

ACTIVATE School Of Worship

Session 1—Worship Foundations—Crystal Martin

I. Introduction

- A. Every time we gather together, the Lord knows, He watches, and has things on His heart that He wants to reveal and release.
- B. What are the things that are required when we come into the place of worship, and what are the things that should be a part of our daily walk of worshipping the Lord?
- C. A house is only as good as its foundation. The same is true of our relationship with God.
- D. Worship is what we do out of love for Jesus.

II. Four Worship Foundations

- A. They are mapped out for us in the Word. What does the Lord REQUIRE of us in worship?

1. Bring your hearts

- **Isaiah 29:13** - *These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.*
- He wants our hearts. He wants our affection.
- Authenticity - When we pray, when we sing, we have to mean what we are saying to Him.
- Bringing our hearts also means being conscious and sensitive to the Lord's correction and conviction in our lives. It's about being real with Him.

2. Engage your spirit

- **John 4:24** - *God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in Spirit and in truth.*
- What does this mean for us in our lives, and when we come into a worship set?
- We need the Holy Spirit
 - According to Mike Bickel, "hypocrisy is saying one thing and not even pursuing to do it."
 - We must pursue 100% obedience. We must worship Him in Spirit.

3. Sing the Truth

- **John 4:24** - *God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in Spirit and in truth.*
- We must sing the truth and we must believe the truth.
- Sing the truth found in His word, not some crazy theology.

Truth:

- **1 Timothy 4:12**

4. Focus on the Lord

- Sing to the Lord, and for the Lord. Singing to my Father, singing to the one who saved me, is SO MUCH MORE fulfilling than just singing a song.
- There is nothing like giving back to the Lord the gifts or the skills that He's given to you. Each one of us carries a gift that the Father strategically placed inside of us to bring Him glory.
 - Use those things! Excel in those things! Direct your heart, your strength, and your thoughts to Him as you do it and you will gain way more fulfillment.
- **Question:** *When was the last time you did something that really hit the target? You were like, yes, this is what I'm here for!*
 - Do that. Do it often. When you feel that fulfillment rise up and you feel connected to the Lord after doing something, it's absolutely because He placed that there! Focus your eyes and your gifts on the Worthy One.

III. Our First and Our Best

A. Giving to God out of our first fruits

1. Quote from Allen Ross on bible.org: *"When the people came to worship, God did not require a great deal of them in the way of offerings--tokens, really, of their herds and their crops--a handful of grain, or an animal for the family. But what they brought had to pass two important tests, and in many cases only they and God would know if they passed them. What they brought had to be the*

first and the **best**. Nothing else mattered. It had to be the first-born animal, or the first fruit of the crops or the orchards. God gets his share first, because he is the most important. But it had to be the best--the best firstborn or first fruit offering. To bring God an inferior gift would say that one did not think much of God, for the quality of the gift indicates the value the giver places on the one receiving the gift. That is true in any human relationship, and it certainly is true in the spiritual relationship we have with the Lord."

2. **My question to you:** What does this look like in our day? What the timeless truth here? What does bringing our first and best look like? Our money (tithes, physical gifts given to the Kingdom), our time, our service (spiritual service, doing things as unto the Lord), giving our best to the poor.
3. Let's follow what the Lord is asking of us and to give Him our best.

IV. Why is Worship important?

- A. There are many things in the spirit that are waiting to be revealed. Dig for them!
- B. There are things that God asks of us and we do them just because He said so.
 - There are things in life that we don't understand. This is when I say, Lord, I trust that You know best, that You see my situation and that You have what's best in mind for me, so I'm going to obey whether I understand or not.
 - But here are some things that we do know. **We worship Him because:**
 1. He's worthy, He's the King, and He's our Maker.
 2. We are called to be heaven's intervention. We live in a world full of sick, hurting people who are beyond the help of earthly power. Their only hope is heaven's intervention. We are called to release heaven. But we first have to host the presence of God in order to release it. We host his presence so that we can release His presence. When we worship this happens.
 3. **James 4:8** -We worship to draw near to Him. How do we cultivate this in our lives? - By worshipping, spending time in His presence, soaking in the Word (the truth), talking to Him.
 4. Worship is life changing, perspective changing, and atmosphere changing. Things get clearer, bondages break, and things shift in the region when we worship. I

IV. Activation

1. Repent for the things in our lives that are not honoring the Holy Spirit and what He's been speaking to us.
2. Surrender. Give over to Him the things that we've been holding onto and trying to do in our own strength.
3. Behold. Respond to His glory revealed. Worship flows from beholding God.