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**E. WHAT IS WORSHIP FLOW?**

**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.

**Worship Flow** is an administration that unites all these other components to move as one in perceiving and responding to the revelation of God’s infinite worth.

1. The word ‘flow’ is defined as *“to move freely from one place to another in a steady unbroken stream, unhindered steady movement.”*

**John 7:38-39**

*“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive...”*

**Psalm 46:4**

*“There is a river, whose streams make glad the city of God.”*

- Someone who is thirsty could be refreshed by water from a pool or a pond, but these comparisons to a river are intentional – indicating movement, constant renewal, and dynamic refreshing. The flow of the river of the Holy Spirit brings the life of God to His people.
2. When we come together in a worship meeting:
    - The Holy Spirit has an **agenda** – to glorify God!

That's another way of saying "to reveal the infinite worth of God." His plan is to glorify Him in a particular way each time we seek Him together.

- The Holy Spirit has an **administration**.

The administration is designed to help us perceive God in whatever way He is revealing Himself today, and to help us respond to that revelation.

He knows where we're going and He knows exactly how to move us from point A to point B to get there.

In **Ezekiel 47**, Ezekiel followed a trickle of water as it got deeper and deeper. It went from ankle deep, to knee deep, to waist deep, to over-the-head-swim-in-it deep, then flowed out to the sea.

In our worship times, there's a progression that usually goes something like this –

- 1) Ankle deep: Thanksgiving
- 2) Knee deep: Declaration of praise
- 3) Waist deep: Adoration, worship
- 4) River deep: Deep communion

The Holy Spirit knows how to move us from one level of depth of communing with God to the next, smoothly, in a flowing manner that will get us to our destination!

- We have an **agenda** – to be in the glory of God!

We want to perceive and respond to the revelation of His infinite worth, in whatever aspect of it He's revealing to us today.

- We have an **administration**.

We have a plan, primarily made up of practical details to help us reach our goal:

- We're going to start at a certain time.
- We're going to have someone with a mic open the meeting.
- We're going to sing songs.
- We're going to preach.

The most important part of **our** administration is that we have determined to find the Holy Spirit, and to follow **His** administration, His 'flow'.

### 3. Let's use our river example to see how this works in a worship service.

- In a river, there's a pattern to its flow –

It's always flowing in the same direction bounded by the same banks. Yet, the actual water flowing through it is new and fresh every day, because it's always being renewed from the source.

- In a worship service, there's a pattern, an administration, to the flow –

We're going to come into the same building each week, start at the same time, be led by the same group of people, sing some of the same songs, etc. Yet, the dynamic of the move of the Spirit is new and fresh, because the flow is being renewed from the Source!

- So, why do we need an administration, why not just come every week with a blank slate and see what happens?

A river without banks is called a flood – watery chaos that destroys rather than blesses the land. A worship service without a plan or administration is spiritual chaos and unproductive, maybe even destructive.

Conversely, a body of water with well defined banks but no flowing water becomes a stagnant pool – no life, leads nowhere. A worship service with a great plan but no move of the Spirit flowing through it doesn't bring the life of God to the people of God, there's no forward movement into God's purposes.

### 4. How Do We Learn to Follow the Flow of The Holy Spirit?

- Live life with God.

Learn to find and follow the Holy Spirit in your everyday life. Practice following the Holy Spirit in worship and prayer every day.

- Follow your leaders.

#### **1 Chronicles 25:1, 6**

*“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.”*

*“They were all under the direction of their fathers in the music in the house of the Lord with cymbals, harps, and lyres for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the order of the king.”*

In a worship gathering, we are serving the leaders as they seek to find the flow of the Holy Spirit for the meeting.

So, when I am just getting ready to have my big solo and one of the leaders walks to the mic and says, *"praise God! We're just going to end right there and get to the announcements"* -- we smile and say *"Amen!"* as enthusiastically as we possibly can!

Or, when the worship leader says, *"I know you learned to play this song that way, but we're going to play it this way,"* we say, *"yes we are!"*

- Learn to flow with one another.

We submit our gifts to serve together, flowing with one another spiritually and musically. We yield to and support one another.

**Worship Flow is an administration that unites all these other components to move as one in perceiving and responding to the revelation of God's infinite worth.**