

LEADER GUIDE

2020
WORSHIP
WORKSHOPS

be filled with
the Spirit,
addressing one another in
psalms and hymns
and spiritual songs,

singing
and making melody
to the Lord
with your heart



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WORSHIP WORKSHOPS are discipleship events where we can dive deeper into the spiritual issues related to worship. Because worship is connected to all of life, the scope of our focus will be narrowed a bit to specifically target issues connected to being a healthy worship leader.

My hope is that you will journey with me this year through each workshop. I'm asking Jesus to show me exactly what we need to cover so that we can emerge from 2020 more spiritually healthy as individuals and as a worship ministry. I'm also listening to you for feedback and suggestions to make these workshops valuable investments of your time and dedication.

Please pray with me, and anticipate that the Lord will grow us, challenge us, and breathe life into our ministry during 2020 that we've never experienced before. I have cannot wait to see what the Lord does in and through us as we **FOLLOW HIM.**

Pastor Shane



THE WAR

The waters of worship ministry have always been troubled. This shouldn't be too surprising to us since worship is at the heart of the rebellion against God. The rebellion began with the theft of worship, and so ever since the fight has been over worship. A big part of worship ministry involves fostering space where believers can worship the Lord with gladness, gratitude, and love. We can't make anyone worship, neither does our ministry guarantee that the worship people offer is genuine, but we do what we can to encourage our believing family to worship with us.

With that said, 2020 is going to be a year for us to dig deeper into our responsibilities as worship leaders. What does it mean to lead worship? What is required from worship leaders? How does our personal worship impact our ability to lead a congregation? Over the course of 2020, these questions and many more will

be our focus not just for a pursuit of knowledge, but for personal spiritual growth and growth in our capacity to minister.

We're going to begin this journey by going back to the beginning. We'll start by looking at the spiritual war. This isn't going to be anything crazy or off the wall. Discussion about spiritual warfare has been hijacked. A lot of what gets said is shortsighted about what Jesus did on the cross, built from cherry-picked verses and even from unbiblical sources. So, we're going to start at the ground level, rebuilding and reframing our foundational understanding of spiritual war. We'll cover some things you may have never heard and reinforce some things that you already know. Each session will include table breakouts for discussion and questions and answers. This first session is simply called The War.



WHO ARE WE FIGHTING?

The short answer to who are we fighting is the spiritual beings who rebelled first. That they rebelled first is an important distinction. Most of us were taught that the rebellion began in the Garden of Eden, but that isn't true. The war came to humanity in Eden, but the rebellion actually started in the very presence of God in the spirit realm.

Ezekiel 28:12b-17a

^{12b} You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared.

¹⁴ You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.

¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.

¹⁶ In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

^{17a} Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.

Isaiah 14:12-15

¹² "How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!

¹³ You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north;

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

¹⁵ But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.





These passages show us the beginning of the rebellion that began with the first rebel – that anointed guardian cherub, Lucifer, the Devil, Satan, whichever name you prefer. He started this conflict before God's throne.

That actually should blow your mind and stir up a few questions.

HOW CAN A REBELLION BEGIN IN HEAVEN WHERE EVERYTHING IS SUPPOSED TO BE PERFECT?

HOW CAN AN ANOINTED GUARDIAN CHERUB WHO STOOD IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AT THE THRONE BECOME ARROGANT AND FULL OF HIMSELF?

HOW SHOULD THE FACT THAT SIN BEGAN IN HEAVEN AFFECT THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT HEAVEN AND GOD?

There are probably more questions, but these will do for a good start. We have retained such a flannel board, Sunday School way of thinking about these things that as adults, we might find it challenging to change our ideas. Here are some rapid-fire answers to these questions, which we'll dig into a little deeper one at a time.

HEAVEN ISN'T PERFECT THE WAY WE'VE BEEN TAUGHT TO THINK.

FREE WILL ALWAYS LEADS, EVEN THE MOST PERFECT CREATIONS, TO A CHOICE TO OBEY OR REBEL.

LIKE THE EARTH, HEAVEN HAS BEEN CORRUPTED BY SIN. IN THE END, THAT MEANS IT WILL BE RECREATED ALONG WITH THE EARTH.



We have made certain assumptions along the way that lead us to believe heaven is perfect. Our logic often goes like this:

- GOD IS PERFECT.
- GOD CANNOT BE IN THE PRESENCE OF SIN.
- THEREFORE, HEAVEN MUST BE PERFECT, FREE FROM THE RUIN OF SIN.

Those are nice sentiments, but they're shortsighted and ignore some key places in the Scripture that give us different insights.

- GOD IS PERFECT.
- HE CREATED FREE-WILL CREATIONS WHO CHOSE REBELLION.
- HE ALLOWED THEM TO CONTINUE EXISTING AND CONTINUED TO PERMIT THEM ACCESS TO HEAVEN.
- HE WILL CAST THEM OUT ONCE THE WORK OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS IS COMPLETE.
- HEAVEN WAS AFFECTED BY THE RUIN OF SIN AND WILL BE REMADE ALONG WITH THE EARTH.

This narrative is more faithful to what God has revealed to us in His Word. It also paints a much larger image of the conflict we're fighting. Free will spiritual beings chose rebellion. This brought sin into the spiritual realm. They were cast out after Jesus ascended (Revelation 12:9), and the spiritual realm will be remade because of the ruin of sin.

WHY ARE WE FIGHTING?

Now, why did this rebellion even happen? How did God's most flawless creation – Lucifer, the light bearer, anointed guardian cherub – fall from his position into sin? He was always in God's presence, an eyewitness to the Shekinah glory of God every moment of his days. You'd think the rebellion would have started somewhere else with someone else. Here are a few simple observations:

- GOD CREATED A SPIRIT REALM WHERE REBELLION WAS POSSIBLE.
- FREE WILL MUST HAVE A CHOICE, SO EACH CREATION WAS IMBUED WITH THE ABILITY TO CHOOSE TO WORSHIP GOD OR SOMEONE ELSE.
- SATAN'S BEAUTY MADE HIM FULL OF HIMSELF, WHICH LED TO THE THOUGHTS THAT HE DESERVED SOME WORSHIP. EVENTUALLY, HE STOPPED TAKING THOSE THOUGHTS CAPTIVE AND BEGAN INDULGING IN HIS "TRADING."

Satan's fall from his position happened because God wanted a free-will family of His creations who chose to love Him freely. It wasn't God's fault that Satan sinned because Satan made his own choice that was completely an exercise of his free will. God knew that to have the family He wanted, free will had to be given to all those whom He created. But He also knew that free will would lead to rebellion.

SIDENOTE: [THAT'S WHY THE CROSS OF CHRIST WAS GOD'S PLAN SINCE BEFORE THE FOUNDING OF CREATION! IT HAD TO BE SO THAT GOD WOULD GET THE FAMILY OF UNFALLEN SPIRITS AND REDEEMED HUMANS THAT HE WANTS IN THE END.]

Therefore, since sin and rebellion began in Heaven, we should start thinking about Christ's work on the cross on a cosmic scale. The full work of Jesus is not only to redeem the souls of men and women. The complete work also redeems Heaven and Earth. Everything ruined by sin is going to be redeemed. God's people, the Earth, and even Heaven will all be redeemed and remade.

SIDENOTE: [THE CROWN OF THORNS MIGHT HAVE BEEN A WAY FOR THE ROMANS TO MOCK CHRIST'S CLAIMS THAT HE IS A KING, BUT THOSE THORNS END UP REPRESENTING THE REDEMPTION OF CREATION SINCE THORNS WERE AN EFFECT OF THE CURSE OF SIN!]

Revelation 21 details the remaking of Heaven and Earth. Why would Heaven need to be remade if it was perfect? It needs to be recreated because sin has left its mark, even on Heaven itself.

"...the first heaven and the first earth had passed away..."

Job 15:15

"Behold, God puts no trust in His holy ones, and the heavens are not pure in His sight;"

"Passed away" is often a euphemism for dying. Anything affected by sin and rebellion will be unwelcome in the new creation. It will "pass away" and have no part in the new creation. This is a rebirth. Just like you and I experience a rebirth in salvation and the death of the old self, Heaven and Earth will have their own rebirth and passing away of the old.

So, does it mean the Heaven we enter into when we die isn't perfect? "To absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." This is far better than our earthly life by any measurement. But there is apparently some remnant or remaining vestige of sin and rebellion present in today's Heaven that necessitates a recreation in the end.





What does all of this say about God? He allowed a rebellion to begin, perhaps just a few feet from His throne. Then He let the rebelling Lucifer draw humans into his rebellion, effectively allowing sin to ruin both the spirit realm and the physical realm. Why?

We don't know. As tempting as it may be to try answering that question, anything beyond admitting we don't know is deep speculation. But here's what we can say. The joy that we'll have in the end made it worth it to Jesus to endure the cross (Hebrews 12:2). Whatever the endgame will be like, God knows that all this rebellion, all the sin, all of everything we have and will endure will pale in comparison to what is coming.

Romans 8:19

¹⁹For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.>`





WORKSHOP I
SESSION II

THE VICTOR

In this session, we are going to look deeper into Christ, our Victor. In a spiritual war that centers around worship, how should Christ's victory affect how we fight? How should our worship reflect His victory? To start this, we'll watch another video to help us frame our discussion.

[Play video: The New Humanity]
<https://youtu.be/takEeHtRrMw>



As we dive into this topic, we're going to take a look at a few crucial questions that we need to understand about our journey through the spiritual war in the light of Christ's victory.

HOW DID JESUS WIN?

WHAT HAS JESUS WON?

HOW DO WE WALK IN CHRIST'S VICTORY?

HOW IS OUR WORSHIP CHANGED?

First, and most important in this discussion is the question of how Jesus won. It's easy to fast-forward to the cross, but His victory actually began far before the cross. The victory was won in the wilderness where Satan tempted Him. That doesn't diminish the cross. In fact, a great way to see it goes like this. Victory was won in the wilderness, secured at the cross, and rewarded in the resurrection! Without the wilderness, Jesus didn't fulfill His purpose as the second Adam (more on that shortly). Jesus faced temptation and prevailed, where Adam failed.

Matthew 4:1-11

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry.

³And the tempter came and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

⁴But He answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took Him to the holy city and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple

⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.'"

¹¹Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to Him.





HOW DID JESUS WIN?

Each of Christ's temptations were issues of worship.

- THE TEMPTATION OF BREAD WAS WORSHIP OF THE FLESH.
- THE TEMPTATION AT THE TEMPLE WAS ABOUT GETTING WORSHIP ON HIS OWN TERMS.
- THE FINAL TEMPTATION WAS SATAN'S BLATANT ATTEMPT TO GET JESUS TO WORSHIP HIM.

Each of these temptations were about worship because each temptation would disobey the Holy Spirit to satisfy some desire of the flesh.

- THE TEMPTATION OF BREAD WAS AGAINST THE SPIRIT'S PURPOSE OF LEADING JESUS INTO THE DESERT TO FAST.
- THE TEMPTATION AT THE TEMPLE WAS ABOUT FINDING A FAST-TRACK TO GET PEOPLE TO SEE JESUS IS THE MESSIAH INSTEAD OF TRUSTING THE SPIRIT TO REVEAL THINGS IN THE FATHER'S OWN TIME.
- THE FINAL TEMPTATION REMOVED ALL FACADES AND REVEALED THE HEART OF THE WHOLE SPIRITUAL WAR. SATAN DESIRES WORSHIP AND WILL DO ANYTHING IN HIS POWER TO GET IT.

Now, how did He win? In a war of worship that can be very subtle, there is only one way to win, and it is a combo punch.

WORD | PRAYER | FASTING

These are the things that Jesus had been doing leading up to His time in the desert. He had been learning the Word His entire life. He had been taught to pray His whole life. In this scene, we see the disciplines of Word and prayer converge with fasting. Together they strengthened Jesus, gave Him the ability to discern and endure everything that Satan threw at Him.

But we have to be careful because these disciplines aren't the victory themselves. They are a means to an end. They enabled Jesus to know, to sense, and to persevere. He disciplined himself in ways that enabled Spirit-empowered actions in the moment of temptation. He didn't rely on His divinity. He strengthened His human self to battle-readiness through disciplines that prepared His spirit for spiritual war. That is the *how*.

WHAT DID JESUS WIN?

We've shown how he won. Now, what did Jesus win? What are the spoils of His victory? Here's a shortlist of the spoils.

1. FORGIVENESS OF SINS
2. ALL CURSES ARE BROKEN
3. ETERNAL LIFE WITH THE FATHER
4. INHERITANCE OF ALL OF CREATION
5. A FAMILY OF REDEEMED HUMANS – THE BRIDE OF CHRIST.
6. A REDEEMED ISRAEL AND THE THRONE OF DAVID
7. HEALING FOR ALL WHO BELIEVE.

There's more, but these seven spoils cover a lot of territory. We don't have time to deal with each of them and do them justice. Since we've been talking about the new humanity, let's zoom in on number five, a family of redeemed humans.

The video dealt with the concept of a new humanity. It's a topic that doesn't get much coverage in our Bible studies, sermons, and Sunday Schools. It's unfortunate because the new humanity is one of the big reasons for God planning this saga of redemption. On the cross, Jesus secured the new humanity for Himself. Romans, chapter five, unpacks the reality of this truth.

Romans 5:12-19

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.

¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.

¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Adam is the head of the human race. As the head, everyone underneath his headship inherits his broken nature. Adam sinned, and therefore sin spread to all humans, and consequently, death spread to all humans. The theological term here is imputed sin. Adam's sin is imputed to every human because he is the head of the human race.

But Christ came as the second Adam. He came to be the head of the new humanity. This new humanity will be comprised of all those who are redeemed by His work on the cross, by grace alone, through faith alone. Since He is the head of the new humanity, what He has is imputed to those under His headship. Christ was sinless, so instead of receiving sin from Him, people under His headship receive imputed righteousness.

What does the new humanity have to do with the spiritual war? Quite a bit. As members of the new humanity we are on the front line of pushing back the darkness. Paul calls us ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). If we're ambassadors, then we're representing the Kingdom of God everywhere we go. God's kingdom is filled with ambassadors of the new humanity that Jesus purchased on the cross.





1 Corinthians 6:20

for you were bought with a price. So glorify God
in your body.

So, when you walk in the light (1 John 1:7), you are an agent of light! The armor we wear is called the armor of light (Romans 13:12). You are a reflector of the light of the Gospel, the glory of God into every dark place that you encounter. The new humanity is all about winning the spiritual war!

HOW DO WE WALK IN CHRIST'S VICTORY?

In part, we answered this when we looked at how Jesus won in the desert. The disciplines of Words, prayer, and fasting make us battle-ready. But when we wake up each morning and start taking the first steps of our daily journey, how do we walk in victory? When we encounter difficulties and temptations at school, at work, in the grocery store, it's seldom convenient to break out your Bible and find a verse or stop everything and pray for an answer. Faithfulness in the disciplines only makes you ready for real-time battle decisions. Real-time action requires a real-time relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Here are four necessary things to help you walk in Christ's victory.

1. REMEMBER THAT THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S, NOT YOURS. ADMIT EVERY DAY, ALL DAY THAT YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY THE ONE WINNING ANYTHING. CHRIST ALONE IS OUR VICTOR, AND WE ARE HELPLESS WITHOUT HIM.
2. STAY ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. YOU WILL LEARN TO KNOW HIS VOICE THROUGH WORD, PRAYER, AND FAST-

ING. NOW PRACTICE THAT IN A VIBRANT REAL-TIME RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING MEANS NEVER STOP CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

3. RECOGNIZE THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL IN YOUR DAILY ENCOUNTERS WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS, ACQUAINTANCES, AND ENEMIES. IF YOU ARE WALKING IN THE LIGHT, THE ARMOR OF LIGHT WILL REFLECT GOD'S GLORY AND REPEL THE DARKNESS. THAT WILL DRAW ENEMY FIRE. STAND FIRM, DISCERN THE SPIRITS, PERSEVERE IN PRAYER.
4. TAKE EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE. EVEN AS WE WALK IN THE LIGHT, THE FLESH WILL RAGE AGAINST THE LIGHT. DON'T GIVE YOUR FALLEN THINKING ROOM TO THRIVE.

HOW IS OUR WORSHIP CHANGED?

As worship leaders, this should be on the front burner, a matter of top priority. Even though this is important for every believer, those who lead put a heavier burden of examination upon themselves.

There are multiple places in the Bible where we see worship used offensively in the spiritual war. Making music and singing to the Lord drives out darkness and puts the enemy to flight.

1 Samuel 16:23

²³And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.

WORSHIP DROVE AWAY THE HARMFUL SPIRIT THAT ATTACKED KING SAUL.





2 Chronicles 20:20-22

²⁰ And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe His prophets, and you will succeed."

²¹ And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, "Give thanks to the Lord, for His steadfast love endures forever."

²² And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed.

THE PRAISES OF THE SINGERS THAT WENT BEFORE THE ARMY CAUSED ISRAEL'S ENEMIES TO TURN ON EACH OTHER

Ephesians 5:17-21

¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT IS TIED WITH SINGING SONGS OF PRAISE.

Psalm 137:1-6

¹ By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion.

² On the willows there we hung up our lyres.

³ For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

⁴ How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?

⁵ If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill!

⁶ Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy!

REFUSING TO WORSHIP DURING HARD TIMES INVITES DESPAIR AND BITTERNESS.



The importance of worship in God's new humanity cannot be understated! But, if you aren't mindful of the spiritual war, remaining disciplined, walking in the light, and maintaining fellowship with the Holy Spirit as you journey, your worship will have all of the authority and power of a warm fuzzy. It may make you feel good for a moment, but it will lack the power and authority to push back the darkness.

The worship of disengaged believers is an exercise in sentimentality. The worship of believers who are engaged in the war will bring deliverance, healing, hope, and light to the broken world around them!

Worship ministry is a front-line ministry. As we lead the church, we are pushing back the darkness in our own lives and the lives of those we lead. Our songs must declare truth! Our lives must reflect the truths we sing! If you're not seriously engaged in the spiritual war, start today! Don't just lead people in singing! Fight with your singing! Demolish strongholds with your instrument!

As we close this session, if we could reduce everything we've said down to one memorable, tweetable sentence, it would be this: *Become like Jesus*. If you're becoming more like Jesus, then you're walking in victory and winning the spiritual war. Become like Jesus, and your worship will become more than the sum of its voices and instruments.

At your tables, discuss the following questions, then we'll do some Q&A.

1. WHAT ARE YOUR LARGEST OBSTACLES IN THE SPIRITUAL WAR?
2. HAVE WE RELIED TOO MUCH ON OUR OWN STRENGTH AS WE FIGHT?
3. WHAT WOULD WALKING IN CHRIST'S VICTORY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?
4. IS WORSHIP PUSHING BACK THE DARKNESS AROUND YOU?

