

WORSHIPING GOD WHILE MAKING MUSIC

- Bob Kauflin -

I. Introduction

A. Worship leaders often struggle with leading others to worship God, but having a hard time doing it themselves.

B. God doesn't intend us to lead people to a place we don't live.

I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together. (Ps. 34:1-3)

C. Three common reasons we have a hard time worshipping God while leading others.

1. Lack of skill.
2. Failure to focus on the heart.
3. Misunderstanding of worship.

II. Develop Your Skill

A. The more comfortable I am with practical aspects of leading, the more I can think about the God I'm singing to.

B. If you're unsure about musical details, changes, tempos, lyrics, chords, or cues, it will be obvious.

Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. (Ps. 34:5)

C. The goal of practice isn't doing something until you get it right. It's doing it until you can't get it wrong.

D. Choose songs and arrangements that fall within your present skill, not where you wish you were.

III. Deal With Your Heart

- A. Acknowledge the presence of pride.

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? (Jer. 17:9)

- B. Identify what pride specifically looks like in you..

1. Wanting others to notice you.
2. Being distracted by other's gifts.
3. Comparing myself to others.
4. Insecurity about how others perceive us.
5. Anxiety, worry, fretfulness
6. Over-preparation
7. Self-absorption
8. Anger when things go wrong
9. Resistance to correction or input

- C. Thank God for sending his Son to pay the penalty for your sins and sinfulness.

1. You are completely forgiven, justified in God's eyes. (Rom. 3:21-24)
2. You are reconciled to God. (2 Cor. 5:18-19)
3. You are freed from sin's power. (Rom. 6:14)
4. You are now a slave of Christ. (Rom. 6:22)

- D. Aim to help others see the greatness of God who not only forgives all your sin, but uses you for his glory.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1Pet. 2:9)

- E. Learn to pursue and appreciate humbling moments. (2 Cor. 12:9)

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2 Cor. 12:9)

1. The goal is not a superb performance, but faithfulness to magnify Christ in people's eyes.
2. Expect to laugh at yourself.
3. We can't seek glory for God and ourselves at the same time.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. (2 Cor. 4:7)

- F. Focus on what God is doing through others and celebrate evidence of his grace.

IV. Understand Worship Biblically

- A. Worship is more than singing songs.
- B. As I help people extol God's greatness through song, I'm contributing to giving God praise.

1. Well-timed verbal cues
2. Noticing how people are responding
3. Communicating with the band
4. Making sure the projectionist has the right lyrics
5. Ending rehearsal on time.
6. Ending your part of the meeting on time.
7. Gladly submitting to your pastor's requests.

- C. If I'm NOT doing those things for God's glory, I'm not worshipping God to begin with.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Pet. 4:10-11 ESV)