

## MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Worship Pt 2

Worship from a Worship Pastor's Perspective

Milo Sgambellone, Worship Leader

Weekend 08.06/07.11

Thank you, Dan. I am usually on the other side of that so it kind of feels weird. He thinks it feels weird too. Well, hello, Crossroads! I am glad to be here this morning. For those of you who haven't met me yet, my name is Milo Sgambellone and I am one of the worship leaders here at Crossroads. Like Wendell told you earlier, we are in the second week of a four-part series on worship. And last week, we had a special guest, Rick Muchow from Saddleback Church in California, and he did a great job starting us off last week on this subject.

I've been asked to share with you some of the things that I've learned as a worship leader here at Crossroads Church and that's what I am going to do today. Now Rick taught us last week from Romans 12 that worship is not just that part of the service that we just did that is typically called "the worship" part of the service. Worship is our whole lives. It is the whole church service. It is what we do outside of the church service but what I want to focus on today is that part of the service that we just did—what we call the worship service. And the reason I want to focus on that is because that is what I do. That's what I have been called to this church to do, to this ministry to do, along with Dan Fleming, the other worship leader. And we work with a large music team, a team of volunteers. And each week that is what we do. We come and we try to lead you guys in the expression of worship to our God so that is what I want to focus on because that has been my experience. And what I want you to take away from this today is a vision, a vision that is going to be unique to you because we're all in different places in our spiritual walk with God but a vision of how you can grow. How can you grow in this area of expressing worship to God?

And I need to give you a little history because I might be considered an unlikely candidate to be a worship leader from the start beside the fact that I am musician. Lisa, my wife, and I lived in Phoenix, Arizona and I came to know Christ out there in 1995. A small church had just started up; they were meeting in a grade school. The left a flyer on our door and Lisa went, and I didn't. And I stayed home. She went for awhile and she came to know Christ and so she started asking me. "You know, why don't you come to this church with me? Why don't you come?" And you know, I didn't have anything against God. You know, I was just indifferent. I never really thought about it much anymore. I was raised Catholic. I had walked away from that. And I just kind of let that part of my life go. So she kept asking me to come and so I said, "Sure...I'll go with you." And at that time, I was playing in clubs and playing in bars so I was getting home—musicians call it late; sometimes between 3:00 am and sunrise. Most people call that early. If you are musician, you call that late. And that's when I would get home so she would wake me up to go to church. And I was very tired. And so most of the time, I would fall asleep. We would sit in the back and I would fall asleep. But I must have been getting something out of it because I kept coming back. And I noticed that the band needed a base player. So I went up to the music director and I said, "You know, I noticed you need a base player. I am musician." And he interviewed me and they took me on as a musician in their band. And they knew that I was very young in my spiritual walk. I may not even had come to Christ at that point yet. But they worked with me. They worked with me; they were patient with me. They would actually even come to the clubs and see my band play and they would never support the part of my

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lifestyle that was sin but they would always encourage me, encourage me to use my music for God. And the way they worked with me, God was preparing me for the musicians that I would work with up here. And I didn't know that at the time, but that's what was happening and Lisa and I stayed at this church for a little while.

Then she got pregnant with our first child so we decided to move back to Ohio to be close to family. And just so happened, a little church called Crossroads was starting up at that very time. They were meeting in a grade school just like the church we had left and so we started to go. At this point now, I am hungry for the Lord. I am not sleeping anymore at the service so don't tell Tim I was sleeping or anything. You know, I was hungry for the Word of God so we were showing up and, at that time, I called him Mr. Fleming. I came up to Mr. Fleming and I said, "Hey, I am musician. I'd like to use my talents for God." And he invited me on the team and I started to play. And that went on for a little while and then due to job reasons, Lisa and I moved to Columbus. And when we were in Columbus, we went to a very large church. It was a great church and I learned a whole lot there from the teaching. The music was great but I never got involved in the music team. It just was very large and I wasn't connected in that way. And, in fact, not only was I not involved in the music team, most of the time I showed up late and I missed the worship. And that was intentional. Of course, we blamed our baby; we're late. We have a baby. But I was late intentionally a lot of the time and the reason I was, was because I just didn't understand the singing. It didn't resonate with me. I mean I was a singer in rock bands and all that stuff. But this just didn't resonate with me. And the reason that it hadn't resonated with me yet is because I didn't know who God was yet. And God had to change my heart and that's what he did to bring me to this position. He changed my heart. He revealed himself to me. And then I was able to worship him because worship is a response to who God is. So if we don't know who God is, we're not able to worship him properly.

So that's where I want to start today. If you want to follow along in your outline, that's the first thing we need to do. If we want to be a proper worshiper of God, we need to know that God exists. We need to believe that God exists. Hebrews 11:6 says: "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him." So we must believe that he exists but it's got to be more than that because I believed in "a God" before I even went to church in Arizona. And then I believed in the one true God when I was going to the church in Columbus and when I was coming to Crossroads at the beginning but that didn't motivate me to worship in song just believing that God exists.

I needed more than that. I needed to believe and we all need to believe that God is living. That is the second blank in your fill-in—that God is living. God is a personal God. The apostle Paul was preaching to the men of Athens and they were walking through a garden shrine area and there's all these statutes and alters and he comes upon an alter that is labeled to the unknown God. And here is what he has to say to the men of Athens in Acts 17. Paul says: "For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription:

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'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of Heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by men, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything."

This is not an impersonal God. This is not a far away absent God. This is a God who gives life. He gives breath; he gives everything. That's just not the breath of life. That's every breath we take; every heartbeat is a gift. He is right here with us all the time. God is a personal God. In Ralph Martin's book, "Worship in the Early Church", he quotes Ann Fairbaron to say: "That the man (and I would add woman) who does not believe that God can speak to him will not speak to God." The man that does not believe that God can speak to him will not speak to God. So we must believe that God is living.

And then the next thing we need to believe to have a proper perspective in worship is that God is majestic. God is majestic. We must believe that God exists, believe that God is living and believe that God is majestic. He is awe-full. He is full of awe. And if you look up the word awe in the dictionary, it is a word that has trouble describing itself. It means as terrified as you can be. It means as excited as you can be. It means as amazed as you can be. It means all these things at the same time, in other words, beyond our comprehension. God is beyond anything that we can even begin to imagine. God is full of awe.

And there's a lot of scriptures that say He is majestic in one line. But I want to tell a story from Exodus about Moses because I think the interaction between Moses and God shows God's majesty. Moses is walking along and he comes along a burning bush. Many of you guys have heard this already but he sees this bush that is being burned on fire but not being consumed and this perplexes Moses so he walks over and God speaks to him. And God says: Moses, take off...well, actually we should use the TV God voice...help me out here, Ken. "Moses, you are on holy ground. Take off your shoes." This is what God says to Moses...take off your shoes. And here is Moses response to God...this is where it gets interesting. And He said...this is God speaking..."I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob and Moses hid his face for he was afraid to look at God." So here Moses is...he meets God and he is instinctively afraid. He is terrified because God is so full of awe.

So then we fast forward to Exodus 33 and this is where Moses is going up onto the mountain—Mount Sinai. And he is going to meet God again. And this time Moses is a little bit bolder and he has a question for God. He says: God, show me your glory. And here's the exchange in Exodus 33. Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And God said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name, 'The Lord.' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." And the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by

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I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

So here Moses is asking God to show him a glimpse of God and God says I can't show you my full presence because you couldn't live if you seen it so what I am going to do for you is I am going to show you the back of me after I pass by; that's what I am going to do for you.

And so they do this and the result of this, we see the result of this when Moses comes down the mountain and that happens in verse 34 in Exodus 34:29: When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.” So now here we have a group of people who are seeing a reflection of somebody who has seen the back of God after he passed by and they're afraid. This is the awe of God. This is the majesty of God and this should lead us...knowing this...should lead us to reverence. This should lead us to worship. But we have a problem because if we are students of scripture at all, we know that we can't stand next to a holy God. We are fallen. We live in a fallen world. We have a sin nature. There is no way we can approach God. So God takes care of this problem for us.

He himself provides the way and that is the next thing that we need to believe to properly worship God is that God is approachable. We need to believe that God is approachable. Believe that he exists, He is living, He is majestic and He is approachable. Staying in Hebrews 4:14-16: “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with weaknesses, but one who in every respect who has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Let us with confidence approach God. With confidence, let us draw near this throne. And that is the power in the name of Jesus Christ. That is the power of His name because there is no other name that allows us to approach the throne of God. It is only the name of Jesus.

So now we know that we can approach God but still in our fallen state how could we ever stand before him even bringing our worship, even coming to him in worship? How could we possibly ever stand before such a holy, majestic God. And God, again, provides that way for us. And that is the next thing that we need to believe is that God accepts us. God accepts us. God exists, He is living, He is majestic, He is approachable and He accepts us. And there are a lot of scriptures that talk about the cleansing power of God and how he turns the unrighteous into righteous but we will stay in Hebrews. Hebrews 10:11-14: And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.” Now he is talking about the old system before Jesus came where they had to make sacrifices and those sacrifices did not take away sins, they only atoned for sin and so then Paul makes the distinction right here:

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“But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering, he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.” And those who are being sanctified, those are Christ-followers. If you have accepted Christ into your life and you are following after him, you are being sanctified. You are being made into the image of Christ by the work he is doing. And I love how it is in the past tense right before that. For by a single offering, he has perfected. The work is already done. You know, we are going to screw up. We are going to fall away; we are going to not see God. It is our nature. The Bible is full of stories of how we are going mess up. But he has perfected. He has already secured our salvation. Our mess-ups do not trump God; He trumps our mess-ups. He is the Saver.

So if we believe that God exists, that God is living, that God is majestic, that He is approachable and that he accepts us, now we are ready to worship God. We need those things first. But once we have those things in our minds and in our hearts, now we are ready to worship. Worship happens in two realms. Worship happens in Heaven in the presence of God and worship happens on earth. And I want to start with worship in Heaven and there's a great verse in Revelation that has a picture of worshipping around the throne the God.

It is Revelation 5:11-14. It reads: Then I looked and I heard around the throne the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Now is this is a powerful picture of standing and worshipping in the presence of God. But if we are honest with ourselves, we've probably had this thought in our mind and it probably happened when we were singing or standing here and we're singing and we're thinking to ourselves, “God, if this is all we are going to do in Heaven, I think I might get bored.” I mean, really, if you are honest with yourself and at some point in your walk, that thought has probably crossed your mind. And that's reflected in our pop culture. Billy Joel has a song, “I'd rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints”. AC/DC has a song entitled, “Hell ain't a bad place to be”. The Band Train and their song, I think it is “Drops of Jupiter” asked the question rhetorically, “Did you see that heaven was overrated?” Then if you go to a movie or read a book and they reference heaven, did you ever notice that their heaven usually has no God. Their heaven is all about us. They have a dim view of God; that's why there heaven doesn't have a God in it. And sometimes as Christians, we have a dim view of God because we're here on earth. We're separated from God. And that's why we had to start with His majesty. That's why we had to start with who God is. Because we wouldn't know how to worship unless we know who God is and we know, if we know who God is, that worship in Heaven could not be boring. There is no way that

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worship in Heaven could be boring because we will have full access to God. It will be ever-new; ever-exciting, ever-fulfilling, never boring. In Heaven, worship will be automatic. In Heaven, worship will be automatic like gravity, like breathing. You know, if you choose to jump out of an airplane, hopefully, you'll wear a parachute if you do that, but either way, the only choice you make is the jumping out. The falling is not a choice; the falling just happens. Breathing is not a choice; you can try not to breath if you want to but you won't last very long.

In presence of God, we will just worship. It'll be just like breathing, like gravity. In his book, "Heaven", Randy Alcorn says it this way. I like this. In heaven where everyone worships Jesus, no one says, "Now we're going to sing two hymns followed by announcements and prayer." The singing isn't ritual but spontaneous praise. Once we see God as he really is, no one will need to beg, threaten or shame us into praising him. We'll have overflowing gratitude and praise. We are created to worship God; there is no higher pleasure. There is no higher pleasure. And that's what we have to look forward to as Christians when we go and we go to be with God but that's not where we are now.

Now we're on earth so that's where I want to move to now—God's vision for worship on earth. And here on earth as we talked about earlier, not only is the culture's view of God dim, but as Christians, our view of God is clouded. It is clouded by sin; it is clouded by our separation from God. We don't have a full view of God; it is a limited view that we have on earth. So worship on earth isn't automatic. Worship on earth is a choice. It is a choice that we make. Colossians 3:1-2 says: "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." You see, now Paul tells us that we have to set our minds. We have to seek the things of God. This is not like a light switch that is automatic in that once you believe in God that you automatically seek after him. The Bible is full of stories of how we reject and we run away from God. This is an effort that we have to make—to seek God, to set our minds on things above.

So why do we worship? Why do we worship? Because we were created, we were made to worship and that's why we worship. And the whole creation worships. Even non-Christians by their being created worship, the rocks, the trees, the hills cry out. They all worship. The creation worships the Creator by its very existence. But as Christians we have a special privilege in worship. In I Peter 2:9, it says: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." What a fantastic assignment that we have as Christians! To proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called us from sin, called us from darkness to be with him in marvelous light. That is our task in worship—to proclaim his excellencies.

So what does this look like? What does this look like to us? And I want to get real practical now so I put some on the back of the program...on the other side of the fill-ins...I put some examples from scripture of how people have worshipped God in the scripture. Because these are examples

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that God has left for us in the Bible, examples that he would want us to follow. And there are many things, singing, clapping, shouting, raising hands, kneeling, dancing, playing an instrument, bowing, being face down, being in silence. And I put the references over to the right. We won't have time to go through them today but you can go home and look at these references and even find your own examples—there are many more. And put two categories...these are loose categories...one is exaltation and one is submission. And exaltation is just when we exalt God, when we proclaim God, that's either in voice, in clapping, in shouting. You could probably move playing an instrument up to that category.

The one I want to focus on is singing. Why singing? Because God could have told us to stand on our head. He could have told us anything he wanted to and that would look really funny I think in worship if we all came in and stood on our head...then we would all probably be late for worship if that's how we had to worship God, right? But singing is one of the things God chose.

And I remember when I was a young boy, probably eleven years old. I had a friend named John who lived on Bartley Avenue and he lived right across from the YMCA when it was on Bartley Avenue and I lived on Sherman Avenue and there was an alley that ran between our houses so more days than not, John and I would hang out together in the summertime and we would find ourselves walking in and out of the Y all the time. And they had a choir going on in the Y and John and I, we decided to join this choir and so we did. And we always tried to one up each other. I don't really remember anything about the choir. I don't remember the choir director. I don't remember anyone in the choir outside my friend John. But what we would do is we would show up and we would see who could sing the loudest between me and him. And I do remember we would stand on the back platform and we would just sing at the top of our lungs. I don't know if we were any good; we were loud. I know that. I don't know if we were any good. But what I really remember in those moments when we were singing at the top of our lungs is that we had joy. We had this automatic joy. And isn't that what we want to bring to God when we worship. Isn't that how we want to approach our worship with God—is with joy? When did we lose that? When did we lose that ability?

I was around eleven and I don't remember the exact age, and if you walked down the hallway to the kids' ministry right now, you would probably have to go a little further back than eleven years old because we are raising our kids up so fast these days. But you would come to a room eventually where those kids can experience joy just like that...just like a light switch. Those kids can start singing...they can experience this joy. And we give that up. We gave that up sometime between that age and when we get here, we give that up. And what do we give that up for? Self-consciousness. And it's that self-consciousness that hinders us to worship our God freely because we're worried about what the guy next to us thinks instead of being obedient and worrying about what God thinks.

And the next category is submission and anytime we use the word submission, people cringe in our culture because we're individual people and we're rugged and submission just doesn't jive

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with who we are as Americans. But when you look at what we talked about at the beginning of who God is and who we are compared to God, then submission again is just a natural response of who God is. So it is another form of worship. It is a natural response to who God is. And there's some examples of submission that I have here: Raising hands, kneeling, dancing, bowing.

And I want to tell you the story of how I came to be a hand-raiser because I do raise my hands in worship now but I am not a hand raiser by nature. It's not what I do. When I go to a sporting event, a musical concert, I don't shout, I generally don't clap. It is just not who I am. I don't do that. So we were at the old location, for those of you who are new to Crossroads, we used to meet at the other end of Park Avenue in the Swallens' building and I was on praise team back then. I was on the stage once a month playing my guitar and the other three weekends, I was out in the congregation singing. And the Holy Spirit kept prompting me to raise my hands—"raise your hands". No way, no! I am here; I am listening; I am singing. That's it, I'm not raising my hands. I am doing enough so I was refusing but the Holy Spirit was persistent—"raise your hands, raise your hands". So I finally I started to experiment a little bit, you enough. I started to kind of do this...and this...and a little bit of this. You know, the people next to me probably thought I was having cramp or something. I don't know. So finally one day, I decided I was going to go for it and I lifted my hands up. And for me, in that moment, I suddenly felt a freedom in worship that I had never felt before. And also for me personally, I just felt closer to God. And so this went on for awhile now, I was all about it. Yah.....raise my hands. Then God took the feeling away. I didn't want to raise my hands anymore. But he didn't stop asking because he had something to teach me yet. He wanted to teach me not to raise my hands just because I felt like it. He wanted to teach me to raise my hands in obedience to him. And feelings aren't bad. You know, if you are one of those people that God always gives those great feelings to—to sing loud, to raise your hands, to be expressive in worship, that's a gift from God. Praise God for that. But for the rest of us when our feelings come and go, if you only worship God expressively when you feel like it, then you have to ask yourself, are we worshipping God or are we worshipping our feelings?

So God wants us to be obedient and he wants us to worship despite our feelings. And isn't that kind of a mini picture of our sin struggle—our struggle against temptation when we are out in the culture. We are tempted; we have a sin nature. We want to do these things. God says, no, I think you should do these things instead because I know what's best for you. I know your relationships will be better if you don't gossip. I know you'll be more satisfied in your life if you don't covet so I know what's best for you. You need to go against the way you feel and you need to do it my way. And isn't when we do that in worship, when we go against the way we feel and we step out and we raise our hands and we do things that maybe we're not comfortable with, isn't that a mini-little practice session of what we are going to run into in the culture. And isn't this a safe place to do that? Isn't this a safe place to come and practice going against what you feel to be obedient to God in a place where we have all come for the same reason. We've

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come to worship God; we've come to sing to him. We've come to lift up his name. We encourage each other when we do that.

And Paul encourages us again in Hebrews 10:24-25: "And now let us consider how to stir up one another in love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Now usually when we read this verse, we focus on the part that says "don't stop meeting together". And that is why we use this verse. But that's a sandwich in between two things. Look what he says before and after that. He says "to stir up each other in love and good works...to encourage each other". Now he is talking about our whole Christian walk, you know, our fellowship together, holding each other accountable but singing and worshipping in the congregation, that is part of our Christian walk. And when we sing together, don't we encourage each other? Maybe you come to worship and you are down in your spirit a little bit and somebody a couple of seats down from you, they're not. They're raising their hands and they're worshipping God. They are holding you up. And then maybe a couple of weeks go by and that person that was holding you up, maybe, they're not feeling so well and maybe that's your opportunity because you are feeling it—to hold them up in worship. There is power when we worship together. There is power in a congregation that meets for a common purpose.

My daughter runs cross country and they meet in the mornings to run together. And cross country is really an individual sport. It's not really a team sport. You don't have to practice as a team but they do practice as a team. And the reason they do that is because when that group of kids goes out and they run together and one of them decides that they're going to push it, then they all push it and that one person raises everybody else up. In basketball, they call it "the sixth man". Other sports call it "the home team advantage". And that's the power...that's the power of the congregation. That's the power of coming together to worship.

So now what are we going to do with this information? I talked to you at the beginning about creating your own personal vision. How do we approach this now? One thing you can do is take this list that I gave you. Take it home and look up some of these scriptures. Start to pray. Say, "God, how can I grow in this area. How can I grow in this area of expression of worship". For some of you, it is just going to be singing. For some of you, it's going to be, maybe I am going to step out and raise my hand. For some of you, you know, you're already very expressive in worship and you're thinking, you know, I am going to try one of these other ideas—maybe silence. Maybe I'll be silent. And to help you along, I put some ideas also at the bottom maybe to help move your vision. You could come early to prepare for worship, you could come in a little bit early and be ready to worship when the first song starts—start preparing your heart. You might say, well, I really like the fellowship I am getting out there. I don't want to lose that. Find those people you have fellowship with and call them on phone and say, "Hey, let's show up even earlier to church so we can have our fellowship out in Town Square and then we can hold each other accountable" and we can say, "Hey, it's about ten 'til, why don't we all go and start

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preparing to sing to our God—preparing to worship.” Maybe you want to sit in a new spot. Maybe you want to try to memorize some songs.

These are all ways to help you move your vision but the first think you have to do is you have to make a vision because you will not move from where you are without a vision. You will just keep coming; you will keep doing the same thing. A house never gets built without a blueprint...not a good house. So your vision needs to have two things in it: It needs to have a picture of where you are right now and a picture of where you want to be. Then you need to pray and say, “God, help me to move...help me to move my expression of worship to the end of this vision”...where you want it to be. “Help me to grow in this area.”

Now would be the time for me to grab that guitar over there and say, “Hey, let’s sing, let’s worship” but I am not going to do that because I don’t want you to have an emotional response to what we talked about today. I don’t want you to have a one-time, hey, I am going try this because I am having an emotional response. And remember, emotions aren’t bad if you feel like doing it, that’s great—that’s a gift from God. But I want you to make a conscious decision that you are going to grow in this area. I want you to take this list home. I want you to pray about it. And in the coming weeks, when we’re done with the worship series, as a team, as a worship team, we are going to lead you in some of these expressions of worship. And it is only for those of you who are ready. And maybe then, as a group, we can have a little more courage to make Crossroads a place where we can come in here and worship God without abandon—without any sense of who we are but a full sense of who God is.

So let’s pray. Lord, I just want to thank you that you are this majestic God but yet you allow us to approach you. I would pray that you would speak to each person here and speak to their heart in this area of expression in worship. That you would help them create a vision for how they could move in this area of their spiritual life, Lord, how they could improve this area of their spiritual life, being obedient to you and coming to you. Then I pray that you would give them courage to step out and to pursue that vision, Lord, because it is hard. And I pray as a congregation that Crossroads would just be known as a place where people come and worship God freely, Lord. That people would see our love of you in our worship. I pray these things in Jesus name. Amen.