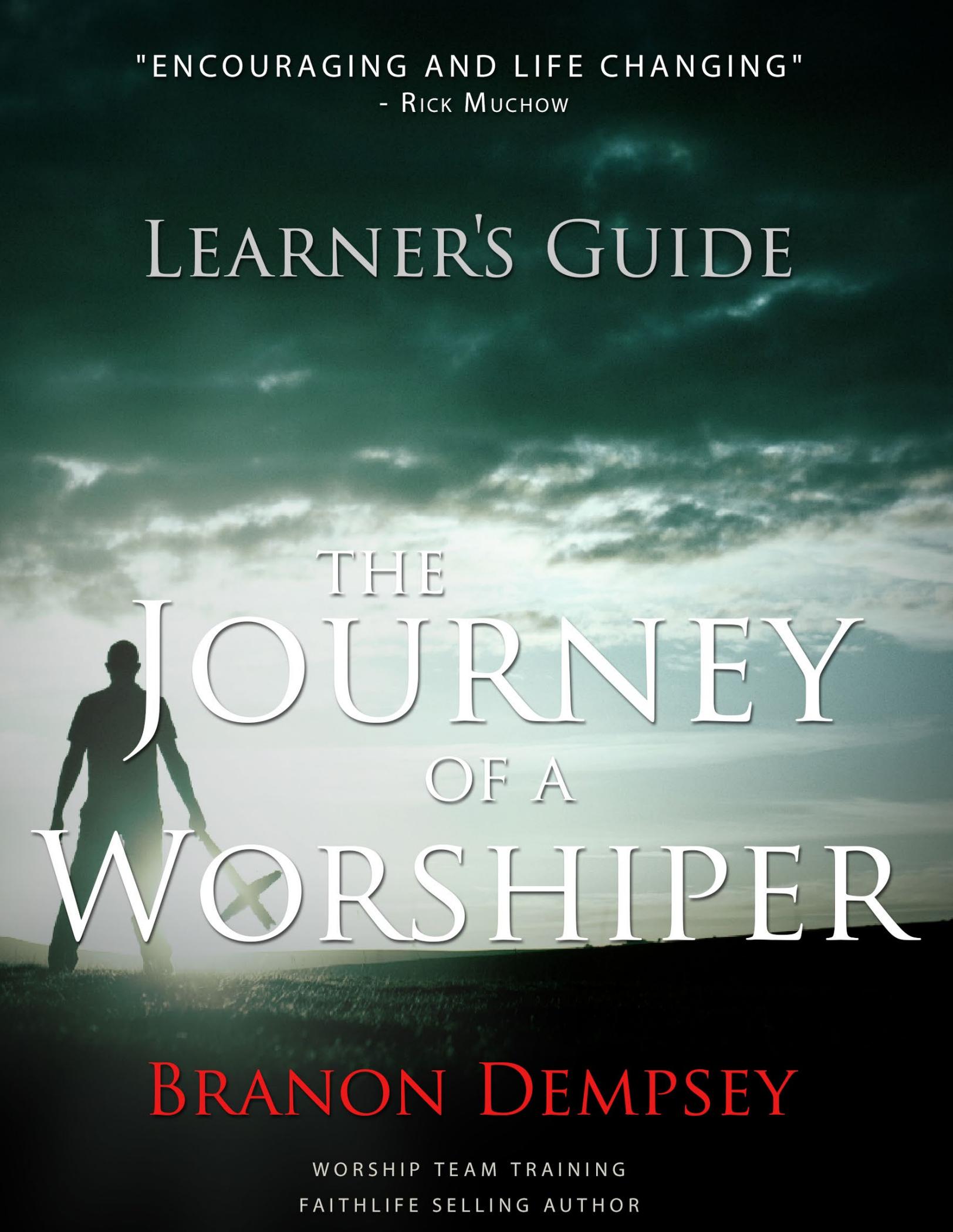


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- RICK MUCHOW

# LEARNER'S GUIDE

A silhouette of a person stands on a grassy hill, looking out over a vast landscape under a dramatic, cloudy sky. The person is holding a long staff or pole. The overall mood is contemplative and inspiring.

THE  
JOURNEY  
OF A  
WORSHIPER

**BRANON DEMPSEY**

WORSHIP TEAM TRAINING  
FAITHLIFE SELLING AUTHOR

Worship Team Training  
*presents*

# **THE JOURNEY OF A WORSHIPER**

a compilation of Worship Team Training devotions

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# THE JOURNEY OF A WORSHIPER

*Branon Dempsey*

**LEARNER'S GUIDE**



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# ENDORSEMENTS

“The Journey of a Worshiper” is both instructional and devotional. This work is rich in scripture and offers needed encouragement and practical training for every worshiper. Branon takes us on a life changing devotional journey leading us to increased intimacy with God.

***-Rick Muchow, Worship Pastor, Coach, and Former Saddleback Worship Pastor***

Branon Dempsey shares Biblical principles and insight to help believers unlock their potential to grow deeper as faithful worshipers. As you read, embrace, and apply the inspirational messages to your walk, God will help you to become the kind of worshiper He is looking for you to be.

***-Zoro the Drummer, Performer, Motivational Speaker, Author, and Drummer for Lenny Kravitz, Lincoln Brewster and Phil Keaggy***

“The Journey of a Worshiper” is a compilation of devotionals that lead worshipers and worship leaders through an experience of heart-felt communion with God. The focus is the heart. The approach is like a friend asking questions that both lead you through a path of discovery and a resolve to love Jesus more and more each day. The result is a renewed passion to worship. This journey will transform you.

***-Holland Davis, Author, Songwriter, and Senior Pastor of Calvary Chapel San Clemente***

# PREFACE

Thank you for choosing this book “The Journey of a Worshiper.” This book is special because it represents many conversations and dialogues with friends and acquaintances in my life. We are all set on a path and called to walk. The question is, where are we going, how do we get there and what is God’s will?

The life as a follower of Jesus is not confined to the one hour event each week. The worship of a Christ follower is not restricted to a single song. The walk of a believer is not limited to only a few steps. Life in Jesus is on-going fellowship with God (James 2:23).

The purpose of a Christian is not to merely exist for one’s self. It begins and ends with God, and the journey in between is a life of worship.

The journey is where we find daily and momently encounters with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is not regulated to a passing church service or bible study. Experiencing life with God is to meet Him expectantly in the trials, the trenches, as well as, the triumphs.

Often on the journey, we find several choices in our path: barriers, intersections, road signs and hazards. The questions we often find ourselves asking: How did this happen? How did I get here? Why is this happening? How do I overcome?

God instructs us not to turn away from His word. No matter the terrain, nor the tumble, nor the terrible, the Lord desires us to go through Him. What path are you on now and how are you getting to your destination?

This devotional book will encourage you to go deep in your relationship with God. To seek His call, to discover His wisdom, to unlock knowledge and to see how each action, word, thought, prayer and song in Christ is a response of worship.

Worship is on-going. It does not end at the last section of the Chorus. Just as we finish prayers with saying Amen, our thought-line and songs continue. The beauty we find in the Lord is the moment-by-moment life breathing and living with God in the journey.

The journey requires hard work and determination because the result is growth. The reward from that growth is fruit.

No one ever said that being a Christian is easy. Life as we know it is messy, rocky and unexpected.

Have you been called into a task that seemed greater than your ability to handle? Maybe there is an obstacle in your path, as your inner confidence is challenged against the pressure to cross the finish line. It is here in these times, when we discover how God makes our faith and character sharp like diamonds. Out of which, we offer God the treasury of our worship.

“And it is through conflict that God induces the believer to seek and to grasp total triumph in Christ.” - Watchman Nee

In the life of Joshua, we see the many roads and rivers he crossed. I love the story of Joshua because it reminds us of how much God seeks our worship that is guided by His word. The life of Joshua also reminds us of how our walk and worship is not to be tainted by today's cultural idols.

Joshua was a man who took the Word and worship of God seriously. He followed what God commanded Him to do (Joshua 1:2-9). Like us today, Joshua faced hardship, insecurity and failure. However, he also discovered how life with God outshined all the darkness. Joshua became more aware of God in daily living and walked the path of fellowship with the Creator.

God's plan for Joshua was not just to occupy the land, but to grow it so the people can worship Him freely. You and I are also called to grow in spirit, strength and wisdom so we may worship God with every breath. It doesn't stop here, as the work of God continues through us so we may help others along the path as well.

This devotional is not focused on the life of Joshua, but I wanted to share his example as you begin the travel of this book.

God says in Joshua 1:2-6

“...get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.”

Here's the main point: God is more interested in your journey rather than your arrival. He is more concerned in how you walk in the destination of faith, not in your departure of fear.

The Lord first commanded Joshua three simple precepts: be strong, courageous and be careful to follow God's laws by doing everything in them (vv. 6-9).

When we learn to follow God, our journey begins to take shape in heart-felt worship, both in times of struggle and times of success.

In this devotional, you will see the many mile markers in the way of God. Discover His desire to be the kind of worshiper He wants you to be in: heart, prayer, path, soul and life.

The triumph we find in our challenges and conflicts is the ability to discover that we can truly do all things in Christ (Philippians 4:13), who gives us strength. Apart from Him we are nothing. He alone is only to fear, not trouble that stands in our way, nor the rough road that lies ahead.

It's amazing how the Word truly is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105).

God develops the courage within us as we rightly prepare by taking one step at a time. As we seek Him first, He also surprises us by His will. Even when we stand in the crossroads of decisions or conflict, we see the beauty of His miracles always at work. He moves us forward, even when it feels like we are standing still.

Know this: your identity is being a child of God, a worshiper of the King. Your worth is not found in what you do, and your measure is not found in your title. True identity comes through Jesus.

We give Him praise and worship as a response. We have been adopted into the Family and have become heirs of the Kingdom (Titus 3:7, Hebrews 1:2, James 2:5).

As you walk this path, remember the promise He whispered to Joshua, as He still whispers to us today: "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Joshua 1:5).

Enjoy the reading of this book as God fills your every step in the journey of worship.

- Branon Dempsey

# AN OVERVIEW OF DEVOTIONS

This booklet is a compilation of devotions penned by Branon Dempsey to assist worship team leaders and members in drawing closer to God. Many of these daily devotions first appeared on the Worship Team Training blog. The following devotions are also available through YouVersion Bible devotion plans.

## **The Heart of a Worshiper (3 days)**

The Heart of a Worshiper overflows with expressions of praise and steadfast trust in everyday circumstances. Learning to worship in Spirit and in truth is dependent upon the Holy Spirit and the truth of His word, shaping your heart and mind in responding to Jesus. This 3-day devotion invites you to explore the faithfulness of God, to be strengthened, and to yield worship that's pleasing to the Father.

## **The Prayer of a Worshiper (5 days)**

The Prayer of a Worshiper underscores the importance of a personal relationship with God, the Creator. A daily dependence upon His Word and an ongoing acknowledgement of His Sovereignty strengthen your faith. This 5-day devotion guides you through prayers of mediation and thankfulness, song and praise, humility and wisdom, requests, and worship. Develop these types of prayers and watch your relationship with and dependence upon God grow.

## **The Path of a Worshiper (7 days)**

The Path of a Worshiper begins with a commitment to follow Christ and to seek His direction. God's Word instructs you in the way to go, the wisdom to keep, and the message to share with others. This 7-day devotion guides you along a path of worship to help develop your faith, trust, identity and victory - a pathway of praise committed to God.

**The Soul of a Worship Leader (14 days)**

The Soul of a Worship Leader is one that is centered on Christ and that seeks to please Him. This 14-day plan helps you explore your own motives and reminds you of what God seeks in a worshiper.

**The Life of a Worship Leader (30 days)**

The Life of a Worship Leader is more than a Sunday morning job. It is a daily walk and growing relationship with the Creator worthy of wholehearted worship. This 30-day plan helps you strengthen your walk as a worshiper and a leader.

# THE HEART OF A WORSHIPER

The Heart of a Worshiper overflows with expressions of praise and steadfast trust in everyday circumstances. Learning to worship in Spirit and in truth is dependent upon the Holy Spirit and the truth of His word, shaping your heart and mind in responding to Jesus. This 3-day devotion invites you to explore the faithfulness of God, to be strengthened, and to yield worship that's pleasing to the Father.

## Day 1: Worship in Spirit and in Truth

**Psalm 119:147; John 8:32; John 15:5; John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 2 John 1:2; Titus 1:2**

Our \_\_\_\_\_ to God is not determined by our \_\_\_\_\_; nor is our \_\_\_\_\_ with God dictated by our \_\_\_\_\_. He loves us through and through. No matter where we've been or where we've come from, we can rest in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God; He chooses to love us regardless.

“I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.” (Psalm 119:147). Because of God's great love for us, we can put our \_\_\_\_\_ in His Word because His Word is \_\_\_\_\_.

“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32). Because His truth sets us free, we abide in Him as His truth abides in us. (John 15:5).

„God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24). As we are sealed by the Holy Spirit, who is our guarantee, (2 Corinthians 1:22) we stand in His truth, therefore, we worship in the truth and spirit of Jesus Christ. “Because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever” (2 John 1:2).

We worship Him in truth, because He is the Truth and His truth forever lives in the heart of the believer. Our hearts turn to Him in worship because He is the God who can \_\_\_\_\_. (Titus 1:2)

Center your heart on these truths from God. Trust in His faithfulness and worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

## Day 2: We Shall Worship

**John 4:23; Romans 12:1; Psalm 22:27; Luke 4:8; Revelation 4:10; John 4:14; John 7:38**

Jesus said in John 4:23 “when the true worshipers shall worship.” This is not as much as a command as it is a compelling commitment. Jesus has already spoken. When do you commit yourself to worship Him?

We “shall” worship, is more than a \_\_\_\_\_ that we make. Worship is a \_\_\_\_\_ to Him. Placing everything else aside, we make Him the \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 12:1). What is interesting is this word “shall.” We find it several times in the Bible. Here are a few passages: Psalm 22:27 All the ends of the earth \_\_\_\_\_ remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.

Luke 4:8 “You \_\_\_\_\_ worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.”

Revelation 4:10 “the four and twenty elders \_\_\_\_\_ fall down before Him...and shall worship Him...”

His Gift becomes the reason of \_\_\_\_\_ we worship. All the earth and creation responds to Him. We, too, personally respond to Him.

There is both an \_\_\_\_\_ and an \_\_\_\_\_. The inflow of worship: Jesus said that the water that He gives (the Holy Spirit), will become a wellspring, welling up into Eternal Life (John 4:14). The outflow of worship is in John 7:38 “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

Like water, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God always returns to its Source who is the Father. He flows in and out of us by the waters of the Holy Spirit. It is this same Life that causes us to drink from His waters to never be thirsty again.

We shall worship, not because we are commanded, but because the Spirit who lives within us \_\_\_\_\_ to worship. “...true worshipers shall worship...”

Ask God to search your heart and make it \_\_\_\_\_, not tossed to and fro with waves of emotion. Choose to have a heart that seeks and worships Him, a heart \_\_\_\_\_ by His word.

### Day 3: God Seeks Worship

**Psalm 22:26; Jeremiah 29:13; Hebrews 11:6; John 4:23**

When was the last time you sought God in worship, or rather, asked for Him to come and find you? St. Ambrose said: “God walks through the Holy Scriptures seeking man.” How awesome it is to know that the One True God, Creator of the Universe, God in Three Persons, the Lord Almighty continues to seek man, just as He did in the Garden?

Everything we ever need to know is already found in Him. He knows our \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and sin. Yet, He chooses to love us and \_\_\_\_\_ pursues us (Psalm 22:26).

God calls us to faith. He comes and finds us, as we also draw near to seek Him (Jeremiah 29:13). “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Being found just as we are is \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ God wants us to be: sought, found, rescued and redeemed.

Instead of worrying through the thick leaves of the garden, just stop where you are, worship Him and let God come and find you (John 4:23).

God is seeking worship from a heart that \_\_\_\_\_ Him. Will you give that to Him today?

# THE PRAYER OF A WORSHIPER

The Prayer of a Worshiper underscores the importance of a personal relationship with God, the Creator. A daily dependence upon His Word and an ongoing acknowledgement of His Sovereignty strengthen your faith. This 5-day devotion guides you through prayers of mediation and thankfulness, song and praise, humility and wisdom, requests, and worship. Develop these types of prayers and watch your relationship with and dependence upon God grow.

## Day 1: Prayers of Meditation and Thankfulness

**Psalm 119:15; Psalm 119:27; Psalm 119:171; Psalm 61:1; Isaiah 26:16; Colossians 4:2; Psalm 55:1**

Worship is a \_\_\_\_\_ to God. Prayer, like song, becomes the vehicle. We give God thanks because of who He is and what He has done, and is continuing to do.

Psalm 119 is one of my most favorite chapters in the Bible. Why? Because it's filled with relativity and connects my \_\_\_\_\_ and my \_\_\_\_\_ to His truth. Most of my time in the Word begins in the Psalms. When I look at each word, it compels me to pray. When's the last time you just hung on a word or a verse just to meditate?

When I land on a passage like Psalm 119:41, I often ask myself questions about what I'm reading. I like to find the full context of the words that will enable me to dive deeper. For example, reading the phrase "Your unfailing love..." makes me stop and ponder what makes God's love so "unfailing"?

If we look up that word in Scripture or think about its meaning, we find that \_\_\_\_\_ means: constant, reliable, dependable, steadfast, steady, endless, undying, unfading, inexhaustible, indefatigable, boundless, tireless, ceaseless. Pretty incredible, right?

This understanding of one word gives us a richer context to worship and sing our prayers to God. We can resonate with the imagery as we see His steady work in our lives, families, friends, ministries, etc. Then, the Holy Spirit can move us to search other words or passages adding to our individual worship experiences.

When I enter into worship, either private or public, I bring to mind what I've learned. When a good song lyric, message or sermon comes my way and intersects with what God is doing in my heart, my response to God becomes uncontainable.

When we \_\_\_\_\_ and give thanks for God's \_\_\_\_\_, our worship changes because our \_\_\_\_\_ change. Our \_\_\_\_\_ change, because God shapes (and re-shapes) our entire being. Taking your worship to a deeper level with God begins with Him. Worship for \_\_\_\_\_, not for \_\_\_\_\_.

Our prayer today: Dear Lord, I meditate on Your faithfulness. As I do, remind me of Your unfailing love, so I may ever sing songs of thanksgiving.

## Day 2: Prayers of Song and Praise

**Psalm 95:2; Psalm 119:54; Psalm 28:7; Job 35:10**

Have you ever thought about how songs can take on a new meaning? We step into our services of worship, we hear the band playing the recognizable tunes and we take our familiar places.

We can grow numb to the music that we hear week-in and week-out. We know the melody, the words of verse and chorus sections and all the music by heart. But, when was the last time that you really focused on the words of the song - not the melody, not the music, but just the text?

God is serious about our words in songs and our words in worship. We find this importance in the verses of the oldest, yet freshest, book of them all: The Book of Psalms. This portion of the Scriptures contains the most original writing for songs in worship.

Look at the heart of David as he gives what is called a “Poetic Psalm,” expressing the value of living life by the instructions of God preserved in the Old Testament. Listen to the sung prayer words of David in Psalm 119:172 „May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous.” Also, hear his plea in verse 175 „Let me live that I may praise you.”

David’s lips \_\_\_\_\_with praise in thanking God for his \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord’s commands are so treasured that David sings of His word. He makes a request for \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. If you were to set this text to melody and music, it would literally be a sung prayer to God. Such honest and biblical expressions can move the heart of the worshiper.

Personally, my heart is moved to prayer by the lyrics of a good, biblical song. The song itself becomes a tool or a vehicle of worship to God. Just as we have seen from Scripture, we can agree with the Psalmist. When a good song expresses sound \_\_\_\_\_, it is easy to agree and recite the words back to God.

Songs take on a richer meaning when we are able to identify with them. Worship takes on a deeper meaning to God because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of our heart, mind and spirit.

Our prayer today: Praise to the God who hears our prayers and songs! May they be full of life and faithfulness! Nothing compares to You, our Great King, and no other praise shall we resound to the highest of heavens. The Lord reigns, and let His people sing and shout for joy!

### Day 3: Prayers of Humility and Wisdom

**1 Peter 1:16; Romans 12:1; Hosea 6:1-6; Psalm 88:13; James 3:13**

How do we live as Jesus? Not just putting on the Sunday morning face, but living with Him face-to-face? We do what 1 Peter 1:16, which says: “for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” and through that \_\_\_\_\_, we submit our lives daily through Romans 12:1, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.” How can this be clearer?

The fact is, God wants your \_\_\_\_\_. He desires us to live in a way that is safe, wise and close to His heart. As we \_\_\_\_\_, we also keep His words momently.

No, we don’t walk around like monks with praying hands and bowed heads (maybe not a bad idea). Yes, we do walk in a spirit of humility and holiness. When things spring up in your day, before you react, think. Think of how God can use you in the moment. Think about how He wants you to grow wisely and to act humbly.

Believe and be discerning in what He is trying to teach you, trying to say, or trying to help you respond. It’s not about you, but it is about how you allow God to work \_\_\_\_\_ you.

One of my favorite authors, Watchman Nee, writes, “Revelation is the first step to holiness, and consecration is the second...when we give up all right to ourselves and submit to the absolute Lordship of Jesus Christ.” - study on Hosea 6.1-6 (and prayer).

Our lives really are acts of worship. How do our \_\_\_\_\_ daily speak of worship?

When we are among our brothers and sisters, and the world, we are to be wise and live wisely. We turn our attention and ways to living for Jesus. We return to the Lord, who can

heal us and bind up our wounds. When we submit to His holiness and ways, we begin to live in His presence. As we move through this world and our hurts, He restores us and revives us again. Others will take notice, not because of you, but what the Lord is doing through you.

Just as the sun rises and sets, God's power works within you to His glorious praise. We now live in His glorious praise as we live among people. This is what it means to live as pure \_\_\_\_\_ to God. We are not perfect, but \_\_\_\_\_ . Not unwise, but rather, wise in the way we live.

The way we live is a \_\_\_\_\_ of how we worship and lead others to the Father. May we be careful, wise and worshipful in our ways.

Our prayer today: Lord, thank You that I am made to praise You and to live as Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Help me to seek Your wisdom and to dwell in Your Word daily. May my life become the same song You sing over me in true unconditional love, with immeasurable mercy and of sweet humility. Show me Your ways and teach me Your path, so that I may bring joy to the Father in all my days.

#### Day 4: Prayers of Requests

**James 1:5-6; Psalm 27:4; Psalm 66:20; Matthew 21:22**

A request made by prayer is not just a question we present before God, but a choice we make to believe that God will do what He says He will do - by faith. When God answers, He doesn't just change our \_\_\_\_\_; He changes and \_\_\_\_\_ our hearts to be \_\_\_\_\_ to His will.

Each day we have a \_\_\_\_\_. Each crossing has its fork. Which one do you take: the path that seems more alluring, yet crooked, or the path that looks plain and straight? We long to take the way that leads to \_\_\_\_\_. However, when we look around, it appears that we've lost our direction. How do we get on the right track, when we know that we can't go back, but must move forward?

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12:2).

Everyone else may take the \_\_\_\_\_ path. This one looks more appealing to the eye and intriguing by its curves. But its trail leads to \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 12:28). The road that leads to \_\_\_\_\_ calls us to leave our simple ways and to walk in the way of \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 9:6).

How does this relate to worship? What does this mean to life?

\_\_\_\_\_ means to “change the condition, function, nature, character or personality” of something. God is not as interested in where you've been, but cares more about where you are, and where you are going. Conforming is about our \_\_\_\_\_, transforming is about our \_\_\_\_\_. God desires to change \_\_\_\_\_. This is only possible through One Man - Jesus Christ.

In speaking to the Church, Paul reminded them not to conform to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. As appealing as the world may be to the eye, we are to live another way. This also affects the way we pray and make requests before God.

In order to call Him Lord and Savior, we must also act and become like \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. We are to show Him worth, if we are to call Him Worthy. This not only transforms our way of \_\_\_\_\_, but it also transforms our way of \_\_\_\_\_ and prayer. If our way of living and worship changes, the way we pray (with a clean heart) also changes.

How different and more beautiful would our music be if we choose a better way of living, through a more honest way of praying?

Begin this day by taking the right path. Have him guard you against evil and \_\_\_\_\_. Seek and ask God to impart \_\_\_\_\_ for the journey. Give yourself completely to Him and watch Him transform the way you live. He truly \_\_\_\_\_ our every need that keeps us from running to sin.

Before our worship changes, our living must be changed. It doesn't start with the church; it's starts with you and me.

Our hearts must be \_\_\_\_\_ in order to sing the song of Salvation. This is our spiritual act of worship: to offer ourselves as living sacrifices and be transformed by the renewing of our minds, to know His good, pleasing and perfect will (Romans 12:1-2).

The prayer of a worshiper is to live and to sing about \_\_\_\_\_ power of Christ.

Our prayer today: Jesus, please change the words of my prayers to match the words of Your heart. Give me a heart that You desire to hear the kinds of requests that call You Lord. Help me choose to live right, as You are in the light, making my prayers and pathway clear.

## Day 5: Prayers of Worship

**Psalm 19:14; John 13:34-35; Psalm 49:3; Psalm 42:8**

The life of a worshiper is about life with God. Daily \_\_\_\_\_ and a constant state of \_\_\_\_\_ before His feet. Like a broken fragrance, we pour ourselves upon the feet of Jesus, yet He is the one who wipes away every tear and stain (Matthew 26:7-9).

It's not so much about you being a leader of any kind, as it is about you being a \_\_\_\_\_ - a worshiper who is just as serious about prayer as God is serious about hearing our prayers.

God wants your \_\_\_\_\_. It comes from the understanding that you are not your own. This discovery is \_\_\_\_\_ in your identity: you are a \_\_\_\_\_ of God. When it comes to what you do and who you are, it has nothing to do with someone else's \_\_\_\_\_, but everything to do with you being His.

It's a knowing that only comes from God through His word, intersecting with your soul. A recognition and agreement that takes place in the heart.

Sometimes we work so hard that we miss our true \_\_\_\_\_. Know this: God has not called you as a \_\_\_\_\_, but as a son or daughter. Ministry is about seeing Christ within you, doing the work through you. It begins by Him making you, instead of you making it.

We need to find our true identity is to be a son or daughter of the King by being who we truly are in Christ. Not a worship leader, not a director, not a CEO, not even a busy father or committed wife - but a simple child who is \_\_\_\_\_ upon the Heavenly Father's unconditional love, lavishing care, grace, protection and provision.

When I see myself through this lens, everything else I do - or should do - becomes \_\_\_\_\_.

Your identity is not just in Christ, but in the eyes of Christ - not in the eyes of \_\_\_\_\_. Galatians 4:6-7 states: Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God."

God is looking for sons and daughters to become worshipers by the \_\_\_\_\_, not by the trade. Take a closer look into how God looks at you, and you will find what He's created you to really be - His worshiper, His kid.

God isn't looking for worship leaders, He is looking for \_\_\_\_\_ who worship. And, He is looking and listening for those worshipers to pray.

Our prayer today: Father, please remove this grown-up-adult-view and give me the eyes of a child to see You. Give me the utterances and words from my heart to give You praise in sincere worship. Forgive me for withholding the echoes You long to hear from my soul. I turn to You as You turn your ear to hear my voice. I love You, O Lord. Thank You for hearing, listening, giving and providing for my every need. May I, in-turn, share Your love with others.

# THE PATH OF A WORSHIPER

The Path of a Worshiper begins with a commitment to follow Christ and to seek His direction. God's Word instructs you in the way to go, the wisdom to keep, and the message to share with others. This 7-day devotion guides you along a path of worship to help develop your faith, trust, identity and victory - a pathway of praise committed to God.

### **Day 1: Rooted in the Word**

**Psalm 1:1-3; Proverbs 13:20; Proverbs 1:2-7; Micah 6:8**

To keep in step with God is to walk in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord. It is a reverent fear that inquires of His wisdom. It's a godly fear that produces \_\_\_\_\_.

Where folly is present, it can never stand in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord. So it is imperative and essential that the man and woman of God stay \_\_\_\_\_ in the Word of God.

Careful to keep to His paths is the way of the worshiper. It is a way that goes deep into his \_\_\_\_\_. It is also a way to allow the fruit of the Spirit to extend to others.

## Day 2: Walk in Worship

**Psalm 25:4-7; Psalm 119:35; Psalm 119:133; Proverbs 22:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:5**

Guide me in your truth and teach me. Show me your paths, oh Lord. These are the words of comfort we find in Psalm 25. We are never without \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Even when it feels that we have lost our way, that the road is too long, or that the path has too many turns, God \_\_\_\_\_ every step and always \_\_\_\_\_ the right way.

It is often said, "It's not about the destination but the journey." What I am learning is that it's not about the journey, but more about the \_\_\_\_\_. The Israelites wandered in a circle for forty years. You can call that a journey, but it had no direction.

When we seek His wisdom, He blesses us on His path. We give Him thanks and praise; along the journey, we walk in His worship.

May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance (2 Thessalonians 3:5).

### **Day 3: His Heart/Our Fortress**

**Psalm 84; 2 Samuel 20:1-2; Proverbs 14:6-7; Proverbs 14:12; Proverbs 14:30; Galatians 5:16-17**

We can be so easily led astray, but how do we give thoughts to our steps in following Godly wisdom?

King David's troop of Israel was fooled by a naysayer and avenged David's army (2 Samuel 20:1-2). This passage represents the call of evil that tries to \_\_\_\_\_ away from God - a troublemaker. However, we call on the name of the Lord to fortify the city of our hearts, to let no evil reside.

By walking in the Spirit, we derail the enemy and troublemaker of our flesh (Galatians 5:16-17).

When we learn to walk in His ways we develop \_\_\_\_\_ that hear the Lord's call above any other voice. Only God can fill what our souls cry out for - to be purely and entirely \_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus. His heart is our \_\_\_\_\_.

My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God (Psalm 84:2).

Better is one day in His courts, than a thousand elsewhere...

#### **Day 4: Walk as One**

**Psalm 89:15-17; Proverbs 13:3; John 17:20-21; John 17:23**

The Lord loves those who seek Him and His goodness. Not only do we learn to acclaim Him, but to learn how to acclaim Him as One Body.

When we walk together in \_\_\_\_\_, we model the prayer that Jesus prayed. To be One in the Father, Son and Spirit, just as He is One, is the calling of the Church.

These are not just pretty words we read, but words we are to speak, live and act. As we do, others will know us by our love, and not by our \_\_\_\_\_. May the Gospel guard our lips as we \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, Lord (Psalm 89:15).

## **Day 5: The Victory of Surrender**

**Psalm 86:10-13; Proverbs 21:31; 1 Corinthians 3:19-20**

The Almighty and Sovereign Lord, possesses all the glory. No plan can \_\_\_\_\_ without Him, and no plan can \_\_\_\_\_ with Him. When we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to Jesus, He empowers us with \_\_\_\_\_ to do His will. He does all things wonderfully in His time.

As worshipers, we are to follow Him first, stay sharp, sing a new song, and worship Him alone. We are to do good and be ready for the day ahead. \_\_\_\_\_ rests with the Lord.

Prayer: Jesus, teach me to follow Your paths and Your ways. Forgive me for trailing off the road You laid before me. Thank You for Your grace and mercy that dwells within me. I cannot fathom the gravity of Your love. Do well with me as You always do with Your servants. I bless You this day. Amen.

## Day 6: Worship Along the Way

**Isaiah 43:18-10; Deuteronomy 31:8; Matthew 15:24-26; Hebrews 12:1-2**

There will never be another day like this again. The things God has called you to accomplish will be completed. The things God has done through you, showcases His faithfulness. Yesterday will never be the same because what He does tomorrow will be better.

Isaiah 43:18-19 encourages us: “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”

Ministry \_\_\_\_\_ on you. Rather, God wants you to depend on Him. He has given us faith, ability and wisdom. We can always rest assured that He is able and will \_\_\_\_\_ His plans through us - in \_\_\_\_\_ given situation.

No matter what lies ahead, He goes before us. He blazes the trail ahead and calls us to follow Him.

“The LORD Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged” (Deuteronomy 31:8).

Keep your eyes fixed on Christ and allow Him to provide the right steps to take in your walk.

Yesterday’s \_\_\_\_\_ belongs to yesterday’s \_\_\_\_\_; today’s calling belongs to God’s word \_\_\_\_\_.

## Day 7: In This Moment

**Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1:1-3; Matthew 6:25-34; Proverbs 3:5-6**

Lead in the \_\_\_\_\_. God does not want you to go back to the way things were - to worry over \_\_\_\_\_. Nor does he want you to worry about the things of \_\_\_\_\_. It's easy to get caught up into thoughts like: "What will the future bring?" "What can I do now?" "How can I stay fresh?" "How long will things last?"

When these thoughts come to me I try to reflect on the \_\_\_\_\_ moment - where God has me now.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 offers this encouragement:

„But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream and does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

God understands our thoughts better than we do. He desires us to put our \_\_\_\_\_ in Him. He holds our time; He provides for our needs; He covers us with His protection.

We must ask the Lord to work through us, by faith and trust. In leading our ministries, our churches, and, most of all, our households, God wants us to be in the here and now.

For the remainder of this year, commit to being \_\_\_\_\_ like a tree planted by the water. In His blessings, He will give strength and \_\_\_\_\_ to help you stay vital and green. Even through the tough times, no matter the season, we are able to bear fruit if we \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.

His love never fails, and neither should our dependence upon Him. He is faithful. In this moment, live in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

# THE SOUL OF A WORSHIP LEADER

The Soul of a Worship Leader is one that is centered on Christ and that seeks to please Him. This 14-day plan helps you explore your own motives and reminds you of what God seeks in a worshiper.

## Day 1: Are You Good Enough?

**Ephesians 3:19; 2 Peter 1:8; 1 Timothy 1:6-7; 1 John 1; Galatians 5:6-7**

Your \_\_\_\_\_ compared to somebody else does not \_\_\_\_\_ your worth!

“and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:19).

It’s almost as if we are looking for the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ for being “good enough.” The real question: Why do we need to be good, and what is enough?

If you listen to the wrong voices, they will always \_\_\_\_\_ you. They will always set you up for \_\_\_\_\_, and tell you not to grow. If you listen to the right voice, you always be led in the way you’re supposed to go. Hearing from God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the worshiper. Which voice are you listening to?

“For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:8).

God does not want you to have the quality of somebody else, that’s why He gave it to you. You’re only \_\_\_\_\_ is in Christ Jesus.

If and when we achieve a successful outcome, does it really bring the \_\_\_\_\_ we are searching? Does it qualify us any further for doing God’s work? Does God love us any more when we succeed? Does He love us any less when we fail?

Of course He does. Most of the time we are in agreement with God and ourselves that He does love us and we are \_\_\_\_\_. The true battle we face is what we \_\_\_\_\_ from others, and how we see ourselves.

We are afraid of what other people \_\_\_\_\_ about us. We safeguard our steps and every decision made is in the fear of what others might say or think? Will it change their view about us? Will it stop us from the steps God has called us to take?

As people, we can become too \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_. When this happens, we compare ourselves to others, get down on ourselves, and/or put limits on our dreams all because we fear that we are not “making the mark.”

The real truth is you are already good enough in what you do, hence, why God has blessed you with this talent, why He’s given you a vision and where He’s placed you in service. Who is greater, the one who leads or the one who serves?

The “mark” I’ve found to measure my \_\_\_\_\_ as an artist comes from 2 Timothy 1.6-7: “For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

The only fear to have is the fear of God. Not investing in what God has invested within you is something to fear. God has not blessed you with a gift to be \_\_\_\_\_ by others, but to be \_\_\_\_\_ with others.

We are told in 1 John 1 that there is no fear in love because of Christ has \_\_\_\_\_ His love through us. By His strength and by His shaping, smith-work and the sweat of our brows, He \_\_\_\_\_ us for good use by the power of the Holy Spirit. This ultimately should help relieve the pressure of measuring up to others.

As God lit the flame within, now you fan into flame your talent and gift with the help of the Spirit. Train under His guidance as you set your \_\_\_\_\_ on things above: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. As developing people, may we live by the Spirit in keeping in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-17

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

## Day 2: Finding the Will of God in the Failure

**Matthew 14:22; John 21; Romans 8:28; Ephesians 1; Philippians 1:6; Ephesians 2:10; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; John 15:5; Galatians 6:8-9; Matthew 10:28**

Whether we forget a lyric, miss a note, experience the loss of battery power and/or something goes haywire, it can be seen as something more than what meets the eye. However, when failure is beyond our control, where in the Bible does it ever say that it's a sin or a reason to blame others and/or ourselves? How we \_\_\_\_\_ to failure is revealed in our \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

What we do by our \_\_\_\_\_ may result in \_\_\_\_\_; what we do by our \_\_\_\_\_ may result in \_\_\_\_\_. In any case, here's the bigger picture: God has called you to be victorious in Christ and not to be \_\_\_\_\_ by man, nor defeated by self-doubt.

When we play the "what-if game," and anticipate thoughts of failure, it can most definitely cloud our vision. We fear the unknown, we fear the \_\_\_\_\_ and thus we fear taking the next step.

Here's the truth: if you really believe God, and know He's called you to something greater, then your feelings of fear are not only valid, they indicate that you are passionate about what you're doing. Right? Otherwise, you wouldn't care, and your calling would only be an idea and not a burning mission in your heart.

It is so tiresome to hear in the church or by friends: if you have thoughts of fear, or you are unhappy, or under confident in who you are – then there must be \_\_\_\_\_ going on. Ok, where is that philosophy in the Bible anyway?

That's the episode where Job's friends came to him and tried to justify why he's in a bad place. They tried to \_\_\_\_\_ away his fear and circumstance. Some friends they were. Sound familiar? You're not alone. And THAT's the point, you are NOT alone.

So how do we regain our \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ? Let's look at two scenarios from the Bible: Peter taking a walk and Peter taking a swim.

In Matthew 14:22, Jesus encouraged Peter to walk on the water. As you remember, he takes a few steps, hesitates, panics and falls through the waves. Jesus reaches down, \_\_\_\_\_ Peter and \_\_\_\_\_ him. The concept of the story is not so much about Peter's fall as it was in Jesus' actions to demonstrate \_\_\_\_\_ and redemption.

Earthly life is too short; life in Christ is too big. Squabbling and nit picking over other peoples' faults and/or minor details is a non-eternal issue. The same is true in blaming ourselves; it's simply \_\_\_\_\_.

In John 21 Peter and the disciples were fishing. Jesus calls to them to cast their nets on the other side. When Peter realized it was the Lord, he jumped in the water. Here we can see two perspectives.

On the one hand, Peter could have been \_\_\_\_\_ and/or displeased with himself in not catching fish in his own way. On the other hand, he could have been \_\_\_\_\_ with joy that the issue no longer mattered. I believe, what Peter experienced was found on the other hand.

Peter exclaims: "It is The Lord!" He didn't hide, he jumped in the water and swam to Jesus. Why? He knew the Lord was there to receive him, not to reject him. He probably remembered the previous lesson in falling through the water.

When you read the rest of the story, Jesus not only receives Peter gladly, but also esteems him. Yes, he held him accountable, but he did not hold him in contempt.

Biblical Points:

- God has called you to do \_\_\_\_\_ things (Romans 8:28).
- God has \_\_\_\_\_ you with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1).
- God is committed in \_\_\_\_\_ His work in you (Philippians 1:6).
- You are not \_\_\_\_\_ yet (Ephesians 2:10).

What is God's will for you? It's not found in your next job title, church, house, loved one, ministry, music gear or other thing.

His will is found in His \_\_\_\_\_ as it becomes \_\_\_\_\_ to your body.

Here are two perspectives we see in the Word that concerns God's will for you: First, Romans 12:1-2, says to \_\_\_\_\_ your mind and give your body to God as a living sacrifice. Second, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, says to be sexually \_\_\_\_\_. We remain in the Father's will, connected to the Vine of Jesus John 15:5, and in step with the Holy Spirit (Galatians 6.8-9). We can take \_\_\_\_\_ in trusting in His ways. The only true fear, is being without the Lord as our bodies and souls would perish (Matthew 10:28).

Winston Churchill said: "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

What we learn about Peter, besides his shortcomings, is seeing \_\_\_\_\_ in his shoes. We are much the same. Yet, we need to seize the opportunity.

What we learn about Jesus is gaining an understanding of His compassion, patience and encouragement that gives us joy, which is also our strength.

When we learn how to embrace our weaknesses and rely on Christ, we experience His beauty and \_\_\_\_\_, causing us to walk in faith. As God finds us, we are accepted

into His mercy and called to \_\_\_\_\_ great opportunities. He alone is our source and the way to have \_\_\_\_\_ over failure.

What does this mean for you and me? It's time to get up and learn how to walk on water all over again. Wherever He has called you, He will lead you there. Even if you are miles away, you're closer than what you realize. He's with you – both on the water and in the boat.

### Day 3: Why Do We Sing?

**Psalm 101:1; Proverbs 16:23; Luke 6:45; James 3:5-9**

Why do we sing? Singing has a way of \_\_\_\_\_ the heart, just as an instrument expresses emotion. There is something about singing that is both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

What God has done and what He is doing reverberates in the heart. He brings melodies of hope, joy and love. Proverbs 16:23 reminds us how a wise man's heart guides his mouth. When it comes to living life daily, our heart is \_\_\_\_\_ to what we say and sing.

Psalm 100 says to come before Him with \_\_\_\_\_ songs. Even in the hard times, we can take joy, because He is faithful and His \_\_\_\_\_ is always at the right time.

We need the Lord to help guard our hearts and our \_\_\_\_\_. He alone can teach us the songs of wisdom so we may sing with \_\_\_\_\_ in praise.

May the goodness that comes from God be revealed, lived and sung from our hearts because He has redeemed our souls Luke 6:45.

From the faithful hymn: "Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love." – Come Thou Fount (Robinson/Nettelton)

## Day 4: Worship Bows

**Psalm 5:7; Hebrews 4:16; Psalm 145:14; John 4:21; Psalm 95:6**

Through Jesus, we have every \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father to come boldly to the throne (Hebrews 4:16). When we do, how is our \_\_\_\_\_? Are we bowed in holy \_\_\_\_\_ or are arms raised in joyous \_\_\_\_\_?

No posture is greater than another. God is less concerned with our outer \_\_\_\_\_; He is more concerned about our \_\_\_\_\_ being: a contrite and broken spirit (Psalm 145:14). We cannot worship Him with \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_.

When was the last time that you bowed in worship? It could be in a church service or in your bedroom. It's not about the \_\_\_\_\_ we worship, but about \_\_\_\_\_ we worship (John 4:21).

Nothing is hidden from God, therefore, we can ask Him to slowly remove the layers. One by one, He can remove our exterior to \_\_\_\_\_ a new heart.

Next time, before you go to bed, or when you wake up, move slowly to the floor. Kneel your heart and bow your knee in prayer, as we are invited to:

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker (Psalm 95:6).

## Day 5: He Daily Raises Us

**Psalm 68:19-20; Proverbs 11:25; 2 Samuel 7:8**

The Lord is the Great Provider, not only \_\_\_\_\_ us from death, but also \_\_\_\_\_ us daily bread. He faithfully \_\_\_\_\_ through us, so we may graciously help others.

He is a God who keeps His promises, just as He did to David. He \_\_\_\_\_ the building of His spiritual house in order to bring forth Jesus, our Messiah.

The same God who \_\_\_\_\_ us is the same God who \_\_\_\_\_ us daily.

Prayer: God, thank You for never being slack in Your promises, but always delivering our souls to what is good. Keep us from temptation and rescue us from evil. Lead us in a good path, in the way that pleases You.

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Selah. Our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death (Psalm 68:19-20).

## Day 6: Praying in Unprayerful Times

**Psalm 105:1-4; Lamentation 3:20; Psalm 139:4; Exodus 22:23; Romans 8:26**

Psalm 105:1 begins a symphony of giving God thanks and to call on His name. Make known His deeds among the nations, sing of His work and tell of all His mighty acts. How can you sing and speak of God's goodness, when you can barely utter a prayer? Lamentations 3:20 Are you emotionally at a point where you feel unprayerful?

I use to hide my prayers. In fear of what God may think of my thoughts, I would hold back my inner emotions in prayer. Ironically, there's \_\_\_\_\_ I can do to hide myself from God, not even my prayers. He knows \_\_\_\_\_ thought and word \_\_\_\_\_ it is on my tongue (Psalm 139:4).

The Bible does not hold back, even in desperate times, and neither should we in our prayers. The opposite of our expectations occur in God's word, outlining our human innate need to pray prayers of all kinds and to believe that God \_\_\_\_\_ us. We see in Job 27:9 "Will God hear his cry When distress comes upon him?" In Psalm 61:1 "Hear my cry, O God; Give heed to my prayer." We also hear God's response in Exodus 22:23 "If you afflict him at all, and if he does cry out to Me, I will surely hear his cry;"

Eugene Peterson tells us that we must pray who we actually are, not who we think we should be. The way of prayer is not to cover our unfavorable \_\_\_\_\_, and to make us appear \_\_\_\_\_ in God's sight. The soul of a worshiper uses prayer to expose the \_\_\_\_\_ of our hearts before God. His miracles \_\_\_\_\_ the heart and the glory of His work is displayed (Romans 8:26).

Psalm 105:3 calls us to seek the Lord, and to help us get to a place to call on His name, give thanks, sing of His word and proclaim to the earth what He has done. What better way is there to experience the mercy of God than by taking something so unmentionable and unprayerful I have and letting Him turn it into something glorious? (Romans 12:2).

## Day 7: Chosen and Cherished

**1 Peter 1:3-9; 1 Peter 2:9; Luke 15:20; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

You were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by God (1 Peter 2:9). No matter where we may have come from, the Father extends His arms to receive us. Just like the father and the prodigal son, God runs to us first, before we ever take a step:

“So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him (Luke 15:20).

His love keeps no \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_; He does not keep a list of regrets. Rather, He wants what is good for us, to live life abundantly through Jesus (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). He gives \_\_\_\_\_ that protects us from a fallen and polluted world. He \_\_\_\_\_ our lives and refines our hearts as by fire. So that all that remains is His mercy, not our sacrifice.

Because He chose us first in love, bought us with a price and redeemed our souls, we chose Christ; we chose to worship and we give our lives to cherish Him (1 Peter 1:3-7).

## **Day 8: Praise the Lord, My Soul**

**Psalm 103:1-5; Proverbs 27:19; Habakkuk 3:18; Hebrews 11:6**

Our frame was not \_\_\_\_\_ from Him; He knows us very well. His eyes saw our unformed bodies, and \_\_\_\_\_ us together in the depths of the earth. All of our days were ordained and written in His book, before one of them came to be.

We do not know the next \_\_\_\_\_, but we can trust that \_\_\_\_\_ of our future is held in His hands. Our hope is in the One who gives us life, and gives life abundantly.

So while it is still today, let us make the most of every moment. Let us live lives that bring Him pleasure, as His pleasure fills our every need. "Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name" (Psalm 103:1).

## Day 9: Make Music, My Soul

**Psalm 108:1; Proverbs 28:26; Psalm 16:9; Psalm 30:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:11**

God is wonderful in His gift of music to man. It is because of His great \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that one can make music. Our hearts rejoice at His works. The same hands who have created the earth and the heavens are the same hands that created our being. He not only gave us a voice to sing, but words and melodies of \_\_\_\_\_. We find rest in the song of His spirit. With these same melodies, we are to comfort and to \_\_\_\_\_ others.

Make music and sing – is a \_\_\_\_\_, not a casual saying. What songs will He find us singing? What kind of music will we be making? For we eagerly await the coming of our Lord. Therefore, we are to create sounds of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that speak of His salvation, power and sovereignty.

O Worship the King, all glorious above,  
And gratefully sing His power and His love.  
(Grant/Lyons)

## **Day 10: Worship by Following Him First**

**Proverbs 23:17; John 21:19-24**

Follow Him! Don't be swept away by the flood of others, by comments, or by egos. Keep your eyes on Christ and your \_\_\_\_\_ on where you walk.

Proverbs 23:17 reminds us: Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord.

We see an \_\_\_\_\_ with Peter and Jesus in John 21:19-24. Peter wanted \_\_\_\_\_, but Jesus wanted Peter to \_\_\_\_\_ Him. Do our arguments really matter?

Our worship of the Lord ought to flow into \_\_\_\_\_ of others. If we sing of His ways and make melody in our hearts, we are to walk in His \_\_\_\_\_ as well: to love the Lord and love one another.

If we are to follow Jesus's \_\_\_\_\_ to worship the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind, we are also to love others beyond the music.

## Day 11: Are You Satisfied?

**John 4:14; John 7:38; Psalm 90:14**

We desire certain kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the Church and attempts to be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by them, but do these cravings truly satisfy our true desire and deepest need, which can only be filled by God?

What is this filling? "... the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14).

When the Bible talks about water, it is \_\_\_\_\_ as the Spirit. Living Water refers to the Spirit of Christ. When we are filled with Christ in our lives, His Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ into every area of our heart, soul and mind, which should compel us to worship Him. It is a response. Isaiah 55:1 The filling of His Holy Spirit satisfies our every need.

Worship is about the deep \_\_\_\_\_ of God and experiencing the joy of His \_\_\_\_\_ praise. He pours into us His Living Water as promised. John 4:14 This gives us purpose, meaning and substance of worship because He \_\_\_\_\_ us completely. This Living Water is too good to keep for ourselves. As a response, we must pour out waters of authentic praise and deep worship to God. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them" (John 7:38).

Another amazing insight of this true satisfaction of worship is what we give back to God. Jesus said, "the true worshipers shall worship and must worship in spirit and in truth." All other emphases and rituals are to be set aside to give way to \_\_\_\_\_ worship. Later in this Gospel, John defines this spring, or river, as the gift of the Holy Spirit who would flow out of a person like "rivers of living water" (John 7:38).

Jesus promised an \_\_\_\_\_ into the believer that would become an \_\_\_\_\_ back to its source, and when the Spirit flows through us back to God it is worship at a priceless level.

Jesus also said: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled” (Matthew 5:6). We are already blessed because we thirst and receive His Spirit.

We have to \_\_\_\_\_ our need is not physical, emotional, or intellectual. This leaves only our spirits; so we get on our knees to pray and begin to touch the presence of God.

This happened to me one day. Total satisfaction swept through my being. All along it had been my spirit yearning to contact God’s Spirit, and I had misread it as a craving in my soul or my body. For the rest of the evening any music and any literature was enjoyable, for the deep crying of my spirit had been satisfied in God’s presence.

Oh! precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
(Lowry)

He is the only True Fountain we know and that truly satisfies. “Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days” (Psalm 90.14).

## **Day 12: Faith Beyond Seeing (Comfort over Calling)**

**2 Corinthians 4:18; Hebrews 11:1; Psalm 119:105; Romans 9:23-24**

“Faith is the daring of the soul to go farther than it can see.” – Williams N. Clarke (1912)

A seed, a mountain, a fish, a tree – to the ordinary eye, these items are mere \_\_\_\_\_ of matter. Upon appearance, we can associate them to their rightful applications. A seed can be for \_\_\_\_\_, a mountain can be for \_\_\_\_\_, a fish can be for \_\_\_\_\_ and a tree for \_\_\_\_\_. The observance on the outside is simple; yet, the inward appearance goes beyond our vision.

Hebrews 11:1 says that faith is being sure for the things hoped for and the certainty of what we do not see. Faith can be broken into two parts: faith and hope, yet they go together perfectly.

### Day 13: Reset

**Psalm 19:7; Matthew 6:10; Psalm 59:17; Psalm 23:3; Colossians 3:10; Psalm 18:30**

Do you feel like you're too \_\_\_\_\_ to your digital devices? It seems like daily we get inundated and clogged with information. \_\_\_\_\_ of today is the best ever, yet we also have more technical \_\_\_\_\_ than ever. We love our toys and tools, but there's always the pain of them slowing down, updating and hard cracking under \_\_\_\_\_. We find ourselves daily restarting our phones, computers and webpages.

How about your heart, soul and mind - do they, too, need a reset?

He \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_:

When we remember the faithfulness of God, and we consider His wonderful acts, we have a renewed sense of our security. He always protects, always provides (Matthew 6:10).

It is in these moments when it is right for God to restore the joy of our salvation. He always reminds us of His faithful love that becomes our song (Psalm 59:17). "To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; For God is my defense, My God of mercy."

He \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_:

What can be more simple than God coming in and pressing your reset button? We see in Psalm 23:3: "He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

Sometimes we just simply need to unplug. Take a moment out of your day and breathe in the breath of God. He truly does restore our souls. Job 33:4 "The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

He \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_:

As we were recreated in Christ: we are to put on the new self, filled with mercy, love and wisdom (Colossians 3:10). When our minds are transformed, we begin to think the way of Christ. Our patterns begin to change because our thinking begins to change (Romans 12:2).

Our shield and protection doesn't come from a program or download. Instead, His Word \_\_\_\_\_ our entire being for the \_\_\_\_\_ of His will, for our good. Stop and reset. Step away from your technology tools and step into the refreshing \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (Psalm 18:30; Proverbs 18:10).

## Day 14: May the Words of My Mouth

**Psalm 19:14; Psalm 48:9; Proverbs 7:2; Psalm 119:11-16; Matthew 15:11; Hebrews 13:15**

Great words or \_\_\_\_\_ are no substitute for a pure \_\_\_\_\_ in worship. Great preaching, music and art are no \_\_\_\_\_ for a soul that is sincere and honest before God. Many things go into our hearts through our eyes, mouths and ears Matthew 15:1, but in the end, are we growing fruit or weeds?

First we must ask: how are the things in our hearts returned to God? Are they \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord, or are they received as honorable praise?

The more we take in His words of life, the more we overflow with the life of Christ in our walk. Hebrews 13:15 tells us to continually (not just every Sunday) offer a \_\_\_\_\_ of praise – the fruit of lips that \_\_\_\_\_ His name.

Second we must ask: in my heart, what kind of fruit am I growing? Is it worth \_\_\_\_\_, or is it worth losing?

Jesus desires our lives to be in line with His words, so that we may \_\_\_\_\_ rightly in His sight. When we are meeting Him daily, we are able to mediate all day long on His unfailing love (Psalm 48:9).

Before we open the doors of worship, may we live holy lives as an act of worship. Walking and professing the \_\_\_\_\_ of His holy name: pure, blameless and incorruptible. There is no substitute for honest words of worship that come from a contrite heart.

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer (Psalm 19:14).

# THE LIFE OF A WORSHIP LEADER

The Life of a Worship Leader is more than a Sunday morning job. It is a daily walk and growing relationship with the Creator worthy of whole-hearted worship. This 30-day plan helps you strengthen your walk as a worshiper and a leader.

## Day 1: Worship Living

**Colossians 3:1; Proverbs 9:10; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 2:10; Romans 12:1**

Worship is not as much singing as it is living. Simply, we live what we sing. The song varies from where we place our hearts: on earthly things or on the eternal things of God (Colossians 3:1).

We are to take \_\_\_\_\_ every thought into the obedience of Christ. When we do, we store up for ourselves wisdom that fears the Lord (Proverbs 9:10). We become \_\_\_\_\_ to understand God's glory into His image (2 Corinthians 3:18).

What is our image of worship? Jesus Christ. We are to live as Christ; He is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for daily living. Created for good works, we walk in worship and do the things He has prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).

We are to offer ourselves \_\_\_\_\_ in worship as living sacrifices - holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1).

Reflection: What are you singing about today? Is it the image of your worship? Live (and sing) for Christ today.

## Day 2: Transformed Not Conformed

**Romans 12:1-2; Proverbs 12:28; Proverbs 9:6**

Each day we have a \_\_\_\_\_. Each crossing has its fork. Which one do you take: the path that seems more \_\_\_\_\_, yet crooked, or the path that looks plain and \_\_\_\_\_?

We long to take the way that leads to life. However, when we look around, it appears that we've lost our direction. How do we get to the right track, when we know that we can't go back, but must move forward? Our \_\_\_\_\_ lies in the incredible mercy and love of God:

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.” - Romans 12:2

Everyone else may take the \_\_\_\_\_ path. That path looks more appealing to the eye and intriguing by its curves, but its trail leads to death (Proverbs 12:28). The road that leads to everlasting calls us to leave our simple ways and to walk in the way of understanding (Proverbs 9:6).

How does this relate to worship? What does this mean to life?

When we stand in the middle of this fork, questions and choices wage war against our spirits and battle for our \_\_\_\_\_. In the end, it results in who or what we really worship, how we live, and where we go to find \_\_\_\_\_. The two roads we face, have two street names: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ means to “make or become like,” or to behave in a conventional way without asking questions, or prevailing opinions by others.” For the Church, we have fallen on this road by taking every other path. We think it will bring us to a better way of life, worship or satisfaction, but it doesn’t.

\_\_\_\_\_ means to “change the condition, function, nature, character or personality” of something. God is not as interested in where you’ve been, but cares more about where you are, and where you are going. Conforming is about \_\_\_\_\_; transforming is about \_\_\_\_\_. God desires to change \_\_\_\_\_ and has made this way through One Man - Christ Our Lord.

This is what Paul meant when he said not to conform to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. Remember, he’s talking to the Church. As appealing as the world may be to the eye, we are to live another way. By having God \_\_\_\_\_ our minds is to transform our behavior. It’s to \_\_\_\_\_ our habits and to \_\_\_\_\_ them by God’s mercy. In order to call Him Lord and Christ, we must also act and become like followers of Christ. We are to show Him \_\_\_\_\_ if we are to call Him Worthy.

This not only transforms our way of \_\_\_\_\_, but it also transforms our way of \_\_\_\_\_. If our way of living and worship changes, the way we serve also changes, by a clean heart.

How different and much more beautiful would our music be if we chose a better way of living? How much better would it be if “we” as leaders, walked in the light and took strong steps? How great would the reverberations of our \_\_\_\_\_ be in the world if we acted more like Christ and less like the patterns of the church?

Begin this day by taking the right path. Ask God to \_\_\_\_\_ you against evil and temptation. Seek and ask Him to \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom for the journey. Give yourself completely to Him and watch Him transform the way you live. He truly \_\_\_\_\_ our every need that keeps us from running to sin.

Before our worship changes, our living must be changed. It doesn’t start with the Church; it’s starts with you and me. Our hearts must be \_\_\_\_\_, in order to sing the song of Salvation.

This is our spiritual act of worship: to offer ourselves as living sacrifices and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, to know His good, pleasing and perfect will (Romans 12:1-2).

### **Day 3: Worship Is Quality Time**

**1 John 4:19; Psalm 18:2-3; Proverbs 29:25; Matthew 6:21**

The quality time that we put in to following God equals the way we \_\_\_\_\_ the people of God in worship. Worship begins with God (1 John 4:19).

We put our trust in God because we have hope in God. In His Word we find \_\_\_\_\_, in His grace we find \_\_\_\_\_, and in His mercy we find \_\_\_\_\_ for our time of need (Psalm 18:2-3).

The Lord is gracious and \_\_\_\_\_. We must put our faith in what only He can do and not what man can do (Proverbs 29:25).

Where we put our heart is also where we find a treasure. May we seek God with a full heart that leads us into \_\_\_\_\_ worship. May we follow the steps of Jesus so that our lives become \_\_\_\_\_ with His presence and overflowing with worship (Matthew 6:21).

## Day 4: Worship as One

**Ephesians 4:2-3; Ephesians 4:12-13; Psalm 133:1**

Worshiping together in unity can be difficult. God gave each of us unique ideas, gifts, thoughts and opinions. \_\_\_\_\_ about a particular direction to go as a church or how to worship can rip apart \_\_\_\_\_. How does a church, filled with differing opinions, worship together in harmony?

The church body isn't made up of brick and cement; WE are the body of Christ, His church. The church is people made up of flesh that gets bruised easily, and feelings that get hurt.

Conflict within a church requires a \_\_\_\_\_. Conflict can give an opportunity to grow and to mature. When a disagreement with another person happens, pray before \_\_\_\_\_ him. Having a disagreement doesn't mean that God can't work through that situation for His glory. Paul writes in Ephesians 4:2 to "be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." He understood that people argue and become \_\_\_\_\_ about their opinions. He had witnessed church members arguing over which \_\_\_\_\_ to adhere to or who was following the right set of \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul urged the early churches to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit" (Ephesians 4:3) and to remain \_\_\_\_\_ with one another for the sake of \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. Showing love to someone who has hurt us or being patient with a person who gets on our last nerve can be challenging.

Putting the unity of people above our own \_\_\_\_\_ can bring peace among the church. God will work through each situation, but it is only in His \_\_\_\_\_. Trust that He is working.

We all have different gifts and skills that are used to build up the church body. The lead guitarist's talent isn't more valuable to the Kingdom than the janitor's skill of unclogging a toilet. We are each \_\_\_\_\_ with a different skill-set to bring glory to God and to build up His church. \_\_\_\_\_ unique skill is \_\_\_\_\_ to the church body (Ephesians 4:12).

When we work together it's "so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature" (Ephesians 4:13). God is working through \_\_\_\_\_ person in a unique way and at a different speed of time. We need to be \_\_\_\_\_ while God is working in and through the people around us.

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" - Psalm 133:1

A church building is not meant to be where our \_\_\_\_\_ lives. Our faith is in Christ, and we are complete and \_\_\_\_\_ through Him. We are all one church as believers in Christ. We should not be \_\_\_\_\_ in Spirit by which church building we choose to worship in on a Sunday morning. Relationships beyond the confines of the church walls create a unity of one Spirit.

Worship as one body, one heart, one mind, to our One God.

## **Day 5: Worship: Not for Spectators**

**Romans 12:1; Psalm 115:3; Romans 8:8**

Worship is not for spectators; worship is for \_\_\_\_\_. The shaping of our \_\_\_\_\_ of worship needs to come from Scripture, not from the dictation of our \_\_\_\_\_.

We tend to think that if we get enough people to worship or sing, then God will be more \_\_\_\_\_. This is neither true nor Biblical. We need to be reminded that God is already glorified \_\_\_\_\_ of Who He Is.

“Our God is in heaven; He does whatever pleases him.” – Psalm 115:3 (See also, Romans 8:8).

Our response is to \_\_\_\_\_ and to worship as our reasonable service (Romans 12:1).

## Day 6: A Table of Mercy

### Joshua 1:9

God desires a table of \_\_\_\_\_, not a \_\_\_\_\_ of entertainment. Sometimes, it feels like the weight is all on our shoulders. We have thoughts such as: What if they don't like the songs? What if they don't sing? Are they really taking worship seriously?

The worship service was not originally designed to \_\_\_\_\_ people, but to \_\_\_\_\_ and to serve God through corporate reading, prayer and praise. Together, we offer him confession, thanks, praise, song and duty.

If our only purpose as a church is to get the "numbers" through the doors, then we are no different from the money-changers that Jesus confronted. Does God need to come and over-turn our tables of money and pride so they may be changed into tables of Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ and offering?

Joshua 1:9 is one of my all-time favorites. God asks a serious question: "Have I not commanded you?" Like Joshua, the Lord has called you to a greater \_\_\_\_\_ beyond yourself. In other words, God expects us to do the work, but ultimately, the plans \_\_\_\_\_ to Him. He breathes in His dreams and \_\_\_\_\_ our steps. When we learn to trust Him and yield our ways to Him, we find rest and power in His leading.

Worship is for God. Our services of worship belong to Him. At the same time, they are to be \_\_\_\_\_ for the congregation. We are to do our best in \_\_\_\_\_ our teams in our rehearsals, just as much as we are to effectively \_\_\_\_\_ people in worship.

Never second guess what you know is true in Christ. No matter what others may say or do, He has called you to do what is right. It's a service of worship unto God, not a service unto man. God desires a table of mercy, not a stage of entertainment.

## Day 7: Copied Worship

**Galatians 2:6; Luke 18:10-14; Matthew 23:1-2**

Do we worship or copy worship? Should we compare the way we worship to the way others may worship? I used to think we had to show God our love in the way we see others give praise. Especially, when it comes to the worship service. Learning how to worship by \_\_\_\_\_ is one thing; \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to others is another.

You may have heard these statements in the church: “Man, he’s anointed in his worship.” “I wish I could praise like that.” “She’s got that special connection with God in worship. He really hears her prayers.”

Ok. This is bogus.

True, some may have a deeper worship experience compared to others, but this is not to say that God compares our worship to another.

It’s not wrong to take note or to learn (as a new/growing Christian) through example how to worship. It’s just not \_\_\_\_\_ for anyone to compare themselves and feel like they are less worthy to enter into God’s presence by the account of others. Besides, when you try to worship like someone else, you’re not being the real you in \_\_\_\_\_ to God. The same goes for leading worship. It has to come from you.

As Paul was considering his preaching to the Gentiles, he said: “And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me.” – Galatians 2:6

The fact is God made you \_\_\_\_\_. Just as your voice speaks and sings differently than someone else, so is your praise to God. He hears and loves all the praises of His children.

He made us \_\_\_\_\_, and unlike each other, so that He may enjoy the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ we offer. God is more interested in our \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ than our thoughts and comparisons to someone else.

Worship does not copy or compare. Worship is as unique as the worshiper. Together, we worship with the God who created us as individuals.

## Day 8: What's in It for You?

**Zephaniah 3:17; Psalm 30:5; Psalm 81:1**

There is nothing like the sound of the human voice. Like a fine tuned cello, it ranges from rich deep tones to the high cascades of sweet melodies. More importantly, when joined with brothers and sisters, our voices become one in an amphitheater of corporate praise.

In worship, I can become so moved by the voices that I actually stop singing. In awe before God's beauty, I mouth the words, yet nothing comes out. My heart serenades a love song to the Lord, yet I cannot speak a word.

My vocal abilities become \_\_\_\_\_ on those around me. Enamored in God's praise, we as one Body, fix our eyes on our living Hope.

In times of struggle and sorrow to times of great happiness, worshiping the Lord is good for our souls. Even in worship, the Lord in His wonder, \_\_\_\_\_ back to us as we adore Him. He sings over us (Zephaniah 3:17) even when we don't have the words to utter or pray (Romans 8:26). In a mysterious way, the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ us as we respond to Him in worship. Even at times when we do not feel joyful, we sing for the purpose to have His joy fill us as He is praised.

We sing for joy when we experience loss. We sing for joy when we are \_\_\_\_\_. We sing for joy when we are \_\_\_\_\_ down. Our weeping and mourning may endure for the night – but joy surely comes in the morning (Psalm 30:5).

“Sing for joy to God our strength; shout aloud to the God of Jacob.” – Psalm 81:1

Reflection: In this joy, we rise upon wings of eagles. The joy of the Lord is our strength (Psalm 28:7). By the way, when was the last time your congregation sung so loudly that you could not hear the band?

## Day 9: Never Changing Faith

**Psalm 18:25; Lamentations 3:22-27; Matthew 7:11; Colossians 2:3**

Proverbs 25:2 states: It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.

The Lord is the Possessor of time and the Revealer of all wisdom. He shows His faithfulness to the faithful and to the blameless He shows Himself as blameless (Psalm 18:25). It is for the Lord's glory to reveal His plans; it is for our good to wait on them to keep (Lamentations 3:22, 25-26).

Things we are not to know are held in His understanding until the proper time (Colossians 2:3). It is not because He withholds, for the Father gives all things to His children (Matthew 7:11). When it is given, it is in His \_\_\_\_\_ - when He sees fit.

When we wander in our \_\_\_\_\_, we load ourselves down with worry. When fear becomes the only thing we see, it prevents us from seeing the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the purpose of His \_\_\_\_\_. Don't miss the moment.

He shines on strength daily; for in Him, there is no shadow of turning. Even when we are faithless, He remains faithful, because He never \_\_\_\_\_.

## Day 10: 10,000 Times/Not Reasons

**Nehemiah 4; Proverbs 21:1-2; Mark 14:38; 2 Corinthians 4:18**

How often have you wondered why it takes so long and so many times for something to work? It could be something you're trying to fix, repair or improve. Whatever it is, there is always some \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to quit.

However, when we place our heart in His hands (Proverbs 21:1) and, after He weighs our hearts (Proverbs 21:2), the Lord does what is right with our plans (Proverbs 21:5) for His purposes.

When you are \_\_\_\_\_, it's easy and also human, to throw in the towel and give up. Nehemiah was tempted in this area while rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. In Nehemiah 4, the enemies of the Jews were in opposition to rebuilding the wall, even more so because they previously destroyed it. The enemies viciously attacked the Jews and tried to divide their nation by the sword, by politics and by \_\_\_\_\_ their God. The number of the Jews were pressed on every side. Each warrior was accompanied by his entire family to help. Unfinished and \_\_\_\_\_ parts of the wall were laid before the enemy for easy pickings.

In a time of war, Nehemiah did something that was familiar with King David. In looking at his situation, He pointed to God. The Bible says in Nehemiah 4:14, "After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

It says that he "looked." He looked to God. It is clear that Nehemiah put his cause under God's divine \_\_\_\_\_.

Earlier in verse 9, Nehemiah and the Jews "prayed to God" as they continued to meet the threat. That was the way of Nehemiah. He set the example to follow. All his cares, all his

griefs, all his fears, he spread before God. Like David, in another example: “In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly” (Psalm 5:3). The Father longs to hear the prayers of his children.

To continue the battle, Nehemiah chose the power of \_\_\_\_\_ that is found in the Lord. Having prayed, he also set a watch. This is a reminder of how Jesus encouraged us to “watch and pray” as we look to the Lord’s coming (Mark 14:38).

The second thing Nehemiah did was to give a historical \_\_\_\_\_ to the people of God’s provision, \_\_\_\_\_ and His “great and awesome” ways. Had Nehemiah trusted in \_\_\_\_\_, the people would have had every reason to fear. He based his response on God: who He was, what He had done, and what He would do by faith. Nehemiah did not base his response on the fear of man nor the fear of the \_\_\_\_\_. Trust of God is the best \_\_\_\_\_ against the ensnaring fear of man.

“Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.”  
– Proverbs 29:25

Like Nehemiah, Thomas Edison faced endless oppositions in the creation of his inventions. In fact, it only took him 10,000 times to invent a single working light bulb. Edison once said “If I find 10,000 ways something won’t work, I haven’t failed. I am not discouraged, because every wrong attempt discarded is another step forward.”

Here’s how we can dwell in faith and trust as we step forward in belief:

- “Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.”  
– Psalm 91:1
- “Uphold me, and I will be delivered; I will always have regard for your decrees.” – Psalm 119:117
- “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” – 2 Corinthians 4:18
- “For we live by faith, not by sight.” – 2 Corinthians 5:7

Reflection: How has God equipped you to have a Nehemiah faith? The Lord is not as interested in the 10,000 times we try as He is the 10,000 reasons for us to trust Him. How can the Holy Spirit transform your faith to worship? How different would your perspective be in daily life?

## Day 11: Unconditional Love/Unlimited Worship

Isaiah 55:6; Psalm 3:3; Hebrews 4:16; Psalm 16:9

Worship is not about what we \_\_\_\_\_ from God, but rather what we \_\_\_\_\_ to God. He does not answer our concerns/prayers based on how much we praise Him. This would be conditional. What He wants from us is genuine \_\_\_\_\_ - no strings attached - that is reflective of His unconditional love (Isaiah 55:6).

Psalm 28:7 says: "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song." Our worship is changed when our hearts are changed. As our hearts are changed, so are our lives and the songs we sing (Psalm 3:3).

We approach God with a \_\_\_\_\_ of trust, with a \_\_\_\_\_ of humility and with a \_\_\_\_\_ that brings every thought captive into the obedience of Christ. In this exchange, we find true \_\_\_\_\_, true \_\_\_\_\_, true \_\_\_\_\_ and, most of all, unconditional \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 4:16; Deuteronomy 4:29).

The changing of our hearts is also God's way of \_\_\_\_\_. He causes our hearts to sing for joy because of Jesus Christ. Every song is new because every day is new and filled with His unconditional love that keeps us singing (Psalm 16:9).

Reflection: Do you see yourself in the same way the Father sees you? How does unconditional love change your view of worship? Are you willing to allow God to have His way with you? Will you give Him your unlimited worship today?

## Day 12: Worship in Motion

**Psalm 119:172; Psalm 81:2; Proverbs 7:2; Proverbs 4:23; Mark 4:23; Colossians 3:16**

May my tongue sing of Your word, for all Your commands are righteous. – Psalm 119:172

What causes you to sing? It could come from a melody, a memory or something from inside the heart. But deep inside the heart, there is a song that God is singing. Do you hear it? (Psalm 81:2).

As human souls, we tend to gravitate to \_\_\_\_\_. We are all susceptible in going through the \_\_\_\_\_. When it comes to the worship of God, He calls us to slow down, He calls us to be calm, He calls us to be still and know that He is God.

When the Lord brings us back to center, we are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. He brings to mind all the things He has done for us. When we ask the Lord to guide us and we dive deep into His word, we become \_\_\_\_\_ in His knowledge and understanding. We are One with the Father through Jesus and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit.

It's more of a knowing we have with God. An expectation, a joy and a hope that draws us into \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus. His desire is for us to be by His side. The movement of His hand brings us out of going through the motions and draws us nearer to Him into His presence.

This deep fellowship with God and the experience of each daily moment with the Lord, causes our mouths to sing and tongues to rejoice. It's not by our words, but by His. Notice: "May my tongue sing of Your word..."

We sing of the Word that is \_\_\_\_\_ in our hearts: His salvation, refuge, strength and joy. May the His hand of mercy draw us deeper into His side (Colossians 3:16). We worship, not going through the motions, but in-motion through Jesus.

### **Day 13: Burning Up or Burning Out**

**Proverbs 7; Proverbs 5:8; 1 Timothy 1:5**

Are you busy? Still on fire for this year? I know I am; but I also know that a fire last only as long as the wick, unless it catches fire to something else.

Wise words come to us today from Proverbs 7. It's about the fire \_\_\_\_\_ of the adulterous. The adulterous is not only regulated to an extramarital affair. It is also considered anything that causes you to be unfaithful, disloyal, untrue, inconstant, false, deceiving, deceitful, treacherous, or illicit. Anything that is set above God, even Your spouse, can become an idol. Idols can also look like your job, career, ambition, music/art, success, position, power and even ministry. Adultery is sin, as well as Idolatry.

I have a friend that for many years struggled with a problem that involved another woman. Who was the other woman? The Church.

He was on fire for the Church and doing church work. He had a zeal like non-other I've seen. He worked for a very famous and big Christian record label, as well as one of the most well-known churches in the country. However, after countless hours in the office, late evenings away from family dinners, weekends away from his children, being obsessed with trying to gain the \_\_\_\_\_ of ministry, and seeking \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ from others, he was burned.

How far does the flame of the wick need to travel, before it catches something else on fire?

Proverbs 7:1-2 tells us: "My son, keep My words and store up my commands within you. Keep My commands and you will live; guard My teachings as the apple of your eye."

God desires His words to be \_\_\_\_\_ into our hearts and \_\_\_\_\_ to the people around us. More than that, His word is to be \_\_\_\_\_ within us – securely. If we want to truly live, we are to keep His words so close to us, that they become our only vision and eyesight.

“Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house” – Proverbs 5:8. Temptation is not just a warning, but also a reality to take seriously.

As worshippers, ministers and leaders in the church, we want to excel and go higher. This is good. Where it crosses into dangerous territory is when it’s the only thing we see, \_\_\_\_\_ and desire.

Proverbs 7 is fantastic in describing and giving warning to avoiding the flames. In verses 3-4, the writer tells us to “Bind them (the Word of God) on our fingers” and to say to wisdom “you are my sister” – our companion. Here, wisdom and \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the Wisdom of God, the Holy Spirit who speaks His Word.

Read verses 6-23 as it gives the full account of a young man passing by the corner of her house, being seduced and succumbed to ruin. Again we see in Proverbs 7:24-27 the reminder of keeping close to the wisdom and Word of God – cling to what is good and abhor evil (Romans 12:9; Proverbs 6:27).

Where there’s smoke, there’s usually fire. Don’t go near the doorstep of self-ambition or self-gain; it will only lead to a fire. Eventually, it will lead to burnout.

As much as I love what I do, I also need the time to \_\_\_\_\_. If I don’t, I will crash and burn. This is why God only gave us 24 hours each day. No one is \_\_\_\_\_; don’t kid yourself.

“The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” – 1 Timothy 1:5

When we learn to love the real work that Christ is doing in us, we begin to love the right things versus those things which are harmful. What is love? Christ Himself and His Word abiding in our hearts (Colossians 3:16; John 15:4).

Thankfully, my friend and dear mentor, came out of the fires as God lifted him above the rubble. His life, family and ministry was restored. Good thing is that his fire did not get out of control and that God and other friends pulled him from the flames. Sadly, there are many others who are trapped and don't have this kind of support. What about you?

As God pours out His love to us and the \_\_\_\_\_ of His Word, we can't help but to live and sing of what He has done. "I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known through all generations." – Psalm 89:1

It is better to sing in a small well of water, than to be engulfed by a forest of flames.

Keep your eyes on Christ; \_\_\_\_\_ His word close to your heart. Let Him determine what is important for your life – not man, not other people, nor yourself. As leaders and Christians alike, we are to be reminded that all of us are \_\_\_\_\_. The moment you say or think, "this won't happen to me," it may have already begun – at least the denial part.

No gain in this world is worth an inferno of torment. Walk in His word, keep close to His steps. "Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart." - Proverbs 4:21

Reflection: Do you feel like you are about to burnout? Are you in need of God and the help of others to extinguish the flames and to refresh your heart with His Word? How much greater will life be when we turn and live in true repentance, and in true acceptance of His unconditional love?

## Day 14: Dwell and Take Refuge

**Psalm 61:4; Psalm 27:4; Psalm 119:114**

“I long to dwell in Your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of Your wings.”  
- Psalm 61:4

It's comforting to know that, even though we may \_\_\_\_\_ times of sorrow, God is ever present to see us through joy. We are able to sing songs of praise because He makes all things new. Even when we feel \_\_\_\_\_, we are never without the Lord.

Our worship to God is dictated by His \_\_\_\_\_ and through the means that Christ makes possible. He also uses our human \_\_\_\_\_ to draw us near and to lead us to \_\_\_\_\_.

In this Psalm, David is still grieving over his sin in Psalm 51. He is calling out to God for \_\_\_\_\_ of His favor. He desires to \_\_\_\_\_ in God's tabernacle for safety. At the same time, he commemorates his refuge that is found in God alone.

Today, we no longer have to seek a tabernacle or the sacrifices of an animal to draw near to God. Through Christ, our hearts have been \_\_\_\_\_ into the place of His dwelling. We now \_\_\_\_\_ the tabernacle of God, which He has become our refuge and rest. David is longing and speaks of a heavenly dwelling in God's presence forever. Now, His presence is \_\_\_\_\_ to us today and our place is reserved in Heaven as our final Home.

Those who dwell in the tabernacle of God, dwell in His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Even in times of trouble, the Lord is our strength and \_\_\_\_\_ our faces each day, by giving songs of gladness to the heart.

**Day 15: Yesterday Is Not Today**

**Psalm 77:11-14; Proverbs 18:4; Proverbs 18:10; Proverbs 18:15; Colossians 2:2-3**

“I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty acts.” - Psalm 77:12

What god is so great as our God? He \_\_\_\_\_ all miracles, \_\_\_\_\_ every need and \_\_\_\_\_ us as His children with an everlasting and unfailing love.

Our days will fall and rise, but it is the Lord who directs His love by day and by night. He is the one we run to as our tower of refuge (Proverbs 18:10).

He is the Lord of our days and our future \_\_\_\_\_ is in His hands. There is wisdom found in the words and works of God. He desires us to know them \_\_\_\_\_ by knowing Him \_\_\_\_\_.

When we follow the riches of His ways, we discern a path that is brighter than where we stood yesterday.

## Day 16: Are You Ready?

**Joshua 1; Proverbs 4:11-12; James 1:5; Psalm 119:162**

Remember the dawning of the New Year? It was full of opportunities and bright futures. Some footsteps seemed easy, while others appeared challenging. So, how did we get here?

The life of Moses made a way for Joshua, and he prepared the people for the work that must be done. In Joshua 1, God calls Joshua out. Moses has passed, but the \_\_\_\_\_ into the new promised land must \_\_\_\_\_. This was a new trial and conflict for Joshua. All his life, he learned from such a great and powerful leader; now, the baton was in his hands.

Before Joshua was assigned to do anything, the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua with three simple precepts: be \_\_\_\_\_, be \_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_ to follow God's laws (Joshua 1:6-9). Instead of jumping right in, God wanted Joshua to prepare and to learn by wisdom. The task ahead will come and go, but what will be the greater lesson in the end?

Proverbs 4:11-12 says: "I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble." God does not rush Joshua; He clearly wanted him to take his time and \_\_\_\_\_ (James 1:5). It is evident that God wanted Joshua to start at the shallow end of the pool. He knew that there was a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ involved in wading the waters. It would provide a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ of the elements, temperature and current to navigate the river-road.

Similarly, when we seek God's wisdom in our situations, we hold the most valuable compass ever - His Word (Psalm 23:3). Sometimes in our haste, even with the best intentions, we can dive right into the deep only to find that we soon become \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to continue. It's amazing how the Bible serves as a reservoir for our souls (Psalm 119:162).

Will you dig into His Word and seek His timing as you proceed through the remainder of this year? God wants you to be ready for what lies ahead.

## Day 17: Still My Beating Heart to Worship

Jeremiah 5:22; Mark 4:39; Psalm 46:10

“Do you not fear me? declares the Lord...” Jeremiah 5:22

Such gripping words that should stop us in our tracks. How can God \_\_\_\_\_ our worship, if we do not receive His \_\_\_\_\_?

When we \_\_\_\_\_ the safe waters of the Lord that keep us within His will, we raise our hands without bowing our hearts. We pour out speech from our lips, but our hearts are far away.

Sometimes it takes Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ the waves within our souls by saying: “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.” - Mark 4:39.

When He \_\_\_\_\_, do you \_\_\_\_\_? He says it twice: “Peace!” “Be Still.” The sea wasn’t the issue as it was Jesus speaking into the fear of man, to turn their fear to God. “He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” – Psalm 46:10.

The fear of the Lord is our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. When we realize He is the God that He is, every worry and every fear is \_\_\_\_\_ for what it really is. This doesn’t mean we will never have fears; it means that we know what to do with them in Christ. “Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.” – Psalm 100:3.

When we learn to have God still our hearts, we are able to focus the gaze of our souls on the \_\_\_\_\_ of God: His peace, His movement and His security. There is nothing like the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ down every stronghold, \_\_\_\_\_ every

storm and \_\_\_\_\_ every fiber of the human heart. He finds us where we are, so we may see Him more clearly. Are you letting Him find and speak to you today?

When we see the power of God in our stillness, we can't help but to sing and praise His name.

## Day 18: Worship During the Tough Times

**Jeremiah 42:61; 1 Peter 5:7; Jeremiah 29:13-14**

Do you find it difficult to worship during the tough times? If you're like most people, the answer is „yes.”

Worship is great and easy when things seem to be going well, but when it comes to \_\_\_\_\_, most people find it challenging to praise God. I believe, in those times, we need the help of the Lord to remind us what is greater.

In the book of Jeremiah, God sent Jeremiah to \_\_\_\_\_ the people of Israel to turn from their ways and turn back to God. The challenge - they were living under Babylon exile. Most people wanted a quick way out and wondered if God had \_\_\_\_\_ them. Jeremiah encouraged the people to stay strong, to live and to worship God.

Hananiah was a prophet; he wanted his way. He claimed to the people that he had heard from God. Hananiah spoke to the people, but God gave him no \_\_\_\_\_. In essence, Hananiah was a \_\_\_\_\_.

God longed to \_\_\_\_\_ His people, but He wanted it to happen on His timetable, not man's. God wanted their \_\_\_\_\_, not their \_\_\_\_\_. Hananiah got impatient and his way ended in death. The Lord showed Jeremiah another way that gave life.

I believe that living life to the fullest has everything to do with \_\_\_\_\_ through the hard times. These are the moments that God \_\_\_\_\_ us the most. When we lose everything else, God reveals Himself standing alone for us to trust Him and His Sovereignty (1 Peter 5:7).

When we listen to the voice of God and not the voice of lies, we find His true \_\_\_\_\_ as He leads us besides still waters. Not only that, He calms the raging seas in our souls, so that our \_\_\_\_\_ remains in Him.

Real \_\_\_\_\_ and real \_\_\_\_\_ take place in the trenches. When we learn how to be at rest in what the Lord is doing, we learn how to worship through adversity. We find true \_\_\_\_\_ in the One who harbors our fears.

“You will seek me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart.” - Jeremiah 29:13

### **Day 19: Worship through Faith**

**Psalm 71:14; 2 Chronicles 32:8; Psalm 20:7; Romans 8:31; Psalm 45:1; 1 Corinthians 16:13**

How different things would be if we lived life with a Biblical \_\_\_\_\_. Earthly challenges and spiritual battles rest in the victory of Jesus - not in us (2 Chronicles 32:8; Psalm 20:7).

Why should we fear anyone or thing that comes against His plans? (Romans 8:31).

God is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of our faith; He still has much to write on the story of our hearts (Psalm 45:1; Psalm 71:15).

If we do not stand firm in our faith, we will not stand at all. God's word reminds us: Be on your \_\_\_\_\_; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong (1 Corinthians 16:13).

What is our response? To \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord in humble adoration. We invite Him to fill our lives with His presence by faith in worship that conquers everything - in the Name of Jesus.

## Day 20: Worship Runs to God

**Psalm 5:3; Psalm 119:32; Lamentations 3:23; Hebrews 10:33**

Coming to God each day reminds me of how our little boy runs to me every morning. Each day I begin time with God. Our oldest, who is now five, wakes up early just to be with his daddy. He is full of \_\_\_\_\_ of my love, full of \_\_\_\_\_ of my welcome and full of \_\_\_\_\_ because I delight in him. He runs and dives into my lap, nearly crushing me against my chair.

I think about how this kind of love is reflected in our Heavenly Father. He calls us by \_\_\_\_\_, waits for our \_\_\_\_\_, and holds us up in \_\_\_\_\_ of grace. Unlike the world, He has never left us, and never will never forsake us. How do you run to Jesus each day?

Psalm 119:32 says: “I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding.”

Lamentations 3:23 tells us His mercies are new every morning.

Hebrews 10:33 reminds us to “hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.”

Psalm 5:3 declares: “In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.”

When we begin to see the Personhood and love of the Father, we begin to see God more clearly in His \_\_\_\_\_ for us. Worship doesn't \_\_\_\_\_; worship is \_\_\_\_\_. Worship runs to God and worship is always with God.

## Day 21: All that You Can Leave Behind

### Isaiah 61; Luke 4:18-21

Ever feel defeated? Ever feel defeated while doing the Lord's work? Many times you can give so much out to serving others, that sometimes, all you get in return is \_\_\_\_\_. This can leave you feeling tired, spent and even \_\_\_\_\_, while others demand more and more without end.

In Isaiah 61, the writer speaks of how the enemy had plundered Israel. The people were devastated as their cities were burned, ruined and shattered. Farms were destroyed and \_\_\_\_\_ were damaged. How did the people of God respond? They \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord by taking God at His Word, even when times were darkest.

God says in verse 8: "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity. In my faithfulness I will reward them and make an everlasting covenant with them." The people of God knew that, though they suffered much, the \_\_\_\_\_ was not over.

God provided a hope through His \_\_\_\_\_. He is a God of \_\_\_\_\_, and He is a God of \_\_\_\_\_.

We see Jesus doing the same in Luke 4:18-21. What did he do? Jesus came as the Living Word to \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ broken hearts and the wounded. This comfort is what brings us a new joy. This \_\_\_\_\_ of loss fills us with a new purpose. Now we worship and wait once more through faith for Christ to come again in power and glory. Isaiah 61 states it this way in verse 10: "I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God."

As you serve God, \_\_\_\_\_ through His faithfulness. You are not alone and you are not without. God uses the \_\_\_\_\_ to demonstrate His power. Let the Word of God provide you with the needed \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Take Him at His Word, as He takes you from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

We search for things all our lives. Apart from God, we fill ourselves with \_\_\_\_\_. Things to help bring comfort, newness and identity. When these items no longer work, we either repair them, lose them or save them for a rainy day. Our tendency is to stockpile and to compartmentalize. Whether we realize it or not, our \_\_\_\_\_ stay attached. Even if we throw overboard our unusables, they remain with us like barnacles on the underside of boats.

God, who is rich in mercy, does not ask, but leads us by a loving command: “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know,” -Jeremiah 33:3. He is ready to give us the \_\_\_\_\_ provisions of His love, grace and forgiveness. He will bring us back. He will be our God and we will be His people (Jeremiah 32:37-38). When we continue to pack and haul our heavy \_\_\_\_\_, we scarcely experience the true mercy and rescue of God. We default to our \_\_\_\_\_ because it appears \_\_\_\_\_ to us. But, it is not \_\_\_\_\_ for us.

God has called us to unpack and unload by the way of Jesus. As said in Matthew 11:28, only those who are in need of rest can find \_\_\_\_\_ in the Savior. He unpacks our grief and binds our wounds as we take upon His yoke that is easy and light. This is all we need. Not excess. Not material. Not high places. May our only burden be the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

Reflection: Do you believe exactly what God says He will do? How do you find this significant in your life experiences? What will help you stay close and abide in His Word? What baggage are you carrying that needs to be left behind? How will the lightness of your load benefit you and your ministry?

## Day 22: Worship Where You Are

**Proverbs 3:5-6; John 14:1**

Wherever you are now, it is not your \_\_\_\_\_. God has already prepared the way, walk as you are \_\_\_\_\_ and never let go of His \_\_\_\_\_.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.” – Proverbs 3:5-6

God has called you to \_\_\_\_\_; He has not called you to watch others from the sidelines. He has given you His power, His vision, His success, for the simple \_\_\_\_\_ to share His \_\_\_\_\_.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.” – John 14:1

You are capable of doing more than the \_\_\_\_\_ because of He who is greater in you. He helps you \_\_\_\_\_ every challenge and fear in your life. It's time to get up, to go and to do it, right where God has placed you. Now.

### Day 23: Worship Does Not Fear

**Psalm 86:11; Proverbs 29:25; Psalm 118:6; Psalm 55:22; Psalm 128:4; Psalm 68:19; 1 John 4:18**

There is such a \_\_\_\_\_ in the Word of God. Scripture provides us with \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ of peace.

“Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.” – Psalm 86:11

“The fear of man is a snare of death, but when we put our trust in the Lord we are kept safe.” – Proverbs 29:25.

If the Lord is truly on our side, who can be against us, and does it really matter? (Psalm 118:6).

You may feel the \_\_\_\_\_, you may feel the \_\_\_\_\_, but the Lord our God feels it with you. This is why He tells us to cast our cares upon Him (Psalm 55:22; 1 Peter 5:7) because He is good. He is \_\_\_\_\_ in times when we are faithless. He tells us we are \_\_\_\_\_ when we put our trust in the Lord (Psalm 128:4). He is a God who \_\_\_\_\_ and daily \_\_\_\_\_ our burdens (Psalm 68:19).

Stop putting your \_\_\_\_\_ in man; start putting your \_\_\_\_\_ in God. \_\_\_\_\_ to Him the outcome. Let Him deal with the consequences.

Worship does not fear, it does not run, it does not hide and it does not look down. Worship is our shield, our hope and our trust as we direct praise back to God. Walk in His peace, stay close to His paths and delight yourself in the Word of God. There is no fear in worship, because He has cast out all fear (1 John 4:18).

## Day 24: Choose Today to Worship

Isaiah 43:18-19; John 9:13-15; Psalm 119:130

The choices you make stem from the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_. Each day presents itself with the opportunity to determine \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_. Each night echoes your daily selection of words, actions and thoughts. At the end of it all, are you happy with your choices?

Each night I think about the passing of events and contemplate what was good, not so good or still needs improvement. It is wonderful to close your eyes each night knowing that somewhere along the way you have done your best. However, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ can leave rough edges as if our beds were made of sandpaper.

It seems as if past events and history cling to us, as we seek for its resolve. I do not believe that we are to snap out of this kind of thinking. Nor are we to snuff-out our issues and ignore them. Time is needed to \_\_\_\_\_. It does get better.

When you plant seeds in one season, you do not see their effects until the next season, or even later. You may not see any activity on the surface, but below there is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.” – Isaiah 43:18-19

The Father is the One to help open our eyes to see the new things He is planting, growing and doing. He also has the \_\_\_\_\_ to help close our eyes to the old and former things. He has the power to open blind eyes and, in doing so, give light to men so they see their \_\_\_\_\_ state (John 9:13-15).

The light of Christ as a Savior, His fullness and grace, ability and willingness, shows wondrous things of the \_\_\_\_\_, the way we should walk in, and the duties of \_\_\_\_\_ we should perform.

“The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.”  
- Psalm 119:130

Like a plant in need of growth, God \_\_\_\_\_ the soil and stability to help us stand not on our own strength, but on Christ's. He makes a way through the \_\_\_\_\_ places and carries us daily.

Even in the dark, a plant still finds its way to the light. Its leaves turn green because the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, even while it rests. At night, we find sweet rest in the palm of God's hands. He gives us a cool drink from the fountain of the Spirit filling our hearts with praise. Each day He provides new \_\_\_\_\_, new \_\_\_\_\_ and new \_\_\_\_\_.

May we live each day in Christ, allowing Him to do the best within us. In the process, may our worship bloom with sweet fragrances to God.

“I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness.” - John 12:46

Reflection: What are you harboring at night that hinders your worship in the day? Are you able to remove your hands that cling so desperately to the past and cling to Christ? As each day renews, God will cause His way to spring up. Are you ready to perceive it?

## Day 25: Something's Missing

**Proverbs 4:11-12; Proverbs 8:17; Psalm 139:13; Matthew 6:33; Jeremiah 31:3**

Do you feel like you're missing \_\_\_\_\_? Maybe it's a step, maybe it's a sign, or maybe it's just something that's out of reach.

Proverbs 4:11 tells us: "I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths." When we seek Him with all of our hearts, everything else fades. We are left with what is most important - Jesus Himself.

Can you find it in a \_\_\_\_\_; can you hear it in the melody of His voice? "I love those who love Me, and those who seek Me find Me." – Proverbs 8:17

He \_\_\_\_\_ our inmost being, has formed us and we wonderfully are made (Psalm 139:13). If this is true, then the Maker of all things \_\_\_\_\_ the very thing we ask and seek. What God desires first is for us to seek His \_\_\_\_\_ in His way. "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." – Matthew 6:33

Ask God in His way. Most times, the very thing you ask for is already right inside you. Why? Because God put it there. How? When He formed you and loved you before the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth. What is it? The very prayer that is at the top of your heart. God is taking His time to shape your \_\_\_\_\_ to be in the fold of His will.

God is the One who holds our lives. Even when we think we've lost it, He has found it. We will never stumble as long as He is our Light, our Guide and our Word.

"When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble." – Proverbs 4:12

As the Seeker, God comes and finds us. He \_\_\_\_\_ us and \_\_\_\_\_ us as His own. God knows exactly where you are. Are you allowing Him to find you in His way and in His time?

“The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.” – Jeremiah 31:3

## Day 26: Worship Him Who Is with Us

### Isaiah 43:2-3

Be confident in this, worshiper, our \_\_\_\_\_ is in the Lord God alone. Because we are precious in His sight, there is no other eye that looks out for our \_\_\_\_\_. There is no other hand that can \_\_\_\_\_ us from our fear. There is no other ear that can \_\_\_\_\_ every utterance of our soul. There is no other voice that can \_\_\_\_\_ words of wisdom and love to bring us back to life.

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...” - Isaiah 43:2-3

The main theme we hear from God through this passage is this: “I am with you.” What intimate words from the Savior who \_\_\_\_\_ us in every storm, stills every wave with one word, \_\_\_\_\_ the heart by the Holy Spirit and yet, through it all, \_\_\_\_\_ leaves us.

## Day 27: Walk in Worship

**2 Corinthians 10:5; Hebrews 4:16; Philippians 4:8; Psalm 28:7**

Have you ever been in a worship service, where you felt like it was just you and God? You can hear every whisper from His lips, every pulse from His heartbeat and every washing of His word. What about leading a worship service where you feel the same way – not you and your \_\_\_\_\_, not you and the pressure, just you, God and the people?

“Of all the music that reached farthest into heaven, it is the beating of a loving heart.”  
– Henry Ward Beecher

Personally, there have been times when either my mind was racing or my mouth was moving, but my \_\_\_\_\_ was standing still. It may have been due to things on the brain concerning the week, stress or even worry.

Often times we are influenced to believe that once we \_\_\_\_\_, or if we worship, all of our concerns are melted away. I mean, we are to leave our problems behind before we come to God, right?

Wrong.

The most expressive times I find in worship are when I bring my \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the feet of Jesus. What I bring to the Lord in worship is significant to what I expect of Him. What I give to God through the \_\_\_\_\_ and will of Christ is what He desires. There is an anticipation, not for God to answer my prayers, but rather for the opportunity to be honest with Him.

\_\_\_\_\_ - that's one word we don't often use very often in the Church. Confession is when we agree with God. Through prayer and worship, we confess who He is. We confess

His \_\_\_\_\_. We confess our \_\_\_\_\_. We confess His \_\_\_\_\_ and proclaim the work of the Gospel. This is where we find the mercy, grace and strength in our times of need.

We respond to God in worship through \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. When we seek His ways to live \_\_\_\_\_ lives, He will bless and guide our ways. Just as we have seen in the kings of old (2 Chronicles 17:3), the Lord still walks besides us today (Luke 24:15).

Honest or not, God sees it all and knows it all. Scripture reminds us that we are to “take every thought in to the captivity of Christ,” - 2 Corinthians 10:5. We are also told “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need,” - Hebrews 4:16.

Often we find ourselves going through the \_\_\_\_\_ on a Sunday service. We sing the songs, pray the prayers and listen to the message. But what does it mean? Where is the impact and where are our thoughts? On what words are we truly meditating according to Philippians 4:8? In this scenario, our response of worship may seem thin; it may even seem that it does not break through the ceiling. \_\_\_\_\_ is not what we get from God, but what we give to God.

He does not answer our concerns/prayers based on how much we praise Him. This would be \_\_\_\_\_. What He wants is for us to praise Him – no strings attached – unconditionally.

Psalm 28:7 says: “The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in song.”

Where is the writer in this scenario? Sounds like he came from the shadows of despair and into the light of joy. How? He found the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in the time he needed help.

We see that the Psalmist was \_\_\_\_\_, and therefore, his heart leapt for joy in giving thanks through song.

Our \_\_\_\_\_ is changed when our \_\_\_\_\_ are changed. As our hearts are changed, so are our lives and the songs which we sing. Like the Psalmist, we should approach God with a heart of trust, with a soul of \_\_\_\_\_ and with a mind that brings every thought \_\_\_\_\_ into the obedience of Christ.

In this exchange, we find true \_\_\_\_\_, true \_\_\_\_\_, true \_\_\_\_\_ and, most of all, true, unconditional love. This rescue causes our hearts to sing for joy with \_\_\_\_\_.

We can sing a new song. No matter the pressure or emotion we experience, His \_\_\_\_\_ is what we seek. His ways are before us and He will never leave us nor forsake us. This kind of love \_\_\_\_\_ us to walk in worship, in His word and in His spirit (John 14:23; John 4:24) with every step.

Through Jesus, in every step, walk in worship.

## Day 28: Footsteps of Worship

1 Peter 2:21; Isaiah 12:2; Isaiah 46:4; Psalm 32:7

God is astounding. From making the cosmos to forming us in His hands, He holds all of \_\_\_\_\_. There is nothing too far from His reach; there is nothing too deep that He cannot touch. He always goes before us.

It is humbling to know that nothing about His children is \_\_\_\_\_ from God. There is nothing that goes beyond His notice or His care. Even from our childhood steps, to adolescence and into our adult lives, the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ every one of our steps (1 Peter 2:21).

When our steps \_\_\_\_\_, He gives us a firm place to stand. When all seems shaken, He places us on dry land. He \_\_\_\_\_ our fear and worry, but asks us to do one thing: \_\_\_\_\_ each step of His leading.

He forgives our \_\_\_\_\_ and desires us to turn to Him, to \_\_\_\_\_ by having a true life change. He wants to \_\_\_\_\_ our worry, mistrust, bitterness and shame. He wants to glorify Himself through us by brightening our hope, widening our trust, fulfilling our joy and lifting our voice to give Him praise (Isaiah 12:2).

So why the struggle? Why must we walk through these valleys? It's where we find God doing the majority of His work in our \_\_\_\_\_. God reveals His nature of love and care. When we truly find our \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, the steps we take are not only shared by Him, but they are also \_\_\_\_\_ by Christ (Isaiah 46:4).

Soon, we will pass into eternity, but in the here and now, we are held in His grip. He is a God of \_\_\_\_\_ and salvation. We look to Him as He provides each step, carrying our burdens and yet, lifting us from the yoke of \_\_\_\_\_ to run into His grace. (Psalm 32:7) "Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens."

– Psalm 68:19

## Day 29: Is What You Live Worth Singing?

**Ephesians 3:16; Psalm 66:2; Proverbs 30:5; James 3:13; 1 John 4:19; Zephaniah 3:17**

Do you sing what you mean or mean what you sing? How we live the answer to this question is \_\_\_\_\_ to our being as worshipers. When we reflect His values, both the things we say and how we live are \_\_\_\_\_ from a growing heart in Christ.

“I pray that out of his glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being” (Ephesians 3:16).

The \_\_\_\_\_ being is what God is more interested in rather than the \_\_\_\_\_ of our voices. At the same time, our skills and \_\_\_\_\_, whatever they may be, declare the works of God. To make His praise glorious is to trust in every word of God. He is our shield and defender. He covers those who put their trust in Him. That is worth singing about!

We love Him because He first loved us. We also sing to Him because He \_\_\_\_\_ over us. How great is our God who teaches us to sing and to make His praise glorious. Everything we do and sing should be an \_\_\_\_\_ of worship, flowing from an \_\_\_\_\_ through Christ.

“Sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious.” - Psalm 66:2

### Day 30: If You Only Have Today

**Ecclesiastes 9:9; Proverbs 23:4; Psalm 34:12; Matthew 6:19; Jude 1:21**

“Every day should be passed as if it were to be our last.” – Publilius Syrus

Suppose you only have today. How will you live it?

Yesterday our son was helping me around the house. He saw my Bible and said, “Daddy, is this your Jesus Book?” You can hear the fragile crackling of paper, as he carefully unfolded each page. He asked me about all the lines and circles I drew, the different color highlights and the many tabs of bookmarks. He smiled as he thought and told me about His Bible, too.

If I only had today, what would he see from the \_\_\_\_\_ of my \_\_\_\_\_? What are the drawn lines he would see from my heart? What would the circles of my time reveal? Would he see the colors of my care and \_\_\_\_\_ the bookmarks of each important, everyday moment?

Ecclesiastes 9:9 reminds us: „Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that He has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun.” This refers to all of life, love and family the Father has given us.

\_\_\_\_\_ each day, every page as God has written. Work hard, play hard, but live life even harder. Enjoy His \_\_\_\_\_, but don't wear yourself out (Proverbs 23:4). Have the \_\_\_\_\_ to say no, and have the \_\_\_\_\_ to say yes, to the things that matter (Psalm 34:12; Matthew 6:19).

How are you to live? Worship God with your \_\_\_\_\_. Worship the Lord by the \_\_\_\_\_ you show your family. Give God \_\_\_\_\_ that leads others into His goodness.

Each day, begin with this focus from Jude 1:21: „Keep yourselves in the love of God, expecting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life.” Impact your family, your friends and the people you walk with each day. Let them see Jesus in you.

Life is more than four walls and a calendar. If you only have today, how are you going to live it?

# AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Branon Dempsey is the founder and CEO of Worship Team Training®. He has over 20 years of leading worship and teaching worship theology, music and songwriting for churches ranging from 500 to 5,000 members. He has had the opportunity to train and study worship at Maranatha! Music as well as some of the most well-known churches in the country, including Coast Hills Church, and Saddleback Church, where Rick Warren is pastor.

Branon is a selling author and teacher with Faithlife (Logos Bibles) for online, digital and printing teaching books and products; and holds an M.Div in Worship Theology and Worship Arts, along with a Bachelors of Music in Composition and Performance.

Additionally, Branon is a Training Partner with Yamaha Corporation of America | Worship Resources, and on the Expert Panel and writing team for Shure Microphones. He is also an instructor with Christian Musician Summit, and regular columnist for Worship Musician Magazine.

His additional training by Maranatha! Music and Integrity Music, as well as certifications from DISC / LEAD, The Birkman Method and Myers Briggs, offers him and his team the unique ability to serve churches and individuals, by helping them understand their base personality, learning style and spiritual maturity, to further catapult their skills, sharpen their quality development and to instill the needed confidence to reach the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 3:14).

Learn more about Branon and his ministry at [www.WorshipTeamTraining.com](http://www.WorshipTeamTraining.com).

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*- Holland Davis, Worship Leader/Author/Pastor, Calvary Chapel, San Clemente*

Worship Team Training workshops help equip you and your team for the weekly battles we all face (both physical and spiritual) in the arena of church worship. They're inspirational and focus on what matters most.

*- Tony Guerrero, Performer/Producer/Worship Songwriter*

Branon is the real deal. He brings a meaningful, humorous and biblical ministry to the table of worship leadership development. His insight into the intricacies of worship ministry is powerful and relevant.

*- Joel Engle, Pastor of Preaching and Vision at Changepoint*

WTT's Power Workshop allows entire church teams to truly benefit from a worship conference without the high cost of travel and conference expense. Even better, your team will see immediate results from what's taught.

*- John Chisum, Pastor of Celebration Arts Fair Haven Church Nazarene*

Branon is an energetic, experienced worship leader with many abilities to share, including song writing and arranging. His heart for God matches his skill and desire to serve and equip teams and leaders to more effectively experience whole-hearted worship in the local church.

*- Jamie Harvill, Owner at Paths of Peace Music Pastor of Worship and Students  
at Oak Grove Baptist Church*

Branon is a deeply committed Christ-follower who would be an asset to the music and worship ministry of any church.

*- Rick Eubanks, Pastor of Worship and Students at Oak Grove Baptist Church*



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