

HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE WORSHIP LEADER

1.) *Have the heart of a worshipper* _

Worship leaders are "lead worshippers," who lead while worshipping, *not instead of worshipping*. The difficulties and demands of ministry often leave worship leaders with little or no extra time for personal worship and the care of their own souls. Are worship leaders too busy to worship? Our busyness is often the result of allowing others to dictate our agendas. We can often allow others to make for us the essential work of deciding and directing, establishing values and setting goals; then we find ourselves frantically, at the last minute, trying to satisfy a half dozen different demands on our time, none of which is essential to our vocation, to stave off the disaster of disappointing someone.

So how can we prepare for the long haul of ministry? Here are some basic steps to learning the care of your soul:

- **Set aside a regular time for personal worship.** Find a place where you can be alone without distractions or interruptions. Listen to worship music and worship along with it. Or take a walk and be silent. Meditate on scripture, such as the Psalms, and let the words and images of the Bible become the content of your praise and prayer.
- **Be accountable to someone else for your spiritual growth.** We need to be in a small group or have a spiritual mentor. Someone who will keep us accountable and focused as we grow deeper in our life with God.
By accountability, I mean, having someone who regularly asks such questions as what are you watching?, what are you thinking when no one is around?, what books or magazines are you reading? who are you associating with?
- **Keep your marriage and family ahead of ministry.** The simplest test of spiritual growth is to ask your spouse (or your parents) if there is more or less love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23) than last year. Sadly many worship leaders have their success in ministry undercut by failures with their families. God never asks his servants to sacrifice their marriages and families for ministry. Worship ministries are time intensive and put unexpected pressures on the home. Sooner or later, if need be, you may have to make tough decisions and say no to ministry for the sake of your family. Maintaining proper balances between family and ministry commitments requires hard work and clear thinking. It also requires open, honest communication with your spouse and those to whom you are accountable in ministry.

2.) ***Musicianship***

As a person who uses their voice as much as the singers, worship leaders should practice their instrument. Your voice is as much an instrument as what members of the band are playing. We need to practice singing as much as we can, and take voice lessons if necessary, to avoid any damage to our voices.

Continually practice exercises and songs that will improve your tone, extend your range, improve your breathing, improve your improvisation skills, help you to hear harmonies develop your sense of rhythm and timing etc.

Spend time simply listening to music. Many worship leaders complain that the only music they have time to listen to are the worship CDs they go through as they search for new songs for their congregations. Go to concerts and watch videos; study the masters and learn from their art. By listening to music at a greater level, you will have a higher value for the role of music and the importance of musical excellence. Your enthusiasm will rub off on others.

3.) ***Become a Man or Woman of the Word***

You will not progress in having a prophetic edge to your leading unless you become a person of the Word. It as we read God's Word that revelation comes and God brings a 'rhema' word to our hearts. As you worship in your private times with God, take the Word and begin to sing it, quote it or just meditate upon it.

As we start to get the Word of God into our spirit our worship leading starts to enter in a new dimension of power and authority. Without it our words of exhortation will be shallow and lack maturity.