

RESOURCE MINISTRIES
PRAISE AND WORSHIP SEMINAR
Session 5 - CHARACTERISTICS OF A WORSHIP LEADER

By Jim Stephens

1. The Worship Leader must have a scriptural philosophy of Praise and Worship.
 - A. It must be seen as ministry to the Lord first and ministry to the people second.
 - B. It must not be looked at as "the preliminaries" to the service, but must be seen as a key element of the gathering of God's people.
 - C. It is not entertainment or performance, but ministry.
 - D. There must be unity and agreement between the Worship Leader and the Pastor and other leaders on just what Praise and Worship is and how it is to be developed and practiced in the church.
2. The Worship Leader should be a worshipper first and a musician second.
 - A. Musical talent and skill, singing ability and a good voice are important to the Worship Leader.
 - B. More important is the desire to "worship the Father in spirit and in truth", to bless the Lord and to bring glory to His name.
3. Praise and Worship is as important as the Fellowship we experience when we meet together and the Word that is preached.
 - A. The Worship Leader should be as gifted, prepared, and anointed as the person who preaches the message.
 - B. This preparation is in four areas:
 1. Preparation of heart
 2. Development of skills
 3. Developing and training the team
 4. Planning for the service at hand

4. The Worship Leader must be willing to stay up-to-date with God and maintain a right relationship of submission and obedience to the Lord and to endeavour to maintain right relationships with others as well. Ps 24:3-4 Matt 5:23-24

3 Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. (Psalms 24:3-4 NIV)

23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:23-24 NIV)

- A. God's Word says that to enter His presence we must have "clean hands and a pure heart."
 - B. Jesus admonishes us that if when we come to worship we remember that something is not right between us and another, that we are to go and make it right before offering our gift of worship to God.
5. The Worship Leader must not be a "one-man-show" or performing "Super Star."
- A. Praise and Worship is corporate ministry and the key is full participation in the worship experience by the entire congregation.
 - B. There must also be a willingness on the part of the Worship Leader to form and develop a Worship Team of people who can come together in unity of spirit and flow together in Praise and Worship to lead the people by example.
 - C. Bringing together and developing a Worship Team is hard work;
 - 1. It requires time and effort
 - 2. It requires relationship building
 - 3. It requires prayer and seeking God.
6. The Worship Leader must be willing to lead.
- A. In preparation and training, in promptness and dependability, in cooperation and unity, the Worship Leader must set an example of leadership.

- B. In the Praise and Worship service, the Leader must also be diligent to give clear, firm leadership.
 - C. Clear direction must be given to the worship team, the musicians, and the congregation at all times.
 - D. The Worship Leader must be sensitive and submissive to the Holy Spirit and to the Pastor, but within that context must move before the people with confidence and give decisive leadership.
7. The Worship Leader must be a mature, stable person who is not given to emotional ups and downs.
- A. Must be someone who can carry on with leadership responsibility and function even when he or she is not feeling "on top of the world". This is not so much a function of personality as of maturity and character.
 - B. The Worship Leader is a sensitive person who will not only be experiencing his or her own emotional ups and downs but will "pick up on" the mood of others and of the Holy Spirit.
 - C. It is for this reason that the stability and maturity must be there to "carry on" and to "hold steady".
8. The Worship Leader must have a Servant's Heart.
- A. It is important in this as well as in all leadership ministries to be motivated by the desire to serve God and His people and not by a desire for power, influence, or recognition.
 - B. For this reason, the Worship Leader must not be a "novice" (I Tim 3:6). The account in Isaiah 14:12-14 of the fall of Lucifer, the "Light Bearer" or "Praise Gatherer" should be a caution to the Worship Leader to avoid the pitfall of pride.

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. (1 Timothy 3:6 NIV)

*12 How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!
13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne
above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on
the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. 14 I will ascend above the*

tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." (Isaiah 14:12-14 NIV)

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