

Training Men To Be Worship Leaders

Lesson 2: Preparing To Be A Worship



Discovering God's Word
Bible Study Series

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Learn about some areas of preparation for leading congregational worship, the importance of growth, and the need to overcome fear

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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Lesson 2: Preparing To Be A Worship Leader

As we saw in lesson 1, leading the worship is one of the most awesome responsibilities that has been given to the men of a local church. Through the activities we lead, we are either helping or hindering people who are attempting to worship God. This is an awesome task no matter if there are just a few people or a few hundred or a few thousand!

In light of this awesome responsibility, it is reasonable to consider how we can possibly make preparations that are worthy of the task. In reality, whether we help or hinder people in worshipping the Creator and Sustainer of life hinges (in part) on our preparations. You see, there are some ways that we need to be preparing ourselves to do the very best that we can in leading the worship of God.

Remember these five “P’s.” Proper preparation prevents poor performance. Although there may be some exceptions, this is an excellent rule to remember and apply.

This is why people go to school before they take a job in a specialized career field. They need to properly prepare for the task they will be doing so that they do not perform it poorly. You simply would never consider giving someone the task of wiring a home without preparing that individual for the job to be done (i.e. through education and demonstration).

In the same way, we should not expect to be able to get up in front of a congregation and lead

them effectively in worship without preparing for the task. And, congregations should not expect or demand for those who are unprepared to attempt such an important task.

During this second lesson, my goal is to address some issues regarding the kind of preparation that is needed *before* we ever attempt to lead God’s people in worship. Specifically, I want to accomplish three things. First, I want us to focus on some specific areas of preparation we should consider before leading the worship. Second, I want to encourage the growth that we all should be dedicated to experiencing as worship leaders and make some suggestions as to how we might be able to grow in this area. And, third, I want to help us prepare by overcoming the fears that so often hold us back from leading people effectively in worshipping God.

Areas Of Preparation

Since our preparations do make a difference in how we are able to lead people in worshipping God, we should consider some specific areas of preparation. These seven areas cover the majority (if not all) that will be involved in our leading worship. You would do well, then, to use this as a quick reference list prior to attending worship services or commit these to memory.

Prepare to offer God your best

As we saw in lesson 1, whenever we come to worship God, we worship the almighty, all-wise, all-knowing, ever-present, holy, and eternal God who is Lord of Heaven and earth! Now, just from a personal standpoint, consider what kind of offering you have that is worthy of bringing before this God. Acts 17:24-25 says, “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.”

God does not *need* us to worship Him. There is nothing that we can possibly offer Him that He

cannot have for Himself. Still, He desires for us to worship Him. In fact, Jesus said that “the Father is seeking” true worshipers (John 4:23-24). Surely, then, whenever we bring an offering of worship to God, we should bring Him our very best!

When God specified the kinds of sacrifices people in the Old Testament were to give to Him in worship, one of the things He commanded was that they were to bring animals that were “without blemish.” Whatever had a defect was not to be offered, for it would not be acceptable on their behalf. So, their sacrifices must be “perfect to be accepted.” They were not to offer animals that were broken, maimed, had an ulcer, eczema, scabs, was bruised, crushed, torn, cut, or corrupted in any way (Leviticus 22:17-33). They were to remember the greatness of God always and offer Him the best they had to offer!

Later, in Malachi chapter 3, listen to the language God uses whenever people would not offer Him their best in worship. “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation” (verses 8 and 9). Earlier in Malachi, we learn that they were robbing God in this way because they were offering “defiled food” on His altar and saying that the Lord’s table is to be despised whenever they offered the blind, the lame, and the sick as a sacrifice to God (Malachi 1:6-8)!

So, as you prepare to lead people in the worship of God, remember that He deserves the very best that you can offer Him. This was true in the Old Testament and, I would argue, is even more true today. For, those who are living today have the opportunity to be part of the kingdom of God through Jesus Christ! Surely, such a God deserves far more than even the best that we can offer Him. So, why should we believe God will accept anything less than our very best? Is *that* the worship He is seeking?

Prepare your mind

Your mind is an important part of whether your worship will be acceptable to God or not. And, having the state of your mind set in a way that is pleasing to God is also essential in leading effective

worship. For, the Bible teaches us in many different places that our minds impact what we do – either for the good or the bad.

For instance, Proverbs 4:23 says, “Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.” Proverbs 23:7 says, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. ‘Eat and drink!’ he says to you, But his heart is not with you.” Then, Jesus teaches that “out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murderers, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies” (Matthew 15:19).

This is just as true about worship as it is in any area. Remember, Jesus said that true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). So, your mind must be prepared to be fully engaged in worshipping God *prior* to leading people in worship. Such a serious act surely deserves the right frame of mind to be carefully crafted. For instance, worship leaders should have their minds prepared to be joyful about the opportunity to worship God, to be zealous to worship God with fervor and energy, to desire to serve God by leading people in worship, to be serious about the activities that will be accomplished, etc. We should have the burning desire to give God everything that we have to give Him in worship. This will be reflected by the actions that are involved in our worship.

Prepare your character

The character of those who lead people in worship matters! First and foremost, it matters to God and He will not accept your worship if you are unwilling to correct the sin that is in your life. For instance, Isaiah 1:10-20 talks about a situation in which the sacrifices and offerings that people were bringing to God were worthless, an abomination, and troublesome to God because the people were not living according to God’s instructions. Furthermore, Matthew 5:23-24 commands that if you would try to bring a gift to the altar to offer it to God and remember that your brother has something against you, you should leave your gift and be reconciled to your brother *before* you offer your gift to God. And, 1 Peter 3:7 indicates that husbands who do not fulfill their roles in marriage can have their prayers hindered. Therefore, all of this indicates that God does care about the character of the one who is trying

to worship Him. And, as the leader of the worship, you should diligently evaluate whether God is accepting your worship or if sin in your life has made your worship and abomination to God.

Second, it matters to those we are leading in worship. If the people you are trying to lead in worship recognize that you are living as a hypocrite, you will be hindering them as they worship God. So, Paul told Timothy (who would be trying to lead people in worshipping God by preaching the gospel), “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). Evaluate for yourself: Would you sign up to receive health, nutrition, and fitness classes from someone who is overweight and engages in gluttony? Would you attend a financial seminar taught by someone who is bankrupt? So, why should you expect your brethren *not* to be hindered in their worship if they know that you willfully neglect to attend the worship services, use profanity, take God’s name in vain, engage in forms of sexual immorality, mistreat your family members, cause division in the church, gossip, etc.?

So, we should carefully prepare our character and how we live our lives. Although we all sin and fall short of glorifying God in our lives, we should not be habitually sinning against God and refusing to repent of the sin we do commit. We should engage in regular evaluation prior to leading in the worship to see if there is any sin that we have not corrected with God or if we have not been reconciled to our brethren.

Prepare your schedule

Here is an extremely obvious point to consider about preparing to be a worship leader: You must be present at the worship assembly in order to help lead it! Now, we all understand that there are things that take a person away from these assemblies that are outside of their control or sometimes there is cause to assemble with saints in other places. However, outside of these, God expects those who are members of local churches to be in attendance whenever they assemble.

Hebrews 10:24-25 gives very clear instruction on this matter. “And let us consider one

another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, an so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Specifically, I want to address a situation that is fairly common in congregations today. Many congregations put out a schedule in advance of their assemblies that concern those who will take leading parts in the worship. They may have assigned the responsibilities of song leading, praying, serving the Lord’s Supper, teaching/preaching, and making announcements. But, there are many who do not attend the assemblies they are scheduled to help lead – and do not have the courtesy to let their brethren know! So, the men of the congregation are left to try and find replacements at the last minute (who may not have had ample time to prepare to lead the worship that day). Now, just honestly evaluate whether you would show this same kind of disrespect to your employer. If you had a responsibility at work that you would not be able to fulfill, would you let someone know ahead of time? Or, would you neglect it completely? Instead of treating God, your brethren, and visitors to the assembly in this way, you should take the time to carefully prepare your schedule so that you make sure to fulfill your responsibility to be present at the assemblies of the church and help to lead the worship! Then, if you are unable to attend, you should let someone know and find a suitable replacement.

Prepare your clothing

We are living at a time when it seems that people want to dress very casual for everything. I contend that much of this is due to a loss of respect. And, there are many who contend that it does not matter how you dress to worship God – because worship is a matter of the heart (John 4:23-24). So, there are those who are dressing for worship (and even to lead the worship) in the same kind of way that they would go fishing, to a ball game, or to work out in the yard! Now, I do recognize that there are times when the “best” that you have to wear is what you have on (i.e. when you come straight from work). But this is not the focus of my point.

And, while I do not know of any passage that institutes a “dress code” for worshipping God, that is

not my point here. Instead, my point is three-fold. First, we should remember that while our worship is a matter of the heart, there are also externals that accompany our worship to God. And, I think that we should give God our best both in the externals and the internals of worship all the time! Second, we should remember who we are worshiping and do everything we can to show the utmost respect for Him. You see, the clothing we wear communicates messages about us (as is demonstrated throughout the Scriptures, i.e. Proverbs 7:10). So, “dressing for worship” is not so much about the clothes that we put on as it is about an attitude that wants to give God the very best we can give Him – because of who He is! Third, we should consider what message our clothing sends to our brethren and those who are visiting the assembly if we have chosen to dress casually.

Then, let me add that there are some points to consider from the Scriptures about how people dressed for worship in the Old Testament. I offer these merely for your consideration, recognizing that they are *Old Testament* passages. In Genesis 35:1-3, Jacob was commanded by God to go to Bethel and make an altar to God. When he gave instructions to his family, he told them to purify themselves and change their garments. In Exodus 19:9-11, God told Moses to consecrate the people who were at Mount Sinai and would hear God speak, and have them “wash their clothes.” And, in Exodus 28:1-4, the priests who led the worship of God in the Old Testament were to wear “holy garments...for glory and for beauty” and they were to minister to God as priest. I will let you draw your own conclusions, but I would strongly suggest that many Christian priests (1 Peter 2:9-10) could do better to think about their clothing as they lead the worship.

Prepare your responsibility

If you have opportunity to know how you will be leading the worship, you should make sure that you are prepared to do it to the best of your ability. While I recognize that there are times when people do not know beforehand that they will be taking a leading role in the worship and do the best they can “on the spot,” many things are often known ahead of time.

For instance, song leaders should have their songs prepared and practiced. Bible class teachers should have their lessons prepared and rehearsed enough to present God’s word effectively. Those serving the Lord’s Supper should have their comments prepared and ready to deliver. Those praying should consider how they want to address the God of the universe. Unless we are put “on the spot” at “the last minute,” we should not be caught scrambling to prepare for leading the worship.

The remaining lessons in this series will be primarily about achieving the result of being prepared for the responsibilities of leading the worship. For now, let me simply suggest that we should always be preparing to do better at leading the worship. For instance, whenever we worship God privately, we prepare ourselves (at least to some extent) to lead the worship. So, the private prayers we offer to God prepare us to lead public prayers. The private Bible studies we engage in prepare us to teach the gospel. And, the psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs we sing prepare us to lead the singing. So, if we “continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God” (Hebrews 13:15), it will equip us to do better with regard to the responsibilities we have in leading the worship.

Prepare your expectations

Sometimes, we are our own worst enemies in leading the worship. After we are finished leading the worship, we can be hard on ourselves because we do not believe we did a very good job – even though we gave it our best effort. Note that I am not talking about those who do a sloppy job because they did not properly prepare.

However, we need to keep in mind what God is looking for in worship. John 4:23-24 teaches us that you will have engaged in true worship if you worship according to truth and in spirit (heartfelt and sincere). Any more than this is man-made criteria for worship leaders. We are not performers. We are not entertainers. We are not motivational speakers. We are not professional educators. We are Christians who are offering God true worship and are trying to help others do the same, to the best of our abilities.

Therefore, part of the discouragement that people experience after trying to lead the worship is entirely self-inflicted. They have set the bar too high for themselves. They expect unreasonable things. They expect to do as good of a job as someone who has been leading the worship for many years. They measure their “success” by how other people lead the worship. But, please remember to measure yourself by no one except Jesus Christ and the standard that He has set for your worship!

Working To Grow

The matter of worshipping God ought to be an area in which Christians desire to grow. We should have a burning desire to worship God more effectively than we have in the past. And, this growth should then filter into your work as a worship leader.

There is always room to grow

Let’s get something out of the way right now. It does not matter how long you have been a Christian, there is always room for growth! In fact, if you are not growing, you are dying. So, 2 Peter 3:18 says, “but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

In every aspect of your Christian life, you should be committed to growing. You should grow in your knowledge of the Scriptures. You should grow in your ability to communicate the word of God to the lost. You should grow in your ability to encourage others. You should grow in putting on Christian character. You should grow in your service. And, you should be growing in your worship.

In your own worship

In your own private worship, for instance, you should be growing in your prayers. Hebrews 13:15 says, “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.” Prayer is certainly one way that you offer God the sacrifice of praise to Him. So, your understanding of prayer should be deepening and your commitment to prayer

should be strengthening. And, your ability to speak freely and openly to God in prayer should be increasing.

Your effectiveness in studying the Bible should also be growing. For instance, although you may once have been reading the Bible and getting very little benefit from what you read, you should now be gaining more and more understanding of the Scriptures. You should be meditating on His word throughout the day and making effective applications to your life. And, your desire to learn God’s word should be increasing.

Although these are just two examples, I hope that they have demonstrated the need to be growing in your own private worship. As you mature in the Christian faith, your worship should be seeing these same signs of growth. And, if they are not, then you should make serious evaluations as to whether or not you are actually growing in the faith!

In your effectiveness at leading worship

It is reasonable for new Christians to only be involved in leading a few aspects of the public worship. Or, perhaps they are not involved in leading any act of worship at first. However, as Christians mature, so their involvement ought to grow in other areas of the public worship (to the best of their ability). And, their effectiveness in leading the worship ought to be growing as well.

Instead, this is what often happens: A man becomes a Christian. After a short time, he may be asked and be willing to lead the worship in an area like assisting to pass the Lord’s Supper and collection or do the Scripture reading. After a while, he may even lead some prayers. Perhaps he is eager to do his part and work in becoming an effective worship leader. However, somewhere in his life, he hits a point at which he stops growing in this area. Maybe it is because he is not willing to lead in any other area of the worship. Or, perhaps he stops growing in the area(s) he is willing to lead.

Thus, it is a challenge for us to reach for the next step in our growth as worship leaders. Don’t settle for staying at the same “level” you are at in your spiritual life. Push yourself to try to lead in different areas. And, don’t settle for saying the same

things every time you are asked to lead a prayer. Don't settle for singing a select few songs. Don't repeat the same words and always read from the same verses when you give a talk around the Lord's table. Push yourself to take the next step!

Suggestions for growth

Every member of the body of Christ is unique. Each one has a unique set of skills, weaknesses, and a different comfort level. However, I simply do not believe that this means that we all cannot grow and develop ourselves into better worship leaders and be involved in more areas of the worship (although a few may have limitations that are beyond their control). For most people, I truly believe that they just do not put enough work into growing in this area. So, please let me offer a few suggestions for growth.

(1) Grow in your faith. The stronger your faith becomes, the more that you will push yourself and step outside of your comfort zone. The more zealous you become for serving the Lord, the more you will do whatever is possible to take the next step in leading people in true worship. Since "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17), the more you study the Bible, the more your faith will grow.

(2) Pray for help. As Christians, we need not take on the challenges of life without help. We should recognize that there is power in the righteous person praying according to the will of God (James 5:16). So, if you desire to grow in your effectiveness as a worship leader, ask God to help you!

(3) Practice, practice, practice. Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well. And, the only way I know how to do things well on a consistent basis is to practice. No, the fact is that you almost certainly won't be "great" at something the first time you do a thing. But, you can work to get there. Proverbs 13:4 says, "The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich." Let's apply this principle for a moment. Sometimes, we may desire to be effective worship leaders, but not do anything to work toward it. So, just as this verse teaches, we must be diligent in order to accomplish what we desire.

(4) Worship more often. One way you can be more effective at leading God's people in prayer is to pray more often by yourself and grow in those prayers. One way you can be more effective in teaching the gospel is by studying the word more and telling more people about what it says. One way you can be more effective in leading the singing is to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs throughout the week. You see, it is a basic principle. If you are only trying to pray, sing, and teach whenever the church assembles, you will probably not grow very quickly (if at all). So, as you can, take advantage of opportunities to worship throughout the week.

(5) Learn from others. Although every member of the body of Christ is different, we can also learn from one another. Using the right standard of evaluation, find people who are effective worship leaders. Consider what they do that is so effective. Talk to them about how they developed their abilities. Although you should avoid imitating them exactly, you should try to use your own personal abilities to implement what has been so effective for them. Remember that you do not have to "reinvent the wheel" when it comes to leading the worship.

(6) Set realistic goals. Sometimes we work against our own growth by setting expectations that are simply unrealistic. Perhaps we expect too much from ourselves too quickly. Perhaps we measure ourselves by the wrong standard (i.e. entertaining sermons, pitch-perfect songs, etc.). Perhaps we measure ourselves against someone who has been leading the worship for many years. Regardless, you should work to set and reach obtainable goals.

Overcoming Fear

There is much more that could be said about growth. But, I believe that we often work against our own growth through fear. In fact, since leading the worship often involves standing before or speaking before a group of people, we should consider the fact that this is a major fear that people have. And, in order to be effective in leading the worship, we have to conquer this fear.

How fear hinders in leading the worship

For some, the fears involved in leading the worship may be as simple as stepping outside of their comfort zones and trying a new thing. And, this kind of anxiety is real because they do not know what to expect and do not know how to react to all the things that *could* happen.

For others, there may be a fear about some personal insecurity. For instance, some are insecure about their physical appearances. Some are insecure because they have a difficulty with stuttering. Some are insecure because they have difficulties reading. Some are insecure about the knowledge they have. Some are insecure about the way their voices sound. In fact, people are insecure over many things that they would like to change about themselves.

For others, the fear is standing before a group of people and having those people listen to and follow them. They don't know what everyone will think about them. They don't know whether they will be able to provide anything of value for the people who are present.

Please recognize that no matter what the source of the fear is, fear is debilitating. It keeps us from doing the things that we want to do. And, it has wide-reaching effects on us. It has physical effects on our bodies (i.e. causing us to sweat, shake, etc.). It has emotional effects on us (i.e. causing our minds to be consumed by thinking about what we are afraid of). And, it has spiritual effects on us (i.e. causing us not to do things God desires us to do).

Fear can be a sanctuary for excuses

Because of how fear can negatively affect us in so many different ways, we often make excuses to give ourselves a way to escape the thing that we are afraid of. Moses is an excellent example of this (read Exodus 3 and 4). Whenever God called him to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian captivity, Moses offered at least four excuses. He asked, "Who am I?" "What will I say?" "What if they won't listen?" Finally, he said, "I am not eloquent." Now, I do not believe that there is one among us who truly thinks Moses' excuses were justified. We all know that God could accomplish His purposes through Moses,

regardless of his shortcomings. Yet, for some reason, we change our attitudes whenever it comes to what God wants us to do for Him (i.e. in leading public worship). So, our fears truly become a sanctuary for our excuses. Consider a few common excuses and a very brief rebuttal to each.

(1) "I can't." I don't know about you, but my Grandma always told me that "'Can't' died in the poor house." In the Scriptures, I read about Paul saying, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Although there may be a rare instance of someone who is physically or mentally impaired (i.e. unable to speak) that may truly limit what he is physically able to do, this is not the case for most people.

(2) "I've never done it before." Sounds like a really good reason to try. After all, if you have never done something that is worth doing, how do you know whether you can do it? And, the only way you will ever be able to feel as if you are doing everything you can in the Lord's service is to try the things that you have never done before.

(3) "I don't know how." Of course not. We are not born with a knowledge of how we should do everything that we will need to do in life. After all, you were not born with the knowledge you needed to do your job. But, that did not keep you from learning and working, did it? So, this sounds like a really good reason to learn what you do not know.

(4) "I don't know whether I will do a good job." Some people quit before they try by offering this excuse. You probably didn't know whether you would do a good job in your job, as a husband, as a father, etc. until you tried. At some point, you will have prepared enough and it will be time to give it a try.

(5) "Someone else can do a better job." This is probably true. There are some very talented people in the body of Christ. And, thank God for them all! But, this does not mean that they are the only ones qualified or the only ones God wants to be involved in His work. Your standard is *not* to do as good of a job as someone else. Your job is simply to do the best that you can to accomplish God's work. You *can* do that, can't you? Remember, the body of Christ is a

collection of all the members, not just a select few extra-talented ones (see 1 Corinthians 12).

(6) “I’m not needed.” Have you ever asked? Everyone is needed in the body of Christ. There is always more work to do in God’s kingdom than there are laborers. In fact, the true laborers are few (see Matthew 9:37-38). Although the need for worship leaders may be felt more in smaller congregations than in larger ones, don’t believe for one minute that your participation is not needed. For, God wants full participation, not partial.

(7) “I don’t do a good job.” Maybe this is what you have concluded after trying something once or just a few times. But, I’d ask you to consider what standard you are measuring yourself by. As long as you worship God in spirit and truth, you do a good job. Now, you can commit yourself to growing in your effectiveness. But, I don’t believe you can say that you do not do a “good job” as long as you are leading people in true worship.

Fear can be sinful

There are more excuses that are made than I can address in this lesson. So, insert your excuse *here*. You can know whether it is a true reason or whether it is an excuse by considering if God is pleased with you. Would you be willing to tell it to Christ (the One who gave His life to die for you) whenever you stand before Him in Judgment?

Actually, you must seriously consider yourself and how you are handling your fears because fear can keep you out of Heaven! That’s right. Listen to Revelation 21:8: “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Did you catch the part about the “cowardly” having their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone? Now, certainly God knows that His people may face obstacles that make them apprehensive. But, we are taught that we must never fear any of the things or people we face in life more than we fear God! Jesus said, “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather

fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28).

So, fear becomes sinful whenever we allow it to prevent us from serving God in the way God wants us to serve Him. Therefore, if we allow fear to keep us from leading public worship (which is a responsibility given to the men of the congregation), can we really say that God is pleased with us?

Overcoming fear

I’m sure more could be said about fear. But, let me close by offering a few suggestions about overcoming fear.

(1) Trust God in everything you do. If God leads you (through His word) to do a thing, don’t worry about how it will turn out. Just do what God wants you to do to the best of your ability. For, if God is pleased with you, it does not matter what else happens!

(2) Pray. Whenever we are anxious, God tells us to cast all our cares on Him, because He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). Then, when we do this, we will experience the peace of God that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:6-7).

(3) Set realistic expectations. Don’t miss out on serving God because you are fearful of failing to meet your own expectations. God knows what you are capable of. Simply determine to do all that you are capable of doing.

(4) Remember who you are serving. Your worship is about God. Although leading the worship does have an impact on other people, it is still primarily about God. So, determine to give Him the best you can give and don’t worry about what other people think. Remember that worship is about God – *not* about you!

(5) Most fears never become reality. A lot of times we worry and are afraid of things that never actually happen. In fact, it is fairly common for folks to say that it “wasn’t as bad as I thought” after they try something new.

(6) Trust your brethren. I know that there are brethren who decide to be difficult. I know that there are even well-intentioned brethren who speak without really thinking through what they say. But,

by in large, your brethren love you and want to encourage you. They want to see you succeed and will help you out in any way they can.

(7) Love. 1 John 4:18 says, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” If we truly love God, we will keep His commandments and have no need to be afraid of the consequences of sin. If we truly love our brethren and love others, we will act in sacrificial ways toward them and even be willing to accept mistreatment from them. So, if you will foster genuine love in your heart toward God and all people, you will not need to be afraid of leading worship! Instead, you will have a burning desire in your heart that you cannot hold back (see Titus 2:11-14 and Jeremiah 20:9).

(8) Volunteer. Volunteer yourself to do something you have not done before (or that you are uncomfortable with). By volunteering, you will force yourself to deal with your fears and overcome your excuses. Then, keep volunteering yourself to hold yourself accountable and grow in your abilities. Over time, you should become more comfortable leading those activities.

Conclusion

You should be preparing yourself to lead people in worshiping God. But, this will involve work. So, I simply encourage you to get to work in making all the preparations that are necessary, growing in your worship, and overcoming the fears that hold you back. For, God is seeking for people who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. Won't you commit yourself to helping other people give that kind of worship to God?

Study Questions

What are the five “P’s” that will help you lead worship?

1. Areas Of Preparation

How should you prepare to offer God your best?

How should you prepare your mind?

How should you prepare your character?

How should you prepare your schedule?

How should you prepare your clothing?

How should you prepare your responsibility?

How should you prepare your expectations?

2. Working To Grow

Is there room for you to grow?

How should you work to grow in your own worship?

How should you work to grow in your effectiveness at leading worship?

How can you apply the following suggestions for growth?

(1) Grow in your faith –

(2) Pray for help –

(3) Practice, practice, practice –

(4) Worship more often –

(5) Learn from others –

(6) Set realistic goals –

3. Overcoming Fear

How does fear hinder you in leading the worship?

How can fear be a sanctuary for excuses? Give specific examples.

Is fear acceptable to God?

How can you overcome fear?