



Worship and Praise (A Lifestyle)

The Purpose of The Praise and Worship Team

The primary purpose of this ministry is to lead the congregation to praise and worship profound, true, and lead by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God.

Our purpose is:

1. To lead the congregation in worship and praise through the help of the Holy Spirit, your leader, the vocalists, and the band.
2. Provide music that leads the congregation and the team to a worship that is sincere.
3. Help smaller groups within and outside the church (with permission of the worship leader).
4. Teach the biblical foundation of worship to the congregation.
5. Create original songs that are inspired by the God and share with the congregation and team.
6. Prepare and teach each member who has a calling to the team (i.e., teaching a vocalist how to reach a note or teaching a guitarist how to play a riff).
7. Invite the Lord to take control of each service, practice, and even our daily lives.
8. Give your absolute best in every song that is done.
9. Help local churches who need musicians to lead a congregation to worship and praise. This isn't only limited to the city of Tucson nor the state of Arizona. This is applicable to every part of the world! It is important that this ministry isn't limited to one location but rather shared to the whole world. Afterall, the Bible tells us that we must spread the gospel to the whole world (Mark 16:15-16).

The Fundamentals of Worship

The fundamentals of worship simply boils down to this, it is a verbal affirmation of worship and praise to the Lord. It is also an expression of various emotions and feelings of a heart full of gratitude, joy, peace, love, etc. Remember, you aren't singing and making sound just because you want to, you are singing and making a joyful noise to the Lord!

Why should I worship?

- **Because God is great:** *"¹ Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness." (Psalm 48:1; NASB1995)*
- **Because it glorifies the Lord:** *"²³ He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; And to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God." (Psalm 50:23; NASB1995)*
- **It is a commandment:** *"¹ Sing for joy to God our strength; Shout joyfully to the God of Jacob. ² Raise a song, strike the timbrel, The sweet sounding lyre with the harp. ³ Blow the trumpet at the new moon, At the full moon, on our feast day. ⁴ For it is a statute for Israel, An ordinance of the God of Jacob." (Psalm 81:1-4; NASB1995)*

When should I worship?

- **Every day:** *"²⁰ The Lord will surely save me; So we will play my songs on stringed instruments All the days of our life at the house of the Lord." (Isaiah 38:20; NASB1995)*
- **Continuously:** *"¹⁵ Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name." (Hebrews 13:15; NASB1995)*
- **For all eternity:** *"² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps. ³ And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth." (Revelation 14:2-3; NASB1995)*

Where should I worship?

- **In the congregation:** *“¹ Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, And His praise in the congregation of the godly ones.”* (Psalm 149:1; NASB1995)
- **At home:** *“⁵ Let the godly ones exult in glory; Let them sing for joy on their beds.”* (Psalm 149:5; NASB1995)
- **Before the incredulous (non-believer):** *“¹ Sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the earth. ² Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. ³ Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.”* (Psalm 96:1-3; NASB1995)

“³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and fear And will trust in the Lord.” (Psalm 40:3; NASB1995)

How should I worship?

- **Sing loud and mighty:** *“⁴ Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.”* (Psalm 98:4; NASB1995)
- **In the intimacy of your heart:** *“¹ O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water. ² Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. ³ Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You. ⁴ So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.”* (Psalm 63:1-4; NASB1995)
- **With all your heart:** *“²³ Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,”* (Colossians 3:23; NASB1995)
- **For Him and solely in His name:** *“¹⁵ Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.”* (Hebrews 13:15; NASB1995)

Keep In Mind:

- **Praise and worship are a voluntary act:** *“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”* (Psalm 34:1; NASB1995)
- **Praise and worship are about faith, the act of faith, and the emotion that comes from this faith:** *“¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name. ² Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits;”* (Psalm 103:1-2; NASB1995)

Developing a Lifestyle of Worship

As musicians of Christ, it is our duty to live a style of worship that is not solely for a Sunday but rather a part of us. These are some ways to integrate a lifestyle of worship.

1. Teach others to recognize the presence of God:

- **Draw them in:** *“⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”* (James 4:8; NASB1995)
- **Enter in His presence:** *“⁴ Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.”* (Psalm 100:4; NASB1995)
- **Do NOT stop at just the normal worship and praise we are all used to doing, go beyond and seek a personal relationship with him.**
- **Hearing and knowing God’s voice:** *“¹⁰ Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”* (Psalm 46:10; NASB1995)
- **Express your heart to God, He will always love you!**

2. God dwells in the praises of His people:

“³ Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.” (Psalm 22:3; NASB1995)

“¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; ²¹ and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.” (Ephesians 5:18-21; NASB1995)

- **Singing the Word of God causes His Word to dwell in our hearts.**
- **Singing the Word of God is to confess His Word solely through our lips.**
- **Singing the Word of God raises our level of faith:** *“¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”* (Romans 10:17; NASB1995)
- **You are a temple of God:** *“¹⁶ Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”* (1 Corinthians 3:16; NASB1995)
 - His praises are to fill you, as you are His temple
 - The Lord does **not** dwell in temples made by human hands.

- **You are God's building:** *"⁹For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." (1 Corinthians 3:9; NASB1995)*
- **You are a spiritual house:** *"⁵you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:5; NASB1995)*
- **God tell you to:** *"Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them." (Exodus 25:8; NASB1995)*
- **Treasure in jars of clay:** *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." (2 Corinthians 4:7; NIV)*
- **We must adore Him with all our being:** *"³⁷And He said to him, ***'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'***
³⁸***This is the great and foremost commandment.***" (Matthew 22:37-38; NASB1995)*

3. Put on the cloak of praise:

- **Praise is "appropriate":** *"¹Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant and praise is becoming." (Psalm 147:1; NASB1995)*

"¹Sing for joy in the Lord, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright." (Psalm 33:1; NASB1995)

Remember, what is "appropriate" is what is correct, good, and convenient in each circumstance. There will be peace and no friction nor tension.

- **Praises causes all sadness to flee:** *"So the ransomed of the Lord will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, and everlasting joy will be on their heads. They will obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away." (Isaiah 51:11; NASB1995)*
- **You are anointed with oil of joy and gladness:** *"¹The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners;
²To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, ³To grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified." (Isaiah 61:1-3; NASB1995)*

4. Evangelistic results of praising God:

"³He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear and will trust in the Lord." (Psalm 40:3; NASB1995)

- **For the sake of praise:** *“² Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with joyful shouting; then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” ³ The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.”* (Psalm 126:2-3; NASB1995)
- **Praise sets the stage for deliverance & miracles:** *“²⁵ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; ²⁶ and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened.”* (Acts 16:25-26; NASB1995)

5. You are edified through praise:

“⁴ One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.” (1 Corinthians 14:4; NASB1995)

“¹⁵ What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.” (1 Corinthians 14:15; NASB1995)

“¹⁷ For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified.” (1 Corinthians 14:17; NASB1995)

“²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,” (Jude 20; NASB1995)

Character & Charisma

Character and charisma are essential to our lives as Christians regardless of if we are musicians or not. It is important that we practice good habits not only in a church but outside as well.

- Character (noun): one of the attributes or features that make up and distinguish an individual.
- Charisma (noun): the ability to attract the attention and admiration of others, and to be seen as a leader.
- Character + Charisma = God being glorified, and the Kingdom of God being built.
- Charisma without Character = The ego being exalted and there being no edification. This can lead to disastrous consequences for the Kingdom of God!
- Always keep your heart away from arrogance, lack of forgiveness, hatred, vainglory, profanity, vanity, and being banal.

Keep These Verses in Your Hearts:

- *“6 ‘A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?’ says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, ‘How have we despised Your name?’⁷ You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, ‘How have we defiled You?’ In that you say, ‘The table of the Lord is to be despised.’⁸ But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Why not offer it to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly?” says the Lord of hosts.” (Malachi 1:6-8; NASB1995)*
- *“⁸ ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me.’ (Matthew 15:8; NASB1995)*
- *“²³ Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,²⁴ leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.” (Matthew 5:23-24; NASB1995)*

- “¹² *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.*” (1 Corinthians 10:12; NASB1995)
- “⁶ *and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.*” (1 Timothy 3:6; NASB1995) This is from a list of requirements that Paul gave to Timothy for ministers (reverends, leaders, etc.)
- “²³ *Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.*” (Proverbs 4:23; NASB1995)

Practical Observations of The Ministry

The congregation sees us and our ministry. So, it is important to practice a system that holds all of us accountable for our actions. The point is not to be in constant state of fear of discipline as that is a terrifying way to live life. Instead, these are things to keep in mind when you are on stage.

1. Musicians are part of the music ministry and should be held accountable under the authority of their respective leaders.

- ❖ Musical Excellence: Musicians should always give God the best!
- ❖ Under Spiritual Leadership:
 - i. Understanding our priorities.
 - ii. Understanding the appropriate attitude to have on stage.
 - iii. Understanding the motives, we carry on stage.
 - iv. Develop a prayer support.
 - v. Attendance and punctuality: God honors fidelity, consistency, and personal discipline.
- ❖ The emphasis on musical excellence and spiritual leadership should be equal, one should not overpower the other. There have been many musicians who are neither faithful to God nor to His call. Others who are faithful have lacked in taking the time to discipline and develop their talent. Both are ineffective in their ministry because this is not what God wanted. God wants us to give “everything” we have – in other words you do your best no matter what!

2. Instruments should never be distracting; all musicians are required to complement the congregation in their singing and supporting of the worship leader. Here are two ways in which instruments can become a distraction.

- ❖ Musicians with no musical training and/or skills or who have not practiced draw attention to themselves and their lack of preparation.
- ❖ Skilled musicians who “overplay” also draw attention to themselves and their musical skills. It is better to be “simple” when you play, when you “overplay” you stand out and it no longer becomes a worship for God, it becomes a talent show for you. Remember, this isn’t about you this is about someone bigger than you, God himself!

3. Communication is essential! Regardless of the size of the ministry. Each musician must understand what is expected of them.
 - ❖ Schedules, rehearsal days, prayer times, etc. All musicians must be notified in a timely matter.
 - ❖ In-Service Communication: Basic hand signals are good for keeping communication.