

4 Simple Steps to Improve Your Worship

By Adam Faughn

For nearly anyone, worship can become a bit rote at times. Although we know it is invaluable, we are human; thus, we struggle at times to stay truly engaged and thoughtful throughout the time.

But some seem to think that it would take some major thing to get out of the rut or to make worship more meaningful. Tragically, some stop coming. Just as tragically, some think they must change God's pattern (or worship where that pattern is not obeyed) and have bands, light shows, and more just to "up" the experience.

But there are far simpler steps that each person can make to improve worship for themselves, while still making certain they worship "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Today, I share four that you can make this Sunday.

1. Prepare Beforehand. I know Sunday mornings are busy. It is remarkable we have any sanity by the time we make it to worship. But could we not take even 5 or 10 minutes on Saturday night to sing a song and pray so that our mind is headed in the right direction? What about laying out clothes so that the Sunday morning rush is less crazy? On Sunday morning, on the way to the building, listen to some worship music or talk about what you are excited about concerning the opportunity you are getting ready to take part in! Just this one step, I promise, will revolutionize worship.

2. Arrive on time (or a little early is even better). If you are constantly late, you are not even "settled in" before worship is partially over. When that happens, you spend the rest of the time playing catch-up in your mind. But if you are present on time, or a little early, and have visited with a few fellow Christians and had a chance to "settle" a bit, your mind is fresh and ready to worship from the first moment.

3. Sit closer to the front. I have sat in the back before. I have sat in a balcony before. Let me just put it this way: it is a whole different world! It's not a sin to sit in the back; after all, by definition, someone will be "in the back." That said, if you are trying to get out of a rut, or are just struggling to stay engaged in worship, you will be completely amazed how much easier it is to stay focused if you just move up a few rows. There are fewer distractions (because there are fewer people between you and the leaders) and just the change of scenery is sometimes enough to trigger your mind to be more focused.

4. Remember that God is the Audience. In the end, your goal is to give your best for Him; not just to see what you can get out of the worship time. If your mind is truly focused on that singular fact, your worship will improve, since you will be constantly striving to please Him with every action and every thought.

None of those things changes God's pattern for worship. Further, none of them requires a major overhaul on your part. Still, these four steps will change your worship for the better. Why not try them, even this Sunday, and just see if worship is not more encouraging for you than it has been in a long, long time.

"...worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness" (Psalm 29:2b)

Adam Faughn preaches for the
Central Church of Christ in Paducah KY

Schedule of Services:

Greeting: Tom

Song Leader: Ray

Opening Hymn:

120—The Solid Rock

Opening Prayer

Tom

Hymn:

219—The Banner of the Cross

Scripture Reading:

Gary

Psalms 29:1-11

Hymn:

298—Jesus Calls Us

Lord's Supper:

Mark & Ron

Hymn:

461—On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Sermon: Tom

Invitation Hymn:

593—Free Waters

Closing Hymn:

514—Fairest Lord Jesus

Closing Prayer:

Dale

PRAYER LIST

- *Pat was being moved from the hospital to the rehab center this week.
- *Juanita's sister Betty.
- *Mary and her family.
- *Nina's brother, James.
- *Robert and Sara
- *Pat and Ron.
- *Juanita and her family.
- *Larry and Ruth
- *Dale, his mother and his cousin Jayna and her family. His friend Zarna and her family.
- *Ray, Rebecca, and Steven.
- *Our congregation
- *Our Veterans
- *Our Nation

CALENDAR

- Dec. 1—Bible Study 10 am
Mark
- Dec. 1—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Tom
- Dec. 1—Business Meeting
- Dec. 4—Bible Study 7 pm
Rob
- Dec. 8—Bible Study 10 am
Mark
- Dec. 8—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Tom
- Dec. 8—Potluck
- Dec. 9—b. Megan
- Dec. 9—b. Richard
- Dec. 11—Bible Study 7 pm
Rob
- Dec. 15—Bible Study 10 am
Mark
- Dec. 15—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Tom
- Dec. 18—Bible Study 7 pm
Rob

Answer to Puzzle: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Praise to God in His Holiness and Majesty

Scripture Reference: Psalms 29:1-11

BIRTH	BLESS	BREAKS	CEDARS
DIVIDES	ENTHRONED	EVERYONE	FLAMES
FLOOD	FORESTS	FOREVER	GLORY
KADESH	LEBANON	MAJESTY	MAKES
MIGHTY	PEACE	PEOPLE	POWERFUL
SHAKES	SIRION	SPLINTERS	STRENGTH
STRIPS	TEMPLE	THUNDERS	VOICE
WATERS	WILDERNESS	YOUNG	

S R E T N I L P S W H W O R S R H I
 S T S E R O F I I T P T H E L E O R
 D I N T H E R L G B R E A K S V S D
 B E A U T I D N E Y O F H P O E H O
 L I N E O E E C S N S N I R P R A O
 R P B N R R I L Z K O R O V F O K L
 Y C E N T O U A R O T Y J N W F E F
 C T E S V F B L E S S B R Z A D S X
 T S S D R S E D I V I D C E E B H E
 S H G E A E E F E U L P N N V M E S
 D W W L J R C L L L M E O R K E S L
 V O A R O A S A P A P R C Y A Y R S
 P D N T J R M M K O H M O A D U E E
 U R A J E U Y E B T E U E W E D D X
 B I R T H R S S N V N P L T S P N W
 J O D J O M S E J G C J B R H G U B
 Z C L B H T I F P O V I A L Y R H V
 Q Z F R D O M A M I G H T Y S G T J

Hidden Message: _____

Opportunity is always knocking. The problem is that most people have the self-doubt stationed in their head turned up way too loud to hear it.

SUNDAY: Bible Class — 10:00 am; Worship — 11:00 am; Evening — 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study — 7:00 pm
Website: Chardonchurchofchrist.org
E-mail: church_of_Christ@roadrunner.com
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