
SOLA FIDE

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Heart of Worship

Imagine yourself on a Sunday morning. Sunday worship is about to start in ten minutes. You already know it's going to take at least fifteen minutes to get to church from your house. You were busy finishing up some homework or catching the last minute of that football game. You're going to miss a few praise songs but at least you can still listen to the sermon and have



fellowship after. Let's face it, all of us have been late to something in our lives whether it's due to an emergency, getting caught in traffic, or just simply losing track of time. No one is pointing fingers at anyone because we all have our own busy lives and our own different circumstances. As for myself, I can tell you I was one of those people who was habitually late to Sunday worship because I wasn't a huge fan of singing. I would trickle right in just as the praise team finished their last song. I didn't think it was a serious problem because I was present for the sermon and the fellowship. However, the Bible says otherwise in regards to singing songs of praise to God.

To worship God is to show reverent honor and homage to God. One of the ways in which Christians worship God is by singing songs of praise. Let me give you two reasons why we are to sing songs of praise unto God. Firstly, Christians sing to God because it is commanded throughout the Bible (Psalm 29:2; Psalm 95:6; Isaiah 12:5). Apostle Paul wrote many letters to the early Christians about how they are to sing to the Lord (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19). So when you sing, you are obeying God's command in the Bible. Secondly, singing should be a natural response by those who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ because there is an inexpressible joy in the hearts of the believers (1 Peter 1:3-8). Imagine you just received a good news from a friend, and this news will change your entire life for the better, for the rest of your life. Would you be dull in that moment or would you shout for joy excitedly? There is nothing in this world that can compare to the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ. So let this joy consume our hearts and cause us to sing! (Psalm 71:23; Psalm 149:1).

Do you need a Christian music playlist? Here are some of my personal suggestions!

- 1) Chris Tomlin - How Great is Our God
- 2) Hillsong Worship - O Praise the Name
- 3) Hillsong Worship - What a Beautiful Name
- 4) Keith Getty & Stuart Townend - In Christ Alone
- 5) Martin Nystrom - As the Deer
- 6) Matt Redman - Bless the Lord
- 7) Shane & Shane - Once for All
- 8) Shane & Shane - Psalm 23: Surely Goodness, Surely Mercy
- 9) Shane & Shane - Psalm 34: Taste and See
- 10) Sovereign Grace Music - O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer

So how do we exactly engage ourselves in singing during the corporate worship? Here are some practical applications to consider for the Sunday worship. First, sing to the Lord. Don't worry about what other people might think of you. Don't be self-conscious about how you might sound like while you sing. You are singing to the Lord, so sing to the Lord without concerning about others. Second, get your hearts and minds focused on the Lord during the praise. Don't think about the exam the following day, what you're going to eat after, sound of the instruments, how talented the worship team member is and so on. Focus your hearts and minds during worship to the Lord so it may be about Jesus Christ. Lastly, think about what you are singing. Don't mindlessly follow the melody because the instruments are playing a catchy tune. Instead, meditate on the lyrics so you can fully worship in your praise.

Singing praise is one way where we can acknowledge God as the rightful Lord of our lives. God seeks our sincere and heartfelt praise because He is worthy of it (Revelation 4:11). That is why God's people are to sing in all occasions including times of joy and times of suffering. For example, King David sang songs of praise when God delivered Him from his enemies in battle (2 Samuel 22) whereas apostle Paul and Silas sang hymns unto God after being beaten and imprisoned in Philippi (Acts 16). God's people must place their faith and hope in God regardless of circumstances. So let your praise be the evidence of you lifting up your heart, mind and voices unto the Lord in all occasions, no matter the circumstances in life, particularly during the corporate worship on Sunday.

Let us remember the amazing grace of God. We have been saved by the blood of Jesus Christ through His death and resurrection. We have been given new life! Doesn't this make you excited and filled with joy? How can we not want to sing praises to a God who loves us so much? The heart of worship comes from all those who are genuinely saved by Jesus Christ. So I strongly encourage you brothers and sisters to sing praises to the Lord from deep within your hearts and minds. Let us express our everlasting joy through singing praises unto the Lord!

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