

Session 9 (Sat, 21 Jan 06)

Ministering as a Worship Leader

NOT JUST ONE WORSHIP LEADER - With a Team - There is safety and help - There is power and unity

THE WORSHIP LEADER:

Often, he is the minister of music, but not necessarily so He is given the authority to steer the direction of the service and increase or decrease the momentum of the worship service. He selects and initiates most of the songs to be sung. He is under the authority of the pastor and knows the pastor has the privilege to step in and take control at any time. He leads the team - so should communicate his intentions clearly (especially rhythm and song beginnings and ends etc.) He provides overall leadership for the congregation, the instrumentalist and singers

PREPARATION - Lamentations 3:22-23

A successful and anointed worship service does not just happen. It takes hours of prayerful preparation before the service begins.

Choosing Songs

When possible, it is important to find out the topic of the message that is planned for the service. Then the songs chosen can flow with, and lay spiritual groundwork for, the teaching of the Word that will follow. Take time to choose prayerfully the songs that will be used during the praise and worship service. Choose songs that can be sung in a comfortable voice range for the congregation. Sometimes repeating songs several times will let the words and message become part of the worshiper's personal thoughts and desires.

Arranging Songs - Psalm 33:3

Arrange the songs in such a way that they will follow the pattern of "entering-in" with songs of thanksgiving; songs of praise that will induce higher and higher levels of physical and vocal participation; songs that will release the anointing of God and the people into soaring levels of praise; and finally songs of worship that will move the believers closer into the Presence of God.

Spiritual Preparation

Preparation includes as much time as it takes in prayer and personal praise and worship to discern the Spirit's theme for the service before the meeting begins.

Physical Preparation: Genesis 41:14

Dress appropriately for the occasion. Do not let your appearance distract the attention of the worshipers.

Leading Worship Team, Vocalist, Instrumentalists

Prayerfully choose each member of the worship team. Maintain spiritual discipline and lovingly, but firmly, deal with any sin or moral issues that may arise. Demonstrate a high

level of spiritual leadership, encouraging and developing the skills of each one. Set high standards of excellence and show appreciation to each one for his or her part. Require faithfulness, commitment and a spirit of unity. The worship team should pray together prior to the worship service.

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS.

Glorify God - Matthew 17:8

Be Sensitive

It is important that the leader be sensitive to all that is going on during the service.

- *To God and the leading of His Holy Spirit*
- *To the co-leaders of the worship service*
- *To the instrumentalists*
- *To the wisdom and leadership of the elders*
- *To the whole congregation*

Be Confident - Philippians 4:13

Lead Them In

The people must be led from where they are into the Presence of God. You cannot lead them from where you are, but instead you must skillfully lead them all in, as one body, from the place where they are, into being corporately in the Spirit.

Those Who Will Not

We must realize that there are many reasons why some are not moving with the others into praise and worship. Some may be unbelievers, some may be believers living in rebellion or disobedience to God. Others might be under condemnation from the enemy or under a burden of cares. Some may just not know how. As a worship leader you must not be distracted by those who will not enter in. However, sometimes we have to ignore those who will not and keep our fullest attention on the corporate body of believers. Sometimes these individuals can be dealt with privately at a later time and instructed, or exhorted, to a greater level of participation.

Keep Eyes Open

When you close your eyes, you are closing out the very people you are to lead into worship. The leader must be aware of what is happening and where the people are spiritually as the praise service is progressing. The leader must not become so "lost in the Spirit" that he or she loses contact with the people that he or she is leading.

Don't Preach

During praise and worship is not the time to stop and "preach." Short exhortations are sometimes helpful in bringing the people into higher levels of praise.

Dealing with Mistakes - Romans 8:1

Remember that we are all "learners" and making mistakes is part of the learning process. Do not put yourself under condemnation.

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Exhort People

Begin with Thanksgiving - Psalm 100:4

Move on into Praise

Much of the time spent during the praise and worship will be spent here in the "courts." It is here that each one must be released into greater vocal and physical expressions of true praise toward God for all of His wonderful blessings.

Follow Anointing

Be willing to lay aside your plans even if you have spent much time in preparation. You may skip some songs while lingering a longer time upon others. When a strong anointing of the Holy Spirit begins to come, do not hurry on to the next song. Linger there as long as the anointing is growing in intensity. Continue repeating that song until the Spirit can complete the work that He is doing, bringing the assembly into higher praise or entering closer into His Presence in worship.

Vocal Gifts - 1 Corinthians 12:7-10; Psalm 40:3

Encourage the spontaneous free flow of the operation of the vocal gifts of the Holy Spirit from among the congregation. Often a pause at the appropriate place will allow time for God to speak to His people through the gifts of tongues and interpretation of tongues or through prophecy.

For Edification - 1 Corinthians 14:26

Avoid Confusion - 1 Corinthians 14:33

Avoid Intrusions and Cross-Currents

If there is an intrusion in what the flow of the Holy Spirit is doing at that moment, the leader must be mature enough to discern and deal with the situation without further breaking that flow.

Unity of Spirit

A skillful praise and worship leader will establish a unity between himself and the congregation, between the individuals within the congregation, and among the whole body and the Holy Spirit. While this unity of the Spirit becomes stronger and stronger, true worship will begin to flow in greater and greater measure toward God.

The Time

The worship leader must be alert to stay within the time that has been set by the pastor or elders. If the moving of the Spirit is leading into an extended time of praise and worship, carefully receive the confirmation of that to your spirit and the authority to do so by a signal from the pastor or elder who has the spiritual leadership of the meeting before continuing.