



Getting Worship Right

“Worship, at its core, is about honoring God’s worth.”

— Pastor Mike • October 11, 2026

Bible Texts: 1 Chronicles 13:3–12ⁱ; 15:28–29ⁱⁱ; Acts 17:28ⁱⁱⁱ; Acts 15^{iv}.

A change of perspective. Pastor Mike told of an art critic who finally understood a painting by kneeling to view it. Nothing about the painting had changed; his perspective had. Likewise, worship becomes clearer when we approach God with humility rather than simply attending, singing, or observing.^v

1. Put God’s presence at the center

David wanted to return the Ark of the Covenant, symbol of God's throne and presence, to Israel. For years, the nation had grown accustomed to its absence. David knew God's people must center their lives on Him. Churches may have music, buildings, and programs, but none can take the place of the living God.

Reflection: When I gather for worship, is my attention truly on God?

Notes: _____

2. Good intentions must be joined to obedience

David's first attempt was joyous but neglected God's instructions. The ark rode on a cart instead of being carried by the Levites; Uzzah died when he touched it. Pastor Mike recalled spilling paint on new church carpet while trying to help. Good intentions did not prevent the damage. Likewise, sincere worship must honor God's holiness and obey His Word.

Reflection: Where am I trusting good intentions more than God's Word?

Notes: _____



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3. Reverence and joy belong together

David corrected his mistake: the Levites carried the ark as God directed, and Israel celebrated with music and dancing. While David joyfully honored God, Michal watched with contempt. Pastor Mike warned against outward order without love and enthusiasm without obedience. Worship can be quiet or expressive. Neither style proves what is in the heart; God alone sees that.

Reflection: Do I worship from the heart or judge another's expression?

Notes: _____

4. Remember who God is—and what He has done

We worship God for who He is—Creator, sovereign Lord, and faithful Sustainer—and for what He has done. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, He offers forgiveness and eternal life by grace through faith. When Pastor Mike described encouraging news from a woman undergoing cancer treatment, the congregation spontaneously rose in praise. Gratitude needed no instructions. Remembering God's goodness awakens worship that comes from the heart.

Reflection: What has God done that stirs my gratitude today?

Notes: _____

Closing Thought

Worship is not a performance or a particular style. It is a heart that honors God's holiness, obeys His Word, and remembers His grace. Whether expressed in quiet gratitude or joyful praise, true worship flows from a life surrendered to Jesus Christ.

ⁱ **1 Chronicles 13:3-12 English Standard Version**

³Then let us bring again the ark of our God to us, for we did not seek it^[a] in the days of Saul.” ⁴All the assembly agreed to do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

Uzzah and the Ark



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⁵ So David assembled all Israel from the Nile^[b] of Egypt to Lebo-hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim. ⁶ And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, that is, to Kiriath-jearim that belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord who sits enthroned above the cherubim. ⁷ And they carried the ark of God on a new cart, from the house of Abinadab, and Uzzah and Ahio^[c] were driving the cart. ⁸ And David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all their might, with song and lyres and harps and tambourines and cymbals and trumpets. ⁹ And when they came to the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzzah put out his hand to take hold of the ark, for the oxen stumbled. ¹⁰ And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he put out his hand to the ark, and he died there before God. ¹¹ And David was angry because the Lord had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzza^[d] to this day. ¹² And David was afraid of God that day, and he said, “How can I bring the ark of God home to me?”

ii 1 Chronicles 15:28-29 English Standard Version

²⁸ So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting, to the sound of the horn, trumpets, and cymbals, and made loud music on harps and lyres.

²⁹ And as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came to the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David dancing and celebrating, and she despised him in her heart.

iii Acts 17:28 English Standard Version

²⁸ for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; ^[a] as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’”^[b]

^{iv} Acts 15 teaches that salvation comes through the grace of Jesus Christ, that God's restored kingdom welcomes the Gentiles, and that genuine worship flows from hearts transformed by His grace.

v The Painting That Changed with Perspective

Pastor Mike told the story of art critic Robert Cumming, who spent years studying a Renaissance painting by Filippino Lippi. Although he admired the artist's skill, the painting seemed strangely distorted. The mountains looked crooked, and the figures appeared awkwardly positioned.

One day, Cumming wondered whether the painting had originally been intended for a church rather than an art gallery. He knelt before it, and suddenly everything appeared in proper perspective.