

INTRODUCTION

Okay, get this picture. As a worship leader, you are all prayed up. Everything is set. You went through a good sound check previously with the worship team. You just came from the pre-service prayer in the “ready room” where the Spirit of God was and is still flowing. You walk on to the platform with the whole worship team. You pick up your instrument. In this case it is a guitar. The pastor begins to welcome the congregation and opens in prayer. As this is going on you begin to strum your guitar for background. Nothing happens. You keep strumming. Nothing happens. You try to get the sound man’s attention. Nothing happens. You try to get the attention of someone in the worship team but they all have their heads bowed in prayer. Nothing happens – except a deep hint of panic welling up within you. You begin to silently pray to the Lord for help. The pastor is finishing his prayer. Suddenly, it hits you. You didn’t plug the cable into your guitar. THANK YOU, LORD!!!

I know something like this has probably never happened to you. If it hasn’t, then you are probably not a worship leader. As a worship leader and even being a member of the worship team you know that “stuff happens.” Listen if you think that the above situation is bad, I know of two other situations that are even better than this. In one

scenario, the worship leader, another guitarist (Hmmm) was in the middle of the first song when he saw someone from the congregation come up to the platform, come right next to him and whisper in his ear, “Do you need this?” He was holding in his hand the unplugged cable to the worship leader’s guitar.

Another, example is actually a wonderful example of a true worshipper during a time of difficulty. We had just rewired the sound system. It was a Sunday morning Service. There was really no time for a sound check. It was literally being rewired up to the time of the service. I guess you can say poor planning. However, it took longer than anyone thought it would. We start the worship and I see one of the musicians is just playing away, totally lost in the worship. I couldn’t hear him at all, but I thought it was because he was low in the monitors. After everything was finished, I went over to him and asked how everything was and mentioned that I couldn’t really hear him however it looked like he was having a wonderful time worshipping the Lord. He then proceeded to tell me that he was never plugged into the system. The sound person didn’t get to plug him into the sound board. However, he just kept on playing. He decided he was just going to play to the Lord as he always did and as long as the Lord heard him that was all that mattered. Now that is a worshipper. But, stuff happens!! By the way, he was a guitarist. (Hmmm)

To be a worship leader is to have a unique calling. The role or function of a worship leader is many times misunderstood by those who are not involved in it at all and it is sometimes misunderstood by the worship leader

themselves. I am aware that worship ministry has expanded from being just song and music to include, worship drama, worship dance, worship art, etc. The concepts and basics of leading any of these aspects of worship is the same and can be applied to all. In the following pages I will attempt to draw upon the scriptures, as well as my personal experience of over 30 years of leading worship, to put into perspective the role and function of a worship leader. I also desire to assist in hopefully giving some practical ideas to the worship leader concerning the various aspects of worship ministry.

Chapters Include:

- WHO ARE THESE GUYS?
- THE ROLE OF A WORSHIP LEADER DESIRES AND GOALS OF LEADING WORSHIP
- GOING THROUGH THE "GATE OF WORSHIP"
- THE "UNKNOWN WORSHIP LEADER"
- MAINTAINING YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH
- DO YOU HAVE A PERSONAL PASSION AND LOVE FOR WORSHIP?
- WORSHIP AND THE PRIESTHOOD
- BEING "CARRIERS" OF GOD'S SPIRIT, AND "COURIERS" OF HIS PRESENCE
- CONTINUITY AND FLOW IN WORSHIP
- ORIGINS OF MUSIC
- PROPER ORDER OF MUSIC
- "HEBRAIC" WORSHIP
- IMPORTANCE OF PREPRATION IN LEADING WORSHIP
- MUSIC TERMS AND DEFINITIONS
- THE "TEN COMMANDMENTS" OF A WORSHIP LEADER