past sins, or even recall them; He will <sup>6</sup>exult over you with ~~singing~~” (Zephaniah 3:17, Amplified Bible).*

I have expanded the meaning of the words numbered from the Strong's Concordance to give greater understanding of the impact of what God is saying to us in this amazing scripture. It is a staggering reality, God not only loves us but He is willing to express His love emotionally with singing.

*"The Lord thy God in your midst <sup>1</sup>(nearest or centre part) of you is mighty <sup>2</sup>(powerful warrior), He will save <sup>3</sup>(set free or deliver), He will rejoice <sup>4</sup>(be bright, radiant, joyful) over you with joy <sup>5</sup>(exceeding gladness). He will rest in His love; He will joy <sup>6</sup>(spin around in rejoicing) over you with singing <sup>7</sup>(triumphant sounds, shouts)" (Zephaniah 3:17).*

In context, God was referring to living in the midst of His people Israel, but the scripture is prophetically relevant for New Testament believers. When you got saved, you became a new creation through the work of the Holy Spirit who took up residence in your spirit (2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 Corinthians 3:16, Romans 8:9-11). When the Holy Spirit took up residence, He came offering His gifts, one of which is joy (Galatians 5:22-23). God wants to release His gift of joy through you, and there is no greater way to release it than with singing. I have taken the Hebrew words from Zephaniah 3:17 and expand the translation as follows.

The Lord God who lives inside you by the presence of the

Holy Spirit is above all power that exists, and has already set you totally free through the atoning work of His Son, Jesus. The complete and absolute deliverance Jesus has secured for you personally causes God to sing, rejoice, dance and spin around and over you. The reality of this also causes you to sing, rejoice, dance and spin around and in so doing, you harmonise with Him in celebration of your deliverance (Zephaniah 3:17).

## **KEY POINT**

It is the Holy Spirit in our midst who is the source of all our joy and our voice of praise. Perhaps this is why the enemy fears praise and worship so much.

## **JESUS SINGS WITH YOU**

Psalms 113 -117 was traditionally sung at Passover and this is what Jesus sang with His disciples at Passover just before He was crucified (Matthew 26:30). Can you imagine how the disciples would have reflected on, and treasured that experience? Later on in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked them to pray but they fell asleep. On reflection, singing songs of praise with the disciples was the last thing Jesus did before His crucifixion. The book of Hebrews makes an interesting comment with reference to Jesus singing in the midst of the church today.

*“I will declare Thy name to my brethren; In the midst of the church I will sing praise unto thee” (Hebrews 2:12 KJV).*

The Greek word for “congregation” is EKKLESIA (Strong, 1996) G1577. It is the same word Jesus used as “church” when He spoke to Peter in Matthew 16:18. There is no doubt this is referring to the assembly of saints that we refer to as the church today. Although Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, in some mysterious way, He joins us when we praise. In the spirit realm, there are no geographical boundaries between heaven and earth, and there is a strong possibility that when we sing, the voice of a King is heard in the spirit realm. This is a sound that makes the enemy scatter.

## **KEY POINT**

Praise is such a powerful weapon of war because the King of Kings leads us in the song of victory.

## **SING YOUR DELIVERANCE**

There is evidence that when you sing, the Holy Spirit releases His power against the enemy coming against you. There is a flow of His power that is synergistic with the flow of your praise.

*“So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.” And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: “Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever.” Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another” (2 Chronicles 20:20 -23).*

Notice how they only began to sing when the power of God was released on the enemy. It was not the music that released the power of God, but the content of what they were singing, “Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever” (2 Chronicles 20:21). God always responds to His word, whether spoken or sung. However there is a manifestation of God’s power that seems to be released quickly when we sing. While

in jail, the instance Paul and Silas started to sing there was a dramatic deliverance. When you start to sing, the Holy Spirit starts to flow with His power against the enemy and your adverse circumstances.

*“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed” (Acts 16:25-26).*

David established the kingdom like no other king! He overcame all his enemies and brought great peace and prosperity to the nation. During his reign he was directly related to, and a consequence of the praise and worship that enthroned God in the tabernacle. David proved that deliverance from all our enemies is a result of praise and worship to God. The devil fears nothing more than a man or woman who face him, after they have been face to face in the presence of God.

Singing is the voice of victory of the redeemed, it is the way we appreciate His delivering power in our lives. In the Old Testament, singing was often associated with deliverance. Both Moses and Miriam sang to God for delivering them from

Egypt (Exodus 15:1-2, 20-21). We should be encouraged to sing given that we have such total deliverance from the power of darkness (Colossians 1:13). We are not only delivered from the enemy in this temporal life, but also guaranteed a glorious eternity with God.

A friend said recently, “As Christian’s, we have so much to celebrate.” This statement struck me so forcibly that I could not stop thinking about it for days. If we could grasp a fraction of this truth and celebrate our privileged position in Christ, it would impact many people we come in contact with every day. We have to celebrate what God has done, even if we are not yet experiencing it in our own lives. It is important to celebrate the fact that by “Jesus stripes you are healed,” (1 Peter 2:24), even though you may have symptoms in your body that contradict this reality.

## KEY POINT

King David knew the secret of continual worship when he established the Tabernacle and appointed 288 singers to sing 24 hours a day. The dedicated worship was constant for around 40 years. This gives some insight into how much God loves to hear the sound of His children singing praise, a foretaste of what would come in the New Testament. I am convinced that there will be a generation of worshipers like no other, who will arise with singing and they won’t stop until Jesus returns. When the saints understand the power that is released when they sing, a triumphant singing church will overcome every obstacle of the enemy and shatter every

stronghold.

## **SINGING IS A GOOD THING**

How pleasing it is for God to hear you sing, and how good it is for you to do it. The psalmist suggests praising Him for His loving-kindness and His faithfulness at least twice a day, morning and evening.

*“It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; To declare Your loving kindness in the morning and Your faithfulness every night” (Psalm 92:1).*

However, King David had such an appreciation for God that he praised Him seven times a day (Psalm 119:164). When you do something seven times a day it can be considered a habit or more accurately described as a lifestyle. Here are some examples of when to release the power of singing.

## **SING WHEN YOU FEEL HOPELESS**

Deeply embedded in the heart of every believer who understands the wonderful grace of salvation is a song of hope.

*“But I will hope continually, and will praise You yet more and more. My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness And Your salvation all the day, For I do not know their limit” (Psalm 71:14-15).*

*“Hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God” (Psalm 42:11).*

No matter how bad you feel, or how dire the circumstances, start to sing with the confidence that God is listening. God loves it, because it is the sound of hope from His children, who trust Him (Psalm 35:27-28).

## **KEY POINT**

Hopelessness is a temporary feeling that can easily be dispelled by praise.

## **SING TO THE NEXT GENERATION**

King David understood the principle of multi-generation ministry. He used praise as a means to encourage and communicate to the younger generation about God's faithfulness and His miraculous power (Psalm's 71:18-19, 78:4,

145:4).

*“One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts” (Psalm 145:4).*

We have to keep singing till our children and grandchildren hear about the mighty things God has done for us. One believer said “Faith is never more than one generation away from extinction.” Every generation is supposed to grow on the spiritual shoulders of the previous one.

*King David said, “Now also when I am old and grey headed, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come” (Psalm 71:18).*

## **KEY POINT**

We must have a testimony of praise that will encourage a younger generation to follow Christ as we did. We owe this to our children and to the generation to come.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## Power of Music

### 1. Complete the sentence.

Your voice is the greatest communication tool you have, for with it you bless God with your words and invoke His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ through praise and prayer.

### 2. The words you speak bring into manifestation the things they describe. Complete the sentence.

Words eventually become

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### 3. God has created all things to respond to words.

Circle the correct answer. False True

### 4. What scripture in the Old Testament, describes God as a singer? \_\_\_\_\_

**5. There is an interesting comment with reference to Jesus singing in the midst of the church today.**

What is the scripture?

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**6. There is evidence that when you sing, the Holy Spirit releases His power against the enemy coming against you. Can you write down two scripture references confirming this?**

a) \_\_\_\_\_ b) \_\_\_\_\_

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### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

Hopelessness is a temporary feeling that can easily be dispelled by praise. Discuss this with your group and make notes.

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# THANKSGIVING AND THE PRESENCE OF GOD

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*Thanksgiving is associated with God's presence*

The vast subject of what is generally referred to as "worship" is biblically categorized into three distinct subjects, namely; thanksgiving, praise and worship. It is especially important to those called to the music ministry to have a basic understanding of the three subjects. Although the terms are so often used interchangeably, there are distinct and important differences in their meaning and application.

God has made Himself known to all men with infallible proof of His existence written into all creation, both in the earth and the heavens, as well as deep within the consciousness of every being. God, who created everyone, would not leave anyone without an awareness of His existence. Unfortunately many people have rejected the truth that has been revealed to

them, and turned to other gods. They are disqualifying themselves from the greatest privilege in life, knowing and thanking the only true and living God who created and loves them.

*“For that which is known about God is evident to them and made plain in their inner consciousness, because God Himself has shown it to them. Forever since the creation of the world His invisible nature and attributes, that is, His eternal power and divinity, have been made intelligible and clearly discernible in and through the things that have been made (His handiworks). So men are without excuse altogether without any defense or justification, because when they knew and recognized Him as God, they did not honor and glorify Him as God or give Him thanks. But instead they became futile and godless in their thinking with vain imaginings, foolish reasoning, and stupid speculations and their senseless minds were darkened” (Romans 1:19-21, Amplified Bible).*

Witnessing of His goodness and love, the presence of God and His creation surround us. Throughout the Old Testament thanksgiving is associated as the appropriate response to God’s presence, and the practice of it was a lifestyle custom for the tabernacle musicians and singers. They knew that God graciously allowed man to access His presence when they were thankful to Him.

*“Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;*

*let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms" (Psalm 95:2).*

This is so wonderfully illustrated when King David returned the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem after recovering it from the Philistines, who had captured it. David's priority on the day of dedication was to compose a psalm of thanksgiving to God.

*"On that day David first delivered this psalm into the hand of Asaph and his brethren, to thank the LORD" (1 Chronicles 16:7).*

To David the presence of God in the tabernacle was such a reality that he ordered his musicians and singers to maintain twenty-four hour continuous thanksgiving, praise and worship. His attitude was that if God were present, then thanksgiving, praise and worship would never be absent. And amazingly, as long as David and his musicians and singers worshiped with a thankful heart, God remained. God is attracted to the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3).

God allowed King David during his time, to duplicate in the earthly tabernacle the same continual atmosphere of worship as it is in heaven. This brings into question how we should respond to His abiding presence in our lives. Like David, surely we have to give Him continual worship. In fact in a believer's life if there is an absence of constant thanksgiving, praise and worship it may be an indication that God's abiding presence is not yet a revelation to them.

The foundation of our relationship with God is always

thanksgiving to Him for saving us, by grace. This is undoubtedly the greatest thing He has done for us and this requires the greatest response, thanksgiving. When the ten lepers were healed, only one came back to Jesus to give Him thanks. It appears that Jesus was waiting at the same spot for all of them to return and give thanks. He showed His disappointment when only one returned (Luke 17:12-19). Is it possible that we also keep Jesus waiting, until we return with thanksgiving, for the last thing He did in our lives? Could it be that we are like the one leper who returned with thanksgiving? Like the one leper, when thanksgiving is our response, we position ourselves to receive more from Jesus. This is why thanksgiving is important to practice as a lifestyle. When God acts on your behalf, He waits for thankful acknowledgment.

## **KEY POINT**

King David commanded the musicians and singers to give thanks and praise continually yet our experience of God's presence is far greater than what was experienced in the tabernacle. God's abiding presence never leaves the believer. We should be at least equally thankful as those who experienced Him in the tabernacle of David.

## **THANKSGIVING IS ASSOCIATED WITH SALVATION**

The overarching distinction between the born again believer and the unbeliever is God's abiding presence, and as a host of His presence, we should treat Him with the utmost

gratitude. Every waking moment we should be aware of His work of grace in our lives and respond accordingly with thanksgiving. Scripture makes it clear that all the redeemed are to give thanks.

*“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy” (Psalm 107:1-2).*

There is no greater motivation a believer can have than to thank God for salvation and for having been translated into the kingdom of His dear Son (Colossians 1:13). One of the greatest examples of thankfulness associated with salvation is the story of Jonah. The disobedient Jonah found himself in the belly of the whale, giving God thanks for his salvation.

He knew that giving thanks in the midst of adverse circumstances would result in God saving him.

*“But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have Vowed. Salvation is of the LORD” (Jonah 2:9).*

The Hebrew word for “thanksgiving” in Jonah 2:9 is TOWDAH (Strong, 1996) H8426. It is used 29 times in scripture in association with a sacrifice. A sacrifice of thanksgiving does not mean that you give God thanks reluctantly or when you don’t feel like it. That would constitute a religious exercise of futility that God would not receive, and from which you would not benefit. According to God’s instructions thanksgiving means to bring an offering with a willing heart (Exodus 33:5,

36:6-7).

God is more interested in how we bring something to Him rather than what we bring. It has to be with a willing heart to be acceptable to God (Isaiah 1:18). The attitude of the giver is more important than the actual gift.

Cramped inside the stomach of a fish, wrapped in seaweed and being slowly digested is not the most inspiring place to be thankful. Adverse circumstances are not conducive for thanksgiving to God, but Jonah shows us the great example, that thanksgiving is not subject to circumstances. Thanksgiving is based on the fact that God is in control of our lives, even when circumstances show it to be apparently different. Jonah reduced the circumstance to a “lying vanity” by giving God thanks. Every “lying vanity” in your life has to change when you give thanks. If God did it for Jonah, He will do it for you. The inference here is that Jonah gave God a song of thanksgiving with a loud voice. It is important to hear ourselves vocalize our praise based on God’s Word because it builds faith as we hear it (Romans 10:17). The New Testament also refers to it as a vocal exercise. “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” (Hebrews 13:15). The Hebrew word TOWDAH also means a vocal confession for things that still have to happen, that are yet to appear. Thanking God in advance for the result, is faith in action. This is what Jonah did when he gave God thanks.

The love one has for God is the motivation to give thanks. It is not as an exchange in return for something from

Him. Thanksgiving is done with an unselfish heart and a pure motive. However there is a powerful principle at play when God receives thanksgiving from His children, notably seedtime and harvest. Scripture declares it is “more blessed to give than receive” and that the “lesser is blessed by the better” (Acts 20:35, Hebrews 7:7). He will also never be out-given because He is the source of all blessings (James 1:17). As you develop a lifestyle of giving Him thanks because you love Him, you will position yourself to be given abundantly more from Him, because He loves you (Psalm 67:5-6).

In the story of Jonah, God responded to his situation the instant he gave thanks, “So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land” (Jonah 2:10).

## **KEY POINT**

We should give Him thanks because we love Him in the knowledge that His love is infinitely greater than ours and so is His giving, whether to deliver us or to bless us.

## **THANKSGIVING IS A SOUND**

Scripture tells us to abound with thanksgiving. It carries the idea to be so full of thanksgiving that there is excess left over once you have been thankful. This is the command for every believer, but especially for those in the music ministry this should apply much more.

*“...rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith as you have been taught; abounding in it with*

*thanksgiving" (Colossians 2:7).*

Abounding with thanksgiving is a reflection of the depth of your fellowship and faith in God. A commitment to abound with thankfulness irrespective of circumstances is the foundation of all successful music ministers. During Nehemiah's leadership he appointed two large thanksgiving choirs to offer an abundance of thanksgiving, resulting in the restoration of Jerusalem's walls.

*"So I brought the leaders of Judah up on the wall, and appointed two large thanksgiving choirs. One went to the right hand on the wall toward the Refuse Gate. So the two thanksgiving choirs stood in the house of God, likewise I and the half of the rulers with me" (Nehemiah 12:31, 40).*

*"The house of God was filled with the sound of thanksgiving that it was heard afar off. That day they offered great sacrifices, an exuberant celebration because God had filled them with great joy. The women and children raised their happy voices with all the rest. Jerusalem's jubilation was heard far and wide" (Nehemiah 12:43, The Message).*

The people's thankfulness was heard outside the walls of Jerusalem as an exuberant, joyful celebration. Likewise, thanksgiving is a sound that should be heard beyond the walls of the local church. When there is thanksgiving in the lives of those within the church, it won't be long before those who are unchurched will hear the sound. Our thankfulness to God for

giving us eternal life magnifies the reality of who God is to others, who are yet to meet Him (Psalm 69:30). Surely part of our mandate for the local church is to entice people into a joyful atmosphere of thanksgiving, for in that place they will find God's presence and His power.

*"So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory" (Psalm 63:2).*

Our thankfulness to God for His salvation and goodness will be a sound that will witness and draw the unchurched into God's house, leading them to repent (Romans 2:4).

## **KEY POINT**

Thanksgiving is the key to bringing God's presence before the congregation. This is an important function of the music minister (Psalm 100:4). And it is only possible if those in the music ministry have developed a thankful heart for God's saving grace in their own lives. As a fundamental priority every music minister needs to develop this lifestyle.

## **THANKSGIVING AS A LIFESTYLE**

Salvation without thanksgiving is like an ocean without water, it is simply unimaginable. God's presence in one's life is so overwhelming that thanksgiving should be like breathing. We have so much to be thankful for. It was God who saved us by His own will (James 1:18), and who predestined us to be conformed to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29-30).

What an awesome God we have living on the inside. He is worthy of continual thanks for saving us.

Thanksgiving to God should be one of the lifestyle practices that distinguish us from those who don't know Him. The longer we walk with God, the more we should be thankful to Him because we are increasing in the knowledge of His Word and the power of His love (Colossians 1:9-10). Keep growing in God and you will keep thanking Him. Increasing gratitude is a sign of spiritual growth, for it cannot happen without spending time in His presence.

Outlined below are seven areas to help you and the worship team develop a lifestyle of thanksgiving. Do this daily for a number of weeks until the concept of thanksgiving explodes in your spirit. This will then become a natural part of your daily living and it will make a remarkable difference to both those you minister to and to your ministry.

1. Thank God for creating you (Psalm 139:14).
2. Thank God for saving you (Psalm 107:1-2).
3. Thank God for giving you a gift of music and allowing you to use it for His glory (2 Chronicles 5:13-14).
4. Thank God for anointing you with His Spirit to minister through your gift of music (1 Chronicles 25:1).
5. Thank God for your church and leaders who entrust you with the ministry gift of music (1 Timothy 1:12).
6. Thank God that the people you minister to, are being set free from all kinds of bondage (1 Samuel 16:16).
7. Thank God for your family (Ephesians 6:2-3).

## **KEY POINT**

Thanksgiving is the foundation of all levels of intimacy and prayer with God.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## *Thanksgiving and the Presence of God*

**1. David's priority in Jerusalem, on the day of dedication of the tabernacle was to compose a Psalm of:**

Circle the correct answer. Thanksgiving Praise Worship

**2. During David's time, the continual atmosphere of worship in heaven was duplicated on earth.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**3. It was a sacrifice of thanksgiving Jonah gave God.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**4. What is the Hebrew word associated with a sacrifice of praise?**

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**5. Thanksgiving is a sound that should be heard beyond the walls of the local church. What scripture supports this?**

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## 6. Thanksgiving is associated with God's presence.

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss how Thanksgiving is associated with God's presence and make notes.

# PRAISE AND GOD'S WORD

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*The Purpose of Praise is Transformation*

Everything is created for a purpose and unless it fulfills its purpose its existence is meaningless. God said that we are formed (created) to declare His praise.

*“This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise” (Isaiah 43:21).*

Praise and worship is the primary purpose you exist. Everything else in life is peripheral to it and should be a consequence of it. A life without praise will lead to the greatest frustration imaginable because it will leave one with the feeling that something is missing, and it is. Praise and worship is so precious and valuable to God, to the extent that He seeks it in the life of every believer. As someone involved in music ministry, it is important that you not only know the purpose of it, but also practice it as a daily lifestyle.

Nothing satisfies like thanksgiving, praise and

worship. It removes all frustration, fear and sense of being unfilled in life. God's dream is for each one of us to become more like His Son Jesus. The Holy Spirit is within us to affect this change. It happens progressively through the process of fellowship with Him through reading His word, prayer and praise. Daily practice of these truths will bring the change God desires for your life.

*“..that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ” (Ephesians 4:14).*

*“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God” (Hebrews 6:1).*

The essence of the Christian walk is regular fellowship with God, resulting in transformation. God loves the fellowship, and we will love the transformation. Praise and worship is a particularly life changing exercise, as the scripture tells us that God is personally drawn to us, when we praise. He is enthroned where there is praise, meaning that our praise invites His authority, to rule in our lives.

*“But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel” (Psalm 22:3).*

Praise and worship seems to activate God's

transforming presence in our lives like nothing else. If we want to praise God, we must be ready for God to change us.

## **KEY POINT**

Those involved in music ministry should welcome and experience the transforming power of the Holy Spirit on an ongoing basis, through a lifestyle of praise. However, the key to this transformation is God's word.

## **PRAISE WITH UNDERSTANDING**

The born again experience gives one the opportunity to praise but does not guarantee that you will. Some people who have been saved for many years struggle to actively participate in praise and worship and they don't know why. They erroneously believe, or have been incorrectly instructed, that it is because they are not musically inclined, or that praise and worship is not all that important. After many years of experience in leading worship, I wondered what it would take to get people to enter into unsolicited spontaneous praise to God. I knew they loved God and they were faithful to the local church, but there was something preventing them from entering into a freedom of praise. It bothered me for some time, and to a large extent I was convinced that it was my responsibility as worship leader, and also the music ministry's, to motivate the saints to praise. I searched the scriptures for an answer, and found to my surprise, that it was the individual's responsibility to come to church, ready to praise. The music ministry certainly plays a role in facilitating praise and worship, but people have to be willing and ready to give it.

There is an interesting scripture worthy of mention again, that helps us understand how God prepares His people for corporate worship.

*“Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding” (Psalm 47:6-7).*

As we have seen, the Hebrew word in Psalm 47:7 for “understanding” is SAKAL (Strong, 1996) H7919. This means to have knowledge of God that brings success. The scripture infers that praise is based on knowledge of God and expressing the truth you have discovered about Him with praise. It is the expression of someone who not only knows God’s word, but also has faith in the integrity of it. Praise is a barometer of your faith in God’s word. Colossians says that if God’s word is dwelling in you richly there will be a manifestation of it with the singing of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Faith in God’s word has to be expressed with praise. It should not be contained or silenced.

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Colossians 3:16).*

*“Then they believed His words; they sang His praise” (Psalm 106:12).*

The famous preacher Spurgeon said, “The person who knows God’s word will soon sing” (Spurgeon, Trans

2011). Praise is the ultimate evidence that God's word is alive on the inside of you.

## **KEY POINT**

Praise is the outward expression of an inward explosion of God's Word. It is the unsolicited release mechanism of our personal revelation of the greatness of God, as we discover Him in His Word. So if we don't regularly read the Word, we are lacking the essential scriptural context for our praise. Good musicians and great songs certainly help us focus on God, but ultimately it is God's Word that is the praise leader of our heart. Again we look at scripture for the answers.

## **GOD'S WORD IS THE CATALYST TO PRAISE**

A catalyst is something that causes a reaction to take place between two or more chemical substances that would not necessarily react if the catalyst was not present. The significance of a catalyst is that it needs to be present for the reaction to take place. God's word is the catalyst that causes us to praise. When we read and meditate on God's word, it detonates the explosive ministry of praise. It is impossible to be silent when we know the character of God revealed in His mighty Word. Praise is the release of your personal revelation of the greatness of God, as you have discovered Him in His Word.

The following scriptures confirm this and I encourage you to meditate on them.

1. It is the light of God's word that guides the Psalmist to the tabernacle to praise Him.

*"Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill. And to Your tabernacle. Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And on the harp I will praise You. O God my God" (Psalm 43:3-4).*

2. Praise comes as a response to knowledge and faith in God's Word. When you know God's word, faith will rise up in you and you will praise.

*"In God (I will praise His word); in the LORD (I will praise His word) (Psalm 56:10).*

*"I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments" (Psalm 119:7).*

3. The response to revelation of God's word is likened to the reaction one would have if they suddenly discovered hidden treasure. The reaction is joy. This infers that joy is also a barometer of what we have discovered in God's word, about who He is.

*"I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches" (Psalm 119:14).*

4. The Psalmist said that God's word was his song. The source of all Christian singing must be God's word. If lyrics don't support Biblical truth, the songs are not praise.

*“Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage” (Psalm 119:54).*

5. The Psalmist said he praised seven times a day because of God’s word. We could safely conclude that he was reading or meditating on God’s word seven times a day, resulting in praise. He had developed a lifestyle of praise!

*“Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous judgments” (Psalm 119:164).*

## **KEY POINT**

Those in music ministry should remember that it is impossible to lead praise if the word content of your heart is shallow. Develop a disciplined life of reading and meditating on God’s word, even if for a few minutes every day. It is the overflow of God’s word inside you that translates into praise that is from the heart. We cannot lead people in praise unless we have received a revelation of Him in ourselves. This is not possible unless we have been spending time in God’s word.

## **THE POWER OF PRAISE**

There are two remarkable instances of God intervening immediately when His people praised Him. In the story of King Jehoshaphat, something happened when God’s people began to sing.

*“Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon,*

*Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated" (2 Chronicles 20:22).*

The Lord went into action and brought defeat to their enemies. In the book of Acts, Paul and Silas started to sing and pray, and then suddenly God acted on their behalf and brought deliverance.

*"But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed" (Acts 16:25-26).*

In both instances they were singing God's Word that had been sung years before. Jehoshaphat used the words that King David had sung at the dedication of the temple (1 Chronicles 16:34), and Paul was singing God's Word from Psalm 119:62. They knew the outcome according to what was previously written in God's word. When you start to sing, the Holy Spirit starts to flow with His power against the enemy, and your circumstances shift according to what God has already spoken in His word.

God's priority for you is to experience His presence, and there is consistent evidence in His word that praise is the "trigger" that welcomes, His manifest presence. The importance of praise has to be understood in the light of His

presence and power that brings change in the spirit realm and then affects everything in the natural realm. There is nothing as powerful in existence that influences society more. As God releases the power of His presence through worship, transformation will happen in individual lives, churches, cities and nations.

*“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. The people He has chosen as His own inheritance”  
(Psalm 33:12).*

Every nation has its religions, and every religion has its worshipers, who influence the character of their nation through their worship. A nation ultimately becomes a reflection of whom it worships. It is the same with a church. The character of any church is a reflection of its worship. Nothing transforms a church more than worship. On the other hand nothing can cause a church to stagnate more than a lack of it. A church can never rise above the level of its worship because worship is the primary purpose for which it exists.

## **KEY POINT**

As a music minister, you have to realize the awesome responsibility God has given you, to prepare a platform for God's presence. There is no alternative, it is important to prepare for this by spending personal time with the Lord. If music ministry is your call, then worship should be your lifestyle.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## *Praise and God's Word*

### **1. YOU ARE CREATED TO PRAISE GOD.**

CIRCLE THE CORRECT ANSWER. False True

### **2. Complete the sentence.**

Praise is the \_\_\_\_\_ expression of  
an \_\_\_\_\_ explosion of  
God's \_\_\_\_\_

### **3. What scripture states that God created you to praise Him?**

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### **4. Complete the sentence, "Praise is a barometer of your \_\_\_\_\_ in God's word."**

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## **5. A nation ultimately becomes a reflection of whom it worships.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

6. The power of praise is powerfully depicted in two scriptures, what references are given in the chapter?

and

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Explain what happens when the word of God is dwelling in you richly.

# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

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*Reacting to God's Presence*

Jesus told us that we must worship. It is well documented that there are four necessities in life without which we would die. These are air, water food and sleep. The one basis necessity God has given us to sustain our spiritual life, is worship. The two greatest “musts” ever written in literature are those of John 3:7, “You must be born again,” and John 4:24, “They that worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” The consequence of disobeying His first command is eternally devastating and the consequence of disobeying the second is spiritually debilitating. We cannot afford not to worship, especially in the light of the fact that Jesus said, we must.

The most commonly used Hebrew word for “worship” is SHACHAH (Strong, 1996) H7812. From this root we have the meaning of a pit or well, a deep cistern, a place where you can go lower down, or sink in. Their worship was often

demonstrated by a prostration, bowing down and falling on their knees with their foreheads touching the ground in reverence. The Old Testament worshiper had a simple response to God's presence by taking the lowest physical position.

This was the normal reaction to the presence of God and unlike praise; it required little action, noise or demonstration. Generally speaking however, the Old Testament saints worshiped from a distance because no one had personal access to God, except for the High Priest (Hebrews 9:7-8). They had no real concept of intimacy with God until Jesus gave the Samaritan woman the revelation that God wanted to be worshiped, as our Heavenly Father (John 4:23).

The common Greek word used for "worship" is PROSKUNEO (Strong, 1996) G4352, and is formed from the prefix PROS meaning "in front of someone or in the direction of someone," and the verb KUNEO means "to kiss." It is described "as a prostration; falling down to one's knees; to worship; adore; revere and to move towards with the intention to kiss." The New Testament concept of worship, involves movement by drawing close to Him and being intimate. Jesus moved the veil of access to God so that we could boldly and confidently enter into His presence with an honest and sincere heart (Hebrews 10:19-22, Ephesians 3:12). The veil was removed, and now the invitation is face-to-face worship with our Father God.

In the Old Testament God revealed the intimacy He longed for and He demonstrated this by allowing Moses and David to experience Him face to face, in a very intimate

personal way (Exodus 33:11). King David knew that God had a purpose for his life and the only way it could be fulfilled was to keep God before His face, day and night.

*“I have set the LORD always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved” (Psalm 16:8).*

God wants you to have face-to-face worship with Him. Nothing else will satisfy the heart of the seeking Heavenly Father. God initiated His love toward us; He moved toward us first because He is love (1 John 4:10). It was God’s love that found us and freed us. Worship is now our move toward God by expressing our love to Him for finding us and freeing us. Worship is our reaction to His act of love. The more we know of God’s love, the more we will want to worship. The essence of fellowship is the continual flow of love that we receive from God and the continual flow of worship that God receives from us. We can never worship too much in response to His infinite love (1 John 4:10).

## **KEY POINT**

Worship is the most exciting place to be, for in it we find the Father who has been searching for us.

## TRUE WORSHIPERS

God makes reference to the fact that ‘true’ worshipers should worship “in spirit and truth.”

*“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”* (John 4:23).

The word “true” in the Greek translation is ALETHINOS (Strong, 1996) G228. This means “being real and genuine; that which has not only the name and resemblance, but the real nature corresponding to the name.” The word is also used to describe the true nature of God who sent Jesus to redeem mankind and that Jesus fully represented God in every way (John 7:28 and John 1:9). This word also extends to God’s worshipers. Just as God is true and genuine in all His ways, so should His worshipers be in their worship. The word is also related to the Greek word ALETHES which means “unconcealed or manifest.” A true worshiper has nothing to hide. He is true to God in every way and does not fake any area of his life to satisfy religious standards. He is the real thing, the genuine article.

The manifestation of true worship is not something

that is hidden in a Christian's life. It is made manifest as a lifestyle for the world to see us demonstrate how we unashamedly love and worship Him.

## KEY POINT

God is looking for those who worship sincerely, the true worshiper.

## WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

According to Jesus, worship is a spiritual exercise that involves both spirit and truth and we need both for acceptable worship to the Father. The word "truth" in the Greek is ALETHEIA and is from the same root as the word "true" in the same verse and means not hidden or concealed.

*"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"* (John 4:23).

The Message translation makes it very clear.

*"But the time is coming—it has, in fact, come—when*

*what you're called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter. It's who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly themselves before Him in their worship" (John 4:23, The Message).*

God wants our worship to be sincere, based on a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit and His word. Worship is the result of the Holy Spirit quickening God's word in your spirit and mind. This is what Jesus was alluding to above. The Holy Spirit connects with your spirit and brings God's word alive in you so you can respond with worship. For this reason worship cannot be manufactured, it has to be a response based on a genuine relationship with God and His word. Worship is such a personal thing between you and God. It removes all comparison and competition with others or judgment by them because no man knows the condition of your heart. You should never feel any condemnation when you worship, even though you might not be in a good place at the time.

## **KEY POINT**

God loves it when you put Him first even in the midst of difficult circumstances, and the Holy Spirit is always ready to help you. He will bring to remembrance God's promises and His

faithfulness as a loving Father toward you.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN WORSHIP

Scripture instructs us to worship God in spirit and truth and have no confidence in the flesh (John 4:24, Philippians 3:3).

*“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him, must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24).*

*“For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh” (Philippians 3:3).*

The Amplified Bible says in Philippians 3:3,

*“We worship God in spirit and by the Spirit of God.”*

The Father wants the Holy Spirit to help us worship. He requires us to have dependency on the Holy Spirit for every

worship service. It would be futile to consider leading worship without the Holy Spirit's help. The Holy Spirit is the one who comforts, guides and helps us to effectively live the Christian life. Without His presence in our lives on a daily basis, we could not pray or worship, as we should. Scripture says that the Holy Spirit knows the things of God. He knows how we can satisfy His heart with our worship at every meeting.

*"For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11).*

We need to be continually conscious of the Holy Spirit and yielded to His promptings as we minister in music and lead worship. The Holy Spirit must guide each worship experience, because the way we worshiped yesterday may not be the way in which the Holy Spirit will guide us today. Being sensitive to the Holy Spirit who lives in us makes it possible to worship the Father, who lives in heaven. This is a great mystery but a reality that we accept by faith. Some believers question whether we should worship the Holy Spirit, and I cannot unequivocally give an answer to this. However I believe the focus of our worship in the church age should be to the Father and the Son. There is sufficient evidence in scripture to confirm this. Jesus continually directed us to worship the Father in John, chapter four. This does not relegate the Holy

Spirit, but actually magnifies His greatness, as the person of the Godhead who has humbled Himself in the dispensation of the church age, to come to earth, as our vital connection, to the Father and Son.

## **KEY POINT**

In the church dispensation it is clear that the Holy Spirit has taken the role of helping us worship, rather than being worshiped, just as Jesus focused our attention to worship the Father when He was on the earth. However throughout eternity, we will undoubtedly worship the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Revelation 4:8, Isaiah 6:3).

## **THE SEEKING FATHER**

Worship must be so important to God that He seeks those who worship. I doubt if we have scratched the surface of the importance of this subject, but no doubt the church will walk in the fullness of it. Imagine doing something that causes God to diligently search. God loves all His children but those who worship, cause Him to chase after them, with His love. It is very difficult to comprehend that the One who holds the entire universe together by the word of His power is at the same time searching among His children, for those who worship Him in spirit and truth (Hebrews 1:3). No earthly child is hesitant to

embrace a loving father, how much more should we, who are loved by God.

In the conversation Jesus had with the Samaritan woman, He refers to the fact that, “The Father is seeking such to worship Him” (John 4:23). Imagine an earthly father seeking his lost child. It is a relentless endeavor until the child is found. Only then is the father’s desire fulfilled. Our Heavenly Father does not seek for us in the sense that we are lost. On the contrary, He seeks for our worship because we have been “found.” Can you picture an earthly father’s joy and love toward his child that is found after being lost and in grave danger? This gives some insight into our Heavenly Father’s joy for us, except His joy is infinitely more than our earthly father’s.

## **KEY POINT**

Worship seems to be the key God has given us to experience dimensions of His love and joy for us. As we grasp this fact, our worship would take on a new reality.

## **WORSHIP IS OBEDIENCE**

To grasp the meaning of worship, we have to expand our thinking way beyond singing slow songs. It can be better understood by studying the first reference of the word “worship” in the Old Testament. The first time the word worship is mentioned in scripture it introduces the concept of

movement. This is when God asked Abraham to move from the valley to the top of Mt Moriah to sacrifice his son Isaac, as an act of worship. Further, the Greek word in the New Testament for “worship” is PROSKUNEO (Strong 1996) G4352, this confirms association with movement. It means “to move toward; or in front of; with the intention to be affectionate and intimate.” Both Testaments suggest that worship requires movement. The kingdom of God is not static but dynamic and in a state of continual movement and advancement through acts of obedience by believers. This is how God has chosen to fulfill His plans and purposes. Acts 17:28 says “In Him we live and move and have our being.” This means that we have the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit living in, and moving through us, to do the work. However nothing would be achieved unless the saints were obedient in hearing and doing what the Spirit is saying. (1 Samuel 15:22).

An interesting observation in the life of Jesus, is there is no reference of Him in scripture giving worship to God, although we do find Him giving thanks (Matthew 11: 25, Mark 8:6, John 11:41, Luke 22:19, Luke 10:21) and praise (Matthew 26:30, Mark 14:26, Hebrews 2:12). This does not mean He did not worship, on the contrary, Jesus was the greatest worshiper who lived. His worship was not comparable to our limited understanding of worship in the form of slow songs to God. Instead He expressed His worship to the Father through a life of total obedience. This qualified him as the spotless Lamb of God who died for the sin of humanity. We have to broaden our definition of worship not only to include singing, but also to include obedience to what God has told us to do. Scripture declares that obedience is better than sacrifice, so every act of

obedience surpasses every act of worship, in terms of singing songs (1 Samuel 15:22). Worship in your life is not represented by the last slow song you sang but the last thing God told you to do, that you obeyed.

The music minister has to be a person who is willing to obey God's word. We can never worship beyond our last step of obedience. God's priority for your life especially as a music minister is worship, but it may surprise you that it is not measured by what you play or sing but by what you do. God said that King David was, "A man after My own heart, who will do all My will" (Acts 13:22). This is an amazing statement, from the Old Testament's greatest worshiper. David's worship was surpassed by his obedience. The anointing on your life as a music minister flows from a willingness to obey. It cannot be the other way around because God is not looking for workers but for worshipers (John 4:23-24). No matter how strong God's call is on your life, ministry without worship is a misalignment of priorities. Attempting to carry out God's plans and purposes in life without worship is possibly the greatest contributing factor to failure in the Christian life. He will graciously withhold His plans for your life until you make worship your priority because God is not as much interested in the work you do for Him but in the way you love Him.

Christianity essentially comprises of movement and interaction between God and man, in a dynamic relationship based on a mutual love for one another, with a purpose of establishing God's kingdom or government on earth. The function of the church is to establish God's kingdom on the earth, but it has to be done through those who are obedient to

God. Worshipers are prime candidates because when you worship you fulfill the primary purpose for your existence.

## **KEY POINT**

As you worship the living God you will discover that the plans and purposes God has for you will unfold with amazing ease, because you have prioritized the thing you are created to do.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## *Worship in Spirit and in Truth*

**1. What is the most commonly used Hebrew and Greek word for worship.**

Hebrew word is:

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Greek word is:

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**2. Jesus made reference to two things we “must” do. What are they, and what are the scriptures associated to this?**

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**3. The Father wants the Holy Spirit to help us worship.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**4. Worship cannot be manufactured; it has to be a response based on a genuine relationship with God and His word.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**5. Describe your understanding of a “true” worshiper according to John 4:23.**

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**6. Ministry without worship is a misalignment of priorities.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

Scripture says that obedience is better than sacrifice, so every act of obedience surpasses every act of worship in terms of singing songs (1 Samuel 15:22). As a group write down your understanding of this.

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# PART 2

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# GOD'S PLAN FOR MUSIC MINISTRY

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## DAVID THE PSALMIST

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*The Sweet Psalmist of Israel*

One of the leading questions regarding worship today is the extent to which we can use Old Testament Davidic principles of worship in the New Testament, twenty first century church. Also, how should we view the title of “psalmist” that God gave to the greatest musician, singer, songwriter and worshiper in the Old Testament? How relevant is the title of psalmist? What requirements are needed to fulfill it? What is equivalent to it in the New Testament? These are valid questions that I asked myself many years ago, and have now addressed in this book.

God’s plans are always carried out through individuals, and He chose King David to implement His master plan for music ministry in the Old Testament. David constructed a simple tent referred to as a tabernacle, for God to dwell in. He then set up a music ministry structure to worship God, day and night. God also gave David the exclusive title of being the “sweet palmist of Israel” (2 Samuel 23:1). He was God’s sole representative at that time as a prophet, priest, king and musician who ushered in worship that was eternal in nature. This worship was destined for generations of born-

again believers for hundreds of years to follow (Psalm 102:18).

The word “psalmist” is found only once in the Bible and in reference to only one man, King David. He is undoubtedly one of the most significant characters in the scripture, and his life occupies more biblical space than any other person in the Old Testament.

*“Now these be the last words of David. David, the son of Jesse said, ‘and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel’.” (2 Samuel 23:1).*

This reference to David as a psalmist is important, because the biblical basis for music ministry in the church today is largely based on his revelation. Although when Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman in John chapter four He gave us wonderful insight into worship He did not imply that the worship principles given by King David should be invalid for the New Testament or superseded by new revelation. We can only conclude that Jesus meant that we apply the Davidic principles of worship in “spirit and truth” as kings and priests in the New Testament church.

As we study the life of David and others it will become more evident that God’s heart for worship and music ministry plays a vital role, in the end time revival that will sweep the nations. The man after God’s own heart was not defined as a conquering king or a brave bold leader or even a great tabernacle builder, although he was all of these.

The last word in the Bible referring to David is that of

the “...the sweet Psalmist of Israel” (2 Samuel 23:1). It seems that no matter what we accomplish for God, worship is at the top of God’s list of priorities. Although David reached exhilarating heights as a great king and devastating lows as an adulterer and murderer, God wants us to remember him as a psalmist, and worshiper.

## **KEY POINT**

One definition for a psalmist or music minister is a lover of God, who happens to be able to express this love through music. However this simple definition will be expanded.

## **HEBREW MEANING OF PSALMIST**

The Hebrew word for “psalmist” is ZAMIYR (Strong, 1996) H2158. This means, a song to be accompanied with instrumental music, psalm, psalmist, singing, and song. This indicates the description of the psalmist is one who can sing, or play a musical instrument. However God’s requirements for musicians and singers are much more than just having musical ability. In order to expand upon the definition of a psalmist, I have looked at the life of David and also at the lives of several of the chief musicians he appointed to work in the tabernacle. Although they were not referred to as psalmists they functioned as such according to the Hebrew definition of a psalmist. A study of their names and roles in the tabernacle give insight and guidelines for God’s requirements of the church musicians and singers of today.

Many believers have disqualified themselves as

psalmists because they think a psalmist is someone who leads worship. If we were to use this as our criteria, then King David, who is referred to as a psalmist, would not qualify. Scripture does not record anywhere or even indicate that King David led worship in the tabernacle or indeed was formally involved in the music ministry structure that he had set up. There is no doubt he spent a lot of time in the tabernacle, possibly writing many of the psalms and in personal worship, but not in a worship leading or ministry capacity. He left that to others.

*“LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house,  
And the place where Your glory dwells” (Psalm 26:8).*

*“So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see  
Your power and Your glory” (Psalm 63:2).*

David loved to worship in the tabernacle and used his musical gift to express it.

## **KEY POINT**

Another definition of a psalmist is someone who loves to worship God, personally and corporately by using their musical gift to exemplify worship. Through this they also help others to express it.

## **DAVID WAS THE NATION’S PSALMIST**

God raised up King David to exemplify the kind of worship He desired for the Jewish nation, and designated him

as the sweet psalmist of Israel.

*“These are David’s last words: ‘The voice of the son of Jesse, the voice of the man God took to the top, Whom the God of Jacob made king, and Israel’s most popular singer’!” (2 Samuel 23:1, The Message).*

It is not surprising that as the sweet psalmist of Israel David wrote down his experiences with God as a collection of prayers and songs commonly referred to as the psalms. However God’s plan was for the entire nation to worship the way David did, so He inspired David to institute a freedom of worship using thousands of musicians and singers who functioned under his leadership. David’s passion for God’s presence affected the entire nation of Israel, and also gave us the principles for praise and worship that we practice today, and will throughout eternity. King David was more than just a musician. Under his supervision, musical instruments were made for the purpose of worship (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’.” (1 Chronicles 23:5).*

He would have had to been a master musician to oversee the instrument’s construction even though he did not personally make them. He was the chosen, anointed, and appointed musician, songwriter and maker of musical instruments for the nation. Furthermore, he was also the King of Israel and a prophet of God.

## **KEY POINT**

God raised up David to exemplify worship to His generation and succeeding ones. God has now appointed modern day psalmists whom we refer to as music ministers.

## **A PSALMIST IS A MODERN DAY MUSIC MINISTER**

Now that we have defined what a psalmist was, we could safely conclude that it is equivalent to the modern day music minister and the term interchangeable with it. Titles are not the focus of this book, nor are they particularly important. The purpose of the following chapters is to consider to what extent the Old Testament principles of worship, clearly set out in the Tabernacle of David would relate to us today. In particular how this relates to the local church. This I hope will help you, the reader, whether a musician, singer or pastor, gain greater understanding of God's plan for the modern day music ministry in your local church. There are many other areas of David's life that give us understanding into the requirements for the modern day psalmist. Following are the most important recorded in scripture.

## **DAVID'S HEART OF REPENTANCE**

David was chosen by God to be the nation's leading worshiper, not because he had a perfect heart but because he

had a repentant one. David's sin with Bathsheba cost him dearly through the death of his young son, and the rebellion of his other son Absalom, but his response was repentance and worship (2 Samuel 12: 13-20). Worshipers are always quick to repent for they know it keeps the door of intimacy with the Father open. The word of God clearly indicates that we must remember David as a man after God's own heart.

*"And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will'" (Acts 13:22).*

David's legacy is not one of failure through sin, but of repentance and worship, a remarkable example of the grace of God working through a man who truly repents. He is an inspirational figure, who with a determined heart overcame his shortfalls to put things right with the Lover of his soul.

## **KEY POINT**

There is no failure too great that disqualifies us from repentance and restored intimate worship and fellowship with the Father.

## **GOD FOUND DAVID**

I wondered if God created someone like David to fulfill His plans, or did He find the right kind of person to work with, one that would obey Him. The answer is found in scripture.

*“. . . the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people” (1 Samuel 13:14).*

The Hebrew word for “sought” is BAQASH (Strong, 1996) H1245. This means to “search out; desire; require.” God needed a man like David and had to search all Israel to find him. David fell into the same category as those to whom Jesus referred to in His encounter with the Samaritan woman.

*“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such to worship Him” (John 4:23).*

Notice that the scripture does not say that God is seeking worship but worshipers. It is not the act of worship He seeks but the worshiper. He is looking for those who have a heart to worship. This is how He found David when he was just a shepherd boy in the fields.

*“He also chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; From following the ewes that had young He brought him, To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance” (Psalm 78:70-71).*

God found, or more accurately was drawn to David’s worshiping heart when he was about sixteen years old, while looking after his father’s sheep. God required a worshiper to introduce a worship revival in the nation, someone who would set the standard for future generations. When God finds the

right heart, the footprint the person leaves behind is multi-generational. David's heart for worship was a prophetic forerunner to what God still seeks today. The born again experience does not automatically make us worshipers but gives us the opportunity to become worshipers. Your worship attracts God. He loves you so much, He is continually drawn to you every time you worship, just as He was with David as a young lad in the sheep fields.

*“That’s the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly themselves before Him in their worship” (John 4:23, The Message).*

A believer asked me “Where is the church heading?” I explained we were heading toward what God is seeking, which is intimacy with Him. When the seeking Father finds a worshipping Church a mighty collision in the spirit realm will come. The presence of God alone does not cause revival. It is the presence of man in the presence of God from which revival flows. God has made it clear that our destiny is set toward intimacy with Him and out of it will follow the greatest revival the church has ever seen.

*“Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?” (Psalm 85:6).*

*“Why not help us make a fresh start, a resurrection life? Then your people will laugh and sing! Show us how much you love us, GOD! Give us the salvation we need!” (Psalm 85:6-7, The Message).*

God is still searching the earth looking for worshipers that can fulfill His will on the earth.

*“And when He had removed him, He raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also He gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after Mine own heart, which shall fulfill all My will” (Acts 13:22).*

The word “found” is HEURISKO or HEURO (Strong, 1996) G2147. This means to “find, get, obtain, perceive.”

## **KEY POINT**

Could it be that the will of God is only achieved through those who worship? In David’s case, this is certainly true.

## **DAVID EXERCISED AUTHORITY**

There are certain qualities found in David that we could expect to find in the modern day music minister. The Lord spoke to the prophet Samuel and instructed him to go and anoint the one that God had chosen for Himself to be king over Israel (1 Samuel 16:1-13). God said that He had found a king, but at the time, He said this, David was just a shepherd boy.

*“Now the LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons” (1 Samuel 16:1).*

In the eyes of God, it was his worshiping heart that qualified him with the authority of a king, before he actually became the King of Israel. Authority is associated with worship.

*“The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people” (Genesis 49:10).*

The sceptre speaks of rulership, and Judah is the Hebrew name for “praise.” David did not become a worshiper after God had made him king. He was the worshiper who became king. The man or woman who worships will have the authority that is necessary to build the kingdom of God. What the devil fears is not the act of worship but the authority it releases from the life of the worshiper. This authority is rooted in knowing your authority in God’s Word and the praise that is given as a consequence to it.

Scripture tells us God inhabits or is enthroned in the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3). A throne is associated with rulership, power and authority. God is always on the throne and has ultimate authority and power whether we praise Him or not. The significance however is that when we worship Him we sanctify the place where we worship. The place of worship becomes a portal for his presence and power, a geographical location where the balance of spiritual activity is heavily weighed on the side of God. We don’t have to try and pull down spiritual strongholds in geographical areas, but enthroned Him with our worship. The geographical place of worship becomes a sanctuary of His abiding presence that influences our lives and communities.

*“Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father” (John 4:21).*

Ruling spiritual forces in geographical areas are subject to the worship of that area. When God is enthroned in corporate worship the effect is devastating against the devil that has set up the corporate seat of iniquity in that geographical area. Any geographical location where the devil is worshiped, or even ignored, demonic powers remain comfortable, and active, but when God is worshiped they become powerless (2

Chronicles 20).

As the church grows in the revelation and application of this principle, demonic principalities and powers that have ruled in geographical areas will lose

their power. Spiritual blockages that have held people captive in our communities will be removed and the captives will be set free. Evangelism and witnessing will become easier because the ruling forces of blindness are removed. David learned to worship before he learned to rule. God will not allow us to be rulers in His Kingdom until we have learnt to worship.

## KEY POINT

Imagine the spiritual influence we can exert on geographical areas, simply by lifting up Jesus and enthroning Him with our worship.

## DAVID LOVED GOD'S WORD

The Word of God is the first priority for the music minister, and is the catalyst to praise. From it we draw the source of our praise. Whenever we read the word of God, praise should never be far from our lips, because faith in His word inspires spontaneous praise. It is not just good music ministry that the church needs to help her praise, but the presence of God's word in the mouths of the worshipers.

David introduced us to the concept that praise was based on the knowledge of God's word, and the Apostle John confirmed we need God's word, in order to set us free (John 8:32). Freedom is always an expression of truth, and no doubt we need the truth of God's word to set us free to praise.

*"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).*

The reason why Davidic worship was lost through succeeding generations was because the people departed from the principles of the covenant. This is highlighted in the story of King Josiah who inadvertently discovered the book of Deuteronomy in the temple. Reading the book, he realized how far the nation had strayed from keeping God's covenant and failure to worship as a result of it. He immediately removed false worship in the nation and brought about massive restoration and revival. It was then true worship was restored. Some commentators believe it is the greatest revival recorded in the Bible (2 Kings 22, 23).

King David similarly loved God's word, to the extent that He gave Him continuous worship, and set up the tabernacle to accommodate it. This psalm of David says it all.

*"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward."* (Psalm 19:7-11).

The author of Psalm 119 is not mentioned but most scholars believe it was David.

*"My lips shall utter praise, when Thou hast taught me Thy statutes. My tongue shall speak of Thy Word: for all Thy commandments are righteous"* (Psalm 119:171-172).

Some of the rabbinical writers said that David was found in the tabernacle studying the Torah late into the night. It would not surprise me if this were true, because he had such a desire to meditate on God's word. King David knew that praise is truly the response of one's heart overflowing with faith in God's Word.

## **KEY POINT**

A passion for God's word is still the necessary ingredient for anyone to maintain a lifestyle in praise. This is especially important for the music minister.

## **DAVID KNEW THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Although the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a New Testament experience, David was a man who experienced the Holy Spirit in his life in a very powerful way, as shown in the following scriptures.

*“...and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward” (1 Samuel 16:3, NKJV).*

*“...and from that day onward the Spirit of the Eternal inspired David strongly” (1 Samuel 16:3, Moffat Translation).*

*“...Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.” (1 Samuel 16:3, Amplified Bible).*

No doubt, inspired by the Holy Spirit, David broke the conventional mode of worship that Israel had practiced for many years, and introduced a liberty and freedom into it. He based this new expression of worship primarily on the fact that God was present in the tabernacle. He realized that if God was not present, there was no reason to worship. However because God was present, worship was offered as a continual response to His presence.

*“One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD, All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD” (Psalm 27:4-6).*

It is because the Holy Spirit lives inside us, we can expect Him to continually inspire us to sing, play, and make melodies in our heart to the Lord. The overflow of this continual praise life will be evidenced in our Sunday services, as the Holy Spirit moves through our music ministry, to heal and deliver people. Glorifying God is the goal during every service and the Holy Spirit is present, to help us accomplish this goal. Without a consciousness and dependence of Him in our meetings, we are helplessly left to our own devices.

After the reign of King David the righteous kings led national revival because they were sensitive to God’s Spirit and they had a relationship with God through His covenant. This ushered in times of revival and prosperity in the nation because all of these kings were led by the Spirit to always, prioritize worship. Their names are Asa (2 Chronicles 15:12-15); Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20:18-22); Joash

(2 Chronicles 23:12-15); Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29: 25-30); Josiah (2 Chronicles 35:15); Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:65, Ezra 3:10-13); Nehemiah (Nehemiah 12:27, 36, 45-46).

## KEY POINT

It is part of the role of the music minister to be sensitive to the moving of the Holy Spirit just as King David was, and even more so because of His indwelling presence. When you pray for a greater sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, it will happen. God has called you to this ministry and He knows what you need and is willing to give it to you. All you have to do is ask.

## DAVID'S HEART OF WORSHIP

The heart of David was the key to his life and ministry. Although King David introduced the nation of Israel to a freedom of worship using the hands, feet, voice and so on. Above all, God had chosen him as the nation's psalmist because of his heart (Psalm 78:70-72).

*But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).*

The New Testament confirms that worship is an expression of the heart. This scripture does not infer abstinence from using our physical bodies to worship. It means that we don't depend on our physical abilities or disabilities to worship, because it is always an issue of the heart.

*"For we Christians are the true circumcision, who worship God in spirit and by the Spirit of God and exult and glory and pride ourselves in Jesus Christ, and put no confidence or dependence on what we are in the flesh and on outward privileges and physical advantages and external appearances" (Philippians 3:3, Amplified Bible).*

Some believers use the excuses not to worship because they cannot sing, dance, or are not musically gifted. However, when worship comes from the

heart, it will usually find physical expression, in the hands, feet or voice, just as God intended. It was because David loved God with all his heart, that he could exemplify passionate worship to God. Following are scriptures describing this heart-felt love.

1. Praise is something we do wholeheartedly. The pressure is off you to “perform” music ministry when your heart is full of the wonders of God. The people you are leading will simply respond to the overflow of your heart-felt praise.

*“I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all Your marvellous works” (Psalm 9:1).*

*“I’m thanking you, God, from a full heart, I’m writing the book on Your wonders; I’m whistling, laughing, and jumping for joy; I’m singing Your song, High God” (Psalm 9:1, The Message).*

2. David said that he “set” God before him. This inference was to resemble God, be like Him. This affected his whole being, his heart, body and mind.

*“I have set the Lord always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices: my flesh also shall rest in hope” (Psalm 16:8-9).*

*“I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad and my glory my inner self rejoices; my body too shall rest and confidently dwell in safety” (Psalm 16:8-9, Amplified Bible).*

3. Our hearts should be open for God to inspect. This will ensure that our mouths will not transgress.

*“You have tested my heart; You have visited me in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress” (Psalm 17:3).*

4. The Word of God makes the heart rejoice.

*“The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the*

*commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes" (Psalm 19:8).*

5. A pure heart is a pre-requisite for God's presence.

*"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity; nor sworn deceitfully" (Psalm 24:3-4).*

6. Let us allow God to refine, purge and purify our hearts.

*"Judge me, O Lord, for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide. Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart" (Psalm 26:1-2).*

7. If we are in right relationship with God our hearts will seek Him.

*"When thou said, "Seek my face," My heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, will I seek" (Psalm 27:8).*

8. Although this was David's own psalm of repentance, we also must keep our hearts clean. Repentance and worship are inseparable partners to maintain God's presence in our lives.

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10).*

## **KEY POINT**

One of the outstanding features of those called to music ministry, is the ability to express their heart-felt love for God through anointed music and song.

## **DAVID'S PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Scripture seems to make reference to David's physical appearance.

*“So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy with bright eyes and good looking” (1 Samuel 16:12).*

Obviously God does not favor good looks, but when one has close fellowship with Him, He will see that person as beautiful, in His sight. God sees a reflection of Himself in you. Moreover His beauty will be reflected from you to the world, because when they see you they will see Him.

*“REJOICE in the LORD, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful” (Psalm 33:1).*

The one who praises is truly beautiful in the eyes of God.

## **KEY POINT**

Psalm 147:1 says that praise is beautiful, but more important to God is the beauty of the one who gives it.

## **DAVID’S MUSICAL SKILL**

There is no doubt that the psalmist should exhibit a degree of skill with their voice or instrument.

*“. . .who is skilful in playing” (1 Samuel 16:18).*

Although the Hebrew word for “skillful” implies someone who is an expert, God values the heart of the worshiper more than his or her musicianship. However any worshiper called to music ministry should always have the discipline to practice their instrument and improve their skill, giving their best to God.

## **KEY POINT**

What you lack in skill, God will make up with by anointing because you have a worshiping heart.

## DAVID WAS MIGHTY AND VALIANT

David was a brave man, because he offered the sacrifice of praise to God irrespective of how he was feeling, or the circumstances he was in.

*“. . . a mighty man of valour...” (1 Samuel 16:18).*

In the face of all his adversaries, he never gave up trusting God for deliverance. David had the boldness to write and sing songs to God, expecting Him to respond to the words he sang. God loved this so much He allowed it to be recorded as His written word in the psalms. David had the courage to do what no other man had ever done, to dance before God with all his might without any sense of embarrassment or reserve. He also encouraged worshipers to sing new songs and prophecy with instruments (Psalm 96:1; 1 Chronicles 25:1). Although we often hear reference to his courage while wrestling a bear and a lion, it took more courage to believe he had heard from God, and command the nation to worship with a liberty, not previously done.

## KEY POINT

A music minister must also be brave to demonstrate sincere worship, no matter what comes his or her way. There must always be a willingness to lead others irrespective of circumstances. It takes courage to do this in the midst of personal battles, but the rewards are amazing. God is still looking for bravery from those who lead others in worship. Nothing has changed, except we now have an even greater mandate to do it, knowing all authority has been given to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

## DAVID WAS A MAN OF WAR

Praise often involves warfare, and is used in the midst of the battle. The music minister must be prepared to go to war on behalf of others, as well as for themselves.

*“. . . a man of war” (1 Samuel 16:18).*

They should not be moved by the size and strength of the enemy, or wearied by the number of battles.

*“When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up from the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 20:1).*

The size of the enemy is not your challenge, but the size of your faith in the midst of the battle.

## **KEY POINT**

The music minister should maintain a song of victory at all times.

## **DAVID WAS PRUDENT**

David was prudent, meaning to have understanding, insight, wisdom and discernment.

*“...prudent in speech...” (1 Samuel 16:18).*

In a biblical sense it is someone who makes decisions as directed by the Holy Spirit. David was prudent in speech, wise with his words, and led by the Spirit. The Apostle Peter confirms the importance of speech.

*“He who would love life and see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit” (1 Peter 3:10).*

God desires all of His children to be prudent in speech, especially those who are in leadership. This is important for those involved in music ministry. David asks for this in the following psalm.

*“O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise” (Psalm 51:15).*

All the great work done in leading others into worship can be quickly dismantled by foolish talk.

## KEY POINT

The music minister should guard their heart and mouth with all diligence.

## DAVID HAD THE LORD WITH HIM

King Saul's servants knew there was a young man who could help their king because he had access to God's presence.

*"...And the Lord is with him" (1 Samuel 16:18).*

Scripture does not say David was with God, but God was with David. That is an amazing statement, and it gives insight into the heart of the Father, who wants to spend time with His children. It was God's presence with David that drew the attention of Saul's servants. Ultimately, it is not about the doctrine we preach, or the message we carry that is of most importance. It is the presence of the Lord in us, and working through us that attracts the world.

## KEY POINT

Imagine the possibilities for deliverance and healing when people seek us out because they know God is with us.

## DAVID HAD FAVOUR

The word favor is translated as grace. Since God is not a respecter of persons, He does not favor one over the other, or give out grace randomly (Acts 10:34).

*". . . for he hath found favor in My sight" (1 Samuel 16:22).*

He gives it to those who walk uprightly through the knowledge of God

(Psalm 84:11). When you find favor with God, He gives you everything you need to accomplish the task He has called you to.

David was a man who did extraordinary work for God but he was dependent on those God had sent to help him. God gives you favor with others so you can accomplish what you could not do without them, favor with God will cause us to have favor with man.

When a man or woman has favor with God, people are drawn to it, and God uses this to build His kingdom through those He has called. David had favor with Jonathan, Nathan the prophet and the mighty men who would have given their life for him (2 Samuel 23:16-17).

Without these people in his life he would not have been able to accomplish what God had called him to.

Grace is also related to knowledge, and indeed is a by-product of it. The more knowledge of God's word, the more grace will flow from it, toward you, in fact it multiplies toward you.

*"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord" (2 Peter 1:2).*

Every promise of God is predicated on His word. If we keep His commandments, we will automatically find favor with both God and man.

*"My son, do not forget My law, But let your heart keep My commands; and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man"*  
*(Proverbs 3:1, 4).*

## **KEY POINT**

Grace is the ability of God working through you to do supernatural exploits. When you exercise faith, He will bring people around you to accomplish what He has called you to do.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## David the Psalmist

**1. The reference to King David as the “sweet psalmist of Israel” is found many times in the Bible.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**2. Where is the reference to the ‘sweet psalmist of Israel found?**

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**3. Complete the sentence.**

The psalmist is equivalent to the modern day \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Although David sinned, what was the key in scripture referring to his heart that allowed David to be restored?**

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**5. Circle the correct answer.**

God is seeking worship. God is seeking worshipers.

6. Scripture does not say David was with God, but God was with David.

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the definition of a psalmist and make notes.

COMPARISON OF  
OLD  
TESTAMENT  
PSALMIST AND  
NEW TESTAMENT  
MUSIC

**Minister**

A comparison made of the Old Testament psalmist and New Testament music minister, clearly differentiates the latter as the superior ministers.

OLD TESTAMENT PSALMIST	NEW TESTAMENT MUSIC MINISTER
	Music Minister in the Local

<p><b>Psalmist of Israel</b></p> <p>David was raised up by God to lead the nation of Israel in a new form of worship, previously never experienced. Under his reign the entire nation followed his style of worship and for a time, so did successive kings who had a heart for God. The anointing God placed on him for music and worship ministry was at a national level (2 Samuel 23:1).</p>	<p><b>Church</b></p> <p>God continues to deal with a nation, but it is a holy priesthood of believers who congregate for worship in local churches (1 Peter 2:5, 9, 1 Corinthians 14:15, 26).</p> <p>Generally speaking, the New Testament music minister is anointed to minister to the local church, although some may be called also for the larger body of Christ.</p>
<p><b>God Found David</b></p> <p>God did not create David the worshiper. God found David worshiping Him as a shepherd in the fields, looking after his father's sheep. It was his heart of worship that attracted God, and qualified him for leadership as a worshiping king (1 Samuel 13:14)</p>	<p><b>God also Found You</b></p> <p>The process of God seeking worshipers has not stopped. God still has to find those who worship him in spirit and truth; and use them to lead local churches in worship (John 4: 23, 24).</p>
<p><b>Worship before Rulership</b></p> <p>God declared He had found a king when David was still a shepherd. Authority is associated with worship (1 Samuel 16:1, Psalm 78:70).</p>	<p><b>Worship and Kingdom Authority</b></p> <p>The church is becoming aware of the association of worship and authority. As we enthrone God with our worship, we also enthrone Him over every circumstance contrary to His word (Matthew 6:8-10).</p>
	<p><b>Heart of the Music Minister</b></p>

<b>Hear of the Psalmist</b>	Nothing has changed; the music minister must have a heart after God (Matthew 5:8, Ephesians 6:6)
<b>Holy Spirit Upon</b>	The inspiration of the Holy Spirit was upon David's life to worship God (1 Samuel 16:13).
<b>Appearance of the Psalmist</b>	Appearance of the Music Minister
Although the Scripture is referring to David's physical appearance as beautiful, we know that God could see the heart of David as beautiful (1 Samuel 16:12)	The music minister's heart should be transparent, so that the worship that takes place within will be outwardly visible (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, John 1:14, Matthew 5:16).
<b>Skillfulness of Psalmist</b>	<b>Skillfulness of Music Minister</b>
Skillfulness was a trademark of the psalmist, recognized and sought after by Saul's servants who associated it with deliverance (1 Samuel 16:16, 18).	The trademark of the music minister should be skill and anointing to minister edification, healing and deliverance through his or her musical gift. (1 Corinthians 14:12).
<b>Mighty and Valiant</b>	<b>Mighty &amp; Valiant</b>
We know that David was a brave man during physical combat, but he also was brave to usher in a radical form of worship (1 Samuel 16:18).	The music minister must be brave to offer up sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise no matter the circumstances (Ephesians 6:10-18, Hebrews 13:15, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
<b>A Man of War (Physical)</b>	<b>Man of War (Spiritual)</b>

We know that David was a man of war who used physical weapons in warfare, and was an inspiration to his soldiers and servants in combat (1 Samuel 16: 18).

The music minister should be a person of spiritual war, whose weapons are spiritual, at times leading the congregation through times of warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18).

## KEY POINT

We truly have a better covenant than any of the believers in the Old Testament, based on better promises, and the greater help of the Holy Spirit. How exciting is the reward of our redemption and the potential for great ministry!

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## The Divine Gift of Music

### 1. Complete the sentence.

God continues to deal with a \_\_\_\_\_, but it is a holy priesthood of \_\_\_\_\_ who congregate for worship in local \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. Worship is associated with kingdom authority.

Circle the correct answer. False True

### 3. God is no longer seeking worshipers.

Circle the correct answer. False True

### 4. Generally speaking, the New Testament music minister is anointed to minister in the local church.

Circle the correct answer. False True

### 5. Complete the sentence.

David was a man who understood physical \_\_\_\_\_ but the music minister will know how to operate in \_\_\_\_\_ warfare.

6. The trademark of the music minister should be skill and anointing to minister edification, healing and deliverance through his or her musical gift.

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss your understanding of the difference between an Old Testament psalmist and a New Testament music minister.

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# DAVID'S TABERNACLE

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## *Restoration of the Tabernacle of David*

An important key to the role and function of the modern day music minister is to understand both the life of David as a worshiper and the worship he inspired a thousand years before the church began, at the tabernacle on Mount Zion. To some, the restoration of the tabernacle of David might not seem so important, but to God it is prophetically linked to the end time revival. This is why it is important to understand why God raised up David as the “sweet psalmist of Israel.” It is why he built a unique tabernacle of worship, from which we get insight into the validity and importance of music ministry in the church today (2 Samuel 2:20, Acts 15:16). God has an amazing plan for His church before Jesus returns, and worship is central to the unfolding of it. This generation is living in a time when an understanding of what King David did is of prophetic significance, and the restoration of it will bear much fruit.

It would hardly seem right to talk of King David “...the sweet psalmist of Israel” (2 Samuel 23:1), without making reference to the restoration of the Tabernacle of David and a brief history of the background.

## **ARK OF THE COVENANT HISTORY**

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, after fleeing Egypt, God spoke to Moses and told him to build a tabernacle, a place where He could dwell among His people. The tabernacle was transportable and moved around as the nation moved. Under Joshua's leadership, when the Israelites settled in the Promised Land, the tabernacle had a more permanent base in Shiloh. Some years later, the Israelites decided to carry the Ark into battle against their Philistine enemy, believing it would save them. Israel however was defeated, and the Ark was captured by the Philistines and taken into their lands (1 Samuel 4:3, 11). The ungodly Philistines soon discovered that possessing the Ark brought a curse on their people, bringing death and disease.

After seven months they returned the Ark to Israel (1 Samuel 5:1-12; 6:1-3). It was taken to a place called Beth Shemesh, and from there it was collected by men from Kirjath Jearim, where it stayed for twenty years in the house of Abinadab (1 Samuel 7:1-2). David and the leaders then decided to bring the Ark back to Jerusalem from the house of Abinadab (2 Samuel 6:3). God specifically wanted the Levite tribe to transport the Ark. Unfortunately they did not follow these instructions (Numbers 4:15). God's anger was then aroused and it resulted in the death of a man called Uzza (2 Samuel 6:6-8).

David was angry and would not move the Ark to Jerusalem, but instead put it into the house of Obed-Edom, who kept it for three months. God blessed him and his household (2 Samuel 6:8-11). David then made a second attempt to return the Ark to the City of David, using the Levites to carry (shoulder) the Ark (1 Chronicles 15:2). They successfully returned the Ark to Jerusalem with gladness (2 Samuel 6:12). David took it, on God's instructions to a hill in Jerusalem called Mount Zion. He placed it in a tent called the tabernacle of David, where it stayed for many years (2 Samuel 6 and 1 Chronicles 13-16). It was subsequently moved into Solomon's temple (2 Chronicles 5-7).

## KEY POINT

There is an important lesson to learn here. Although David was obedient to God in moving the Ark to Jerusalem, he failed his mission the first time, because he did not seek God's way of transporting it. The apostolic nature of building churches and music ministries is based on hearing from God on how to build.

## NEW PARADIGM FOR WORSHIP

The Ark of the Covenant was originally housed in the tabernacle of Moses where the worship was rigid and formal, predictable and non-spontaneous. God required a new paradigm of worship and found David, who was willing to radically change the status quo. A simply constructed tent, the tabernacle of David was the result. There was no brazen altar, no laver, no table of showbread, and no animal sacrifices, except at the dedication. The tent was positioned prominently at the top of a hill called Mount Zion and contained the Ark of the Covenant, God's presence (1 Chronicles 13:6).

*"So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD" (2 Samuel 6:17).*

David was given instructions by God to celebrate His presence with a freedom not previously experienced in Jewish worship. They returned the Ark with dancing, shouting, jumping, singing and playing musical instruments (Psalm 95:2).

*"There was great joy and celebration and all Israel joined in the procession because of God's presence in their midst" (1 Chronicles 15:3).*

*"David ordered the heads of the Levites to assign their relatives to sing in the choir, accompanied by a well-equipped marching band, and*

*fill the air with joyful sound" (1 Chronicles 15:16-21, The Message).*

David exemplified a freedom of worship publicly before the entire nation. He danced before the Lord with all his might, exerting his physical strength. He expended his energy in demonstrating his love for God (2 Samuel 6:14). David, ceremonially dressed in priest's linen, danced with great abandon before God (2 Samuel 6:14, The Message).

He took off his kingly robes, wearing only the priest's linen under garment. Like everyone He did this to identify himself as a worshiper. It took courage and faith, especially for the king to dance exuberantly without shame before his people. It is one of the most powerful demonstrations of leadership in the Bible. However David's wife, who was the daughter of King Saul, despised David's freedom in worship (2 Samuel 6:16, 6:20). It was a clash of her pride with David's humility.

Michal was proud like her father Saul, and felt that such a display of freedom in worship was degrading for a king. She thought that the people would regard him less, but David knew this would not be the case and explained to her it was before God that he worshiped. This was the worst mistake of her life and resulted in her being barren from that day forward (2 Samuel 6:21-23). She was incensed by the fact that David said he would get even more demonstrative in his worship expression to God.

Many leaders may feel that it is undignified to publicly demonstrate praise, but this was the very thing that King David addressed. He went on to say that he would be more "undignified," meaning he would humble himself even more before his people, in his praise to God. This is a challenge to many leaders who would rather show a more dignified demonstration of praise and worship. However many leaders are realizing that it is a God given privilege, to be an example and encouragement to their congregation in demonstrating worship. We must be more concerned about how God grades our worship, than how man grades it.

It is a transition time for many leaders who are humbling themselves before their congregation with demonstrative praise and worship. It is important to pray for leaders who are still struggling in this area. Never to criticize them, for God

is at work in many of their lives.

*“And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Matthew 23:12).*

God needs apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, but He also wants worshipers who totally submit, showing their spirit-filled love more than anything else. As local church leaders demonstrate their love for God in unreserved worship, the congregation will follow.

## KEY POINT

The restoration of the Tabernacle of David is the restoration of the glory of God, not in church buildings but in human “tents,” housing the presence of God. David’s passion was not for pomp and ceremony but for a freedom to express his love for God, and experience His manifest presence, as a result of it.

## TEACHERS AND SCHOLARS

David set up the Tabernacle, by Divine revelation that God gave to him and the prophets.

*“And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king’s seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the LORD by His prophets” (2 Chronicles 29:25).*

David ordered worship to be accompanied with musical instruments, singing, dancing, standing, kneeling, bowing, raised hands, and clapping. It was a comprehensive program for twenty-four hour, continual worship. The outstanding detail that God gave David regarding the music ministry reveals, the Divine order and value God placed on it. There was a mixture of skilled musician prophets, and inexperienced student musicians, who were mentored by the prophets on site. The opportunity to minister before God's presence, and to be mentored by great men of God in the process, must have been considered a great privilege, by the student musicians and singers.

*"And they cast lots for their duty, the small as well as the great, the teacher with the student" (1 Chronicles 25:8).*

The music ministry had delegated authority throughout its structure. There was honor not only given to God, but to the leadership throughout the ministry, many of whom were family members. God's intention was that His standards of worship would be handed down through succeeding generations, from parents to children (1 Chronicles 25:1-7).

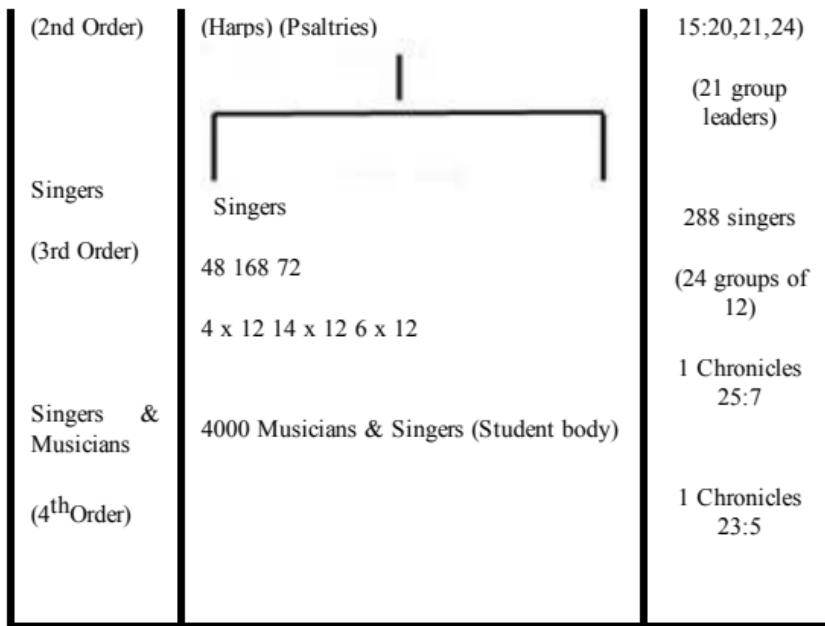
## **KEY POINT**

We have a responsibility to train up a younger generation of musicians and singers, with sound biblical principles as well as musical expertise.

## **DAVIDIC STRUCTURE FOR MUSIC MINISTRY**

The Old Testament music structure has been written for us not as a letter of the law but as a guideline. We are not attempting to emulate its structure but gain insight into the life of those God chose to minister, and the requirements He set. The structure spans both the Tabernacle of David, and instructions given before his death for the Temple of Solomon worship (1 Chronicles 15:16-27; 16:4, 37; 23:1-5; 25:1-8). This is summarised in the structure below.

FUNCTION	PERSON	REFERENCE
	David	
Prophet, Priest, King, Psalmist		Acts 2:29-30 2 Samuel 2:1-4, 23:1
	Chenaniah	
Master of song, Teacher		1 Chronicles 15: 22
	Asaph Heman Jeduthan	
Chief Musicians, Singers, Prophets. (1 <sup>st</sup> Order)		1 Chronicles 15: 19 (3 group leaders)
	6 8 7	
Musicians	bass Soprano Trumpets	(1 Chronicles



There appears to be different orders of musicians in the structure (1 Chronicles 15:18). There is also reference to the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthan who were involved in the music ministry (1 Chronicles 25:1-6). For simplicity, the above structure gives sufficient insight into the fact that God had a leadership structure in the music ministry. The structure would translate approximately in the local church as follows.

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NEW TESTAMENT LOCAL CHURCH EQUIVALENT TO DAVIDIC MUSIC STRUCTURE

DAVID = PASTOR

CHENANIAH = WORSHIP PASTOR

ASAPH, HEMAN, JEDUTHUN = CHIEF MUSICIANS

SINGERS & MUSICIANS = SINGERS & MUSICIANS

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## **KEY POINT**

The New Testament gives no mention or indication on how to structure a music ministry. However its preclusion does not nullify using the principles so clearly and meticulously given in the Old Testament. We should use the tabernacle structure and principles as guidelines.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## *David's Tabernacle*

**1. Complete the sentence.**

The apostolic nature of building churches and \_\_\_\_\_ ministries is \_\_\_\_\_ from God on how to build.

**2. When King David led the celebration of bringing the Ark back to Jerusalem, why did he take off his kingly robes?**

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**3. The tabernacle of David consisted of an elaborately constructed and furnished tent.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**4. It took David two attempts to succeed in moving the Ark to the City of David.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

5. All the musicians and singers in the tabernacle were experts.

Circle the correct answer. False True

### 6. Complete the sentence

David's passion was not pomp and ceremony but \_\_\_\_\_ to express his love for God.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

The Old Testament music structure has been written as a guideline not as a letter of the law. Discuss this and the structure of the group.

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# WORSHIP IN THE EARLY CHURCH

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*Early Church in Transition*

Prophecy pointing to the coming Messiah to redeem His people had been fulfilled. Jesus had replaced the temple system of worship, and there was no longer a need for its existence, or for it to be the place of worship. He had prophesied the demise of the temple of Herod, and in 70 AD, the Romans sacked the temple and destroyed it with fire, paving the way for what God had intended all along, living temples of flesh.

*“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16).*

*“And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people” (2 Corinthians 6:16).*

However the transition from worship in the temple to the home of believers was not instant. We know Jesus also attended the Jewish religious celebrations including the Feast of Tabernacles and Passover in the temple, as well

as attending local synagogues (Acts 2:46, 5:25, and 7:47-50). However transition was taking place according to what Jesus had forewarned. In His encounter with the Samaritan woman He said, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father” (John 4:21). He was telling her a change of worship venue was imminent.

The early church mostly made up of Jewish converts believed the law and the prophets. They would also have understood that Davidic principles of praise and worship had not been abolished but were being adapted to suit their newfound faith in Christ. The main difference of their worship was its focus, being that of the risen Lord, it was now Christ centered. The early church worship offered hymns and songs of praise with an emphasis on being thankful to the Messiah who had come to set them free. Animal sacrifices were replaced with sacrifices of thanksgiving, praise and joy.

1. At some point they were confronted with the stunning reality that they themselves had become a living temple of God, a place of His residence from which worship could be offered to Him (Acts 7:47-48).
2. They were familiar with the High Priest in the tabernacle but now they had become a priest unto God (1 Peter 2:5).
3. They were familiar with physical sacrifices, but now God required spiritual sacrifices from them (Hebrews 13:15, Colossians 3:15 -16).
4. In addition they were given power from on high as kings to rule on the earth (Revelation 1:6). The only thing they had to do was to believe and receive.

So much change required a new form and liberty of worship like what King David had prescribed a thousand years before. Jesus did not abolish or update King David's principles of worship, but He simply stated that the time had come to worship the Father God in “spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

## **KEY POINT**

In the early church Jesus life and ministry had great impact on those who accepted Him. It should be no less for us today. Many believers say we have to duplicate the

book of Acts, although the end time glorious church will surely go way beyond previous exploits and experiences in God. Revealing Himself throughout generations, God has progressively been in preparation for the greatest outpouring of His Spirit, and the music ministry has a great part to play in this end time move.

## OLD AND NEW TRUTH

All of God's word is beneficial but discernment has to be exercised what is applicable. Some of the ordinances and sacrificial offerings have been abolished after the sacrificial work of Christ, yet there are some instructions that still apply.

*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).*

*"For whatsoever things were written before were for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4).*

Studying the tabernacle of David is beneficial although attempting to replicate its structure would not be practical, and not the will of God in the western world where in local churches the average size is under a hundred souls. However David gave us some valuable principles that are applicable in our twenty first century churches, irrespective of the size of the congregation. Every believer embracing the concept of worship as a lifestyle is equivalent to a member of David's 24-hour worship team. This is a lifestyle where demonstrating excellence in musicianship is a goal, and the role of leadership to oversee the music ministry should be considered a priority.

Davidic principles of worship are not the complete picture. The aim is to understand the truths of praise and worship as contained in the Old Testament and express them as new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Jesus Himself sang from portions of the psalms with His disciples in the upper room shortly before He was crucified (Psalms 113 -118 and 136 Matthew 26:30). Davidic principles of worship were practiced by the early church and both Paul and James encouraged the singing of psalms (Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, James 5:13).

We are also told to offer the sacrifice of praise, just as David had instructed a thousand years earlier (Hebrew's 13:15, Psalm 51:15-16, Psalm 69:30-31).

## **KEY POINT**

God requires us to use Davidic principles of worship as Jesus had instructed for the "New Testament" saints, worshiping in "...spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## Worship in the early Church

**1. Jesus had replaced the temple system of worship, and there was no longer a need for its existence, or for it to be the place of worship.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**2. The transition from worship in the temple to the home of believers was not instant.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**3. God has progressively been revealing Himself throughout generations in preparation for the greatest outpouring of His Spirit.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**4. Worship in the early church progressively became Christ centered.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**5. Complete this sentence.**

They were familiar with the temple worship but now they

themselves had become

a \_\_\_\_\_

5. The sacrifice of praise is a New Testament command. What scripture refers to this?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Davidic principles of worship are not the complete picture. The aim is to understand the truths of praise and worship as contained in the Old Testament and express them as new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

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# RESTORATION OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID

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*Restoration*

After the death of King David, there was a series of troughs and peaks of worship by succeeding kings. When God-fearing kings who ruled the nation prioritized Davidic principles of worship, the nation prospered. However when ungodly kings ruled Israel, the nation slid into sin and rebellion. The state of the nation, as reflected in their worship, was directly related to their relationship with God.

Initially the early church suffered persecution, then followed popularity and the gradual infiltration of practices of pagan religions. Unrighteous compromise with worldly views became tolerated, as well as a lack of commitment to both reading God's Word and to the local church. False teaching, worldliness, carnality and indifference brought eventual spiritual decline, plunging the church into relative spiritual darkness for about 1000 years until the time of Martin Luther in 1517. (Gritsch, n.d.)

However, the disciples prophesied of a restoration that would take

place. The Old Testament Hebrew word for “restoration” is SHALAM (Strong, 1996) H7999. This means “to be safe; make amends; make good; prosper; recompense; make restitution; restore back something stolen or owed; to set again” (Joel 2:25). The New Testament Greek word for restoration is APOKATASTASIS (Strong, 1996) G605. This means “to set something back again; re-establish something back to its former state” (Acts 3:21). Restoration is the return to a former position or condition by renewing or returning that which has been taken away.

The exciting fact about restoration is that it is progressive in nature, and increases in quality and quantity with time. This also includes worship (Exodus 22:4, 7, 9). The intimacy Adam had with God in the Garden of Eden is being restored to the church. Jesus referred to this as the “quality.” This is to “... worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). However there is also restoration of quantity. In place of the tabernacle in Jerusalem, there are now millions of living tabernacles. Instead of the glory of God shining out of one place, there are now millions of individuals being multiplied, making available, His presence and power to all humanity. God is restoring all things lost to and through His church right now, and you and I are His chosen vessels to achieve this. We are on the brink of the greatest outpouring the Church has ever experienced. Mass evangelism is beginning to sweep across nations and continents, with accompanying awesome signs and wonders happening everywhere, all the time.

## **KEY POINT**

Restoration is the return to a former position or condition by renewing or returning that which has been taken away. God’s plan is to restore the corporate Church to the truth and power of God, and the individual to the image of God. The promise of restoration in scripture relates to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, giving hope when all seems to contradict it (Joel 2:25-29). In Acts 3:19-21, reference to the restoration is a result of the presence of the Lord amidst His people. Worship and the role of music ministry are important to the manifestation of His presence in the local church and restoration of the church at large.

## **PROPHECY OF AMOS**

Restoration of the tabernacle of David, and the implication it has for the church is now receiving much attention. The influence it will have cannot be underestimated, because it is linked to the prophetic timetable of the restoration of the church, to its fullness.

In Acts chapter 15, the Jerusalem council is the backdrop to the heated conversation between the Disciples and the Pharisees. The hot topic of the day was how to incorporate at that time, an essentially Jewish church with the recently converted Gentiles and whether they should be circumcised (Acts 15:1-5). Peter had recently preached Christ to the household of Cornelius, who were Gentiles, and was immediately confronted with criticism (Acts 10:1-48, 11:1-3). After, Peter gave his eyewitness account of the Gentiles, who assembled, getting saved and filled with the Spirit, James then quoted from the prophet Amos. Amos had prophesied two hundred and fifty years after David's death and eight hundred and fifty years prior to the Jerusalem council in relation to the restoration of the tabernacle of David. He said there would come a time when God would accept Gentiles as well as Jews in His master plan of redemption.

*"On that day I will raise up The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, And repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old; That they may possess the remnant of Edom, And all the Gentiles who are called by My name," Says the LORD who does this thing" (Amos 9:11-12).*

The inclusion of the Gentiles into God's redemptive plans did not happen until the Gentiles heard the gospel message. James alludes to the fact that Peter's ministry among the Gentiles was the catalyst for this prophecy to commence being fulfilled. James quoted from Amos as follows.

*"And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me: Simon has declared how God at the first visited*

*the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written. 'After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things" (Acts 15:13-17).*

The context of this chapter is about revival among the Gentiles and whether or not they should be circumcised. Through James, God was declaring that the time had come for His church to become all inclusive of every tribe, tongue and nation, and it would be characterised by worship. The same worship blueprint, that David had instituted a thousand years previously. God was restoring, by extending His plan of redemption to include Gentiles who would worship after the heavenly model that He gave David. It would not be a new form of worship, but a restored one that David had implemented, face to face with God. Jesus referred to it as "... worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

## **HEAVENLY AUTHORITY**

Some believers struggle with the idea of using Old Testament worship principles given by King David, but we have to consider where David got them. There is no doubt that God was pleased with the worship implemented at the tabernacle because He inhabited the praises given there for a period of forty years (Psalm 22:3). Our general understanding of prophecy is that God gives us insight of a reality that exists in a future time frame.

However it is reasonable to suggest that God allowed David to see the worship taking place in the heavenly realm in real time, and allowed him to implement it in the tabernacle at Mount Zion. It is impossible to conceive that there would be a different form of worship taking place in heaven, to that which God gave to King David. God was then able to receive the worship He longed for on the earth for the first time, not the sacrifice of bulls or goats, but worship from the heart of man. This kind of worship God enthroned. The point James was making at the Jerusalem Council was that God was rebuilding the royal throne, started by King

David, succeeded by King Jesus, and now continued by those who would operate as kings and priests. God was not only restoring heavenly worship on the earth but heavenly authority through His worshipers. To fully appreciate what the restoration of the tabernacle of David means requires an understanding of the authority it brings.

King David exercised dominion by expanding the kingdom, and as a priest who introduced a new form of worship. There is a restoration of the tabernacle of David in the church today in respect to the two offices of king and priest. The church is made up of kings and priests who will restore all things that were intended for the church that were lost. When we look for the restoration of the tabernacle of David, it certainly includes the restoration of worshiping in spirit and truth, and the restoration of everything that God has intended for the church.

This is the restoration of man back to his rightful place as God's kings and priests on the earth, who have the right and authority to restore everything that the devil has stolen throughout the generations. We must look for individuals who are intimate worshipers of God and fearless warriors against the devil.

*"And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth" (Revelation 5:10).*

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that the Father was seeking those who would "...worship in spirit and truth..." (John 4:24). In other words, the Father was seeking those who carried His authority on the earth, as a result of the throne they had established with their worship. The restoration of the tabernacle of David is New Testament kings and priests, who use their privileged access to God's presence and power to restore spiritual authority. These attributes include truth; gifts and ministries; holiness; power in prayer; Holy Spirit guidance; signs and wonders; unity of spirit; fear of God; joy; long-suffering in persecution; Godly character; righteous living and of course praise and worship.

## **KEY POINT**

Operating in kingdom power, the ‘Tabernacle of David’ is the New Testament church formed from a strong foundation of intimacy with God, through worship. This type of church is wielding authority in the community in which they have established the throne of worship. David was given power to rule the nation of Israel, but Jesus was given power to rule over all, and He transfers His power to those who enthroned Him in worship.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## *Restoration of the Tabernacle of David*

**1. The state of the nation was directly related to their relationship with God, as reflected in their worship.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**2. Restoration is the return to a former position or condition by renewing or returning that which has been taken away.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**3. Complete this sentence.**

Restoration is progressive in nature, and increases in \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ with time.

**4. Who prophesied the restoration of the tabernacle of David?**

Circle the correct answer. Haggai Amos Joel

**5. Whose ministry was the catalyst for the beginning of restoration?**

Circle the correct answer. Peter James John

**6. Where is the prophecy from Amos quoted in the New Testament?**

Circle the correct answer. Acts 2 Acts 15 Acts 22

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

The “Tabernacle of David” is the New Testament church operating in kingdom power from a strong foundation of intimacy with God through worship. Discuss how intimacy with God can be demonstrated in the music ministry.

# P A R T      3

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# MUSIC MINISTRY ROLES AND FUNCTION

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# TITLES AND ROLES OF

## **Musicians And Singers**

When some was named in the Bible, it represented the person's character. By studying the names of the various music miniatures in the tabernacle of David, we gain insight about their character and ministry. This helps set standards for the role and requirements of music ministers today.

The chief of the Levites was a man named Chenaniah. Today, that person may take on the title of music director, worship pastor or worship leader. The titles that we use are not as important as understanding their role and function. However I will assign modern day titles that equate to those mentioned in David's tabernacle.

1. Worship pastor is someone who has leadership over the worship team in the local church. The Old Testament equivalent is a man named Chenaniah.
2. Worship leader is someone who leads the worship vocally in the local church, but doesn't necessarily have to be the worship pastor, although he or she could be. The Old Testament equivalent is also Chenaniah, because of his vocal gifting.
3. Music director is someone who is not necessarily the worship pastor or the worship leader, but who has musical arranging ability. Obviously the worship pastor and/or worship leader can fulfill the role also as music director. The Old Testament equivalent is a man named Asaph.

4. Musicians and singers in the tabernacle had varying degrees of skill and spiritual maturity, but Asaph, Heman and Jeduthan are referred to both as prophets as well as musicians.
5. Trainee musicians and singers were referred to as students in the tabernacle and were mentored by the above leaders.

## **KEY POINT**

Those appointed in the tabernacle are excellent examples for modern day psalmists to use as role models.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## *Titles and Roles of Musicians and Singers*

Although you may use different terms for leaders in your music ministry, the questions are based on those given in this chapter.

**1. Who in the Old Testament tabernacle structure is equivalent to the modern day worship pastor?**

Circle the correct answer. Asaph Heman Chenaniah

**2. The worship pastor always has to lead the worship in the local church.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**3. Complete the sentence.**

The worship leader is someone who leads the \_\_\_\_\_ in the local church, but \_\_\_\_\_ have to be the worship pastor, although he or she could be.

**4. A music director is someone who is not necessarily the worship pastor or the worship leader.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**5. Complete the sentence**

Musicians and singers in the tabernacle had varying degrees of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ maturity.

**6. Complete the sentence**

Trainee musicians and singers were referred to as \_\_\_\_\_ in the tabernacle and were mentored by their direct leaders.

**GROUP DISCUSSION**

Discuss your understanding of these roles and responsibilities and how they are applicable to your music ministry.

## THE WORSHIP PASTOR

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*Old Testament equivalent is Chenaniah*

King David appointed a man called Chenaniah as the chief of the Levites. The Hebrew word for “Chenaniah” is KENANYAH (Strong, 1996) H3663. It is taken from two other references (Strong, 1996) H3661 and H3050 and means, “God has planted.” The connotation is one who has been planted and established by God, and has favor. God certainly favoured Chenaniah, as he was made chief of the Levites in charge of all the musicians and singers.

His role would equate to the modern day worship pastor who heads up the music ministry in the local church. This is under the leadership of the senior pastor, who has to feel comfortable about the person he has appointed to head up the music ministry. A church leader once said, “The worship pastor can be the pastor’s best friend or worst enemy.” Although this might sound like an exaggeration, there is much truth in it. So much of the outcome of church services depends on the relationship and trust between the two. After seeking God’s confirmation in prayer, the senior pastor appoints the worship pastor. God will then establish him or her as an invaluable asset to the life of the church.

The worship pastor does not necessarily have to possess all the abilities that were found in Chenaniah, but should exhibit some of them to successfully function in his or her role. Here are some of the abilities of Chenaniah.

# CHENANIAH WAS A LEADER

Chenaniah was referred to as the chief of the Levites. The Hebrew word for “chief” is SAR (Strong, 1996) H8269. This means a “head person; captain; someone with rule; a general; governor; keeper; lord master; prince and ruler; steward.” Under King David in the tabernacle worship Chenaniah was the chief and in charge of four thousand Levite musicians and singers (1 Chronicles 23:5).

*“...And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites...” (1 Chronicles 15:22).*

*“...four thousand were gatekeepers, and four thousand praised the LORD with musical instruments, “which I made,” said David, “for giving praise.” (1 Chronicles 23:5).*

Every musician and singer was accountable to leaders above them in the tabernacle music ministry structure, who were ultimately responsible to Chenaniah. The Message translation speaks of him as the music director, in the sense that he directed all the musicians and singers under him. His forte was leadership and he was obviously very musically gifted to oversee four thousand musicians and singers.

*“Kenaniah, the Levite in charge of music, a very gifted musician, was music director” (1 Chronicles 15:22, The Message).*

The Hebrew word for “musician” is NATSACH (Strong, 1996) H5329. This means “to excel, be bright, preeminent, perpetual, be overseer, enduring.” It is one who shines bright in their ability to express worship, in faithfulness and sincerity. The word intimates an imposing sound that reflects or illuminates purity to those who hear it. Those who followed him would literally have bathed in the glory of God’s presence as a result of his leadership and musical gifting in worship.

## KEY POINT

Every leader has to instruct and discipline to produce disciples. The worship pastor’s forte should be leadership, as well as music. However the worship pastor doesn’t have to be the most gifted musician in the team, but should have the leadership skills for those more musically talented to follow him.

## CHENANIAH WAS A SINGER

The Bible does not refer to Chenaniah as a prophet, but he certainly was anointed to sing prophetically. Directly under him were musician prophets, namely Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthan who were submitted to him as the leading prophetic voice.

*“And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song: he instructed about the song, because he was skillful” (1Chronicles 15:22).*

*“Chenaniah, leader of the Levites in singing, was put in charge of carrying the ark and lifting up song. He instructed about these matters because he was skilled and able” (1Chronicles 15:22, Amplified Bible).*

*“..and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers” (1 Chronicles 15:27).*

The Hebrew word for “song” is MASSA (Strong, 1996) H4583. This means “to sing prophetically.” The connotation is of carrying a prophetic burden in song. Chenaniah could communicate prophetically in song, the burden of God’s heart for His people. This was a critically important gift, as God at that time, chose primarily to speak to His people through the prophets. Even in the Old Testament, worship was not just a one-way communication from man to God, but from God to man, as many of the psalms testify.

## KEY POINT

Not every music ministry will operate prophetically and I do not want to give the impression that they should. However if leadership gives their permission for the prophetic gifts to operate, it can result in great blessings.

## CHENANIAH WAS A SINGING TEACHER

Chenaniah is referred to as an instructor of song because he was skillful. The following translations bring out his obvious leadership ability to train others.

*“...and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers” (1 Chronicles 15:27, KJV).*

The Hebrew word for “master” is SAR (Strong, 1996) H8269. This is the same word as “chief” in 1 Chronicles 15:22. Chenaniah had the responsibility of leadership over all the musicians and singers, but because singing was his strength, he instructed the singers.

*“Chenaniah, leader of the Levites in singing, was put in charge of carrying the ark and lifting up song. He instructed about these matters because he was skilled and able” (1 Chronicles 15:22, Amplified Bible).*

*“And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song: he instructed about the song, because he was skillful” (1 Chronicles 15:22, KJV).*

The Hebrew word for “skillful” is BIYN (Strong, 1996) H995. This means perceive, understand and discern. Chenaniah was discerning when and how to use his gift of prophetic singing.

The Hebrew word for “instructed” is YACAR (Strong, 1996) H3256. This means to chastise, literally with blows, and figuratively with words. It appears that Chenaniah was not only gifted musically but also exhibited disciplinary leadership. This was necessary to maintain the high spiritual and musical standards required by King David’s instructions.

## **KEY POINT**

Although Chenaniah was multi-talented in music, singing and the prophetic, it does not mean that the modern day worship pastor should possess all these qualities. If he or she does, it is a remarkable gift from God. However he or she should possess the leadership ability to appoint those who do have these skills, or at the least, trust God for them to be added to the team, as agreed upon by the leadership.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## The Worship Pastor

1. The Old Testament equivalent to the modern day worship pastor was a man called Chenaniah.

Circle the correct answer. False True

2. The worship pastor does not necessarily have to possess all the qualities that were found in Chenaniah, but should exhibit some of them to successfully function in his or her role.

Circle the correct answer. False True

3. The worship pastor doesn't have to have leadership ability.

Circle the correct answer. False True

4. Complete this scripture.

...and Chenaniah the \_\_\_\_\_ of the song with the singers.

5. Complete this sentence.

Chenaniah could communicate \_\_\_\_\_ in song, the burden of God's heart for His people.

## 6. Chenaniah also had a gift of teaching.

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the ministry of the worship pastor.

# THE WORSHIP LEADER

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*Old Testament Equivalent is also Chenaniah*

As seen from his outstanding vocal skill from the previous chapter, Chenaniah is the example in the tabernacle structure that would best equate to the modern day worship leader. It is not clear who would have been responsible for leading the worship in the tabernacle, but we do know that Chenaniah was the most skillful of the singers; therefore it is not unreasonable to compare him to our modern day worship leader, and use him as our biblical example.

The worship leader has already been defined as someone who leads the worship vocally in the local church, but does not necessarily have to be the person who leads the team (worship pastor), although he or she could be. Many worship pastors appoint more vocally gifted singers than themselves to lead the worship, and many of the bigger churches have more than one vocalist who fulfills this role. With the exception of leadership, the worship pastor does not have to be the best at everything. He or she can delegate responsibility to others, who have greater musical or vocal skill. The important thing for the worship pastor is to have discernment regarding the person appointed to lead vocally, obviously with the agreement of the senior pastor.

The term “worship leader” and “leading worship” is not found in scripture. However the veracity of music ministry in scripture and the emphasis God placed

on it in the Tabernacle of David cannot be disputed. There is no reason why we should not use these terms and feel comfortable in doing so, although they should be interpreted in the light of worship in the New Testament and particularly in the local church.

## THE WORSHIP LEADER'S HEART

Often the question arises, what is worship leading? Worship leading is not concerned with methodology, but with transparency. The function of the worship leader is to be a transparent lover of God in public worship that inspires others to follow, under the anointing and leading of the Holy Spirit. A worship leader is not able to lead into a worship experience if he or she is personally unfamiliar with this experience. Likewise musicians and singers who are involved in the worship team should first and foremost be worshipers. This is why God demanded spiritual maturity for the leaders involved in the tabernacle worship. They were prophets who knew God intimately and whose lives of consecration to God inspired others to follow as they worshiped. Their lives spoke louder than their music or singing.

The most outstanding characteristic of the worship leader is his or her passion for God, expressed through their ability with the gift of music. The congregation will be more encouraged to worship when they know the worship leader is genuine in expressing their heartfelt love for God. If they discern that the worship leader is faking it, they will not freely enter into worship as easy, if at all. Worship leading is a ministry expression from the heart that cannot be done without integrity, no matter how vocally or musically gifted.

It was David's passionate heart that caught God's attention when he was looking after his dad's sheep. It was not his

musical prowess, although we know he was a skillful musician at that time.

## KEY POINT

God is still looking for those who have a heart for worship that is developed in private, and expressed in public for others to follow.

## THE WORSHIP LEADER'S UNDERSTANDING OF AUTHORITY

It is vital for the worship leader to understand submission and embrace it in relation to the greater authority that stands by his or her side, usually referred to as the senior pastor. The most effective local churches' music ministries, are those that have formed trust-based relationships with leadership that allows a freedom of worship to flow unhindered by hesitation on either part. The worship leader's ministry will only be utilized by the degree to which the pastor trusts him or her. There is no greater potential for division if the congregation detects conflict or disunity between leadership and the music ministry. On the other hand mutual trust will open the door for the glory of God to fill the house. When unity is operating, the music ministry will be able to fully operate with the anointing and authority God has given them for worship.

Jesus commended that He had not seen greater faith than that shown by the centurion, who understood authority (Matthew 8:5-10). When the worship leader has a submitted heart toward God and the church leadership, it will trickle down through the entire music ministry, as oil that ran down the beard of Aaron.

*"It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard:  
The beard of Aaron running down on the edge of his garments"  
(Psalm 133:2).*

The reference that the oil flowed down on the edge of his garments means that the very least member of the music ministry will benefit from the anointing. The submitted and humble heart is crucial for supernatural results, irrespective of musical skill. Although God wants both, He will always favour those with the right heart above those with the right skills. David certainly got the attention of King Saul's servants because he was a skillful player on the harp (1 Samuel 16:18). However he got God's attention because he was a young man with a heart after God, who had submitted himself to his father by tending his sheep. It was not only David's heart for worship that attracted God's attention to this young man, but also his heart of submission to his earthly father.

## KEY POINT

The issue of submission to authority is significant in any area of ministry, but especially in the area of leading worship because of the visibility and authority associated with it. Those with a submitted heart toward leadership are destined for promotion in the kingdom of God.

## THE WORSHIP LEADER'S VOICE

Other than the worship leader's heart, the most important requirement is obviously his or her voice, as we have seen in the life of Chenaniah. He was chosen because he was a skillful singer.

*"And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song: he instructed about the song because he was skillful" (1 Chronicles 15:22).*

The worship leader's voice should have good pitch, and be attractive to listen to. If it is not, there is little chance of inspiring others to worship or understand what is being communicated. Many people have asked me, "What are your thoughts about someone who leads the worship in my church who does not necessarily have a good singing voice, but does have a worshiping heart?" I encourage them with the fact that many of the singers in the tabernacle of David underwent training therefore we can safely assume that not all of them were necessarily good singers. As Levites, they were chosen because of their spiritual heritage of non-compromising worship. Every worship leader should have a reasonable to good voice, and be willing to take voice training to improve, where necessary.

## **KEY POINT**

Both the heart to worship has to be maintained and an openness to improve vocal skill is important. For the position of leading worship, one cannot be compromised for the sake of the other.

## **LEADING WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH**

The devil hates worship, and those who lead it should be extra vigilant of opposing spiritual forces that operate against them and their ministry. The enemy is relentless in his quest to stop the one thing he vehemently hates, worship in spirit and truth. His first line of attack is against the words of Jesus that we "...must worship in spirit and truth," so he will try and get us to compromise first our worship through the Holy Spirit and then in God's word, the truth. It has to be presupposed that every worship leader understands what it means to worship "...in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

Leading worship “...in spirit...” (John 4:24) is when one is conscious of and reliant on the Holy Spirit as he or she leads. Likewise, leading worship “...in truth” (John 4:24) is when God’s word is the inspiration to worship that comes by the constant renewing of one’s mind (Romans 12:1-2). Dependence on and awareness of the Holy Spirit by the worship leader is the key to an anointed worship ministry. This anointing comes from a genuine intimate relationship and fellowship with the Holy Spirit and God’s word. Without the refreshing presence of the Holy Spirit and the renewing of the mind with God’s word, it is almost impossible to lead worship, no matter how new the songs might be or how well the musicians perform.

Although King David experienced the Holy Spirit from the day he was anointed, none of the Old Testament saints were filled with the Spirit, and certainly did not have the knowledge of the word of God as we have (1 Samuel 16:3). Relatively speaking, their worship lacked the dimension of “...spirit and truth” that Jesus talked about (John 4:22

-24). However, it still pleased God so much that He inhabited their praise by taking up residence in the tabernacle, and from Jerusalem His glory shone forth as a testimony of His presence in the midst of His worshiping people (Psalm 50:2).

The Holy Spirit will never impose, or force His will upon anyone to worship, and neither should the worship leader. Worship is ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit, in a person’s life who is willing to worship because of a genuine love for truth, and a willingness to be led by the Holy Spirit as they worship. It is unlikely that a worship leader can lead anyone in

worship beyond his or her personal experience of what it means to worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). Our worship today should excel the worship in the tabernacle because unlike the Old Testament saints, we have the abiding presence of the Spirit leading us in truth (John 16:13). True worship is always rooted in a revelation of redemption. False worship can often be directed to God but lacks both the knowledge of a personal relationship with Jesus and the intimate experience it offers.

## **KEY POINT**

I believe that God is preparing the worship ministry to go way beyond the Old Testament standards God gave us in David's tabernacle. We are about to see an outpouring of God's Spirit in the church, and the music ministry has a vital role to play in bringing this into reality. In preparation of this end time revival, I encourage all of you who are called to this ministry to seek God diligently by spending time in prayer and reading God's word.

## **WORSHIP LEADER'S SENSITIVITY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The position of worship leader is highly sought after, and many pastors would consider them to be one of the more important ministers in the church. They play a crucial role in preparing the spiritual atmosphere for the pastor to build on when preaching. They are given the responsibility of starting off the service and to discern the collective 'mood' of the congregation and what is required by the Holy Spirit to gather them into a place of united worship. By their spiritual discernment and appropriate action they can influence the rest of the meeting.

In some instances there may be spiritual barriers that hinder the service that need

to be removed with authoritative praise and declarations. Conversely, the Holy Spirit may want a quieter time of worship or even a time of silence, or anything in between these two extremes.

I have experienced times of worship when there was a particular focus the Holy Spirit wanted to emphasize that did not coincide with my song list, so I had to change the list. For this to happen the musicians and singers have to be familiar with all the songs on their list, so they can be instant and in season. They also need to consider having a repertoire of praise and worship songs that cover a range of ministry topics. On occasions, just before the worship has started, the senior pastor has asked me to do something musically in line with what God laid on his heart at the start of the service. This may even happen mid way during the course of the worship time. This requires a flexibility to change things quickly to accommodate the spontaneity of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit knows what He wants and the music ministry should be tuned into His frequency for the service.

Spiritual forces of darkness will challenge and attempt to undermine the work of the music team, so it is necessary that they be covered in prayer by the intercessors. There is no greater atmosphere in which to receive the preaching of God's Word than that which has been created by praise and worship. The ambience is charged by God's presence and the platform is set for the Holy Spirit to move as He wills. How pleasing this is to the senior pastor who can relax and participate in the worship himself because he has confidence in those he has appointed, to lead the congregation in worship.

Often there is an expectation that the job of the music team is to make it easy for the pastor to minister. While this is true, the main goal of the music ministry is to gather the congregation into a place of corporate worship. When the congregation, through praise and worship has been bathed in the presence of God, the most conducive atmosphere is then present for them to receive the teaching of God's word and the ministering of the gifts of the Spirit.

## KEY POINT

Worship leading is not so much concerned with methodology, but with transparency. The function of the worship leader is to be a transparent lover of God

in public worship that inspires others to follow, under the anointing, leading of the Holy Spirit.

## **WORSHIP LEADING & UNITY**

God wants worship from hearts that are passionate about Him from all members of the team and not just the worship leader. The importance of a “corporate worshiping heart” in the team has a tremendous influence on the congregation. If one member of the team does not have a heart to worship, it will affect the spiritual performance of the entire team, irrespective of how good the team is musically or how much the worship leader is anointed.

The most important work to be established and maintained in the team is not in the area of developing greater musical skills. Although this is important, it is paramount to develop a heart of worship within every team member, and maintain a spirit of unity centered on worship.

Worship is a powerfully unifying force for either good or bad. It either manifests God’s presence or gathers forces of darkness.

The tower of Babel is a classic example of mankind gathering for the purpose of false worship that necessitated the intervention of God to thwart the self-destruction of humanity (Genesis 11:1-9). However the opposite is true when the church gathers to worship, we invoke the manifest presence of God and the release of His power.

The synergy of corporate worship is undeniably powerful. When the trumpeters and singers were in perfect harmony in worship, the glory of God filled the house of God.

*“The choir and trumpets made one voice of praise and thanks to GOD — orchestra and choir in perfect harmony singing and playing praise to GOD: Yes! God is good! His loyal love goes on forever! Then a billowing cloud filled The Temple of GOD. The priests could not even carry out their duties because of the cloud—the glory of GOD!—that*

*filled The Temple of God" (2 Chronicles 5:13 - 14, The Message).*

When the worship team's united purpose is to worship God, there will be no room for disharmony and every evil work that goes along with it. God's preferred choice of worship in heaven seems to be corporate, with instruments and voices in thanksgiving, praise and worship (Revelation 5:8-14, 7:9-11, 14:1-3, 15:3). Perhaps this is because of the unity that exists in heaven. We have to copy our heavenly example, and to the best of our ability ensure a harmony exists of sound and unity in our hearts to worship God.

*"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).*

## **KEY POINT**

When the worship ministry is united in hearts, minds and instruments, one can expect supernatural manifestations of God in our midst. It is a realm where nothing will be impossible.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## The Worship Leader

**1. It is not clear who would have been responsible for leading the worship in the tabernacle, but we do know that Chenaniah was the most skillful of the singers therefore it is not unreasonable to equate him to our modern day worship leader, and use him as our biblical example.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**2. The worship leader is defined as someone who leads the worship vocally in the local church, but does not necessarily have to be the worship pastor, although he or she could be.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**3. The term “worship leader” and “leading worship” is not found in scripture. However no one would dispute the veracity of music ministry in scripture, or indeed the emphasis God placed on it in the Tabernacle of David.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**4. The most outstanding characteristic of the worship leader is that they are able to express with the gift of music, his or her passion for God.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**5. The worship Leader does not have to understand submission.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**6. The worship leader's dependence and awareness of the Holy Spirit is a key to an anointed worship ministry.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the ministry of the worship leader.

# THE MUSIC ARRANGER

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*Old Testament Equivalent is Asaph*

There were differing degrees of musical skill and spiritual maturity in those involved in David's Tabernacle, varying from prophets of God who were also excellent musicians, as well as students who were improving both musically and spiritually. God was prepared to use those with a heart of submission under authority, and a willingness to improve both their spiritual and musical standards under the tutorage of three musical prophets, Asaph, Heman and Jeduthan.

*"Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, by raising the voice with resounding joy. So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of their brethren, the sons of Merari, Ethan the son of Kushaiah;" (1 Chronicles 15:16-17).*

It appears that each of the three chief musicians had the same level of authority, but carried individual strengths that was necessary to give the music ministry the

scope of musical and spiritual excellence required by God. These leaders were spiritual role models, mentors and musical experts that God used to oversee the large body of musicians and singers.

Of the three chief musicians, the ministry of Asaph is particularly interesting and the Bible gives us insight into his life and writings more than any of the other chief musicians. Asaph lived through both the reigns of King David and King Solomon and he was music director in the tabernacle, as well as the temple. He was probably a young man in his twenties when appointed by David and he maintained this position for about forty years. After the death of King David he moved on to serve King Solomon. He lived until he was very old and evidenced the fall of King Solomon. He reflected his disappointment of the king's life in some of his psalms (Psalms 73-83).

It was "into the hand" of Asaph to whom David gave the psalm of thanksgiving on the dedication day when the Ark of the Covenant was returned to Mount Zion. The following translations reveal Asaph's prowess as a musical arranger.

*"Then on that day David delivered first this psalm to thank the Lord into the hand of Asaph and his brethren" (1 Chronicles 16:7). "That was the day that David inaugurated regular worship of praise to GOD, led by Asaph and his company" (1 Chronicles 16:7, The Message).*

*"Then on that day David first entrusted to Asaph and his brethren the singing of thanks to the Lord as their chief task" (1 Chronicles 16:7, Amplified Bible).*

The Hebrew word for "hand" is YAD (Strong, 1996) H3027. This means hand of power or hand to give direction. Asaph would have directed the rest of the musicians, probably in the capacity as the chief musical arranger (1 Chronicles

16:5).

The important lesson to learn here is the function of the chief musician in the local church. His or her forte should be music and particularly musical arranging. The worship pastor can fulfill this role or someone who is assigned by the worship pastor.

## **KEY POINT**

If a distinction could be made between the worship pastor who heads up the team, and the chief musician who organises the music, it would be as follows. While both possess leadership and musical skill, the former has stronger leadership skills while the latter might have stronger music skills.

## **HEALING AND WORSHIP**

The Hebrew word for “Asaph” is ACAPH (Strong, 1996) H523. This means “collector” (Strong, 1996) H623. The word is associated with the idea of “gathering for any purpose; receive; take away; remove; destroy; leave behind; put up; restore; assemble; bring; consume; destroy; fetch; gather in together; up again; receive, recover another from leprosy.”

Asaph’s name implies that he had the ability to collect, or gather the people together in unity and also to remove their hurts and sickness. This includes leprosy, the most deadly disease of the day. It is possible he arranged the music with healing in mind as a benefit to the worshipers. His music ministry without doubt was anointed to gather the people together for the sole purpose of worship, and in the process, let them experience healing. The power of healing through worship is again confirmed by the deliverance of King Saul when David ministered to him with his harp (1 Samuel 16:18-23).

## **KEY POINT**

There is so much power available in worship, and it appears that Asaph understood this and was anointed to minister deliverance and healing through his gift of music.

## POWER OF WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Asaph was not only the music arranger but also a leader who understood the importance of prayer accompanied with thanksgiving.

*“Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High.  
Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall  
glorify Me” (Psalm 50:14 - 15).*

Could it be that your thanksgiving is stored up and released as deliverance when you need it? Asaph seemed to understand the amazing principle that thanksgiving is connected to deliverance, when you call out to God through prayer. When you give God thanks in the days of freedom, He will give you deliverance in the days of trouble. Scheduling a regular time of prayer for the worship ministry is necessary and we have

insight into how Asaph, knew this. Psalm 50 is authored by Asaph and reveals his understanding of the principle that thanksgiving and prayer are inseparable partners (Psalm 50:14-15).

The great theologian and noted man of prayer, Samuel Chadwick (Chadwick, trans. n.d.) said, “It would seem that the biggest thing in God’s universe is a man who prays. There is only one thing more amazing, and that is the person who knows this, but does not pray.” The devil dreads prayer and one of his main objectives is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from saints who don’t pray, even if they do much work for the kingdom however he trembles and flees when confronted with praying saints.

Nearing the end of his life, Samuel Chadwick was asked if he regretted anything. His only comment was that he wished he had prayed more and worked less (Chadwick, trans. n.d.). This should convince us of the absolute necessity of prayer, and the futility of ignoring it. However the greater truth we need to know is how to get prayers answered. God will answer prayers of faith (Mark 11:24). The highest expression of faith that exists is praise therefore prayer should never leave our lips unless it is accompanied with thanksgiving and praise. It is a powerful synergy.

*“We know that God does not listen to sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and a worshiper of Him and does His will, He listens to him” (John 9:31, Amplified Bible).*

A definition of “synergy” is the interaction or cooperation of two or more organisations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects (Oxford Dictionary). God has a plan for every believer to synergise prayer and praise to get maximum results. Separately they are powerful and render amazing results, but when combined they are literally earth-shaking.

*“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed” (Acts 16:25 -26).*

When we pray, we fellowship with God, we do this by telling Him our needs, or the needs of others. When we praise Him, we are telling Him that we believe our needs are met according to his Word. One believer said, “Prayer asks but praise

takes." When we mix our prayers with praise, it could be described as asking and receiving at the same time.

The goal of prayer is the ear of God and the goal of praise is the heart of God. When you give Him both there is nothing He will withhold from you. Surely prayer and praise is one of the most powerful tools God has given us to release heaven on earth.

## **KEY POINT**

Music ministry leaders should understand and practice the power of prayer accompanied with thanksgiving and praise. A good place to exercise this is praying and praising God for the church, you have the privilege to minister to, and for the leadership who directs the team.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## The Music Arranger

**1. Who was the music director in the tabernacle?**

Circle the correct answer. Asaph Heman Jeduthan

**2. What is the Hebrew meaning of the name Asaph?**

Circle the correct answer. Restorer collector refiner

**3. The music arranger in the tabernacle had an anointing to gather the people together for the purpose of worship.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**4. The music arranger in the tabernacle had no anointing for healing.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**5. Complete this sentence.**

God has a plan for every believer to synergise \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ to get maximum results.

**6. Nearing the end of his life, the great theologian Samuel Chadwick was asked if he regretted anything. What was it?**

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## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

Discuss the ministry of the music arranger.

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# CHIEF MUSICIAN

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*Old Testament Equivalent is Heman*

Another chief musician is Heman who was the grandson of Samuel the prophet (1 Chronicles 6:33; 15:16-17). The Hebrew word for “Heman” is HEYMAN (Strong, 1996) H1968. This means “faithfulness, or one who is faithful.” The root of this word is derived from the Hebrew word AMAN (Strong, 1996) H539. This means “to build; support; foster as a parent or nurse; to render or be firm or faithful; to trust or believe; to be permanent or quiet; true or certain.”

*“So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of their brethren, the sons of Merari, Ethan the son of Kushaiah;” (1 Chronicles 15:17).*

The implication here is of one who is permanently faithful, as a foster parent would be to a child that he has taken in to love voluntarily. As a chief musician, Heman was faithful in carrying out his worship duties in the house of God, but also faithful as a mentor to those under his charge.

## KEY POINT

God expects us to be faithful to His word, and the result of this will be faithfulness in our duties in His house. A prerequisite for everyone involved in music ministry is faith in God’s word and then faithfulness in serving God in music ministry will be a natural consequence.

# OLD TESTAMENT EQUIVALENT IS JEDUTHAN

It appears that this musician was referred to by both names Jeduthan and Ethan. We will look at both names he is referred by to get an overall picture of his attributes.

*“Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, by raising the voice with resounding joy. So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of their brethren, the sons of Merari, Ethan the son of Kushaiah. So the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were appointed to sound with cymbals of brass” (1 Chronicles 15:16-17, 19).*

*“and with them Heman and Jeduthun and the rest who were chosen, who were designated by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because His mercy endures forever” (1 Chronicles 16:41).*

The Hebrew word for “Ethan” is EYTHAN (Strong, 1996) H387. This means “permanent” (Strong 1996) H386. Additional meanings include “to continue, permanence, chieftain, hard, mighty, rough, strength, and strong.” The Hebrew word for “Jeduthan” is YEDUWTHUWN (Strong, 1996) H3038. This means “laudatory or to praise, extol, commend” (Strong, 1996) H3034. This is one of the significant Hebrew words for praise.

## KEY POINT

The implication here describes one who is strong in leadership, and practices worship as a permanent lifestyle.

## CHIEF MUSICIANS WERE PROPHETIC

These musicians were skillful and prophetic. They prophesied with their instruments or more accurately were musically inspired by the Spirit to play and

sing.

*“ALSO DAVID and the chiefs of the host of the Lord separated to the temple service some of the sons of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, who should prophesy being inspired with lyres, harps, and cymbals. The list of the musicians according to their service was:” (1 Chronicles 25:1-3, Amplified Bible).*

Scripture actually refers to them as seers, the Old Testament word for prophet (1 Chronicles 25:5; 2 Chronicles 29:30; 2 Chronicles 35:15). The following scriptures confirm the prophetic mantle in music ministry.

1. The chief musicians in David's time were all prophets (2 Chronicles 29:30; 35:15).
2. They prophesied with instruments (1 Chronicles 25:1-3).
3. The prophet Elisha requested the ministry of a musician, and then prophesied (2 Kings 3:15). When the musician played, the music was conducive for the release of the prophetic word of Elisha. A prophet is not necessarily dependent upon a musician to play before he can prophesy, but it should be apparent that musicians have an influence in the flow of prophetic ministry.
4. Another example of prophetic ministry in the midst of the assembled worshiping congregation is Jehaziel, a descendent of Asaph who prophesied deliverance for God's people and it came to pass (2 Chronicles 20:14-17).

The Bible declares in the book of Revelation an angel had rebuked John after he fell down and started worshiping him. The angel said to John, “Worship God, for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Revelation 19:10). The prophets bore witness to the testimony of Jesus and so does the Spirit. It is impossible to bear witness of Jesus' life and work unless it is done with worship in our heart; testifying not only of what He has done and is doing, but of what He still will do. God wants us to have hope for our future, and faith in Him to bring it to pass that we will express it in prophecy and song. We should have the same confidence in singing about His second coming as we do about His resurrection.

It is important that the music ministry is submitted to and released by the

pastor, especially in the area of the prophetic. Some leaders may not feel comfortable in releasing the prophetic on Sunday mornings, but may feel more comfortable with it on Sunday evening or some other time. The music ministry has to honor the parameters given by leadership in this regard. Confidence to minister flows when there is agreement and adherence to the parameters, especially in the area of prophetic worship.

The writing of the psalm 39, 62 and 77 is attributed to Jeduthan, and one reference to psalm 89 as a contemplation of Ethan. As psalmists they knew how to interpret God's word and express it through music. They were forerunners to some of our modern day music ministers, who have the same gift of composing popular melodies with powerful theological truth, that impact the lives of millions today.

## **KEY POINT**

While not all psalmists today have a prophetic musical gift, it should be encouraged as and when the leadership feels comfortable to use it.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## Chief Musicians

### 1. Who were the three chief musicians?

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### 2. Complete this sentence.

As a chief musician, \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ in carrying out his worship duties in the house of God, but also faithful as a \_\_\_\_\_ to those under his charge.

### 3. Complete this sentence.

A prerequisite for everyone involved in music ministry is faith in God's \_\_\_\_\_, then faithfulness in \_\_\_\_\_ God in music ministry will be a natural consequence.

**4. One of the chief musicians was strong in leadership, and exercised worship as a permanent lifestyle. Who was it?**

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**5. Complete this sentence.**

Scripture actually refers to them as \_\_\_\_\_ the Old Testament word for \_\_\_\_\_.

**6. Musicians have an influence in the flow of prophetic ministry.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

Discuss the ministry of the chief musicians.

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# MUSICIANS AND SINGERS

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*Old Testament Equivalent are Levites*

When studying the high standards of worship ministry in the Tabernacle of David, some may not feel they are adequately equipped. Actually the opposite is true. As a New Testament music minister, you are more equipped than the musicians and singers spoken of in this book because you are born of God's Spirit and have access to a greater anointing. It should be clear that New Testament music ministry is not attempting to replicate the grandeur of the thousands of musicians and singers in the tabernacle worship. However there is much to learn from the standards God required of His musicians and singers in the tabernacle. These should be used as guidelines to work towards, and inspire the modern day music minister. Here are some of the requirements of the Levites, chosen in the tabernacle worship.

## **LEVITES WERE CHOSEN**

Out of all the tribes of Israel, God chose the Levites to minister to Him in the house of the Lord. They were a tribe descended from Levi, meaning in a sense joined to the Lord for ministry.

*Then David said, “No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the Lord has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever” (1 Chronicles 15:2).*

The Hebrew word for “chosen,” is BACHAR (Strong, 1996) H977. This means, “chosen after having successfully passed a test or trial; to be judged of excellent use; the best after it has been tested.” It was when Moses was up on Mount Sinai with God the Levites were chosen from among the other tribes because they had resisted worshiping a false god. Upon Moses’ return from the mountain he found people worshiping a false god and asked the question.

*“Whoever is on the Lord’s side come to me!” And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to Him” (Exodus 32:25-26).*

It appears that the basis of their appointment by God to minister to Him in the tabernacle was based on their refusal to worship and serve anyone but Jehovah. They were fiercely loyal to God and His commandments. Loyalty can be described as a steel determination of obedience and devotion to God, with no compromise for the world or the things of the world. It may seem a high standard to set for music ministers, but God is well able to raise those people up who are fiercely loyal to the King of Kings and in a covenant relationship with Him. Their

loyalty and separation to Jehovah distinguished them from all others, and qualified them for worship in the presence of a holy God.

## **KEY POINT**

One of the most important characteristics of a music minister is his or her personal loyalty to God and the local church. It is important to set a high standard of loyalty for musicians and singers although it may not always be the easy road to follow.

## **LEVITES WERE A GIFT FROM GOD**

The Levites including those in music ministry were recognized as a gift given by God.

*“Behold, I Myself have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel; they are a gift to you, given by the LORD, to do the work of the tabernacle of meeting” (Numbers 18:6).*

The modern day music minister is also a chosen gift that God wants to use to minister to Him and for Him. It is an awesome privilege and should be a great encouragement to all involved in music ministry that they are considered gifts given by God.

## **KEY POINT**

God considers you a gift not only to Himself but also to others.

## LEVITES WERE APPOINTED

God chooses but man appoints. This is the responsibility of the leadership team. God provided Himself with musicians and singers within the tribe of Levi, but He still used man to appoint them into their positions. God always provides for Himself before time; however He works through leadership who are willing to seek His face and discover what He has pre-planned.

*“Now these are the men whom David appointed over the service of song in the house of the LORD, after the ark came to rest. They were ministering with music before the dwelling place of the tabernacle of meeting, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they served in their office according to their order. And their brethren, the Levites, were appointed to every kind of service of the tabernacle of the house of God” (1 Chronicles 6:31, 32, 48).*

Four thousand musicians and singers were appointed (1 Chronicles 23:1-5). God gives leadership the privilege of participating in building His church by discerning, and then appointing those He has already chosen. The following scriptures illustrate the appointment of musicians and singers in scripture.

*“Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps,*

*and cymbals, by raising the voice with resounding joy” (1 Chronicles 15:16-17).*

*“And he appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to commemorate, to thank, and to praise the LORD God of Israel:” (1 Chronicles 16:4).*

In each of the references given, it was leadership that appointed the musicians and singers. The Hebrew words for “appointed” are NATHAN and ADAM (Strong, 1996) H5414 and H5975. The Hebrew word, AMAD means “to stand and give.” The connotation is that leadership appoints you to minister to God and you give your gift of music back to God in worship. The appointment of musicians and singers is

based on the following:

1. They should realize the musical gift they possess has been given by the grace of God.
2. God expects them to give their musical gift back to Him in worship.
3. They should consider it a great privilege to serve God with such a gift.
4. They should always give God their best when they minister to Him.

Many churches are small and lack musicians and singers, and can succumb to choosing whoever is available.

As a pastor, I can understand giving in to this pressure, but I also realize it can cause more harm than good. It is the pastor and leadership's responsibility to set the standard they want for worship and then exercise faith in God to bring the musicians to the church.

## **KEY POINT**

It is about setting standards by the pastor for the music ministry he or she wants, and exercising faith to see it come to pass. God does the rest. He wants the best musicians and singers with the right attitude toward Him, no matter how big or small the church.

## **LEVITES WERE SEPARATED**

The Levites were not only appointed, but also separated by God for service.

*“Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals. And the number of the skilled men performing their service was:” (1 Chronicles 25:1).*

The Hebrew word for “separated” is ABADAL (Strong, 1996) H914. This means to “divide, distinguish and serve.” The meaning is clear without any degree of latitude. The musicians and singers were separated to serve the Lord in worship. They were clothed in a white linen ephod that was the

undergarment of the high priest. It represented their separated service of righteousness and speaks today of living a Godly lifestyle (1 Chronicles 5:12, 1 Chronicles 15:27, 2 Chronicles 29:15, Nehemiah 12:30).

## **KEY POINT**

The lifestyle of musicians and singers today should be exemplary.

## **LEVITES LOVED GOD'S HOUSE**

During the wilderness wanderings, the Levites, particularly the family members of Kahath, Merari and Gershon were responsible to transport the sanctuary and its contents. When they came to rest and camped around the sanctuary, these three families would be in the inner perimeter, closest to the ark and God's presence. (Numbers 3:23, 29, 35). Church musicians and singers should have a love and respect for the local church. This is reflected in a practical way by punctuality at band practices and church meetings, and is a signal to everyone, that they not only honor God's house, but also His people.

*"One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. And now my head*

*shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD" (Psalm 27:4-6).*

The one thing David loved was God's house and spending time in it. A love for the house and its leadership should be encouraged and developed in the music ministry.

## **KEY POINT**

A love and a servant attitude for the local church will destroy any pride, arrogance or indifference that often creeps into music teams.

## **LEVITES WERE TEACHABLE AND TAUGHT**

We not only have the responsibility as leaders to choose those who are teachable but we must also teach them. Music training should be considered as a part of every church music department. If training cannot be done in the local church, consideration should be given to invite skilled musicians into the church for a time of training or alternatively send the musicians outside the church for training. I recommend that this should be encouraged in every local church where possible, especially for young musicians and singers who are showing musical potential.

The thousands of musicians and singers at the tabernacle of David and the temple of Solomon required

training that took place on site as they ministered before God's presence. This proves that God does not require musical perfection, but He is looking for those who are willing to be taught.

The musical tradition was handed down through families with the fathers teaching their children. The prophets, Asaph, Heman and Jeduthan taught their children musical and vocal skills, and no doubt prophetic songs. The principle of mentoring on the job was God's way of raising up the next generation of musicians and singers. Notice the sons and daughters of some of the leading musicians were selected for their duties, without preference, just as those who were students (1 Chronicles 25:1-8).

*"They drew names at random to see who would do what. Nobody, whether young or old, teacher or student, was given preference or advantage over another" (1 Chronicles 25:8, The Message).*

The scripture clearly shows that there were distinguished teachers who trained students. This program has been described as follows:

The lot was cast to determine the precedence of the classes or divisions over which the musical leaders presided; and in order to secure an impartial arrangement of their order, the master and his assistants, the teacher and his scholars, in each class or company took part in this solemn casting of lots. The lot was thrown impartially. They were placed in twenty-four companies, twelve in a company, in two rows, twelve

companies in a row, and so they cast lots, ward against ward, putting them all upon a level, small and great, teacher and scholar. They did not go according to their age, or according to their standing, or the degrees they had taken in the music-schools (1 Chronicles 25:8).

We have a responsibility to mentor a generation of young musicians and singers both spiritually and musically in the local church. By doing so, we are following God's succession plan for worship that will intensify until He returns. This can be successfully achieved by delegating those skilful in singing to train the singers and those in music to train the musicians separately in workshops that could be run monthly or when necessary. This was God's way of doing it, and takes the responsibility off the worship leader who may not be as skilful as others who are part of his team. If you don't have skilful people in the church it is important to conduct workshops and ask the pastor if he would consider inviting someone in to help train. Workshops will upgrade their musical skill; give them more confidence and more importantly a sense of being valued. All this leads to greater commitment and a happier team.

## **KEY POINT**

Perhaps God is prompting the Church at this time to train up a generation of young musicians and singers from within our ranks. To train them musically and mentor them spiritually, will help those who will lead the church of tomorrow, in realms of worship that will literally bring God's presence on earth.

## LEVITES WERE REMUNERATED

The Levite musicians were employed full time. They were free of other duties so they could focus entirely on worship using their gift of music and song.

*“These are the singers, heads of the fathers’ houses of the Levites, who lodged in the chambers, and were free from other duties; for they were employed in that work day and night” (1 Chronicles 9:33).*

This is not advocating we need to pay our musicians and singers, but prayerful consideration should be given for the employment of a full time, or at least a part time worship pastor.

For many church’s this is a challenge, but worthy of prayer and faith in God to supply the financial needs for this to happen (Nehemiah 7:1, 44, 73; 10:28, 39; 11:22-23; 12:28 47; 13:5, 10).

## KEY POINT

The standard of both lifestyle and musical expertise of the Levites is a baseline from which the New Testament church can build upon.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## **Musicians and Singers**

**1. Explain why the Levites were chosen above all the other tribes to minister worship in the tabernacle?**

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**2. Complete the sentence**

One of the most important characteristics of a music minister is his or her personal \_\_\_\_\_ to God and the \_\_\_\_\_ church.

**3. God chooses but man appoints.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**4. God does not require musical perfection.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**5. Complete this sentence.**

6. The musicians and singers were separated to serve the Lord in worship.

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the standards of both lifestyle and the musical expertise of the Levites.

# PART 4

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MUSIC MINISTRY  
IN THE LOCAL  
CHURCH

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# MUSIC MINISTRY IS A

## **Helps Ministry**

God has given individuals a variety of gifts, ministries and activities that are necessary for the church to operate. They are listed as “diversities of gifts,” “differences of ministries” and “diversities of activities.” Music ministry falls into the category of “diversities of activity” and is a “helps” ministry. Many music ministers possess both gifts and ministry anointing.

## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to inform us that an understanding of the spiritual gifts is very important, and we shouldn't be ignorant of them.

*“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not*

*want you to be ignorant" (1 Corinthians 12:1).*

There are three categories of ministry functions that include the participation of everyone in the Body of Christ, including music ministers. They are gifts, ministries, and activities.

*"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).*

*"God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!" (1 Corinthians 12: 4-6, The Message).*

This means that everyone is empowered by the Holy Spirit in their call to function, at some level, in at least one or more, of these three categories of ministry.

## KEY POINT

There is no excuse for anyone in the body of Christ who is not functioning in some capacity of ministry service. We all have something to contribute and we are dependent on one another.

## DIVERSITIES OF GIFTS

The “diversities of gifts” refer to the nine gifts of the Spirit.

*“To one there is given through the Spirit the Word of wisdom, word of knowledge, gift of faith, gifts of healings, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues” (1 Corinthians 12:7).*

The prophetic gift is not uncommon in the music minister’s life because of his or her calling. Also becoming more common in music ministers are the gifts of the word of knowledge and wisdom and healings.

## KEY POINT

The gifts of the Spirit should be taught and developed within the worship team under the supervision of the pastor and with his or her approval.

## DIFFERENCES OF MINISTRIES

The “differences of ministries” refer to the fivefold ministry offices (Ephesians 4:11-13). While some music ministers may operate in one or more of these offices, in most instances, they don’t.

*“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-13).*

They obviously refer to the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher.

## KEY POINT

Leaders are increasingly recognizing the need for more than just the ministry gift of the pastor operating in the local church. There is need for all the fivefold gifts to operate for the equipping of the saints, and it appears that the Holy Spirit is emphasizing this to the church at this time.

## DIVERSITIES OF ACTIVITIES

Diversities of activities include a combination of three ministry offices. These are apostles, prophets and teachers and the three gifts of the spirit are miracles, healings and tongues and two other activities, administration and helps.

*“And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues” (1 Corinthians 12:28).*

Two of the five ministry gifts are not mentioned, namely the pastor and evangelist. However it is assumed that the pastor will oversee church administration/government and helps ministry as well as operating in miracles, healings and the

gift of tongues. All of the above are supernatural gifts that God gives for the purpose of releasing the kingdom of heaven on earth through the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.

Music ministers come under the category of the “activities ministry” which is a gift of “helps.” The “Helps” ministers are of such importance that God makes mention of them along side apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles and gifts of healings, administrators and those who speak in tongues.

The Greek word for “helps” is ANTILEPSIS (Strong, 1996) G484. This means to “aid, help.” The function of a helps minister is a supportive role, giving assistance; relieving others; easing the load and removing a burden. Helps ministers serve in a way that they release leadership from tasks that they should not do, or cannot do. This enables leaders to give their time to perform their God-given responsibilities.

*“Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, ‘It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we*

*may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:1-4).*

One may ask what the difference is between a deacon and a helps minister. A deacon's ministry would be similar to a helps minister in carrying out practical duties in the church. However, God gave specific lifestyle attributes for those in the office of deacon's, including that of exhibiting great boldness in the faith (1 Timothy 3: 8-13).

## **KEY POINT**

There are subtle differences in these ministries, but all are necessary for a vital church to grow into maturity for the work of the Lord. I believe that the path of progress to leadership in every church starts with the helps ministry, and this is why it has to be considered as an important ministry, to train and discipline the future generation of leaders. This is a supernatural training ground. Everyone should be encouraged, to get involved in the helps ministry if they are serious about having a leadership role in the future.

## **MUSIC MINISTRY HELP CARRY OUT CHURCH VISION**

Because the music ministry falls under the category of helps its function is to provide ministry that can not be done by others. They remove the burden from the pastor and leaders who don't have the gifts or calling to minister in music. Being able to play a musical instrument or singing may be an inherent talent or a developed natural gift, but it becomes supernatural when anointed by God as a helps ministry. Leadership ministers write the vision down, but the helps ministry assist in carrying it out (Habakkuk 2:2-3). The importance of the worship ministry cannot be underestimated because of the spiritual foundation it sets at the beginning of every service, and from his subsequent ministries can be built. Music ministries function optimally when they understand the objectives leadership wants them to accomplish in contributing to the vision of the church, or the objective of a particular service. For example, an outreach service may require a different worship style to a typical church service, or a healing service. Disappointment stemming from unreasonable expectations is eliminated when the communication lines are clear, and objectives understood. Music ministries function efficiently and freely when they know the specific expectations of leadership rather than guessing them.

When King David set up the tabernacle, he understood clearly and specifically that God required a new form of music ministry. There was no ambiguity about what he heard and what he did. King David implemented God's plan on the earth for worship in this time that would facilitate His presence, from where He would rule and reign. Today

the music ministry plays a similar role of helping facilitate the

Lords presence in our midst, and by this enthrone Him in our communities.

## **KEY POINT**

God has a plan for every local church and an expression of worship that supports the fulfillment of it. This is why we cannot afford to fall into the trap of copying the worship styles of another church because they seem more successful. We have to implement the plan God has to reach and impact our own community, and enthrone Him in our worship accordingly.

## **ITINERANT MUSICIANS**

Itinerant musicians also fall into the category of the helps ministry although many of them fulfill other fivefold offices such as a teacher and or/a prophet (Ephesians 4:11-13). They are a great asset across the church in general and they have an important role in raising the standard of the music ministry. Many of them carry a prophetic gift and bring exhortation and encouragement to the local church. Currently there seems to be a shift in emphasis of what itinerant music ministers are bringing to the Church. God is anointing many of them to share testimony, move in the gifts of healing and teach principles of worship. They are also being used as mentors to local church musicians and singers, and this is a vital role to those in training.

## **KEY POINT**

The ministry of the itinerant music minister will continue to be sought after provided they prioritize personal worship and not performance, and are submitted to the leadership of a local church.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## *Music Ministry is a helps Ministry*

**1. God has given individuals a variety of gifts, ministries and activities that are necessary for the church to operate. They are listed as:**

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**2. The “diversities of gifts” refer to the five-fold ministry offices.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**3. The “differences of ministries” refer to the nine gifts of the spirit.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**4. In the scripture below, what ministry category is associated to the music ministry? Underline your answer.**

And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles,

second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12:28).

**5. The Helps ministry operates in such a way as to remove a burden.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**6. Complete the sentence.**

Leadership will write the vision down, but the \_\_\_\_\_ ministry will assist in carrying it out.

**GROUP DISCUSSION**

We have to implement the plan God has to reach and impact our own community, by enthroning Him in our worship accordingly. How would you achieve this?

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# PROPHECY AND MUSIC MINISTRY

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*Growing awareness of Prophecy*

The secular media has sensed the impending changes that are about to take place in the world and have filled movies and magazines with prophetic doom. Although they lack understanding, they are becoming aware of the prophetic timetable ticking down to the return of the Lord. However, the church should be much more aware of the spiritual times and seasons we are in and respond accordingly with the urgency of the Spirit. With prophetic discernment and appropriate action, the church will experience the instantaneous inrush of the Holy Spirit that will tear down old mindsets and equip us with fresh vision and authority for today. The messages we hear from pulpits across the nations are filled with prophetic content bringing us into a greater understanding of what we must do before Jesus returns.

Prophecy and prophetic ministry is associated with

the plans and purposes of God, revealing the heart of the Father for the church today, and preparing us for the church of tomorrow. God will never leave us unprepared for what He is about to do, because He has a covenant with us that we will partner with Him to fulfill his plans. In these times the Holy Spirit is urging us to hear and obey like no other generation because He is raising up a church of excellence that will be more glorious than any other that has previously existed. Churches that are open to the prophetic ministry are making the necessary adjustments to accommodate what He is saying (John 16:13).

The primary responsibility and function of the music ministry is to lead the congregation in worship. As a pastor, I certainly do not advocate that prophecy or prophetic ministry should ever be the focus. However, I understand from my many years of experience in leading worship, during a service, God can often release the gifts of the Spirit as a prophetic flow through the music ministry.

## **SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS**

One has to consider the evidence in scripture of the influence of musicians operating prophetically.

*"Next, you'll come to Gibeah of God, where there's a Philistine garrison. As you approach the town, you'll run into a bunch of prophets coming down from the*

*shrine, playing harps and tambourines, flutes and drums. And they'll be prophesying. Before you know it, the Spirit of GOD will come on you and you'll be prophesying right along with them. And you'll be transformed. You'll be a new person!" (1 Samuel 10:5-6, The Message).*

These prophets were instructors and upholders of God's law, and they were thought to be in guilds or schools under the instruction of Samuel. As described by the incident cited above, it is generally accepted that their prophetic ministry was strongly influenced by music. The NKJV says, Saul is "...turned into another man..." This expression is not found anywhere else in scripture and has been described as the inrush of the Spirit of God, effecting the disposition of the mind. One believer described "that Saul experienced a momentary state of revival that came upon him like a consuming fire" (1 Samuel 10:5-6). While the prophetic musicians were standing before Saul, the Spirit of the Lord literally jumped from them to him and he started to prophesy. His heart was changed, and it is generally accepted that it was at that point he received an anointing to equip him as king and ruler. It was an anointing to operate with authority, and it was initiated with the help of the prophetic music ministry.

## **DAVID'S INFLUENCE ON PROPHECY**

David was one of the great prophets, who hungered

for God's presence. He is distinguished as the only man in the Old Testament upon whom the Holy Spirit was constantly present from the day he was anointed (1 Samuel 16:3). As a prophet and musician he was entrusted to bring about a revolutionary new form of worship, to take the nation from ritual and formality, to freedom and liberty. He exemplified this when he led a procession of minstrels and singers back to Jerusalem with the Ark of the Covenant.

God further confirmed His intention that prophecy and worship go hand in hand, by the fact that He ordered King David to structure the music ministry in the tabernacle, by appointing leading musicians, many of whom were prophets (1 Chronicles 25:1, 7). The Old Testament prophet was a spokesman and guardian of God's covenant, and the worship associated with the covenant. The prophets who were leaders of the sanctuary were also passionate in maintaining the integrity of worship.

Throughout the time of kings reigning in Israel, there were prophets associated with the sanctuary and its worship. These prophet musicians had the ability to hear from God and to communicate through music and song, what was on God's heart for the nation, at that time. This resulted in worship that was prophetic in nature. The tabernacle structure shows the role of the prophets and subsequent influence they exercised throughout the music ministry.

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DAVID

(prophet)



CHENANIAH

(leader of the Levites, gifted in prophetic singing)



Level 1. ASAPH HEMAN JEDUTHAN

(prophets)



Level 2. 6 HARPS-8 PSALTRIES - 7 TRUMPETS

(children of prophets)

Level 3. 288 SKILFULL SINGERS

(taught by prophets)

Level 4. STUDENTS MAKING UP THE 4,000 IN TOTAL

(led by prophets)

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This structure encourages us at the discretion of the leadership to be open to the role prophetic ministry should play in our churches.

## **THE OUTPOURING OF GOD'S SPIRIT AND PROPHECY**

Scripture makes it clear that the Spirit of God will be poured out upon all flesh in the last

days, and one of the evidences of this will be prophecy.

*“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy” (Acts 2:17-18).*

The scripture connects the outpouring of God's Spirit with prophetic ministry from young and old, servants and handmaidens. Prophecy is not restricted to prophets only, but it is for everyone. Our privileged position as believers is not only to experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, but also to prophesy it into existence. This scripture in Acts has been in the process of fulfillment since the outpouring of the

Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and is reaching a climax before Jesus returns.

Although the outpouring is for all people, it is interesting that the scripture first makes reference to sons and daughters and young men prophesying. The anointing and work of the Holy Spirit among young people (teenagers and children) is greater than ever recorded in the history of the church, and God is literally fulfilling this scripture in our time. The church in recent years has become more accepting to prophetic ministry because God is revealing the importance of it in these times. Our songs of praise are prophesying his return and bringing a greater awareness of his coming.

## KEY POINT

The local church needs the prophetic ministry so that there is edification, exhortation and comfort. Scriptures suggest that if the Spirit of God is truly being poured out in the church, there will be evidence of it through prophecy. And the music ministry will play a vital role in making this happen.

# PROPHETIC WORSHIP

Elisha standing in the office of a prophet asked for a minstrel before he would prophecy. It does not infer that he could not prophecy without a musician, but he obviously knew the value of a minstrel playing worship in his presence for the gift of prophecy to flow from his lips. And Elisha said,

*“As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you. “But now bring me a musician.” Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him” (2 Kings 3:14-15).*

It appears that worship is the atmosphere

for incubation of, and declaration of prophecy, a conduit through which prophecy flows. Prophetic worship changes the flow of a service, and allows God to do things that are outside the plans and purposes of man. Prophetic praise and worship seems to be a very conducive atmosphere that opens us up to the realm of the Spirit. David was a man who knew this more than any other in the Old Testament, and who spent most of his life implementing it as acceptable worship unto God.

To follow is a chapter from my book “The Worshiping You” about musicians and singers (Tom Inglis, 2008). The book is a prophetic insight into worship in the end times and published by Destiny Image.

“Musicians will stand in line, totally submitted to Pastors and Music Directors willingly waiting for the opportunity to serve in the house of the Lord. Chief musicians will train them, and God will give those

involved in music ministry the capacity to receive the equipping and anointing He intends for them" (Tom Inglis, 2008).

"All these were under the direction of their father for the music in the house of the Lord, with cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the authority of the king... And they cast lots for their duty, the small as well as the great, the teacher with the student" (1 Chronicles 25:6, 8). A new generation of music ministers who are humble and submissive to local church leadership is rising up. Like King David, they will also be among some of the most anointed in the history of the church.

"Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David

from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah" (1 Samuel 16:13).

These music ministers will be known for high standards of righteousness, integrity, humility and faithfulness, which will reflect the depth and intensity of their personal time with God. Their ministry will simply be an extension of their personal worship and intimacy with God. Church leadership will allow them opportunity to continue to seek the Lord as part of their "normal" daily duties. Finances will be released into local churches for music ministers to be employed full time, thus releasing them to meditate on God's Word, pray and worship as part of their accepted role in the life of the church.

"These are the singers, heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites, who lodged in the chambers, and were free from other duties;

for they were employed in that work day and night" (1 Chronicles 9:33).

The music minister's prayer life will be strong, and they will quickly become recognized as one of the most effective ministries in the church. As a result of their lifestyle of prayer and worship they will hear melodies sung in heaven and introduce these to the church on earth. As the whole church begins to "tune into" heavenly worship, a unity with the heavenly worshipers will be experienced. This will be the precursor to a release of heavenly power such as the world has not experienced since the time of Jesus. We will sing of His power and strength as it literally impacts the earth. As Psalm 21:13 says "Be exalted, O Lord, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power."

These singers and musicians will also be fearless warriors with the high praise of God in their mouth and two-edged swords in their hands, leading congregations into powerful seasons of warfare with decisive results against the enemy.

“Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples; To bind their kings with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute on them the written judgment - This honor have all His saints. Praise the Lord!” (Psalm 149:6-9).

When the Church unites in anointed warfare, blockages that have hindered the church for years will be removed quickly. Pastors and leaders will often join with the musicians and singers and lead their congregations into

battle. Some in the music ministry will be anointed with a strong prophetic mantle that God will use to provide clear direction to the local church. As a result of this, there will be little need for local churches to copy the programs of other successful ministries. They will be hearing directly for themselves God's guidance through the prophetic mantle operating in their own churches.

Music ministers will have a supernatural ability to receive and implement what the Lord is doing in their lives because of the tender condition of their hearts for God. Like King David, they will have a heart after God and the anointing of the Holy Spirit will operate strongly through them (1 Samuel 16:13). They will have an acute understanding of the flow of the Holy Spirit in services, and along with leadership, will usher congregations into the awesome presence of God. The church will literally be bathed day

and night with God's presence. Churches saturated in this atmosphere of praise and worship and the undeniable presence of God will draw congregations. It will become commonplace for the sick to be instantly healed as they enter these churches. The preaching of God's Word, and anointed worship interspersed with silence and a contentment to just sit and bask in the presence of God will become common.

Initially there will be a short supply of anointed musicians, causing church leaders to seek them out. God will address this by raising up worship training centres around the world to train both musicians and singers. These training centres will focus not only on music and worship but also on prayer and meditation on God's Word. Graduates of these unique schools will be highly sought after because they will not only be skilful in music but also in the things of the Spirit and the Word.

## **KEY POINT**

Prophetic worship is when the prophetic flows out of worship, or is a consequence of it; a conducive atmosphere for incubation of and declaration of prophecy.' (Tom Inglis, 2008).



# CHAPTER REVIEW

## Prophecy and Music Ministry

### 1. Complete the sentence.

Prophecy and prophetic ministry is associated with the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God, revealing the heart of the Father for the church \_\_\_\_\_, and preparing us for the church of \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. King David was not a prophet.

Circle the correct answer. False True

### 3. The prophets were passionate in maintaining the integrity of worship in the sanctuary and were the leaders of it.

Circle the correct answer. False True

### 4. Who stood in the office of a prophet but asked for a minstrel to play before he prophesied?

Circle the correct answer. Jeremiah Elisha Elijah

### 5. Prophetic worship is when the prophetic flows out of

worship, or is a consequence of it.

Circle the correct answer. False True

## 6. Worship is a conduit through which prophecy flows.

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the role of music ministry and its association to prophecy.

# HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN WORSHIP

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*Role of the Holy Spirit in the Church Age*

The Holy Spirit's role in creation is the key to understanding the futility of life without His presence. The earth was "...without form and void..." (Genesis 1:2). It was a waste place, empty, desolate, worthless, chaotic and disorderly but the Holy Spirit was present at creation hovering (moving) over the face of the waters. God spoke and out of nothing creation was formed by the power of the Holy Spirit (Job 26:13, Psalm 33:6-9). When we speak God's Word, the Holy Spirit is hovering over, ready to perform the miraculous. The power of the Holy Spirit brings resurrection life to everything that is dead. The Holy Spirit was also present when the church was started, and His creative power continues to sustain it (Acts 2:1-4). Without Him "hovering over" the church, it could be likened to the earth in Genesis chapter one, "...a waste place, desolate and

empty..." The Message says, "First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss" (Genesis 1:2, The Message).

Jesus said that it was necessary for Him to go and the Holy Spirit to come (John 16:7). If the Holy Spirit is not present in our meetings we might as well be absent. His presence is necessary to bring the abundant supernatural life of God that Jesus talked about in John 10:10.

## **KEY POINT**

There is an awareness of the presence and dependence of the Holy Spirit in the church today more than before and this will climax as the church comes to the end of this dispensation.

## **HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US WORSHIP**

The Holy Spirit is the person who comforts, guides and helps us to effectively live the Christian life. Without his presence in our lives on a daily basis we could not pray or worship as we should. In the church dispensation, it appears that the Holy Spirit has taken the role of helping us worship, rather than being worshiped. This does not relegate the Holy Spirit's role. It magnifies His greatness as the person of the Godhead who has humbled Himself in the church age, to come to earth as our vital connection to the Father and Son. Although Jesus was worshiped when He was here on the earth, He focused our attention to worship the Father (John 4:23-24). Likewise, the Holy Spirit has taken a similar role and helps us worship rather than be worshiped. However throughout eternity we will no doubt, worship the trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Revelation 4:8).

Scripture instructs us to worship God in “...spirit and truth” and have no confidence in the flesh (John 4:24, Philippians 3:3). The Amplified Bible says in Philippians 3:3 “...we worship God in spirit and by the Spirit of God.” Worship is a spiritual exercise, and we need the help of the Holy Spirit to do it. We are also told that the Holy Spirit knows the things of God. He knows how we can satisfy the Father’s heart with our worship at every meeting.

*“..For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God” (1 Corinthians 2:11).*

We need to be continually conscious of the Holy Spirit, and yielded to His promptings as we lead others in worship, because the way we worshiped yesterday may not be the way the Holy Spirit will lead us today. Every service is different and the Spirit has an objective for every one. If we are unaware of His leading, it is because we have presumed we do not need Him. Every time the team leads worship, they should remember that the Holy Spirit is there to help them glorify God.

The music team and particularly the worship leader is usually the first ministry in the church to encounter the spiritual atmosphere of the congregation at the start of the service. This can vary from service to service and there may be spiritual resistance to overcome, necessitating reliance on the Holy Spirit. For example, at times they may have to confront a spirit of lethargy that requires triumphant songs coupled with declarations of victory. Other times the Holy Spirit may require a time of joy and thanksgiving, or a quieter time of worship. There are times I have had a song list that has been changed as the Holy Spirit led me to lead the congregation off with a worship song of adoration. There was no joyful or warfare music needed but an atmosphere of peace and the loving presence of God. At times this led to many minutes of silence that pervaded the auditorium and a sense of awe and fear of the Lord, resulting in weeping and repentance.

To enable this leading, the worship pastor or worship leader has to have the support of the pastor to exercise discernment and authority to change the

song list. It might not happen too often, however when it does, it will bring the congregation into the spontaneity of the Spirit, to the glory of God.

## **KEY POINT**

God's priority in the church age is that we know Him intimately enough to hear what He is saying and how He is leading us (John 16:13-15). As much as we should worship the Father and Son, we should equally be in fellowship with the Holy Spirit, asking Him for guidance and direction in life. Continual fellowship with Him offers plenty of opportunity to give Him the reverence and thanksgiving He is worthy to receive.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## *Holy Spirit's Role in Worship*

**1. Complete the sentence.**

The Holy Spirit's role in \_\_\_\_\_ is the key to understanding the futility of life without His presence.

**2. In the church dispensation, it appears that the Holy Spirit has taken the role of helping us worship, rather than being worshiped.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**3. Jesus said that it was necessary for Him to go and the Holy Spirit to come.**

Circle the correct scripture referring to this. John 16:7 John 6:7 John 17:6

**4. We worship God in spirit and by the Spirit of God. What scripture says this?**

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**5. Although Jesus was worshiped when He was here on the earth, He focused our attention to worship the Father.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

6. As much as we should worship the Father and Son, we should equally be in fellowship with the Holy Spirit, asking Him for guidance and direction in life.

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in worship.

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NEW TESTAMENT  
SONGS:  
PSALMS, HYMNS  
AND SPIRITUAL  
SONGS

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*Let God's Word dwell in you richly*

The apostle Paul instructs the early church to sing three kinds of songs, namely psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Colossians infers that the pre-condition for singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs is having the Word of God reside in us richly.

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).*

The abundance of God's Word abiding in a person's life will find expression through the singing of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. If however the Word of God is not deposited in the heart, it will almost be impossible for it to be released from the mouth as praise. We are also instructed to teach and admonish, or warn one another using psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Songs of theologically sound doctrine reinforce the truth of God's Word. They are also useful for building faith, and bringing warning and correction to the listener. God is restoring sound biblical doctrine back to the church through praise. There is probably no greater blessing to the Father than when we sing His Word back to Him or words that reinforce His Word (Psalm 56:10). When we sing God's Word, we are essentially singing about Jesus, for all of God's Word points to, and testify of Him. When we worship, it could be likened to the performance of an orchestra. Our Father God is the audience, we are the orchestra that makes the sound, the Holy Spirit is the conductor and Jesus is the theme.

## **KEY POINT**

Having the Word of God reside in us richly is the pre-condition for singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

## **BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Ephesians 5:17-20 tells us to understand that the will of the Lord is to be filled with the Spirit.

*"Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks*

*always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:18-20).*

The Wuest Translation reads:

*"And stop being intoxicated with wine, in which state of intoxication there is profligacy. But be constantly controlled by the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord, giving thanks always concerning all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father" (Ephesians 5:18-20).*

The Moffat's translation reads:

*"And never get drunk with wine that means profligacy - but be filled with the Spirit, converse with one another in the music of psalms, in hymns, and in songs of the spiritual life, praise the Lord heartily with words and music and rendering of thanks to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ at all times and for all things" (Ephesians 5:18-20).*

Scripture compares being filled with the Spirit like someone who is drunk; having reached a state of profligacy, which means disregarding accepted rules, reckless and extravagant. The analogy of being filled with the Spirit is like being drunk with alcohol. Drunken people have filled themselves with alcohol to the point that they lose control of their own actions. The Holy Spirit never expects us to be reckless or to disregard accepted rules that society has determined but He does expect us to be filled, saturated, crammed, imbued, influenced, complete, and perfect in him. We should be filled with the Spirit to the extent that we speak to ourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord. This is evidence that we have drunk of the Spirit's presence. It is extravagant praise.

According to the Apostle Paul, it is a heart that is filled with God's Spirit and a mind that is full of God's word that enables one to express New Testament songs (Romans 12:1-2). He confirmed what Jesus had said to the Samaritan woman in these two scriptures. This describes acceptable worship to God the Father which is worship "...in spirit and truth..." (John 4:22-24). New Testament praise is not about style, but substance. It has to be of the spirit and based on truth. This is why praise and worship is personal and intimate between man and God, based on the knowledge of His word and his or her relationship with the Holy Spirit.

There is obviously a difference between psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; otherwise Paul would not have referred to them separately. Some knowledge of what distinguishes them and how they are used is important.

## **KEY POINT**

The heart that is filled with God's Spirit and a mind that is full of God's word enables one to express New Testament songs.

## **PSALMS**

In Ephesians 5:19, the Greek word for "psalm" is PSALMOS (Strong, 1996) G 5568. This means a song with musical accompaniment, written down as a set piece of music. One of the Hebrew titles refers to the Psalms as Tephilloth which means prayers. Sepher Tehillim is another Hebrew title which means praise. The Psalms were originally set to music, and used as a book of prayer and praise for the nation of Israel.

The Psalms are divided into five Books (Psalm 1-41; 42-72; 73-89; 90-106; 107-150), each of which was provided with a concluding doxology of praise addressed to God (41:13; 72:18-19; 89:52; 106:48; 150). Prayer and praise are inseparable partners, and no matter how intense the prayers, they almost always, end up with praise. The objective of the psalms is to teach us how to pray and praise God irrespective of circumstances. The psalms are a record of King David and

others responding to God in a hostile world, crying out to God for help, sometimes in desperation but always accompanied with praise. It could be said that the psalms are words or poems inspired by God, their form is music, and their substance is praise. They are strongly prophetic in content, and the connection between music and prophecy was clearly understood and practiced in ancient Jewish worship. Many of them contain prophecy for things God has done in the past, what He is currently doing, and what He will do in the future. Jesus Himself made reference to the psalms.

*“Then He said to them, These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me” (Luke 24:44).*

Psalms are distinct from hymns and spiritual songs because they are not spontaneous but recorded. They were spontaneous when originally sung, but David employed scribes in the tabernacle to document them for future use, for the purpose of praise and prayer (1 Chronicles 16:4). The psalms were probably the spontaneous response to the presence of God in the tabernacle, even though some of the content may

have been premeditated.

A psalm is God’s inspired word, found only in the Old Testament. As they are technically prayers as well as praise, it could be concluded that we should use them as a basis of prayer expressed as song. The congregation should be encouraged to use the psalms as prayer models for private times of worship. The music ministry should read and meditate on the psalms regularly, and use them as a source of inspiration to write songs of praise and worship.

## **KEY POINT**

The psalms are words or poems inspired by God, their form is music, and their substance is praise.

## HYMNS

HUMNOS is the Greek noun in which describes a song of praise addressed to God, and is used in reference to Paul's instruction to the Ephesians and Colossians. The verb HUMNEO is used in reference to Jesus singing a "hymn" with His disciples. However when Jesus sang a hymn with His disciples at Passover before going to face his death, He would have followed Jewish tradition and sung the Great Hallel comprising of the psalms 113-118 and 136. Although there is evidence they were still sung in the temple by the early church, hymns gradually replaced the Hebrew melodies associated with the psalms. The hymns took on a more non-Jewish flavor with a focus more Christ entered, and their content was more about the celebration of the risen Christ. The new converts to Christianity would not stay silent. They expressed the transformation in their lives as jubilant hymns of praise.

In the times of the great hymn writers, including Isaac Watts, Charles Wesley and John Newton the hymns were often based on personal testimony or on the issues of injustice plaguing at that time. They are typically found in a bound volume called a hymnal or songbook and arguably some of the greatest ever written is "Amazing Grace," "Rock of Ages" and "Onward Christian Soldiers."

Although hymns are generally regarded as songs of human composition, their inspiration is the Holy Spirit, and the great ones that have stood the test of time are witness to this. Because of the Holy Spirit's involvement in hymns, many of them communicate what He is emphasizing to the church today, while some of them remain timeless in their message. Others speak prophetically of things God has promised to do in the future. The important criteria about hymns is that they are songs of praise addressed to God. Hymns are very powerful tools of evangelism because they often communicate the heart of man who has had a personal encounter with God that everyone can relate to. Because of the flexible definition of a hymn, one could say that testimony of God's goodness put to music would be considered a hymn.

The Apostle tells us that psalms, hymns and spiritual songs can be used with diversity. They can be melodies in your own heart as worship to the Lord, or sung in the presence of the unsaved (Acts 16:25). They can be addressed to one another as praise and exhortation, or teaching. The consistent theme of hymns is that they are praises that glorify God, sung to different audiences in a wide range of settings.

## KEY POINT

A hymn is praise addressed to God, and should always glorify God whether used corporately or privately.

## SPIRITUAL SONGS

The scriptures in both Ephesians and Colossians use the term “spiritual songs.” In the Greek it is PNEUMATIKOS ODE an expression only used after Pentecost, to signify an utterance inspired by the Holy Spirit.

*“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:18-19).*

It is not referring to the genre, style or cultural source of the songs, but to the divine origin, being the Holy Spirit. Scripture also tells us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Being filled with the Holy Spirit guarantees there will be a melodious overflow. The verb “be filled” is in the present, continuous tense in Greek, implying that we should be continuously filled with the Holy Spirit.

## KEY POINT

The Spirit-filled believer will be characterized by singing to the Lord with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

## SPONTANEOUS SONGS

The spontaneous song is a wonderful example of a spiritual song, characterized by improvisation, as the Holy Spirit creates the melody and gives words to the singer who is yielded to His leading. King David composed many of the psalms that were spontaneous prayers set to music. They were themes that were currently on his heart at the time of writing, and often set to music and accompanied with singing. The spontaneous worship that took place in the tabernacle in King David's time was a response to the presence of God in their midst. It was not to get His presence, but to respond to His presence. Worship is not so much an exercise to get God's presence, but it should be as a response to His abiding presence within us (1 Corinthians 3:16).

The spiritual songs the Apostle Paul referred to are of a spontaneous nature, sung at any instant as a response to revelation of God's Word, or as a result of the overflowing presence of the Holy Spirit (Colossians 3:16).

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Colossians 3:16).*

A spiritual song could be referred to as a new song and will have the presence, or anointing of the Holy Spirit as its trademark, and the word content will be the burden of the Holy Spirit at that particular time. It is not the age of a song

that is important, but the Holy Spirit anointing released when it is sung.

*“He has put a new song in my mouth, praise to our God; many will see it and fear, and trust in the Lord” (Psalm 40:3).*

In the above verse the meaning of the Hebrew word “new” means something fresh and new. The Holy Spirit can equally anoint and bring “freshness,” to an old song, as much as He can to a new song. It is the Holy Spirit’s presence that makes all things new. Because spiritual songs refer to songs sung under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the singer has to exercise faith in the Holy Spirit for both melody, and words that will minister life to the hearers. This ministry gift develops with faith and with sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. Spiritual songs often contain prophetic content. The Holy Spirit promised to show us things to come, and there is no better place to do that then in the atmosphere of praise and worship while our focus is on Jesus and His kingdom.

## **KEY POINT**

We should not worship as a formula to get God’s presence, but as a response to His abiding presence that is already living within.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## *New Testament songs: Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs*

**1. There are two pre-requisites for singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. What are they?**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Evidence of being filled with God's Word can be seen demonstrated by the desire to sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**3. Jesus confirmed what the Apostle Paul had said in Colossians and Ephesians regarding singing New Testament songs. What did Jesus say?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. The Psalms were originally set to music, and used as a book of prayer and praise for the nation of Israel.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**5. Spiritual songs are not referring to the genre, style or cultural source of the songs, but their divine origin, being the Holy Spirit.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

6. Although hymns are generally regarded as songs of human composition, their inspiration is the Holy Spirit, and the great ones that have stood the test of time are witness to this.

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss how spontaneous songs can be used in the music ministry.

# PASTORING THE MUSIC MINISTRY

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## *Communicating Vision to the Music Ministry*

Communication is the exchange of ideas to produce a mutually beneficial outcome, and will vary dramatically depending on how clear and how frequently something is communicated. It is a responsibility of leadership to write down the church vision and communicate it in such a way as to inspire enthusiasm and confidence to those who hear it. Vision also has to be communicated to the congregation constantly with a pathway of implementation for every department to fulfill it.

Some church leaders may not feel that the worship ministry has any function in helping realize the overall vision of the church, however I believe the music ministry, through Holy Spirit worship, plays a vital role in bringing the vision into reality. For this reason leaders should communicate clearly

what they expect the team to contribute. When the senior pastor does this, it will give the music team a valued sense of purpose to which they can set measurable goals, and minister with confidence.

The creative nature of the Holy Spirit enables every church to be unique in carrying out their vision, releasing the fragrance of Christ that only they can exude, and reaching people who respond to their distinctiveness. Knowing and doing what the Holy Spirit has said, will guarantee success, without having to rely on copying the vision given to someone else.

The musicians and singers in David's Tabernacle were fulfilling the vision clearly set out by King David as he had received it from God. They operated in awe and reverence because they knew they were fulfilling God's heart's desire and plan for worship. God had a plan for Israel but throughout the nation's history He had to first establish worship as the foundation before any progress toward restoring the nation could be made. Nothing can be fulfilled without worship as its foundation. God set worship as the standard by which He accomplished everything through His people to establish and prosper the nation.

Likewise God has a plan for every local church and at the core of it is worship. It is through a worship life, energy and power will flow to fulfill the vision. If there is no church vision, worship will be a fruitless exercise that happens week to week. However if there is a common vision that both church leadership and the music team are working toward there is

powerful synergy operating to bring it to pass.

*“And the Lord answered me and said, Write the vision and engrave it so plainly upon tablets that everyone who passes may be able to read it easily and quickly as he hastens by” (Habakkuk 2:2, Amplified Bible).*

Although the overall vision of the church will remain the same, it will probably be adapted from time to time to follow what the Holy Spirit is saying. For example, if the leadership declare a particular month to be a “breakthrough” time, or a month of healing meetings then the music team can choose songs accordingly. When the pastor or one of the leaders meet regularly with the worship team including the sound team to ensure that the objectives set by the leadership for worship ministry is clearly understood, it is time well spent. The music ministry has to know they are carrying out the vision of the pastor who in turn is carrying out the vision of God for the local church. That is why it is necessary for the leadership to regularly reinforce the vision of the church, so that the team understands they are contributing to the big picture. They need to know the valuable contribution they make to the service and the impact it has on people’s lives as they worship God.

## **BE ADAPTABLE TO CHANGE**

1. The worship pastor should be flexible for change. If there is a particular focus that God is saying to the leadership it means sometimes changes need to be made in the worship ministry to accommodate it.

2. The worship pastor should ask the leadership what they expect from the worship team in helping to fulfill the church vision. They may not have thought about it, but it is good to indicate that the music team is willing to help fulfill it in whatever way they are directed.
3. The worship pastor should plan how to implement the contribution the music team will make toward the vision or focus for the year.
4. Write it down and communicate it clearly to the worship team regularly. Make sure they know the vital role they play in helping bringing it to pass.
5. Every three months write down how you believe the worship department is progressing toward fulfilling the vision.
6. If for example the senior pastor has a vision to see souls saved, then the music could be specifically chosen toward this objective.

This also applies to other topics including healing or missions where music would then be selected according to what needs to be communicated. It may be helpful to reinforce a particular preaching series for the month; a special targeted meeting or a conference theme.

## **KEY POINT**

The worship team has to understand the vision that God has given the leadership of the church, and the role they play in

helping to fulfill it.

## **CLARIFYING ISSUES**

In addition to the team understanding the vision of the local church and supporting it, there are other issues that pastors should address and review from time to time as follows.

1. Is the worship team meeting the expectations of the leadership?
2. Is the worship team contributing to the fulfillment of the present vision of the church as it might have altered, or have a different emphasis from year to year?
3. Is the song selection acceptable to the leadership in terms of lyric content and music style?
4. Is the volume of the worship music too loud or too soft?
5. Is the worship time too long or too short?
6. Is the balance between praise songs and worship songs acceptable?
7. Is the choice of song/s to start the service acceptable?
8. Is the choice of song/s to end the service acceptable?
9. Is the music ministry allowed to minister prophetically, make declarations, exhortations, and encouragement to the congregation?
10. Is the music ministry allowed to minister healing?

Until these basic things can be agreed upon, there will remain uncertainty that can result in confusion and a lack of confidence both with the pastor and the music ministry. When regular and clear communication is maintained between the pastor and the music ministry, there will be no room for the enemy to infiltrate with confusion or disappointment. Someone once said “the music ministry seldom gets a visit from church leadership, except when there is a crisis.” I choose to believe that this attitude is changing in the church today, replaced with ongoing, strong healthy relationships and communication happening between leadership and the worship team. Finally, the pastor should also communicate regularly to the music ministry how valuable and appreciated they are.

## **KEY POINT**

To avoid frustration and misunderstandings, give pastoral oversight and direction to the Music Ministry regarding the contribution they are expected to give toward fulfilling the vision of the church. This will bring the glory of God into the church (2 Chronicles 5:13-14).

## **LEADERS GIVE WORSHIP HIGH PRIORITY**

There are many factors that make a local church successful, and I don’t pretend to know what they all are. However I do know that worship is one of them because it focuses on preparing an atmosphere in which God is comfortable, and therefore should be given a high level of priority (Psalm 22:3). Worship is an expression of your love for God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and from this flows service.

On another occasion, “One of the scribes asked Jesus what was the first commandment, and Jesus said, ‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment’” (Mark 12:30).

It is first a love for God that empowers us to love others (1 John 4:20). Every activity we are engaged in for God should be done on the foundation of worship, whether preaching, teaching, missions or evangelism. Worship seems to

be the one thing that pleases Him more than anything else, because it is an expression of faith in our love and trust in Him. The motivation to worship God must always be because we love Him, and not because we seek anything in return, however it is accompanied with benefits.

*“O my soul, bless GOD. From head to toe, I’ll bless his holy name! O my soul, bless GOD, don’t forget a single blessing! He forgives your sins—every one. He heals your diseases—every one. He redeems you from hell—saves your life! He crowns you with love and mercy—a paradise crown. He wraps you in goodness—beauty eternal. He renews your youth—you’re always young in his presence” (Psalm 103:1-3, The Message).*

Scripture also says “it is more blessed to give than it is to receive” (Acts 20:35). As we bless God with our worship, we are putting ourselves in a position to receive His promises. Some people wrongly teach that we should expect nothing in return from God when we worship, but scripture teaches the exact opposite. The principle God has solidified throughout scripture is seedtime and harvest. Give and it will be given back to you, forgive and you will be forgiven, tithe and the windows of heaven will be opened to you, seek and you shall find, and so on. All of these operate on the principle of faith to receive and so do thanksgiving and praise.

*“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 1:6).*

Although there should never be any selfish motive when we worship, we should consider the benefits and receive them by faith, otherwise we rob Him of the opportunity to bless us. We should teach our people that the exercise of praise and worship is not only an expression of a genuine love for God, but also an exercise of faith to receive from our Heavenly Father who will always out-give the giver (Hebrews 7:7). Understanding thanksgiving, praise and worship in this light makes it easier for people to engage, because they know the principle of seedtime and harvest is at work to bring forth a harvest in their lives for the purpose of establishing the kingdom.

There is a shift currently taking place in many churches, giving worship greater priority, with evidence of powerful testimony. There are two reasons why

worship should be prioritised in the local church. Number one is because the local church is essentially a place of worship, and number two is the power associated with worship to transform lives and communities. I am convinced that God is raising up local churches as worshiping communities to change the spiritual climate in specific geographical areas. Worship is not about pulling down strongholds, but enthroning Jesus, and when we do, spiritual strongholds lose their power and the worshipers prosper (2 Chronicles 20).

We know that the spiritual atmosphere of a place is crucial to the work that God can accomplish in it.

*“When it goes well for good people, the whole town cheers; when it goes badly for bad people, the town celebrates” (Proverbs 11:10, The Message).*

When things go well for good people, it is because they trust in God and the city is the recipient of the benefits. In other words, the faith of the saints has a direct influence in the place where their faith is exerted. Jesus Himself said that He did not do mighty works in Nazareth because of their unbelief, He healed only a few sick people (Matthew 15:38). It is not that He could not do the mighty works, for with God all things are possible, but there was no faith to receive His works. Although Jesus was willing to deliver His miraculous power to the people of Nazareth their lack of faith deprived the city from the full benefit of this.

## **KEY POINT**

The power of worship in the local church is awesome because it demonstrates a release of corporate expression of love for God and establishing Him as enthroned in the place where He is worshiped.

## **LEADERS TEACH WORSHIP**

We are living in a time of revelation knowledge in the Church unlike previous generations and all of it should translate into a greater love for God and a great passion to worship and serve Him. However, worship seems to have been neglected in comparison with many other biblical subjects, yet its importance is paramount. There is a great need in the church today for God’s people to understand the subject of praise and worship. Leadership have the responsibility to

teach praise and worship to their people until it becomes a lifestyle.

Sowing the principles of praise in a congregation will produce a harvest of worshipers and a crop of mature believers. If we have good musicians and singers on the platform it does not always mean we have good worshipers in the pews. Unfortunately some leaders have neglected teaching praise and worship, particularly where they have good musicians and singers in the church. There has been a subtle deception that good music equates to good worship, but this is not necessarily true. The saints need knowledge on the subject that will set them free to worship in “... spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

## KEY POINT

Biblical praise and worship in the local church is not only dependent of teaching, but also of demonstration.

## LEADERS DEMONSTRATE WORSHIP

A church cannot be expected to worship beyond the example of its leaders. If leadership does not worship, it is unlikely that the rest of the church will. God is looking for leaders who are passionately in love with Him, and openly demonstrate praise and worship just as King David did when returning the Ark back to Mount Zion and at the Tabernacle.

*“David, ceremonially dressed in priest’s linen, danced with great abandon before GOD. The whole country was with him as he accompanied the Chest of GOD with shouts and trumpet blasts” (2 Samuel 6:14-15, The Message).*

*“I will give you full credit when everyone gathers for worship; When the people turn out in force I will say my Hallelujahs” (Psalm 35:18, The Message).*

*“PRAISE the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation” (Psalm 111:1).*

Jesus also exemplified worship by leading his disciples in a hymn at Passover (Matthew 26:30). Each successive king who had a heart after God as

David did, also implemented and exemplified the same principles of praise and worship that David had used. This further confirms the divine nature of it. King Jehoshaphat worshipped with his people, and so did King Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 20:18, 29:29).

More than his preaching, teaching or anything else he does, the pastor's love for God will be seen through his worship. Demonstrating worship will do more than a thousand sermons on the subject of worship. It could be said that one of the outstanding features of a Godly leader is worship, and it will be an outstanding feature of those who will lead the church into the greatest time in church history. It is our highest calling as leaders, and our greatest privilege that we can exemplify to those who follow us.

Both the Old and New Testament clearly show the importance of leadership in worship, and in particular the book of Revelation has much reference to the elders in worship. The number of the elders is twenty-four which typifies the 12 tribes of the Old Testament, and the 12 apostles of the New. Collectively they represent God's leadership

throughout eternity giving worship to God.

## **KEY POINT**

It is still God's plan for today that those in leadership are worshipers just as much as they are leaders (Revelation 4:10, 5: 8,11,14,16, 7:11, 14:3, 19:4).

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## Pastoring the Music Ministry

**1. Demonstrating worship will do more than a thousand sermons on the subject of worship.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**2. Clarifying issues and expectations between the music ministry and the pastor is not important.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**3. Is it important for the worship team to understand and support the vision/direction of the church?**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**4. Complete the sentence.**

Communication is the \_\_\_\_\_ to produce a mutually beneficial outcome.

**5. Biblical praise and worship in the local church is not only dependent on teaching but also demonstration.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**6. The spiritual climate of a geographical area can be affected by the worship released through the local church in that area.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the importance of supporting the vision of the local church through the music ministry.

# DEVELOPING MUSIC MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

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*Converting Musical Talents into Ministries*

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It is obvious that a musical talent is a gift that God has given to many people including the saved as well as the unsaved. There are many talented musicians and singers in the world who are not Christians that have earned their musical ability through many hours of practice, while others achieve much because they have been born with a natural talent. Likewise there are those in the church who also practice for hours every day but never reach the heights of musical or vocal accomplishment compared to those who have “a gift” of music. On the surface this seems to be unfair, however when viewed in the light of God’s word there is no inequity. From God’s perspective it is not the prowess of your music ability that is important, but what you do with it. Every music minister starts off as someone with a musical talent, but when the Holy Spirit’s aim is to convert it into a ministry, this is accomplished through the anointing.

The anointing is best described as the Holy Spirit’s abiding residence that occurs from the time of conversion and this enables the believer to accomplish

God's work on earth. Jesus Himself had to be anointed to demonstrate the power of God (Acts 10:38; Luke 4:18). The Greek word for "anointed" is CHRIO (Strong, 1996) G5548. This means "to rub with oil; consecrate; set apart." In the New Testament, CHRIO is never used in connection with secular matters. Although music performed by an unsaved person may stir the emotions and genuinely touch the heart of the listener, it lacks the anointing, and the power of God to accomplish His will.

From God's perspective it is the anointing working through a person's life that accomplishes things in the kingdom, not their talent. The anointing you carry is the degree to which the Holy Spirit works through your level of yielding. It is far more important than talent alone. The anointing on a ministry seems to be the approval of God to accomplish things in the spiritual realm that affect things in the natural realm. It is the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to empower us for accomplishments (Acts 10:38). Remember the amazing fact recorded in scripture that although Lucifer was created perfect, God still anointed him (Ezekiel 28:14). God created Lucifer musically perfect, but it was not enough to lead worship. God still anointed him. The same principle applies today in the Kingdom of God, we have been given musical talents to use to the glory of God but they have to be anointed.

Your anointing is uniquely used by God to accomplish things that no one else can do, irrespective of your musical expertise. Knowing this frees you from being under pressure to compete or to be compared musically with anyone else. It should also encourage you to allow the anointing of the Holy Spirit within you to be used to the greatest, through your music for the extension of His kingdom and for His glory (John 2:20, 26). There is nothing we can ever accomplish for God without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit (Psalm 127:1). This is what every music minister should focus on, and this is developed by intimacy with God on a personal basis.

## **KEY POINT**

God gives musical talents to the saved as well as the unsaved, however as soon as they are in the hands of the saved, the Holy Spirit will prioritize that they are used for God's glory and His kingdom. He anoints those yielded to Him to operate using their musical gift in such a way that impacts people's lives.

## TALENTS GIVEN ACCORDING TO ABILITY

In Matthew 25 we have the parable of the talents and in the truest sense these talents represent a weighed out amount of money in gold or silver. Take time to read through this parable.

*"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. <sup>15</sup> And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. <sup>16</sup> Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. <sup>17</sup> And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. <sup>18</sup> But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. <sup>19</sup> After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, "Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them. <sup>21</sup> His lord said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord. <sup>22</sup> He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them. <sup>23</sup> His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord. <sup>24</sup> Then he who had received the one talent came and said, "Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours. <sup>26</sup> But his lord answered and said to him, "You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. <sup>27</sup> So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from*

*him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:14-30).*

The talents were given according to every man's ability. The following translations reinforce this.

*"...to each one in the measure of his own inherent ability" (Matthew 25:15, Wuest Translation).*

*"...to each in proportion to his own personal ability" (Matthew 25:15, Amplified Bible).*

*"...each got according to his capacity" (Matthew 25:15, Moffat Translation).*

The Greek word for "ability" is DUNAMIS (Strong, 1996) G1411. This means "God's miraculous power or strength that resides within a person." This implies that God distributes His talents accompanied with the ability or capacity to use them. God would not give you something devoid of the power or ability to use for kingdom purposes. Equally He would not give you talents to lie dormant. The importance of being

given a talent is matched by the ability or capacity, available to use it for His glory. Every good gift including music is from God, and those called to minister in music should consider it an honor to use for the building of God's kingdom (James 1:17). How pleasing it must be to the Father when He receives worship expressed through the gift of music.

## **THE PRINCIPLE OF USING OR LOSING**

We are told that God shows no partiality. He does not discriminate or show favouritism to individuals however He does respect the use of talents that He has given to individuals to use (Acts 10:34). It is not important how much talent an individual has been given, but what the person does with the talent. God

respects the use of talents.

Notice in Matthew 25:16-31 that:

- The man with five talents used his talents and ended up with another five.
- The man with two talents used his talents and ended up with another two.
- The man with one talent did not use his talent and ended up losing it.

In verse 21 and 23 the response from the master to the servants is exactly the same. The commendation is for being faithful over a few things. The master did not distinguish between the person who had five and the one who had two talents, but his response was identical to both irrespective of the number of talents they individually possessed. In the master's eyes, five talents were no different from two talents as they are both referred to as a "few things." It is not the number of talents that is the issue here, but what has been done with the talents. They had to be used to the maximum extent for the master. In verse 28 and 29 the man with the five talents ended up with more than double of what he started with, namely eleven. He was given someone else's talent because he used what he had. Using what you have causes you to prosper in abundance to the place where you receive more.

## **KEY POINT**

It appears that God wants to increase whatever gifts and talents He has given you, but increase comes when you use what has been given. This is dealing with stewardship in the kingdom.

## **DEVELOPING A TALENT INTO A MINISTRY**

Here are some points that will help you understand the extent to which you are operating as a music minister.

- When you feel that your musical talent is not something you do, but something

you are. It is not just an outward musical performance, but it is an outward musical expression from the inner spirit man who is worshiping through your instrument.

- When you are conscious of God when using your musical gift more than you are of man. In other words, it is not used for entertainment, but for God, even your practice times are dedicated as times of worship. When you have a desire to see the evidence of God's manifest presence in healing and deliverance in times of worship.
- When the focus of your prayer life for your music ministry is to meet people's needs, whether leading them to experience God's presence or seeing them healed and delivered.
- When the Body of Christ does not applaud your talent, but recognizes the anointed results and gives glory to God.
- If you have music talent and you have not felt that it has developed into a ministry, do not give up. God's desire is for it to develop into a ministry gift that will meet the people's needs and glorify Him. The key is to use what you have been given to its fullest for the Kingdom of God. It might not happen immediately, but it will happen.

*"His Lord said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matthew 25:21).*

God first commends us "Well done, good servant, faithful servant" and then promotes us "I will make you a ruler over many things" and finally strengthens us as we enter into His joy. The result of using your talent at maximum capacity will be joy and promotion in the Kingdom of God. When God anointed Jesus, notice that he went about doing good

for people with accompanying supernatural results (Acts 10:38). The anointing from God equipped Jesus as an effective minister. Whatever size of talent you have been given irrespective large or small ask God to anoint it and it will blossom into a ministry that will bring Him glory and also bring freedom to those who you minister to. You will not be disappointed!

## **KEY POINT**

The devil knows the effect of anointed music ministry, and the results of God's presence in the local church meetings. It is a devastating blow to the enemy, and so he continually attacks this area of ministry. This is the reason that it is one of the most coveted ministry positions at present. It may be classified as a helps ministry, but it is a ministry that is crucial to the local church, and to the move of God within the local church. For this reason music ministry needs to be continually covered in prayer. The results will be remarkable!

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## *Developing Music Ministry in the Local Church*

**1. There is no difference between a music talent and a music ministry.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**2. Complete the sentence.**

From God's perspective it is always the \_\_\_\_\_ working through a person's life that accomplishes things in the kingdom, not their talent.

**3. God distributes His talents accompanied with the ability or capacity to use them.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**4. Complete the sentence.**

It is not important how much talent an individual has been given, but what the person \_\_\_\_\_ with the talent.

**5. God wants to increase the gifts and talents He has given you.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

6. The importance of being given a talent is matched by the ability or capacity, available to use it for His Glory.

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the Holy Spirit's aim to convert musical talent into ministry and how that will affect people's lives and bring glory to God.

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# PART 5

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# ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES IN YOUR MUSIC MINISTRY

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# ESTABLISHING CULTURAL GUIDELINES IN MUSIC MINISTRY

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*Environment for Growth*

Our English word “culture” is derived from the Latin word COLERE (Oxford Dictionary). This means “to till or cultivate soil, in preparation for seed to be sown in anticipation of harvesting a crop.” Generally speaking when soil has been cultivated, the right conditions are present for growth. The seed needs the right soil conditions, the right temperature, pressure, nutrients and moisture to grow. This concept is described in Genesis.

*“Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to*

*tend (dress) and keep it" (Genesis 2:15).*

It is interesting that God gives food to the animals yet he gives man seed to sow. However, he must be willing to cultivate the right environment for his seed to be productive (Genesis 1:29-30). It is only when the conditions for growth are right that the harvest comes forth. The farmer is dependent on his crop reaching maturity before he can harvest, and the crop is dependent on the right environment both above and below the ground for growth.

*Then Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like seed thrown on a field by a man who then goes to bed and forgets about it. The seed sprouts and grows—he has no idea how it happens. The earth does it all without his help: first a green stem of grass, then a bud, then the ripened grain. When the grain is fully formed, he reaps—harvest time!" (Mark 4: 26-29, The Message).*

According to this parable, the farmer does not know the science behind how a seed grows, but he does know the environment in which to plant it. Likewise we have to know the environment, or culture to give our people the best opportunity for growth. The local church exists to provide the right environment for spiritual and numerical growth. The function of the local church is not so much to provide a series of meetings, but a cultural environment of love and learning in which people can grow toward maturity.

## **KEY POINT**

Every local church music department should consider offering a pathway of progress for the team, an environment where they can grow both spiritually and musically.

The following seven points are designed to help create a culture within the music team that will help them to flourish personally and corporately as a team. They could be implemented as a seven-week seminar for 15 minutes before practice.

## 1. A CULTURE OF WORSHIP

At Sydney Life Church we have a purpose statement of “honoring God and valuing people.” We honor God by prioritizing worship, prayer and faith in God’s word. We value people by loving one another, serving one another, and loving the un-churched. All our church programs support these six priorities in fulfilling our purpose of honoring God and valuing people.

Because worship is at the top of our list of honoring God, it influences everything we do. We have worked hard to teach our people the principles of worship as a lifestyle, so that the culture of worship is not just in our services, but is a part of the daily lifestyle of our people. I use worship in the broadest terms that includes, thanksgiving, praise and worship.

Even if worship is not at the top of your church’s list, it should be a priority in the music ministry. Remember that the anointing in music ministry is not solely the result of song choice, or musical ability, but emanates from the lives of the music team. When a culture of worship lifestyle pervades the music ministry, the congregation will follow. It is questionable if a church can grow spiritually beyond its worship, because worship is the primary reason for which it exists. It is a place established by God where His worshipers gather together to primarily give Him thanksgiving, praise and worship.

A culture of worship starts with thanksgiving, and has to be the foundation of every music ministry. I outline this simple but effective exercise again to reinforce the importance of having a foundation of thanksgiving. Do this daily for some weeks until the concept of thanksgiving explodes in your spirit and becomes a natural part of your daily living. This will make a remarkable difference to your ministry and those you are ministering to.

1. Thank God for creating you (Psalm 139:14).
2. Thank God for saving you (Psalm 107:1-2).
3. Thank God for giving you a gift of music and allowing you to use it for His glory (2 Chronicles 5:13-14).
4. Thank God for anointing you with the His Spirit to minister through your gift of music (1 Chronicles 25:1).
5. Thank God for your church and leaders who entrust you with the ministry gift of music (1 Timothy 1:12).
6. Thank God that the people you minister to are being set free from all kinds of bondage (1 Samuel 16:16).
7. Thank God for your family (Ephesians 6:2-3).

Thanksgiving to God should be one of the lifestyle practices that distinguish us from those who don't know Him. The longer we walk with God, the more we should be thankful to Him because we are increasing in the knowledge

of His Word and the power of His love (Colossians 1:9-10). Keep growing in God and you will keep thanking Him. Increasing gratitude is a sign of spiritual growth, for it cannot happen without spending time in His presence. It is impossible to spend time with God and not be thankful. An understanding on how to develop a lifestyle of praise is based on reading and meditating on God's word on a regular basis. Worship is developed through personal intimacy with

God and obedience to His word.

These subjects are covered more extensively in our literature that we offer from the "Psalmody School of Worship." I recommend you spend time on our website to learn more. Resource material is available at [www.psalmody.org](http://www.psalmody.org)

## KEY POINT

The most important practice you can do to improve the worship team is to develop a strong foundation of thanksgiving. Everything else you will need to accomplish an anointed ministry will be built from your heartfelt thanksgiving.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *A Culture of Worship*

**1. Our English word “culture” is derived from the Latin word COLERE. This means to till or cultivate soil, in preparation for seed to be sown in anticipation of harvesting a crop.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## **2. Complete the sentence.**

The local church exists to provide the right environment for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ growth.

**3. It is questionable for a church to grow spiritually beyond its worship, because worship is the primary reason for which it exists.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## **4. Complete the sentence.**

A culture of worship starts with \_\_\_\_\_, and has to be the foundation of every music ministry.

**5. It is impossible to spend time with god and not be thankful.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

6. Thanksgiving to God should not be one of the lifestyle practices that distinguish us from those who don't know Him.

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the importance of developing a culture of worship in the music ministry.

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## 2. A CULTURE OF HONOR

Everyone involved in the local church is there to ultimately glorify God, irrespective of his or her gifts and ministries. One believer said “The worship team is there to make the worship leader successful, the worship leader is there to make the pastor successful, and the pastor is there to make the congregation successful.” For success to happen there has to be a culture of honor, giving preference to one another.

*“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.” (Romans 12:10).*

Giving preference means to lead others by example, and this should be the goal of everyone involved in music ministry. Although you may not know it, there is always someone who is looking to you as an example. The music ministry in David’s tabernacle is a prime example of highly anointed prophets of God who mentored younger and less experienced musicians and singers than themselves. The student body of musicians and singers in the tabernacle would have shown the highest respect to those above them, and they would have willingly submitted to their musical gifting and spirituality. This is always God’s order of doing things. He will build His kingdom where there is respect and honor given to those He has appointed over others, especially those called by Him that hold a five-fold ministry office of authority.

The definition in the English dictionary of honor is having high respect and esteem for someone with an exalted position. Honor is the value we ascribe to someone and is expressed by the way we treat, speak highly of, and are willing to sacrifice to be mentored by him or her. Elisha gives a great example of honor. Even though it appears Elijah did not encourage Elisha to follow, Elisha was so desperate

to be mentored by Elijah that he followed him everywhere (2 Kings 2:1-15). If you honor someone in ministry you will go to all lengths to follow their example and if possible be under their spiritual covering. Every local church member should honor their leadership as this is the first and most important priority for them to receive anything from God. Anyone who dishonors leadership disqualifies him or herself from receiving the anointing that flows from them (Psalm 133:2).

## KEY POINT

Preferring one another in love and honoring leadership is a recipe for a greater anointing to operate through the team.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *A Culture of Honor*

**1. Everyone involved in the local church is there for a reason. What is it?**

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## **2. Complete the sentence.**

The worship team is there to make the worship \_\_\_\_\_  
successful, the worship leader is there to make the \_\_\_\_\_  
successful, and the pastor is there to make the \_\_\_\_\_  
successful.

**3. How does scripture in the book of Romans describe giving honor?**

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**4. Is honor connected to value? Explain.**

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**5. What Old Testament prophet gives an example of honor and who was the person he honored?**

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**6. What scripture in Romans refers to preferring one another?**

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## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Discuss the key point**

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### 3. A CULTURE OF GOOD-FINDING

One practice set for every department in our church is called “good-finding”(Koza, IPI Group). It means that heads of each department develop a culture within their group to always find something good and uplifting to say about each other, the leadership and the church. Many secular companies spend tens of thousands of dollars using consultants to try and fix internal problems with little success. This is because they do not address one of the major contributors to division which is gossip and the practice of speaking negatively about the company and in many cases one another. The power of negative speaking is a spiritual force that operates both within and outside the kingdom of God. If it exists in the music ministry and it is not addressed, it will inhibit both spiritual anointing and natural musical growth. However if a culture of “good-thinking” leading to “good-finding” is maintained, there is no limit to what God can do through the ministry because the peace of God rests on it, and subsequently the power that can be released through it (Philippians 4:8).

There must be a culture in the music team of always finding something good to say about the church and the leadership. This does not mean they cannot respectfully question leadership about something they need explanation on and or clarification about. However, it does mean there should never be any murmuring within the music team regarding leadership or one another.

*“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29).*

When those in the music team are thankful for the opportunity to minister in worship, there will be little room for criticism.

# KEY POINT

The words you speak are never insignificant. They bring into manifestation the things they describe.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *A Culture of Good finding*

**1. What does good finding mean?**

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**2. What scripture refers to letting no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth.** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Who should good finding primarily be addressed to?**

a) \_\_\_\_\_ b) \_\_\_\_\_ c) \_\_\_\_\_

**4. The power of negatively speaking is not a spiritual force.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**5. Complete the sentence**

A culture of ‘good-thinking’ will lead to ‘ \_\_\_\_\_’,

6. What is the scripture that talks about no corrupt communication proceeding out of your mouth?

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## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the culture of good finding that exists in your music team.

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# 4. A CULTURE OF HUMILITY

Pride is one of the greatest forces operating in the kingdom of darkness. When pride rose up in Lucifer, it deceived him into believing that God was dispensable, and that he could replace Him as the governor of the universe. It is amazing that although Lucifer once worshiped God, he became the instigator of rebellion fuelled by pride. Those in music ministry are particularly susceptible to pride because of the adulation showered on them from those who admire their musical gift. It is not wrong to be acknowledged for the musical gift God has given you, but any praise should be quickly given to the Giver of the gift. This may seem such an obvious point, but many good and anointed musicians have fallen because the seed of pride was allowed to grow in their lives without them being submitted to someone who would keep them accountable. It is leadership's responsibility to protect the team from pride by nurturing a culture of humility.

*“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded” (James 4:6-8).*

James tells us that God gives grace to the humble. Grace is God's ability to do supernatural accomplishments through a heart that is constantly purified by God's Word.

*“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord” (2 Peter 1:2).*

*“Grace and peace to you many times over as you deepen in your experience with God and Jesus, our Master” (2 Peter 1:2, The Message).*

To follow is a quote from my book “The Worshiping You.” This is a

prophetic word to singers and musicians.

“God’s ability through you accelerates as you meditate and spend time in His presence. However humility requires a two-pronged approach, not only drawing near to God, but also resisting the devil.

Both are necessary. If you don’t know how to resist the enemy with the authority God has given you, then it will be very difficult to maintain intimacy with God, because the devil will keep you distracted with all kinds of harassments.”

A successful strategy of the devil is keeping you from drawing near to God, because he knows that’s where you get your authority to resist him (Luke 21:15). As a music minister, your greatest asset is to draw near to God with your thanksgiving, praise and worship. So much failure in music ministry is a result of pride concealed as an outward musical expression of worship, but lacking personal intimacy with God and the subsequent authority to resist the enemy. These dangers are not to frighten off those in the music ministry, but to warn them that they are prime targets of attack because of the valuable ministry they represent. The new generation of musicians and singers God is currently raising up know their authority through intimacy with God and will be humble and submissive to local church leadership.

“They will also be among some of the most anointed in the history of the church, just as was King David. They will be very much led by the Holy Spirit.”

“Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah” (1 Samuel 16:13).

“These music ministers will be known for high standards of righteousness, integrity, humility and faithfulness, which will reflect the depth and intensity of their personal time with God. This is the paradigm shift with this new breed that will usher in revival throughout the earth.”

# KEY POINT

If you do not know how to resist the enemy with the authority God has given you, then it will be very difficult to maintain intimacy with God, because the devil will keep you distracted with all kinds of harassments.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *A Culture of Humility*

**1. Does leadership have a role to play in protecting the team from pride?**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**2. How would leadership protect the team from pride?**

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**3. Pride is not one of the greatest forces operating in the kingdom of darkness?**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**4. Grace is God's ability to do supernatural accomplishments through a heart that is constantly purified by God's Word.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**5. How is grace and peace multiplied through you?**

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**6. The devil does not care if you draw near to God.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the culture of humility that exists in your music team

# 5. A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

It is clear from the Davidic music ministry structure that God took it very seriously, giving meticulous instructions how it should be structured and with a high quality of leadership. The reason for such high standards was necessary to accommodate and maintain the presence of God in their midst, and give Him the appropriate honor. The musicians and singers were aware of His presence, and acted with the appropriate fear, reverence, discipline and excellence of ministry. They knew that their ministry was received personally by God who was present in their midst. Both the leaders and students knew the requirement to minister to God included maintaining a high standard of excellence, leaving no room for tardiness or complacency.

Unfortunately this can be one of the most common challenges in local church music ministry today. It is frustrating for the worship leader and other team members if there are those who consistently come late to practice or even worse, late to services. This is a blatant disrespect for leadership, but more importantly, disrespect to God. Imagine if the pastor came late most weeks for the service, he would not maintain a congregation very long. The enemy uses tardiness to steal the peace and joy of leadership. It opposes setting them up for success, and frustrates those who do come on time. It opens the door for disruption, frustration, and is a spirit of disunity. If musicians and singers are consistently late for practice and services, they should be asked to consider their actions in the light of the standard of excellence God set for the Levites. There seems to be degrees of excellence one has, depending on the understanding of God's word.

*"He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit" (Proverbs 17:27, KJV).*

The Hebrew word for "excellent" means "precious and costly; displaying a calm and controlled spirit that has come under subjection to God's

word and His Spirit.” For this reason a standard of excellence has to be taught from God’s word, and reinforced continually. The standard of excellence required by God is referred to as reasonable service, or spiritual worship.

*“I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of all the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies presenting all your members and faculties as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world (this age), fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs, but be transformed (changed) by the entire renewal of your mind by its new ideals and its new attitude, so that you may prove for yourselves what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect in His sight for you” (Romans 12:1-2, Amplified Bible).*

This scripture is a great guideline for the music ministry to meditate on and aspire to, as they prioritize excellence in serving God with worship. When serving God there is no excuse for a lack of excellence in any area, especially in worship. Although excellent musicianship is wonderful to have in a team, it is not God’s priority. God is looking for the culture of spiritual excellence.

## KEY POINT

Using your gift of music in leading others in worship to God must be considered a great privilege that is done in a spirit of excellence.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *A Culture of Excellence*

**1. Is excellence associated with hosting God's presence?**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**2. It is not possible to have an excellent spirit.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**3. What does the Hebrew word for excellence mean?**

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**4. Excellent musicianship is more important than an excellent spirit.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**5. Excellence has to be taught from God's Word.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**6. Excellence is something God sees as being reasonable for his children to give Him.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the key point.

# 6. A CULTURE OF DILIGENCE

The word “diligent” in English means careful and persistent in work and or effort. A common translation in the Hebrew for “diligent” is CHARUWTS (Strong, 1996) H2742. This is the same word translated as “gold” in scripture.

*“For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver and her gain than fine gold” (Proverbs 3:14).*

*“Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold” (Proverbs 8:10).*

Gold is mined with much effort and at great expense, but when refined it is of great value and highly sought after. It could be inferred that a diligent person is likened to gold, having great value to God, after having allowed God’s refining in his or her life.

Other Hebrew words used to describe “diligence” speak of being earnest and zealous. It was a zealous and excellent spirit operating through King Solomon and his people that enabled them to build the temple for God. They gave their best to build God a place of rest (1 Chronicles 29:2, 16, 29).

*“...to prepare timber for me in abundance for the temple which I am about to build shall be great and wonderful” (2 Chronicles 2:9).*

Every team member should be encouraged to give his or her absolute best. In spiritual terms it means every team member should pray regularly for the music ministry and the church. In practical terms, it is to be musically prepared for practices and services, by rehearsing the songs and knowing their parts. Setting and maintaining a standard of diligence will set the music ministry up for success. A success that is focused on what God requires means persistence in all that you do in your role and being dedicated and committed in the process. This is the standard that God requires for all ministry activity and certainly those involved in leading the congregation in worship.

## KEY POINT

Setting and maintaining a standard of diligence will set the music ministry up for success.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *A Culture of Diligence*

**1. An excellent spirit is one who has been refined by God.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**2. What does the Hebrew word for diligent mean?**

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**3. Diligence is likened to what metal in the Bible?**

Circle the correct answer. Silver Gold Platinum

**4. Diligence also means to give one's best. Where was this demonstrated in scripture? \_\_\_\_\_**

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**5. How would the music minister be diligent in practical terms?**

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## **6. Diligence also means being earnest**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the key point.

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# 7. A CULTURE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

When David brought the Ark back to Jerusalem the first time, it was not transported by Levites. The Levites were the only ones appointed by God to transport the Ark. This angered God, and it resulted in the death of one of David's men who tried to steady the Ark (1 Chronicles 13:9-10). David took responsibility for this, and had no choice but to leave the Ark of the Covenant, containing the presence of God in the house of a man called Obed-Edom. It was abandoned there for three months until David asked God how to transport it. Because of David's ignorance of how to transport the Ark, God's plans for the Ark to be returned to Jerusalem were temporarily stalled (1 Chronicles 13:13-14). Even though David's intentions were good and he was moving the Ark in the right direction toward Jerusalem, his failing was a practical issue of transportation. God had prescribed that only Levites could transport the Ark.

There is a tremendous principle to learn from this. Each leader must take responsibility for the way in which God's presence is "handled" in the church, especially in the area of praise and worship. Failure to do so could bring about a temporary stall in the growth and maturity of the local church because we have not adequately prepared a place for His presence. In a colloquial way, it could be said, that God is waiting in Obed-Edom's house until we get things in order in the church, to receive His presence. God inhabits where there is a plan to accommodate His presence. He did this in the Tabernacle of Moses; the Tabernacle of David and the Temple of Solomon by giving detailed instructions on how to build a place for Him to enable Him to come among His people. Every sanctuary was designated as a Holy place to receive a Holy God, who would receive the praises of His people.

*"God was enthroned in the secret shrine of the Holy of Holies receiving praises from Israel" (Psalm 22:3, Amplified Bible).*

The connection is made between God's presence and an environment of holiness. God is attracted to holy living and He demands it. In each instance God was comfortable, because the right environment was prepared for His presence. The redemption of man made a way for God to inhabit the best-designed structure of all for His presence, living temples of flesh (1 Corinthians 6:19). It is not unreasonable to say that God feels most comfortable living in our temples of flesh when we live righteously. This is not suggesting perfection, but a life that is willing to submit to His word and be led by the Holy Spirit. From a positional, legal point of view, we are holy before God, but from a practical point of view, we are commanded to live holy lives (Philippians 3:9 and 1 Peter 1:15-16).

*"As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. God said "I am holy; you be holy" (1 Peter 1:15-16, The Message).*

We have to prepare our temples of flesh to accommodate His presence. So how do we live holy lives to make God feel good in these living temples? Holy living does not mean you will never sin, but instead, when you do, you are quick to repent before God and sincerely ask Him to help you overcome your weaknesses. God is not looking for perfect people, only repentant ones who genuinely desire to turn away from sin. While it is not always popular to preach the message of repentance from sin, it is necessary to prepare our people to have freedom to worship.

## KEY POINT

God is not looking for perfect people, only repentant ones who genuinely desire to turn away from sin.



# SECTION REVIEW

## *A Culture of Righteousness*

**1. Each leader must take responsibility for the way in which God's presence is "handled" in the church, especially in the area of praise and worship.**  
Circle the correct answer. False True

**2. God is attracted to holy living and He demands it.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**3. Living temples of flesh are the best-designed structure for God to inhabit.**  
Circle the correct answer. False True

**4. God is looking for perfect people.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**5. From a legal point of view, you are not holy and righteous before God?**  
Circle the correct answer. False True

**6. A holy righteous lifestyle is related to repentance?**

Circle the correct answer. False True

# GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the key point.



# ESTABLISHING SPIRITUAL GUIDELINES

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## *Culture of Worship*

God's presence is the single most important reality in the life of a believer, and separates Christianity from every other religion. No other religion has a living God, much less one that indwells the worshiper. The music ministry has such an important role in preparing the atmosphere for welcoming God's presence. In a sense they open the door and invite Him into the company of those gathered to worship (Psalm 22:3). When we worship we are given insight into what attracts God into our midst including joy, blessing, thanksgiving, singing and praise as described in Psalm 100. These truths should be developed as a culture within the worship ministry, along with the expectation of the supernatural activity of the Holy Spirit. Implementing these principles will also make a remarkable difference to the congregation, as they are impacted by the culture of worship emanating from the team. The musicality of the team will impress them, but the anointing will impact them.

The meaning of some of the Hebrew words in Psalm 100 is given, and I encourage the worship team to become familiar with them; practice them, and share with the congregation as the leadership allows.

## 1. JOY

God has given us a protocol to enter His presence, and while the following steps given should not be seen as a formula, they can be useful as guidelines to prepare the worship ministry and help the congregation enter into worship.

*“Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing” (Psalm 100:1-2).*

“Joyful Shout” is the Hebrew word for RUWA (Strong, 1996) H7321. This means “to shout; raise a sound; cry out; give a blast; to shout a war-cry or alarm of battle; to sound a signal for war or march; to shout in triumph (over enemies); to shout in applause; and to shout for joy.”

God requires that we come before His presence with joyful shouts and singing, a celebration for what has been accomplished through the finished work of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection (Psalm 105:43, 132:9). There is so much to celebrate about, and we should do it more often in our meetings. The worship team should consider starting with joyful, celebratory songs and even shouts of triumph mixed with thanksgiving and testimony. Encourage the congregation to focus on the great deeds God has done in their lives, especially salvation, healing, and other blessings (Psalm 145). Creating an atmosphere of celebration will remove barriers of lethargy and resistance to praise.

From experience, I know that many pastors and guest speakers like to minister God’s word at the end of joyful praise. It seems to remove any spirit of lethargy that may be present and prepares a joyful atmosphere to receive God’s word. I hasten to say that this is not a formula to follow but an option to pray about and submit to the leadership for consideration. Celebration is a great atmosphere of faith in which people are in a better position to receive ministry from the Holy Spirit. God’s presence is synonymous with joy and He promised that in His presence, He will fill you with joy (Psalm 16:11).

To follow are seven reasons that reinforce the importance of releasing joy.

1. The church is a place of joy. In the Old Testament it was mount Zion but in the New Testament it is the church. “Fair and beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth-Mount Zion the City of David, to the northern side Mount Moriah and the

temple, the whole city of the Great King" (Psalm 48:2, Amplified Bible).

2. Encourage the congregation to come to church prepared to be joyful and in a celebratory mood. We should be carrying joy into God's house instead of waiting to receive it when we get there. "When they said, "Let's go to the house of God," my heart leaped for joy. And now we're here, O Jerusalem, inside Jerusalem's walls!" (Psalm 121:1-2, The Message).

*"When I remember these things, I pour out my soul within me: for I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God. With the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast" (Psalm 42:4).*

*"Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; and on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God" (Psalm 43:4).*

3. Let them be joyful because of God's saving grace in their lives.

*"The king shall have joy in Your strength, O LORD; And in Your salvation how greatly shall He rejoice!" (Psalm 21:1). "And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD; It shall rejoice in His salvation" (Psalm 35:9).*

4. God's word is a source of joy.

*"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by Thy name, O LORD God of hosts" (Jeremiah 15:16).*

*"And in every province and city, wherever the king's command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday" (Esther 8:17).*

5. A joyful atmosphere is a healing one, first for the soul and then the body. If God can get you to rejoice, your body will be the beneficiary.

*"Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice" (Psalm 51:8).*

6. Encourage the people to be joyful even when they don't feel like it. God is worthy to be praised irrespective of our circumstances.

*“And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD” (Psalm 27:6).*

7. Depending on the structure of your church service, you should consider sending the people away from church with joy. This might be at the end of the service or the end of the worship set. Obviously one has to be led by the Spirit, knowing it is likely to change from service to service.

*“For you shall go out with joy. And be led out with peace...”(Isaiah 55:12).*

*“On the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people away to their tents, joyful and glad of heart for the good that the LORD had done for David, for Solomon, and for His people Israel” (2 Chronicles 7:10).*

## **KEY POINT**

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit that only He can give, however the worship ministry can help initiate this with joyful sounds and songs of praise.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *A Culture of Joy*

**1. God's presence is the single most important reality in the life of a believer, and separates Christianity from every other religion.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**2. What psalm tells us that God inhabits the presence of His people?**

Circle correct answer Psalm 10 Psalm 100 Psalm 150

**3. Does the Hebrew word RUWA mean to keep silent?**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**4. A joyful atmosphere is a healing one.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## **5. Complete the sentence**

Creating an atmosphere of \_\_\_\_\_ will remove barriers of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to praise.

## **6. We should take joy into the house of God.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the importance of maintaining joy in your music team

## 2. SINGING

God wants us to approach Him with singing, literally with a joyful voice. The Message translation says “sing yourselves into his presence” (Psalm 100:1-2).

*“Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing” (Psalm 100:1-2).*

The Hebrew word for “singing” is RENENAH (Strong, 1996) H7445. This means “joyful, triumphant singing voice; shouting for joy.” God’s welcome mat is the joyful sound of the redeemed singing, in celebration of the great victory that has been wrought in their lives. If we are not singing when we approach God, it might be because we do not have revelation of the victory that our lives represent. According to Psalm 100, we should approach God with a joyful song in our heart. To follow are some great reasons why we should encourage the congregation and one another to sing.

1. God’s power is always available for His people, and perhaps it is singing that releases it into a person’s life. It is very possible that the subject of our singing is what is released in our lives. “Be exalted, O LORD, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power” (Psalm 21:13).
2. God expects us to sing continually to Him. He expects it to be a lifestyle. “I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being” (Psalm 104:33).
3. Singing praise to God brings one great pleasure according to God, it is enjoyable. “Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; Sing praises to His name, for it is pleasant” (Psalm 135:3).
4. When you sing praise to God, the angels are listening. What an awesome thought! “I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods I will sing praises to You” (Psalm 138:1).

*“Thank you! Everything in me says “Thank you” Angels listen as I sing my thanks” (Psalm 138:1 The Message).*

## KEY POINT

Encourage the congregation to sing to God, and sing of His power. It brings Him great pleasure, and gets the attention of the angelic host to act swiftly (2 Chronicles 20:22).

# SECTION REVIEW

## *A Culture of Signing*

### **1. Complete the sentence**

One of the bible translations says \_\_\_\_\_ yourself into His

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### **2. What psalm tells us to sing about God's power?**

Circle correct answer Psalm 12 Psalm 21 Psalm 13

### **3. The Hebrew word for 'singing' also means to shout for joy.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

### **4. God wants us to sing to Him continually.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

### **5. Angels listen as we sing.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

### **6. It appears that God's welcome mat is the joyful sound of the redeemed**

singing, in celebration of the great victory that has been formed in their lives?

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the importance of encouraging the congregation to sing.

### 3. SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

We are told to enter into His gates with thanksgiving.

*“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name” (Psalm 100:4).*

The Hebrew word for “thanksgiving” is TOWDAH (Strong, 1996 H8426). This means “thanksgiving, praise, confession, sacrifice of praise.” Not all praise is associated with sacrifice, but this kind of praise is, as it incorporates confession. It is the sacrifice of confessing His word over our lives and circumstances, with a thankful attitude before we

necessarily experience the manifestation of the promises.

It is not about gritting our teeth and giving God praise, hoping that something will change. The sacrifice involved is faith in the promises and ignoring the circumstances that contradict them. You have to sacrifice your feelings and replace fear with faith regarding any contradictory circumstances that confront you. The gates of His

presence will always remain open to those who offer a sacrifice of praise when times are tough and circumstances are bad.

Even if they have not received any evidence, encourage the congregation to sing praise for the things God has already done according to His word. For example, if they are trusting God for healing but still have symptoms in their body, then praise Him that they are included in the finished work of Jesus on the cross who took their infirmities and sickness. Faith based praise opens the doors for you

to receive His promises based according to the finished work of God. The New Testament says the sacrifice of praise is associated with the way we speak.

*“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” (Hebrews 13:15).*

## KEY POINT

The most challenging thing for any believer is to control the way they speak. However when we do speak in line with God's word, and give thanks, it is considered a sacrifice of praise.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *A Culture of Sacrificial Praise*

**1. What do we enter God's gates with?**

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**2. Sacrifice of praise is associated with God's promises and not our experience.**

Circle correct answer False True

**3. All praise is associated with sacrifice.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**4. What scripture in Hebrews tells us to offer a sacrifice of praise?**

Circle the correct answer. 10:13 13:10 13:15

**5. Should we give God thanksgiving continually?**

Circle the correct answer. Yes No

6. Regarding any contradictory circumstances that confront you, you have to sacrifice your feelings and replace fear with faith.

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss your understanding of the sacrifice of praise.

## 4. BOAST GOD'S ATTRIBUTES

His courts are entered with praise. This suggests that you will be in greater proximity to His presence when you praise.

*"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name" (Psalm 100:4).*

The Hebrew word for “praise” is TEHILLAH (Strong, 1996) H8416. This means “praise, song or hymn of praise; adoration; thanksgiving paid to God; act of general or public praise; praise-song; praise demanded by qualities or deeds or attributes of God; renowned fame; and glory.” The word relates to the attributes of God, particularly His holiness (Exodus 15:11, Psalm 22:3, 1 Chronicles 16:35, Psalm 66:2). It is also the kind of praise that we give Him continually (Psalm 34:1, 35:28). When we meditate on the attributes of God and praise Him for being Who He is, we will maintain close proximity to His presence.

Write down a list of the attributes of God, and talk about them with the team. Let His attributes be regularly discussed with one another and mentioned to the congregation. It will encourage everyone to worship Him when they spend time thinking about Him and His character and building up His reputation. I cannot find a more compelling description of why God should be praised than the following psalm.

*"I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works. Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare Your greatness. They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of Your righteousness" (Psalm 145:5-7).*

The heart of the psalmist is to meditate on the glorious splendor of God’s majesty.

*"Your beauty and splendor have everyone talking; I compose songs on Your wonders. Your marvelous doings are headline news; I could write a book full of the details of Your greatness. The fame of Your goodness spreads*

*across the country; Your righteousness is on everyone's lips" (Psalm 145:5-7, The Message).*

David wrote the Psalms to express the overwhelming impact God had on his life, and he encouraged others to join him with praise.

*"I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; the humble shall hear of it and be glad; oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together" (Psalm 34:1-3).*

David boasted in the greatness of God with shouts of joy and confession. Praise magnifies God in the eyes of those who have not yet experienced His greatness.

*"Let those who favor my righteous cause and have pleasure in my uprightness shout for joy and be glad and say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, who takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servant" (Psalm 35:27).*

God is infinitely great whether we praise Him or not however praise brings the attention of others to enquire also of His greatness.

## KEY POINT

When you magnify God you celebrate him with praise that encourages others to seek Him more. God's heart is attracted to corporate worship. The worship team has been appointed to exemplify praise and to lead others into God's presence through praise.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *A Culture of Boasting in God*

### **1. What is the Hebrew word for “praise” in Psalm 100:4?**

Circle the correct answer. Yadah Tehillah Barak

### **2. How would you boast about God?**

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### **3. Complete this scripture, and meditate on it.**

I will \_\_\_\_\_ on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works. Men shall \_\_\_\_\_ of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will \_\_\_\_\_ Your greatness. They shall \_\_\_\_\_ the memory of Your great goodness, And shall \_\_\_\_\_ of Your righteousness. (Psalm 145:5-7).

### **4. David wrote the psalms to express the overwhelming impact**

**God had on his life, and he encouraged others to join him with praise. What scripture confirms this?**

Psalm \_\_\_\_\_

**5. A form of evangelism is when we boast in God and praise Him.**

Circle the correct answer. Yes No

## **6. Complete the sentence.**

Praise magnifies God in the eyes of those who \_\_\_\_\_ yet experienced His greatness.

## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

Discuss the importance of having a boastful attitude about God in the music ministry.

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# 5. GIVE THANKS CONTINUALLY

Most people do not have any idea why they lift up their hands in praise, yet it brings such liberty when they find out.

*“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name” (Psalm 100:4).*

The Hebrew word for “thankful” is YADAH (Strong, 1996) H3034. This means “to use (i.e. hold out) the hand; physically to throw (a stone, an arrow) at or away; especially to revere or worship (with extended hands); to confess; praise; be thankful.” It has erroneously been taught that when we lift up our hands it is a sign of surrender, but surrender to Jesus is a heart issue and not a hand issue. The Hebrew word YADAH is found many times in scripture, but there are three references I believe that show important reasons, why we praise with lifted hands.

## 1. Lift up our Hands to God for Being Created

Scripture tells us to praise God because we have been fearfully and wonderfully made. The word for praise is also YADAH!

*“I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made, marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well” (Psalm 139:14).*

It is the kind of praise we give to God for the miracle of creating us. It is expressed with the lifting of hands, thanking God that it was His will to bring us into this world, in His perfect timing to fulfill His plans and purposes. Every Christian, as His child should express thankfulness to God with lifted hands for the privilege of living and knowing God. It is really a privilege to be alive. We need to get this revelation and respond accordingly with lifted hands. Next time you lift your hands in praise, you might consider thanking Him for the fact that you were created.

## 2. Lift up our Hands to God for Being Redeemed

Lifting hands is also an expression of praise to God for redeeming us.

*Oh, give thanks (yadah) to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy” (Psalm 107:1-2).*

Anyone can lift their hands in praise but those who appreciate what redemption means have the privilege of doing it with the knowledge that it is God’s prescribed method of telling Him we appreciate our salvation. We do not always have to be conscious of redemption when we lift up our hands in praise, but it would be good to remember that He has prescribed it with redemption in mind. When the enemy sees

you

with your hands raised in praise it reminds him that his hand no longer holds us captive. It is a tremendous expression and display of freedom.

It does not mean that every time we lift up our hands we have to be thankful for being created and then recreated, as that would constitute law. However these two reasons should be understood by everyone and practiced as the Holy Spirit reminds us of these powerful truths.

### 3. Lifting up Hands is a Sign to the Unbeliever

Some believe that lifting our hands might put off unbelievers who come into our worship services, but in fact it does the very opposite. God tells us to use the expression of lifted hands among the unsaved in Psalm 18:49.

*“Therefore I will give thanks (yadah) to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your Name” (Psalm 18:49).*

The reference to Gentiles would equate to our modern day unbelievers. The context of this scripture is in relation to God delivering David from his enemies and King Saul. We truly have been delivered and we should not be ashamed to lift our hands to express our gratitude.

## KEY POINT

The world needs to see the church unashamedly lift their hands to God in praise for such a great deliverance.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *A Culture of Giving Thanks Continually*

**1. The Hebrew word for thankful in Psalm 100:4 means to hold out the hand.**

Circle the correct answer. True False

**2. When you lift up your arms in praise this is a sign to the unbeliever?**

Circle the correct answer. True False What scripture refers to this? \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Where is the scripture that tells us to praise God because we have been fearfully and wonderfully made?**

**4. Every Christian should express thankfulness to God with lifted hands for the privilege of living and knowing Him.**

Circle the correct answer. True False

## 5. Complete this scripture, and give God thanks for it!

## 6. Complete this scripture.

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord say so, Whom He has from the hand of the enemy.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the importance of praising God for being created and recreated.

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## 6. LIVING TO BLESS

Many years ago, a friend suggested that my wife Barbara and I should go out with him and his wife for breakfast. We had very little money at the time, and I was nervous when he suggested we go to a very expensive restaurant. I honestly could not enjoy the breakfast because I was thinking about how I would pay the bill. However, I had a plan and decided to let my friend bless me when the waiter came with the bill. When the waiter reached our table my eyes avoided him but to my shock Barbara grabbed the bill from his hand, and said, "We will get it." I sheepishly said "Yes of course we will get it." I knew this would dig into our savings to pay the rent. Before I got the opportunity to ask Barbara why she was insistent in paying the bill, she said "Tom, we must never come second when the opportunity comes to bless others." That day God taught me an invaluable lesson. The opportunity to bless someone in a situation like that conquers the spirit of poverty, fear and lack and releases you into a life of being a blessing and receiving blessings. I look back on it as the best breakfast I ever had because we were free to exercise generosity. Throughout the past 25 years we have held this position, and we also see it evident in all our children.

Although all blessings come from Him, He has given you and me the privilege of dispersing His blessings to those we come in contact with. Being a blessing to others is simply a consequence of being a blessing to God. The cycle of

blessings started with God giving us eternal life through Jesus, and then lavishing His gifts upon us, so we can be a blessing to others, completing the cycle. The final word in psalm 100 is associated with blessing.

*“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name” (Psalm 100:4).*

The Hebrew word for “Bless” is BARAK (Strong, 1996) H1288. This means “to bend the knee; or kneel; by implication to bless God as an act of adoration.” Although BARAK is classified as a praise word, it is rarely translated as “praise” in the King James Version, but rather as “blessed” or “blessing.” The word is also associated with receiving and giving benefits. Our praise does not benefit God or fulfill any of His needs because He has none, but He is blessed when we praise Him. What an amazing thought that we bless God with our praise.

However in the process of blessing God with our praise He blesses us so much more in return, because scripture says, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). The scripture that says ‘the lesser is blessed by the better’ also confirms this truth (Hebrews 7:7). The motive to bless God is always because we love God, but He reminds us not to forget the benefits when we do bless Him (Psalm 103:1-5).

In a culture of giving, He will give us what we need to be a blessing to others, and this is biblical prosperity. In a very simplified way, the cycle of blessing began with God giving

you salvation, you giving God praise and serving in return and God blesses you to be a blessing to others.

The following points below will help the worship team develop a lifestyle of blessing.

1. Let your judgment bless God by making decisions in line with His Word.
2. Let your imagination bless God by thinking pure thoughts.
3. Let your affections bless God by loving what He loves.
4. Let your desires bless God by seeking after His presence.
5. Let your thoughts bless God by meditating on His Word.
6. Let your hope bless God by looking and longing for His glory.
7. Let your words bless God by your controlled speech.
8. Let your actions bless God by your integrity.
9. Let your memory bless God by not forgetting His benefits.
10. Let everything that is within you bless His Holy Name.

In conclusion, The Message translation states Psalm 100 wonderfully.

*“On your feet now—applaud GOD! Bring a gift of laughter, sing yourselves into His presence. Know this:*

*GOD is God, and God, GOD. He made us; we didn't make Him. We're His people, His well-tended sheep. Enter with the password: "Thank you!" Make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank Him. Worship Him. For GOD is sheer beauty, all generous in love, loyal always and ever" (Psalm 100:1-4 The Message).*

## KEY POINT

God requires that we come before His presence with joy and gladness, thanksgiving and praise in an attitude ready to bless Him. The worship team should come prepared with a joyful spirit ready to give thanksgiving and praise and to be a blessing to God and those they minister to.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *A Culture of Living to Bless*

**1. The Hebrew word for “bless” in Psalm 100:4 is?.**

Circle the correct answer. Yadah Tehillah Barak

**2. Scripture says it is more blessed to give than receive?**

Circle the correct answer. True False

**3. Does Hebrews 7:7 says that the lesser is blessed by the better?**

Circle the correct answer. True False

**4. Biblical prosperity is based on giving, not receiving and looking for opportunities to bless God with our praise and acts of serving.**

Circle the correct answer. True False

**5. Complete the sentences**

Let your \_\_\_\_\_ bless God by making decisions in line with His Word.

Let your \_\_\_\_\_ bless God by thinking pure thoughts.

Let your \_\_\_\_\_ bless God by loving what He loves.

Let your \_\_\_\_\_ bless God by seeking after His presence.

Let your \_\_\_\_\_ bless God by meditating on His Word.

## 6. Complete this scripture.

On your feet now—applaud GOD! Bring a gift of \_\_\_\_\_, sing yourselves into his presence. Know this: GOD is God, and God, GOD. He made us; we didn't make him. We're his people, his well-tended sheep. Enter with the password: “ \_\_\_\_\_ !” Make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank him. Worship him. For GOD is sheer beauty, all generous in love, loyal always and ever.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the key point.



## 7. SPEAK CONTINUALLY OF GOD'S GOODNESS

The bedrock of every person involved in worship ministry should be an understanding of the goodness of God, because out of it will flow spontaneous thanksgiving, praise and worship that is infectious. It is impossible to minister praise and worship without a revelation of His goodness.

*“Now therefore, Arise, O LORD God, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength. Let Your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, And let Your saints rejoice in goodness (2 Chronicles 6:41).*

*“Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear, revere, and worship You, goodness which You have wrought for those who trust and take refuge in You before the sons of men!” (Psalm 31:19, Amplified Bible).*

*“What a stack of blessing You have piled up for those who worship You, Ready and waiting for all who run to You to escape an unkind world” (Psalm 31:19, The Message).*

The worship team should always have a testimony in their hearts of God's goodness that flows from their lips with rejoicing and worship. Encourage all the members of the team to find one thing during the week they can boast about regarding the goodness of the Lord, and share it with the team. This might seem far from where your worship team is at present

however if you take time to develop a culture of boasting

of God's goodness, there will be great rewards. God's goodness is associated with His glory. Moses asked God to show him His glory and God said the following.

*"Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion"* (Exodus 33:19).

The word “goodness” describes the idea of a physical external manifestation of God associated with His brightness, beauty, power and weight of His presence. It is in the Old Testament where God's glory is manifested in different ways as a cloud or flame, smoke or thick darkness. Although these manifestations are not invalid, there is a greater dimension of His glory now available to us. In the New Testament the manifestation of God's glory is superior, because it is a spiritual manifestation that takes place on the inside transforming us as we behold Him.

*"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord"* (2 Corinthians 3:18).

In the New Testament the word glory is associated with having an opinion of God that results in praise. It is also associated with representing God as an ambassador, so that His reputation will be made clear to others, by the way you live

and act. Ephesians says, “We should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ” (Ephesians 1:12). This means that we not only praise Him, but we also magnify His good reputation to others, by the way we live. An understanding of this is a key to releasing the glory of God through music ministry. We should certainly experience physical manifestations of the glory of God, but more importantly, as we behold His presence, we need to exhibit the spiritual transformation that the Holy Spirit has done in us.

## **KEY POINT**

Meditate on scriptures that talk of God’s goodness, power, and miracles. If you want to exemplify praise and worship to others, you need to know and be prepared to boast on the splendor, power, greatness and goodness of God. This should be a regular exercise of every music ministry team (Exodus 34:6 Psalm 52:1, 65:11, 23:6, 27:13, 31:19, 65:4, 107:9, 2 Chronicles 6:41).

# SECTION REVIEW

## *A Culture of Speaking of God's Goodness*

**1. Spontaneous thanksgiving will flow from understanding the goodness of God.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## **2. Complete the sentence**

It is \_\_\_\_\_ to minister praise and worship without a revelation of God's goodness?

**3. Would you say that God's goodness is laid up for those who worship him? Circle the correct answer. False True Where is the scripture? \_\_\_\_\_**

**4. God's goodness is associated with His glory. What scripture speaks of this?**

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5. The Old Testament describes God's glory in terms of representing or displaying His reputation.

Circle the correct answer. False True

**6. The New Testament describes God's glory in terms of the "weight" of His presence.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the importance of speaking about the goodness of God.



# ESTABLISHING PRACTICAL

## Guidelines

This chapter gives some practical guidelines that will help the music ministry. It is subjective based on personal experience and given purely as guidelines for you to consider.

### 1. SENSITIVITY TO HOLY SPIRIT

The music ministry must have clear direction from the church leadership regarding the degree of latitude they have regarding what they can or cannot do during worship time. The Holy Spirit will not tell you to do something that leadership has not given you permission to do. However if you are given permission to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, the following should be considered.

The Holy Spirit has a plan that is usually different with every service. This does not negate having a worship run-

sheet however it is necessary to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Preparation should be done in the secret place of prayer, so as to flow with the spontaneity of the Holy Spirit as He wills. Planning to co-operate with the Holy Spirit is what makes every church meeting both exciting and unpredictable.

Although the worship time is when we have opportunity to minister to God, there are many moments of opportunity for the Holy Spirit to minister to us. The worship leader and the music team should be sensitive to times when the Holy Spirit may anoint a song, a chorus in a song, a line, or an instrumental solo. You may have performed that song dozens of times without any particular anointing and then suddenly the Holy Spirit will anoint it. It is then you are aware that He is about to do something. It is almost as if He is hovering over that particular melody, or line ready to bring forth something through the gifts of the spirit.

When this happens it is wise to not move away from the song or chorus but repeat it over and over until the Holy Spirit has done His work. Often this can lead to prophetic declarations, words of encouragement and exhortations. It is a time when the gifts of the Spirit will often be evident with a word of knowledge; word of wisdom; gifts

of healings; miracles and other blessings. These are moments in worship when we need to be sensitive to what He is doing, when it appears that He has taken control. If the music ministry is not aware of the working of the Holy Spirit in times of worship, we potentially can eliminate the possibility of both His gifts coming forth and the miraculous work He is willing to

do.

Encourage the team to meditate on 1 Corinthians 12:8-11. This will create an awareness of the person of the Holy Spirit, one that describes Him as the Giver of gifts. It is He who leads and we follow, and we should create a dependency on Him to accomplish His will through worship in every service.

*“For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills” (1 Corinthians 12:8-11).*

I am not advocating the gifts of the Spirit have to operate through the music ministry. However the ministry should be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Worship prepares the spiritual atmosphere not only for the gifts of the Spirit, but also the subsequent preaching of the word of God that often follows. This makes the ministry of the pastor or evangelist so much easier because the spiritual atmosphere has been charged with anticipation and faith.

## **KEY POINT**

Preparation should be done in the secret place of prayer, so as to flow with the spontaneity of the Holy Spirit as He wills for every service.

# CHAPTER REVIEW

## *Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit*

**1. Because of the creativity of the Holy Spirit it is not unreasonable to expect Him to have a different plan for every service.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**2. Complete the sentence**

Planning to \_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Spirit is what makes every church meeting both exciting and unpredictable.

**3. If the music ministry is not aware of the working of the Holy Spirit in times of worship, we potentially eliminate the possibility of His gifts coming forth and the miraculous work He is willing to do.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**4. What is a suggested scripture the music ministry should meditate on with regard to the gifts of the Spirit?**

**5. Worship prepares the spiritual atmosphere for not only the gifts of the Spirit, but also the subsequent preaching of the word of God that follows.** Circle the correct answer. False True

**6. The Holy Spirit has a plan that is usually different with every service.** Circle the correct answer. False True

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss how important it is for the music ministry when leading worship to be aware and sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

## 2. LENGTH OF WORSHIP TIME

Worship time may vary from service to service and church to church, and there is nothing definitive about it in scripture. The most important thing is what is achieved during the worship time rather than the duration. Again, I emphasise the importance of the church leadership to communicate to the music team what they are expected to accomplish during the worship time. This may vary depending on the objective of the church service, and the time allocation. If the pastor for whatever reason has time constraints, the team has to accept them without dissension. The Holy Spirit will achieve more in a shorter time when the music ministry honor the leadership. This will naturally be more effective than spending more time and having dissension.

Once sound levels have been set, music practice time prior to the service should be considered as a worship time for the music ministry rather than a practice time. Having a time of worship pre-service by the music ministry helps them get into the “worship zone” before anyone else. The congregation will flow into worship that has already been established rather than starting from scratch. This helps the music ministry lead from a position of strength rather than weakness. It is important musicians and singers come to church spiritually prepared with the attitude to worship whole heartedly from the first song. The

better prepared the music ministry are, the better they will release a spirit of joy and celebration into the house of God, and the quicker the congregation will respond. The music ministry must understand it is an amazing privilege to both lead God's people in worship and to set the example to those who follow them.

It is also important to consider what topic the pastors and guest speakers will be preaching on. This was demonstrated when I ministered in a Christian Family Church in Johannesburg, South Africa where I was asked a few days before I ministered, "What is the sermon title?"

The music ministry opened up the service by singing about the title of my sermon "The goodness of God." It blessed me to think they had taken the time and effort to synergize their worship with the sermon content. It did not take long for me to move powerfully in preaching on God's goodness because the music ministry, through worship, had laid the foundation.

It is very important that both church leadership and music ministry leadership are united in purpose and can evaluate if the worship time is achieving their agreed objective. Here is a simple but powerful prayer to consider for the team that will help achieve what God wants to accomplish.

**Father,**

**We submit to the presence and leading of Your Spirit and**

**ask You to accomplish Your will through us for this meeting. Let everything we do in word and deed be done in such a way as to bring attention to Jesus and not ourselves. Give us skilful hands and voices today to play and sing in one accord and let Your glory fill the house of God. By the grace of God we set up our leadership for success in this meeting in Jesus name.**

If you think these thoughts and pray this prayer, there will never be dissention in the team regarding time allocation or anything else. This will bring a spirit of unity and common purpose for every service.

## **KEY POINT**

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to achieve what He wants in the allocated time without questioning whether it seems enough time or not.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *Length of Worship Time*

**1. What is achieved during the worship time is more important than the time duration assigned to worship.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## **2. Complete the sentence**

The worship time may \_\_\_\_\_ from service to service and church to church, and there is nothing \_\_\_\_\_ about it in scripture.

**3. Once sound levels have been set, the music practice time prior to the service should be considered more of a worship time for the music ministry than a practice time.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## **4. Complete the sentence.**

The Holy Spirit will achieve more in a \_\_\_\_\_ time when the music ministry honor the leadership, more than what can be achieved in a \_\_\_\_\_ time with dissension.

**5. It is important the musicians and singers come to church with the attitude to worship whole-heartedly from the first song.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**6. You should ask the Holy Spirit to help you to achieve what He wants in the allocated time given without questioning whether it seems enough time or not.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

Discuss the attitude the music ministry should have toward leadership regarding the time allocated for worship and why.

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### **3. INTRODUCING NEW SONGS**

The new songs I am referring to are those written by someone as opposed to spontaneous songs of the Spirit.

Choosing new songs is important and so is the frequency of introducing them. One has to keep a balance of old and familiar with new and unfamiliar. Familiar songs give the congregation a confidence to worship without effort so that they can focus on singing without having to think of the music or lyrics. If you introduce too many new songs, the congregation will feel like they are on a continual learning curve, and there is danger of them focusing on learning rather than responding worshipfully.

It is the music department's responsibility to use discretion in consultation with leadership as to the frequency of new songs, the lyrical content and the style. The music ministry needs to know that the songs chosen have the approval of the leadership, so that there is no room for the enemy to distract them with uncertainty when they lead. This will give the team the confidence to focus on the leading of the Holy Spirit without having to worry about pleasing man.

Selection of new songs should generally support the vision of the church and compliment what God is saying to the

leadership at any particular time. This can vary as God moves the local church through different seasons. Introducing new songs is important because many of them are prophetically relevant for the hour in which we live. It is therefore important for the worship leader and those in the team to keep updated with other music ministries God is currently using worldwide. New songs not only give the congregation a fresh perspective of what God is doing now, but also it creates the excitement of learning something new.

There is an increasing tendency for churches, particularly larger ones, to write their own songs, and this should be encouraged, but not at the expense of ignoring new songs written by others that are circulating the church world. God has a way of emphasising what is on His heart through many anointed songwriters, and every music ministry should be aware of them.

## **KEY POINT**

Choosing new songs is important and so is the frequency of introducing them. One has to keep a balance of old and familiar with new and unfamiliar songs.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *Introducing New Songs*

**1. Choosing new songs is important and so is the frequency of introducing them.**

Circle the correct answer. True False

**2. Complete the sentence. There are three words missing.**

If you introduce too many new songs, the congregation will feel like they are on a \_\_\_\_\_, and there is danger of them focusing on learning rather than responding worshipfully.

**3. Regarding new songs, what three things should be discussed with the music department and the church leadership?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. The music ministry do not need to know whether the songs chosen have the approval of the leadership.

Circle the correct answer. True False

5. Selection of new songs should compliment what God is saying to the leadership and in general they need to support the vision of the church. Circle the correct answer. True False

6. There is an increasing tendency for churches, particularly larger, ones to write their own songs, and this should be encouraged, but not at the expense of ignoring new songs written by others that are circulating the church world.

Circle the correct answer. True False

# GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the key point.

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## **4. PREPARATION OF SINGERS AND MUSICIANS**

### **A. READING GOD'S WORD**

I have realised that resistance to praise, is not usually because people do not love God. They do love Him, but in most cases they do not have a clear understanding of the importance of praise and worship, or the benefits it brings. It is presumptuous to think they will enter into praise, without knowledge, when the scriptures say the opposite. Ignorance of God's Word is an enemy of God because it enslaves His people. In fact scripture says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). Praise and worship is the response to knowing who God is, what He has done; is doing; and will do; as revealed in His word.

*"For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding" (Psalm 47:7).*

The Hebrew word for 'understanding' means to have knowledge of God that brings success. Praise is the expression of someone who knows and trusts God's Word. This is what makes you successful. When your purpose in life is to praise God, your outcome will be success. Every man creates his own success, but it is never without praise. (Joshua 1:8). God wants

His children to be successful every day, so praise every morning and expect a successful day (Genesis 24:12). The Bible is the source of our knowledge that not only enables us to sustain a lifestyle of praise but also to increase it.

*“But I will hope continually, and will yet praise Thee more and more” (Psalm 71:14).*

## KEY POINT

Music ministers should be encouraged to read God’s word regularly to prepare them for the ministry. I recommend that they read the Psalms for 5 minutes every day as a starting point and build it up as led by the Spirit. This will equip them to minister effectively in worship. Functioning in music ministry is an honor, but it comes with diligent study of God’s word.

## B. PRAYER

Prayer and praise are inseparable partners. God says He will hear those who pray because they are worshipers. It is not sufficient that the worship ministry play together, they must also pray together.

*“We know that God does not listen to sinners; but if*

*anyone is Godfearing and a worshiper of Him and does His will, He listens to him” (John 9:31, Amplified Bible).*

A noted man of prayer, Samuel Chadwick said, “The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayer-less studies, prayer-less work, and prayer-less religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles

when we pray” (Chadwick, trans. n.d.). The devil dreads prayer and one of his main objectives is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from saints who don’t pray, no matter how much they work for the kingdom. However, he trembles and flees when confronted with praying saints.

Chadwick also said, “It takes us long to learn that prayer is more important than organization, more powerful than armies, more influential than wealth, and mightier than all learning.” These observations from a lifetime of lessons already lived should act as a stark reminder that we should make prayer part of our lifestyles. However, there is a great truth we need to know to get prayers answered. Our prayers should be accompanied with thanksgiving and praise.

When we pray we fellowship with God by telling Him our needs and, or, the needs of others. When we praise Him, we are telling Him that we believe our needs are met according to his Word. A believer once said “prayer asks but praise takes.” When we mix our prayers with praise we are asking and

receiving at the same time. There is nothing more powerful than a combination of prayer and praise to release Heaven on earth, and this is the objective of the worship team.

Surely Jesus will return for an intimate church that worship and pray. It is our intimacy with Him that allows our prayers to reach Him. The goal of prayer is the ear of God and the goal of praise is for the heart of God. When you give Him both, there is nothing He will withhold from you. I was asked once, “What happens when the music ministry does not pray?” I answered, “Nothing happens.” Nothing happens without prayer, but everything happens with prayer. Music ministry without prayer is no different to secular music except it has Christian themes but no power, and no anointing to gather people into His presence. It is not the music that attracts God but the worshipers who make the music. In addition to praying before or after band practices, the team should be encouraged to pray daily for the church and its leadership.

They should pray for the next meeting and for sensitivity to the Holy Spirit when they minister.

## **KEY POINT**

The goal of prayer is the ear of God, and the goal of praise is the heart of God. When you give Him both there is nothing He will withhold from you.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *Preparation of Singers and Musicians*

**1. Praise and worship is the response to knowing who God is, what He has done; is doing; and will do; as revealed in His word.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**2. What scripture talks of singing praises with understanding?**

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**3. The Hebrew word for “understanding” means to have**

Circle the correct answer. Wisdom Knowledge Discernment

## **4. Complete the sentence**

The Bible is the source of our knowledge that not only enables

us to \_\_\_\_\_ a lifestyle of praise but also to \_\_\_\_\_ it.

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**5. Why is hope important in relation to praise?**

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**6. The music team members should pray for every meeting they play in.** Circle the correct answer. False True

## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

Discuss the importance of praying in preparation as a music ministry.

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## 5. EXEMPLIFYING WORSHIP ON STAGE

The worship leader has to be conscious that his or her ministry is to “gather” the congregation to worship. Remember, the chief musician Asaph’s ministry, was described as the “gatherer.” He was anointed to gather the people for the purpose of corporate worship. The worship leader has to be multi-tasking, simultaneously giving personal heartfelt worship to God while at the same time leading others in worship. There are two trains of thought concerning how one should lead. Some believe it makes little difference if the worship leader keeps his or her eyes open while leading, while others believe that it is necessary to keep visual contact with the congregation, at least some of the time. I personally believe it is a balance of both and it should be with consideration to the congregation who are worshiping. This also requires sensitivity and leading of the Holy Spirit.

The congregation generally keep eye contact with the worship team, and in particular the worship leader, especially at the beginning of the worship time. They watch their facial expressions, and from these at a subconscious level, they perceive as to what degree the worship is genuine. If they are mature worshipers it will not make any difference about the way the worship leaders lead, but if not, it does make a remarkable difference because they are looking to follow his or

her example of worship. The worship leader's job is to lead others in worship, not to leave them behind in worship. This can easily happen if the worship leader keeps his or her eyes closed when they worship. It is impossible to gauge the level to which the congregations are involved if you completely lose eye contact. Alternatively if you do not close your eyes in worship, some worshipers will do the same and then they may be distracted by their surroundings. A balance might be necessary throughout the worship time, until you discern if they have "engaged" in worship. It is also important to open your eyes often and to be aware in case the pastor wants to do something specific during worship time.

## KEY POINT

The most important issue is your heart of worship. This is the overriding factor that will help the congregation worship even if you do not have great musical or vocal skill or whether you keep your eyes closed or not. Ultimately people want to follow people who are doing what they are saying. If you are a worship leader or team member then the most important thing is to worship while you play or sing. As you focus on that, everything else will follow, including the congregation.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *Exemplifying Worship on Stage*

**1. The ministry of the chief musician Asaph was that of a “gatherer.”**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**2. The worship leader should always keep his eyes closed while leading worship.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**3. The worship leader’s job is to lead others in worship, not to leave them behind in worship.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## **4. Complete the sentence**

The worship leader has to be multitasking, simultaneously

giving \_\_\_\_\_ heartfelt worship to God while at the same time \_\_\_\_\_ others in worship.

## 5. Complete the sentence

A balance might be necessary throughout the worship time, until you discern that they have “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” in worship.

6. Explain why it would be important for the worship leader to keep eye contact with the pastor from time to time.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the importance of not leaving the congregation behind in worship, but leading them in worship.



## 6. DEALING WITH SOUND COMPLAINTS

I don't know of a music ministry that has never had a complaint, at some point. Often this will be that the music may be too loud. When this happens, there is a list of things you can do.

1. Discern if it is a legitimate complaint or not. Some people complain because they feel they should have input. If you feel it is legitimate it is best to immediately apologise and let the person know that you will look into the matter immediately and that you will get back to them with a response. This course of action will go a long way to remedy the problem. People want to know that their concerns are taken seriously.
2. Ask others in the same area where they were sitting, if they found the music too loud. If the consensus is positive, then ask others sitting in different areas of the church, so you can identify if it was throughout the church or only in a specific location.
3. Ask the sound team if anything has changed, or if they were aware of anything that could have contributed to the complaint.
4. Ask the musicians and singers if they changed any settings

on their instruments that could have contributed.

5. After collating all the information, follow up with the person who complained. If you concluded the complaint was isolated you could suggest that they move to another part of the room. If however the complaint was valid, give them the action you have taken to remedy the problem.

## **KEY POINT**

Most people will respond positively if they know their complaint has been taken seriously, investigated and they are followed up with feedback. It will always bring the best results if lovingly you try to resolve the problem, rather than dismiss or ignore it.

# SECTION REVIEW

## *Dealing with Sound Complaints*

**1. Music ministry never have any complaints.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

**2. You should discern if it is a legitimate complaint or not.**

Circle the correct answer. False True

## **3. Complete the sentence.**

Some people \_\_\_\_\_ because they feel they should have input. If you feel it is legitimate it is best to immediately \_\_\_\_\_ and let the person know that you will look into the matter immediately and get back to him/her.

**4. What should you do if you get a complaint that the music is too loud?**

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5. Never ask the sound team if anything changed, or if they were aware of anything that could have contributed to the complaint.

Circle the correct answer. False True

## 6. Complete the sentence.

Most people will respond \_\_\_\_\_ if they know their complaint has been taken seriously, investigated and they have received feedback.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the importance of dealing with sound complaints.

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## 7. WORSHIP MINISTRY ‘CHARTER’

God had ordained the Levites to transport the Ark of the Covenant which contained the presence of God. Musicians and singers from the Levite tribe were also chosen to minister in thanksgiving, praise and worship. The first time David attempted to bring back the Ark of the Covenant he did it without the Levites, and God stopped him. David learned the hard way and lost one of his friends in the painful process. (1 Chronicles 13:9-10).

This scripture speaks today of the dangers of appointing the wrong people in the music team. It must be those who are chosen by God and prayerfully appointed by leadership. Many leaders have fallen into the trap of appointing musicians and singers simply because they have musical talent alone, and don’t consider their spiritual maturity. This leads to praise and worship that is compromised. By attempting to replace a spirit-led calling with only musical talent, the praise and worship will lack the anointing. As described, with reference to King Rehoboam, in the following scripture, this is equivalent to substituting bronze for gold.

*“So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king’s house; he took everything. He also carried away the gold shields which*

*Solomon had made. Then King Rehoboam made bronze shields in their place, and committed them to the hands of the captains of the guard, who guarded the doorway of the king's house" (2 Chronicles 12:9-10).*

Golden shields were a representation of God's purity and also a reflection of His glory. Unlike bronze that needed the work of man's hands to keep it shining, gold would not tarnish. These gold shields were a symbol of God's presence in the midst of His people who came to worship Him. When the golden shields were replaced by cheaper brass substitutes, they effectively lowered the acceptable standard He had set for His people to come into His presence, to worship. This indicates the importance of appointing people who are ready for ministry and to be careful not to lower God's standards. Musically talented people who are not spiritually ready will compromise the integrity of the worship.

When David made the mistake of using the wrong people he had to go to scripture to find the answer. God had chosen the Levites to carry his presence in the Ark, and David confessed that he had not consulted God the first time he transported it

(1 Chronicles 15: 1-2, 13).

*"Then David said, 'No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the*

*ark of God and to minister before Him forever" (1 Chronicles 15:2).*

*"For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order" (1 Chronicles 15:13).*

Leaders cannot be casual about the standards of music ministry in the local church. A casual approach to worship will result in casual results that will hinder and cause frustration for those involved in the greater plans God has destined for the church.

David was responsible for the quality of the worship given to God in the Tabernacle just as leaders are responsible in the local church today. Praise and worship used to be viewed as a pre-amble before preaching, but now it is taking its rightful position, as one of the most important ministries in the church. For effective worship, the right people need to be operating in their anointed gift of music. Successful churches

whether large or small seem to have a common denominator. They know the importance of music ministry, appoint the right people, and set standards in place. If standards are not set and boundaries given, people tend to set their own standards, and move beyond acceptable boundaries.

For this reason it is important to write a “music ministry charter” which is approved by leadership. This needs to outline the expectations of commitment to the music ministry and the type of lifestyle requirements that need to be practiced. However it should be communicated in a way not to bring condemnation, but freedom. It is not a set of rules one has to adhere to “or else,” but a standard that will enlarge their gift and calling. To avoid personal conflict between the worship leader and team members, the team should know that the charter is a directive not from the worship leader but from the church leadership. There is a lot of information available on the Internet to help you to create a music ministry charter. Type these words into your search engine, “worship team requirements” or guidelines. The results should include an outline to follow for basic disciplines such as good timekeeping for band practices and church services; learning parts; on stage behaviour; dress code; regular personal prayer and worship and lifestyle habits. I encourage every music ministry to consider drawing up guidelines and giving them to every new worship team member when they join the team.

## **KEY POINT**

It is important to remember they are guidelines and not law, and some degree of flexibility is considered when they are not adhered to. It is always better to lean on the side of grace rather than law.



# SECTION REVIEW

## *Worship Ministry Character*

- 1. There are dangers of appointing the wrong people in the music team.** Circle the correct answer. False True
- 2. When appointing people on the worship team, consideration should be given to both their spiritual and musical strengths.**  
Circle the correct answer. False True
- 3. God had chosen the Jebusite tribe to carry the Ark of His presence.**  
Circle the correct answer. False True
- 4. Successful churches whether large or small seem to have a common denominator. They know the importance of music ministry and appoint the right people, and set standards in place.**  
Circle the correct answer. False True
- 5. Leaders cannot be casual about the standards of music ministry in the local church.**  
Circle the correct answer. False True

## 6. Complete the sentence.

David was responsible for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the worship given to God in the Tabernacle just as \_\_\_\_\_ are responsible in the local church today.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the importance of preparing a music ministry charter.

# **Afterword**

## **PROPHETIC INSIGHT INTO THE FUTURE OF WORSHIP**

In May 1984, I was in my home study in Johannesburg, South Africa when I was suddenly aware of the wonderful presence of the Lord. I felt led to write down impressions and thoughts in my heart that I knew were not of my own invention. From this encounter with the Holy Spirit I developed the “Psalmody School of Worship,” (Inglis Ministries), to teach people non-musical principles of worship and this is when I started term “lifestyle” of worship. This word is often used today to describe personal cultural activities. God blessed this work and the material was translated into many languages. These courses have been learned at local churches, Bible schools and by tens of thousands of people. During this time, I wrote the following words:

### **THE CHURCH**

There is coming a time in the church when it won’t rest, day and night. Congregations will get together in shifts and worship Him because they want to, and “Holy, Holy, Holy,” shall be their theme (Revelation 4:8). All activities in the body will give way to worship, and worship will be the central theme for all activities. Countless thousands will be swept into the

churches day and night as congregations continually flow into the sanctuary to worship the Most High God. They will be swept in like falling leaves upon a swift flowing river. Sundays will not be “the” day of worship, but “another” day of worship.

## **CONGREGATIONS**

Congregations will have to be instructed in praise and worship and will not be satisfied by hearing an occasional sermon on worship or by just reading books on the subject. They will have to be shown how to live the word of praise and worship. Congregations will place demands on leadership to teach them how to praise and worship, and churches that refuse to praise in “...spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24) will empty overnight, and those who do worship will be filled to overflowing. Congregations will stand outside the churches and praise the Lord, filling church grounds and parking lots because they cannot get inside.

## **PASTORS**

Pastors will have to organise their church service format to accommodate praise and worship as the Holy Spirit has His way. As praise and worship goes forth, the Word of the Lord shall be clearer to the listeners than it has been before. Pastors and teachers will stand amazed at the growth and maturity of the worshipers and only God shall take the glory for it.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTERS**

Get ready for a new wave of worship from children whose understanding in the things of God will overtake many who are unprepared. Godly children will separate themselves to praise and worship their Heavenly Father. They will not wait for those who teach worship, but those who practice it. They will go forth as a worshiping army that will astound even their teachers. Don't ever discourage their worship. Don't ever stop the flow. Encourage them as they stand before God and worship Him.

## **MUSICIANS**

Musicians will stand in line, totally submitted to Pastors and Music Directors willingly waiting for the opportunity to serve in the house of the Lord. Chief musicians will train them, and God will give to those involved in music ministry, the capacity to receive the equipping and anointing He intends for them. They will stand apart from sinful worldly music and their lives shall speak clearly of separation unto God.

## **SCHOOLS OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

Not just seminars, but on-going schools will exemplify worship to the congregations. Worship Schools all over the world will start to train the Body of Christ, psalmists and worship leaders. These schools will flourish like natural flowers in the desert.

after the rain, where no man has planted and no man has watered, but only God has prospered. The students from these schools will soon become the teachers and the teachers will move on. There will be a continual movement throughout the entire earth of holy men and women with an overwhelming desire and objective to exemplify praise and worship. The Most High God will give their job description as “worshippers” and they will have no need of anything the world can offer. They will be known by their love and loved by their knowing. They will have a supernatural ability to work and travel, to uproot, adapt and resettle, to move quickly and be highly efficient. They will bring glory and honor to the Most High God wherever they go and they will never be glorified themselves. The Servant’s attitude of these men and women will touch even the ungodly and they will become known as worshiping servants who are loved and highly respected. All this shall be such a work of the Holy Spirit that no one will take any credit. Even the five fold ministry (Ephesians 4:11-13) shall merge into the congregation as we all stand before Him in adoration and awe.

I encourage you to read my book “The Worshiping You,” published by Destiny Image. It gives insight to the future role worship will play in the end time church (T. Inglis, 2008).

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# CONTACT THE AUTHOR

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Tom Inglis

Sydney Life Church / Psalmody International

P.O. Box 224

Mosman, NSW, 2088 Australia

[www.tominglisministries](http://www.tominglisministries)

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