

-As each one of us releases the river that's inside of us we form a greater corporate river that releases a powerful sound – the sound of many waters.

Revelation 14:2-3a AMP – (2) And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of great waters and like the rumbling of mighty thunder; the voice I heard seemed like the music of harpists accompanying themselves on their harps. (3a) And they sang a new song before the throne of God.

Revelation 19:5-6, AMP – (5) Then from the throne there came a voice, saying, Praise our God, all you servants of His, you who reverence Him, both small and great! (6) After that I heard what sounded like the shout of a vast throng, like the boom of many pounding waves, and like the roar of terrific and mighty peals of thunder, exclaiming, Hallelujah! For now the Lord our God the Omnipotent reigns!

Revelation 1:15 AMP – His feet glowed like burnished bright bronze as it is refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.

Daniel 10:6 AMP – His body also was a golden luster like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and his feet like glowing burnished bronze, and the sound of his words was like the noise of a multitude of people or the roaring of the sea.

-Together we produce the sound of a multitude, of waterfalls, the sound of many waters which together becomes the voice of the Lord Himself singing/speaking through us.

-Ezekiel associates that sound with the glory of God!

Ezekiel 43:2 AMP – And behold the glory of the God of Israel came from the east and His voice was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with His glory.

WRESTLING WITH WORSHIP

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INTRODUCTION

The place designated for worship has been described by someone as, “The War Room,” not because of the strategies being developed in fighting the good fight; not because of the intense intercession rising up for lost souls; not because of battles being fought to gain territory but because of the human drama that so often accompanies the ministry of worship.

I. WRESTLING WITH MYTHS OF WORSHIP

Myth #1 – Worship is Dependent on the One Leading.

-If the worship is good the leader is praised. If the worship is bad the leader is blamed.

Reality:

- Worship is not about personalities or styles or those “leading”.
- Worship goes far beyond the music, the songs and personal preferences; worship is an attitude of the heart.
- The whole posture of worship has to do with bowing down, prostrating oneself, and servanthood –humility.
- The opponent to true worship is pride –wanting my thing, scorning your thing, and sticking to only one thing.

Myth # 2: Worship Involves Participants and Observers

-Those on the worship team are the participants and the congregation may choose to join in or to observe.

Reality:

- We are all a part of the worship team - there are no observers in heaven.
- We are all responsible to release the river of life that flows in us by the Holy Spirit.

I Corinthians 14:26 AMP – When you meet together, each one has a hymn, a teaching, a disclosure of special knowledge or information, an utterance in a tongue, or an interpretation of it. But let everything be constructive and for the good of all.

Myth # 3: Worship Occurs Only In the Depths of the River

-If we aren't always in the very deep things of the Spirit then we have missed God.

Reality:

-Sometimes God leads us into awesome depths, and at other times He keeps us in the shallows.

-Ezekiel did not determine the depths he would go to – it was determined by the messenger of God. Ezekiel followed His lead.

Ezekiel 47:3-5 AMP – (3) And when the man went on eastward with the measuring line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits, and he caused me to pass through the waters, waters that were ankle-deep. (4) Again he measured a thousand cubits and caused me to pass through the waters, waters that reached to the knees. Again he measured a thousand cubits and caused me to pass through the waters, waters that reached to the loins. (5) Afterward he measured a thousand, and it was a river that I could not pass through, for the waters had risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over or through.

-Wherever the river flowed, whether in the shallows or the depths life flowed, healing flowed.

Myth #4: Worship is Hindered by the “Less Spiritual”

Reality:

-The spiritually strong care for and carry those who are burdened and weak.

-The worship of the spiritually strong should overflow and refresh those who are struggling.

-The myth brings division and blame but the reality brings care and community.

Myth # 5 : Worship Should Reflect My Personal Flow

-Worship should be celebratory. No, it should be soaking. No, it should be loud. No, it should be quiet. It should be only spontaneous new songs...

Reality:

-A river does not flow in a straight line; it meanders in and out, winding here and there. It requires flexibility to change direction in order to flow where it is going.

-Old versus New

Revelations 15:3 AMP – And they sang the song of Moses, the servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying, Mighty and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God the Omnipotent! Righteous, just and true are Your ways, O Sovereign of the ages, King of the nations!

-Celebration versus Intimate

-Too much celebration and people wear out. Too much devotion and people get bored. Too much spontaneity and people become disoriented. Too much structure and people become frustrated.

-We have to set aside our personal preferences, our individual flow and jump into the corporate flow.

II. RELEASING THE SOUND OF WORSHIP

John 4:23-24 AMP – (23) A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true (genuine) worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth (reality); for the Father is seeking just such people as these as His worshipers. (24) God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being) and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (reality).

-Worship comes from deep within our inner and will be genuine, real and from the heart.

John 7:38-39a AMP – (38) He who believes in Me as the Scripture has said, From his innermost being shall flow continuously springs and rivers of living water. (39) But He was speaking here of the Spirit, Whom those who believed, trusted, had faith in Him were afterward to receive.