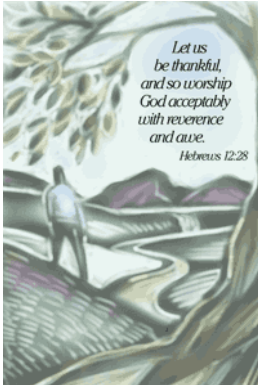


Praying for our Worship Service

Psalm 51: 15 O Lord open my lips and my mouth will declare your praise.



Satan loves to attack our worship team and you will find that this is true in many churches around the world. Satan hates it when we worship. When we are lifting our voices to God in praise he has no power in our lives or the life of our church. Singing is not the same thing as worshipping. When we worship with music we are communicating to God how much we love him. We aren't thinking about what anyone else is doing. We stand and lift our hands if we think it will honor our God, not because anyone else is doing it. Or we sit quietly singing just for our Lord and Savior, not caring that everyone else is standing. Sometimes we feel the need to bow, to kneel, to even lay prostrate before our Lord. When we are truly worshipping Jesus Christ, it is not about ourselves or our comfort zones, it is all about God. God inhabits our praise.

Psalm 95:6-7 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care.

We need to pray that the Glory of God's presence will manifest in our worship services. When we enter in to worship with everything we are we will feel the power of the Holy Spirit. As we seek God's face pray that we will let go of the world and concentrate on what God wants from us during worship, enter into worship with all your heart and all your soul and pray that when we do we will be blessed with a mighty outpouring of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 4:³¹ And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

The Word of God tells us that we "must" worship in spirit and in truth, this is not an option. Worshipping in spirit means we must worship Him from our hearts. We should prepare ourselves to come into our time of worship. We should have a proper respect and fear of God.. *Hebrews 12:28-29 says, "Let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire."*

The truth of how we are to worship is found in His Word. *Psalm 29:2 Give honor to the LORD for the glory of his name. Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.*

John 4:²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

Pray for our Worship Team.

Pray that they will be able to shed the worries of the day as they come to practice on Thursdays. Ask the Lord to give them the strength through the power of the Holy Spirit to prepare for the Worship service on Sunday and to keep them humble. Pray that their practice would become worship and that they would be led by the Holy Spirit. Pray that their lives would be lived in obedience to God's Word and that they would be a light for Christ as they lead us into Worship with the songs we sing to our Lord and Savior.



We need to pray that our worship team singers, musicians, multimedia technicians, will be anointed by the Holy Spirit to lead us into worship on Sunday mornings. Pray that they will come together as ONE to praise and give thanks to the Lord, so that the glorious presence of the Lord fills our sanctuary.

Our Pastors need our prayers. Satan will try to use his evil plans to stop our pastors from becoming all that God has anointed them to be. We *must* pray for our pastors. We should pray that our Pastors will declare the Word of God with clarity, boldness, love and with power. We must also pray for their protection and the protection of their families. Satan will use any distractions to keep them from spending time listening to God's will for their lives and the lives of those he has placed at Luke 10:27.

*Ephesians 6:*¹⁹ *Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,*²⁰ *for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*

Our tithes and offering are a part of our worship. God wants us to give cheerfully. By helping others they will be able to give thanks to God also. We should give as we believe God is leading us to. Not because we are pressured into giving or feel guilty about not giving. God's word tells us how to worship God in spirit and in truth through our tithes and offerings. 2 Corinthians 9:13 tells us that we are glorifying God through our generous gifts and that by giving we are being obedient to our Lord and Savior. So next time the offering is taken let it be a time of worshiping God. Pray before you give your offering that the money will be used to glorify God and that God will bless you for the joyful giving of your gifts.

*. 2 Corinthians 9*⁷ *You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. **For God loves the person who gives cheerfully.***⁸ *And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.*⁹ *As the Scriptures say, "Godly people give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will never be forgotten."*¹⁰ *For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will give you many opportunities to do good, and he will produce a great harvest of generosity in you.*¹¹ *Yes, you will be enriched so that you can give even more generously. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, **they will break out in thanksgiving to God.***¹² *So two good things will happen--the needs of the Christians in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanksgiving to God.*¹³ ***You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts.** For your generosity to them will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.*¹⁴ *And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the wonderful grace of God shown through you.*¹⁵ *Thank God for his Son--a gift too wonderful for words! **2 Corinthians 8***⁷ *But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us¹ --see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*

Ask the Lord to open the eyes and ears of each person in the worship service. As we sing, pray, give our gifts and listen to the word of God pray that we will come into a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior. Pray that the Holy Spirit will open the hearts of all who do not have eternal salvation. Pray that through worship many will be brought into the kingdom of God. Pray that we will continue to worship Him as we leave our worship service and go out into the world. When we live our lives in worship others will see Jesus in us.



Below is a devotional written by Max Lucado about worship, used by permission

***'Come, let's worship him and bow down.
Let's kneel before the LORD who made
us.'* Psalm 95:6**

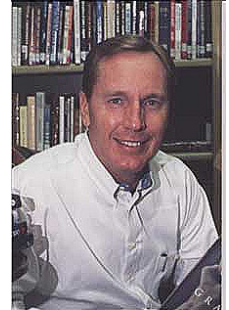
Worship. In two thousand years we haven't worked out the kinks. We still struggle for the right words in prayer. We still fumble over Scripture. We don't know when to kneel. We don't know when to stand. We don't know how to pray.

Worship is a daunting task.

For that reason, God gave us the Psalms -- a praise book for God's people . . . This collection of hymns and petitions are strung together by one thread -- a heart hungry for God.

Some are defiant. Others are reverent. Some are to be sung. Others are to be prayed. Some are intensely personal. Others are written as if the whole world would use them.

The very variety should remind us that worship is personal. No secret formula exists. What moves you may stymie another. Each worships differently. But each should worship.



The Inspirational Study Bible by Max Lucado

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Come back to the heart of worship, it's not about a song, it's not about you, it's all about JESUS! Ask the Lord to search deep within you and strip away everything that is getting in your way of worshiping the Lord with every single breath you take.

Heart of Worship

By Matt Redman

VERSE 1:

When the music fades
All is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless your heart

PRE-CHORUS:

I'll bring you more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what you have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

CHORUS:

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about you, it's all about you
Jesus
I'm sorry lord for the thing i've made it
When it's all about you, it's all about you
Jesus

VERSE 2:

King of endless worth
No one could express
How much you deserve
Though I'm weak and poor
All i have is yours
Every single breath