

FORWARD

“Simply, Simple Worship.” It sounds so simple. Yet over the years we have made it so very difficult. Worship is the fundamental purpose of our existence. The all powerful, all knowing, all seeing, magnificent One desired for a very special and unique relationship. It was not because He was lonely. There they were – Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. There were thousands upon thousands upon thousands of angels that sang and praised their Creator.

Yahweh was not looking for great songs or great vocalists or great musicians. All of the angels were created for that and He made them with excellence. No, God desires a unique kind of worship - a worship that would touch His heart in a very unique way. It is a worship that comes from a source of true awestruck love, amazement and wonder. A worship where there is a genuine heart to heart, “deep calling to deep” relationship.

This kind of unique worship that the God of our Salvation is seeking for comes from a source that recognizes that there is nothing that could be or needs to be done for this wonderful God. It comes from a heart that all it wants to do is anything and everything ***unto*** Abba Father, its Daddy God – just because. Just because I love Him for Who He is

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not for what He does. You may be saying, “I know this already. Let’s get on with it. Let’s get into the “meat” of what worship is.” Well, this is the meat of what real worship is. Everything else is just the “gravy and trimmings” for us – not God. Real and true worship is simply an “attitude of the heart.” Your heart!!! My heart!!! Our heart!!! It begins and ends there.

I was sitting in a corporate gathering setting listening to a wonderful friend of our ministry speak on worship. It was wonderful but nothing per se that I did not know. I have been involved in worship ministry for over thirty years. Through a series of events, I was not involved in actual worship ministry at this time. During this time of being away from worship ministry, I had been able to hear and take in what was going on around the “church worship scene,” for lack of a better phrase.

Worship seemed to be getting so much into the “sound of the time,” into “atmosphere and room ambience,” lyrics that sounded “cool” and “trendy” in worshipping the Lord, etc. It was getting to the point where worship again was seen as just music and songs, feelings and emotions. Please, do not get me wrong. I know there is a place for music and songs, feelings and emotions. It was just getting to the point where I was saying to myself as I was sitting there listening to my friend that, “I can’t keep up with it. Maybe I am through with leading worship.” It was at that very moment that I heard God’s voice say to me so very clearly, “Simply, Simple Worship.” I heard Him say to me that He wanted me to worship Him with “Simply, Simple Worship.”

You see, I had been blessed by the Lord to be able to lead a wonderful Body of Christ in worship for over 30 years. I have been able to lead people in other nations in worship through evangelistic outreaches sponsored by the ministry that I am a part of. It has been wonderful. The reason why I say that I have been blessed is because as far as the instrument I play, I am not very good at it. I play guitar, basically rhythm guitar. I was able to be surrounded by other wonderfully gifted people that made me sound good. I do sing capably. In other words there is nothing extraordinary about me. However, the Lord chose to use and take the ability he gave me to be able to do what was done over those 30 years.

When the Lord spoke to me those words, “Simply, Simple Worship,” it reminded me that what had pleased the Lord for all those years was not the use of the ability he had given me but rather it was the attitude of my heart. I would always think, and sometimes say, I’m ashamed to say now, that no one ever liked what I did or liked how I led worship. That was an issue that the Lord was dealing with me now. He was telling me that it did not matter what anyone else thought. It only matters what He thought. After all, worship is for Him and Him alone.

We all know the phrase – “Worship is for an audience of One.” Well is it? Or have we made it something else. I read a statement by Michael Card that has stuck with me all these years. Sometimes I remember it and sometimes I forget about it but then it always pops up in my head again and again. He stated, “The most important thing concerning the worship experience is that God has been worshipped.

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What I get out of it or how I feel about it is of a secondary issue.” WOW!!!

You see, worship is all about God. It is not about anything else. And the only thing that pleases God is “Simply, Simple Worship” that comes from the correct attitude of the heart of the worshipper. It infiltrates into every aspect of your life and lifestyle. Not just on Sundays in a Corporate Gathering, but in everyday situations - at home, at work, in school. Our lives become one big worship service unto the Lord.

If the attitude of the worshipper’s heart is not to see God alone being worshipped, then he/she is not really being a worshipper. When we worship the Lord in a way that is pleasing to Him, with the correct motives and attitude of the heart, our God cannot help Himself but to pour out all that He is upon the true worshipper. That should never be the reason we do what we do but it becomes a very good by-product of our worship.

In the pages to come, I have endeavored to put together some thoughts that may help us view worship what may be a new way for some or maybe just refresh those of us that need to get back to basics and worship our Lord and King, our God with **“Simply, Simple Worship.”**