
E. WHAT IS WORSHIP MUSIC?

Worship is the act of responding to God's revelation of His infinite worth.

A worshiper is one who spends their whole life seeking, finding, and responding to God's revelation of His infinite worth.

A worship leader is a worshiper who is called, gifted, and yielded to the privilege of leading others in responding to God's revelation of His infinite worth.

A worship team is a family of worship leaders, each called, gifted, and yielded to leading others in responding to God's revelation of His infinite worth.

Worship music is music that helps us to perceive and respond to God's revelation of His infinite worth.

1. Music is our means of serving, our method of expressing our service, in God's house.

1 Chronicles 6:31-32

*"These are the men whom David put in charge of the service **of song** in the house of the LORD after the ark rested there. They ministered **with song** before the tabernacle of the tent of meeting."*

- Music and song are evidently very important in the worship life of God's people.
- Of 38,000 Levites separated for service in the house of God **4,000** of them were appointed to the service of music in God's House. (**1 Chronicles 23:5**)

2. Our calling to serve goes beyond just using our musical or technical abilities for our own enjoyment, or to entertain others.

1 Chronicles 25:1

*"David and the chiefs of the service also set apart for the service the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who **prophesied** with lyres, with harps, and with cymbals."*

- There's a prophetic element to music ministry in God's house – we bring heaven down to earth, and earth up to heaven through music.

3. Music is an art form.

- All forms of art have elements of communication – both receptive and expressive. We *perceive* something, and we *respond* to it.
- Music can communicate both articulate ideas and abstract emotion. The author uses lyrics to clearly articulate or describe what they think, see, or feel. They use melody, harmony, rhythm, and musical dynamics to convey the mood of what they think, see, or feel.
- The hearer is moved in spirit, soul, and even body to respond to the totality of the musical expression.

There's a well-known saying, "*A picture is worth 1,000 words.*" We could say that "*A song is worth 10,000 words!*"

4. In the area of worship music:

- We perceive some aspect of God's infinite worth. Then we use music, in all of its elements, to describe what He is revealing to us. We paint a musical picture of what we perceive – what we see, hear, think, feel.

This is whether we're writing a song in the moment for the moment or using an already written song that matches the thought and emotion that God is revealing.

- The hearer can now perceive what he or she did not perceive a moment ago. They "see" what they didn't see. They "hear" what they didn't hear. They "feel" what they didn't feel.
- The hearer now becomes a responder, expressing worship from their innermost being with the help of the music.

All the elements of music – words, melody, harmony, rhythm, dynamics – combine to draw something from inside the worshiper that they didn't know a moment ago was in there to offer to the Lord.

5. Different Styles of Worship Music.

- Different styles of music – whether genres, music from different cultures, music from different eras – are all valid. Each can be used effectively to reveal and evoke a response to the same idea or feeling in different ways.

We see this illustrated in different styles of Psalms in the Bible. Even though we don't know what the music sounded like, we can tell that they would have been

written both in response to different revelations of God, and to express different things to Him.

Psalm 8:1-2

“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.”

Psalm 22:1-2

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.”

Psalm 103:1-3

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases.”

Psalm 150:3-6

“Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourines and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

Each of these different styles were the sincere expression of the Psalmist in the moment.

- We do not just default to the styles of music we personally enjoy the most. We must always be looking to learn different styles, while keeping our expression genuine and from our own heart and that of the people we are serving in the moment.

If a different style isn't something I can pull off musically, or doesn't connect with the people I'm serving at the moment, it won't bring revelation of God or a response from His people.

Worship music is music that helps us to perceive and respond to God's revelation of His infinite worth.