
Pursuing His Presence

Leading Yourself in Worship

As part of our vision for the year as a church we're seeking to SHOUT about prayer and worship. It matters to us and is of great value.

Engaging in prayer and worship gets mixed results.

Have you ever experienced total unity?

Worship takes us beyond the song... Colossians 3:23 but also...

Our opportunity here is God ordained

John 4:20-24

Leading ourselves in worship

Leaving out what shouldn't be in the conversation.

It's not up to anyone else.

“If worship rises and falls on a person, team or location ...”

Authentic Worship in the Father’s Presence - a core value here.

The word of God our example: King David a man after God’s own heart (1 Sam 13 & Acts 13)

A most repeated command.

The Hebrew words:

- + ‘HALLAL’ (Psalm 113:1-3)
- + ‘YADAH’ (Psalm 107:8)
- + ‘SHABACH’ (Psalm 117:1-2)
- + ‘BARAK’ (Psalm 72:15)
- + ‘TOWDAH’ (Psalm 50:23)
- + ‘ZAMAR’ (Psalm 18:49)
- + ‘TEHILLAH’ (Psalm 22:3)

Not about how good your voice sounds.

Postures we lead ourselves in that catalyse our hearts.

From the inside out, not one OR the other - out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45)

God's people under King David : 24/7 Prayer and worship for 33 years ongoing

Israel's favour, turnaround and transformation from this one thing.

God's calling us back. We need to leave behind our man centred ways.

What's stopping you? What's holding you back? What's being highlighted in your heart?

Psalm 133 - The blessing that comes from unity if we EACH give ourselves to this.

A Process to Help Lead Yourself (It takes a conscious effort on our behalf)

1. As you come in, as you walk through the doors remind yourself WHY you are coming into the Presence of your Lord and Saviour.
2. Start a conversation with the Living God even if it's just one way for now. Direct your thoughts and words and feelings towards Him.
3. Close your eyes, block the room out, its people, its stage, its leaders, and begin to fix your eyes on Jesus however that process looks like for you.
4. Start to Thank Him, Praise Him... sometimes that's the only words you can think of, Praise You Lord, Thank you (spend a good 60 seconds with this intentional outlook).

5. If you know the song that comes up, sing along and let the words draw your attention even more towards Him. If you don't know it - let the words draw you in to the theme that's communicated and form your own words in response.
6. Adopt a biblical posture, lift your hands in surrender, bow on your knees, clap, shout, jump, engage! Do something you don't do for anyone else. Let it catalyse your heart.
7. When a song goes off the page - GO off the page too! Find within you your own expression, words, that which is stored up in your heart. Release your Tehillah praise!

Remember - you can always engage with God! You can always draw near! Whether you know or like a song or not. He is the object of our worship! No matter what people around you are doing - He is the topic on the table! We respond to Him.

Discussion Questions

1. What needs to change in your approach/outlook and attitude towards worship?
2. What preferences do you need to lay down that may have previously existed?
3. Is there any fear of man or labels you have placed on yourself that keep you from engaging? What can you do to lay those down?
4. Do you reference your example of praise and worship from the definitions in scripture or somewhere else?
5. Next time you gather what can be different about how you personally lead yourself?

Remember, always come talk to us as pastoral staff - we're here to help!