

worship is so much more than just a mix of cords, beats, and progressions. it goes beyond hitting all the right notes and playing the perfect set. Worship is a response to what matters most. What matters most is God. Our Soul wants to respond. Worship is a time where we can connect with our Savior in a intimate setting. So how do we get to a point in our worship where we have the ability to create that space while enjoying it ourselves? Balancing both is important and today we will dive into creating the balance of performance and personal worship.

people have told me over and over that personal worship and congregational worship are different. You can't do both when you are leading. I would disagree. You can do both. It just takes time to develop.

before we start, I want to get to know you . lets go around the room. say your name, where you are from, and what do you do on your worship team?
(this is to show an example of creating openess)

so where do we start? we have 4 areas I want to explore.

1. physical presence
2. crafting
3. lifestyle
4. culture

1. Physical Presence.

- how many times do we on stage look like this? (example. look like NPBC singer)

- we get nervous, worrying about how do we sound, our pitch, tone, posture .we feel like we can't have fun in the process. We need to relax.

Beethoven once said, "to play a wrong note is insignificant, to play without passion is inexcusable."

we don't have to worry about sounding perfect. take a deep breath and relax and have fun! Let me give you an example of a way to relax before worship. (the 12345678 warm up. right arm, left arm, right leg, left leg) explain the warm up. This warm up is to help get you relaxed and to help your projection.

you guys did great! I hope you feel more relaxed after our little exercise! :)

- after relaxing, we need to start believing in the words we say
- question, do we believe in what we are saying, or singing every Sunday?
- Dr. James Rhode told me this **poem**.

for the common things of everyday, God gave us speech in a common way

for the deeper things we think and feel, God gave the poets words to reveal but for heights and depths no words can reach, God gave us music the Souls' own speech.

Worship is a response. Even though we may have sang "Oceans" a thousand times , we need to believe in what we are singing. "Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders, let me walk upon the waters, to wherever you would call me. take me deeper than my feet could ever wander, and my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my savior. "

if God called you today, to pack up all your stuff and move hundreds miles way, would you do it?"

"you are perfect in all of your ways" will I still be singing that song and believing that is true when I'm grieving? believing what we sing helps us be real with not only the congregation, but with myself as well.

- Expressions are just as important. sometimes just smiling while we are on stage makes a huge difference. If we make a mistake and show it on our face, everyone will know. If you make a mistake and not show it on your face, everyone will be fine and probably won't notice it. our face can say much about who we are, how we are feeling, if we love this song or hate it. A lot of communication is non-verbal.
- BODY LANGUAGE is important piece to expressions. Have you ever noticed during a conversation, that if you change positions, the listener will match you? They do this without thinking! or when someone yawns and suddenly everyone else yawns. haha. just like that if we are comfortable, and our expressions reflect that we really mean what we are saying, then people will catch on. They will want to connect.

physical presence will help set up people to come before the throne and spend time with the Almighty.

A great way to help with Physical Presence is

#2 Crafting. We need to get good at what we do. whether it is playing an instrument, working on slides, soundboard, usher, or worship leading, we need to get proficient at it. Once we are good at what we do, creating space for people to meet Jesus will come more naturally. but how do we get there?

- Memorize the lyrics, chords,
- Memorize the time signatures, patters, order of songs.
- projection. working on strengthening our voice muscles. singing with power gives the sound guy less to worry about.

- practice!
- know your instrument. IF we have to look at our hands, fret board, drums, sound board, how are we connecting with the church? we are shutting down **communication** with them. We want to keep that communication with them going throughout the whole time we are together. ex. if I was doing this seminar with my back to you, what would that tell you? probably I didn't care about you, I wasn't taking this seriously, I was a clown etc... I want to make you feel ok and at home at all times.

we need to not only get good at our craft, we need to get rid of barriers, maybe that is getting rid of our music stands, or getting rid of a full band, whatever it may be, sometimes less is more.

I know this is going to take time, but if we get really good at this, then that leaves room for the Spirit to move

not only do we have to communicate with the congregation, we need to communicate with the team. a couple of ways to do this is to sing in a circle together. this helps us see what our expressions look like, helps us to listen to one another, and to creates a sense of unity.

a good way to try this is to sing in front of someone. like face to face.

- **BODY LANGUAGE** is very important here. the reason we face outward to the crowd is to open a channel of communication to them.

(Show an example)

2 people. one on my left and 1 on my right. if I am turning towards 1 of them, how does the opposite feel?

if I have no expression, sense of excitement, or much body language towards the person I'm communicating with, how will they respond?

if I engage with my physical presence, (turning towards him) my expression, (genuinely talk to him.) and my body language, (hug, hand shake) this should create a connection between you. This idea of connecting with the congregation hinges on one big thing! Number 3!

3. Lifestyle! I love how Scott said, we can not not worship. We become what we worship. how is your relationship with God the father going? how is your relationship with Jesus? How is your relationship with the Holy Spirit?

If we aren't on a daily basis putting God in the driver seat, I can tell you from personal experience, people can easily spot someone who is faking it. being real with people is probably one of the scariest things we can do as humans. I mean I don't tell every single person that I struggle with anger, or I struggle

with doubt. IF our spiritual walk is in step with the Spirit, God will give us a heart for the people around us.

We need to be genuinely wanting to reach our church.

but Sometimes in order to connect with our church, we need to first connect with God. Lord I want to know you, I want to be changed by the power of your word, I want to be transformed by the renewing of the mind and be molded by your spirit. Lord. I want to be used by you in any way. whatever idol that keeps me from coming to you, Lord take it away. Help me walk rightly with you, so that I can be used by you.

so as I worship you, and respond to you during my worship time, Lord help me share this joy, this want, this revelation that Christ has come down and saved a wretch like me. someone that has no right to your Kingdom, but through your grace and power show your great love to people that do not know you. When I'm on stage, or when I'm back behind the sound booth, I want to worship in a way that reveals Christ to those who believe and to those who do not believe. So they can have the revelation of how Great is our God!

We can do this beyond just being onstage! by making this a lifestyle, people will know that you are being genuine on stage, that you do care about them and they may open up to hearing the gospel. Everything is connected. Just like how notes connect, or by the legato sound, so does our personal worship throughout the day connects with our professional worship on stage. how our spiritual walk connects with how we connect with people from the mic.

As we come to grips with this idea, the next steps is to create cultures in our team. if our teams are worried about making mistakes, or not singing the right note, or being off pitch, yes those are important, but It is okay to make mistakes. 1. **Create a culture of making mistakes.** Its okay to mess up. Its okay to be silly. sometimes we are scared to screw up, because we might get replaced, or we may be judged. but we are all in the same boat. we know that we're all sinners in need of a Savior.

2. **creating a culture of proficiency.** In the OT, when there was a sacrifice for our sins, the priest would offer up the best lamb. perfect without blemish. IN our worship, we don't want to offer God something that cost us nothing. let me say that again. we don't want to offer God something that cost us nothing. By working on our craft, we want to give God our first fruits, the best of the best. We want to give it our all on-stage. give it to Him as an offering.

3. **Create a culture of Community.** this one is probably one of the most important ones. knowing that we are in this together. that we have each others

back. I love coming to worship conference. because I get to be around people who have the same mindset, who open up and talk about their hard times, who are encouraging and give me strength to engage my culture. How do we take this back to our churches ?

- God sightings,
- popcorn praise
- be open,

getting past the point of awkwardness and into the real issues of the heart is a great place to be.

I hope that through this workshop you have taken away a few ideas, a few practices, to help your team.

pray.