

Creating a Prophetic Atmosphere

I. The Lesson

Releasing a prophetic atmosphere in our worship services is really about faith and awareness: faith that God desires and will in fact speak to His people as we worship Him and awareness as the Holy Spirit leads us . True worship is never one-sided and always involves interaction with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said: "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (John 10:27). His voice can be heard anytime, anywhere, but is most consistently and accurately discerned in the context of worship. When people sense God, hear from God, and meet with God during worship, it has the potential to change them for eternity. That is why so many people connect their worship experience to particular songs that have an emotional or nostalgic appeal – they simply met with and heard from God while certain songs were being sung!

How do we Create a Prophetic Atmosphere ?

1. Realize that creating an atmosphere where the voice of God is heard is an act of _____!

Heb. 11:6 "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

It doesn't take faith to perform worship songs. It doesn't take faith to sing tenor, play an instrument, or run a sound board. But it does take faith to believe that the singing of songs, playing of instruments, and operating of technical equipment will actually bring a change to the atmosphere that enables people to connect with the Living God.

2. Make a place for the _____ and unpredictable.

When we take the spontaneous and supernatural conversation out of our worship, it becomes dead liturgy! Even if it's contemporary and 102 decibels, without the divine interaction of God's voice, worship times will always be reduced to a formula, a song list, or a religious form that we refine and repeat. What we desire in our worship is the life, excitement, and anticipation that comes when people are hearing from and meeting with God! This

prophetic atmosphere was a consistent element in the New Testament Church and is still available today.

1 Cor. 14:26 “What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.”

Acts 13:2 “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said...”

3. Create _____ for the Lord.

As we truly praise, the atmosphere is changed and God is enthroned. Our heart-felt expressions of worship literally set up a zone of God's authority and His kingdom is established on earth. When we realize the power and significance of this one principle, it can change the way we view our role on the worship team as well as the way we approach the precious moments when we come together for our worship times.

Psalm 22:3 “But You are holy, Who inhabit the praises of Israel.”

Praise (*tehillah*): laudation; the words of the *halal* melodiously chanted; spontaneous in nature (the song of the Spirit)

2 Chr. 31:2 “Hezekiah **assigned the priests and Levites** to divisions -each of them according to their duties as priests or Levites - to offer burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, to minister, to give thanks and to **sing praises at the gates of the LORD'S dwelling.**”

4. Understand and release the ministry of the _____

Minstrel / Nagan = To play or pluck a stringed instrument, to beat a tune with the fingers; to make music

Worship minstrel: One who plays an instrument and releases the presence of God.

2 Kings 13:14-16 “Elisha said, ‘As surely as the LORD Almighty lives, whom I serve, if I did not have respect for the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you or even notice you. ¹⁵ But now bring me a harpist (minstrel).’”

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While the minstrel was playing, the hand of the LORD came upon Elisha ¹⁶ and he said, 'This is what the LORD says...'"

1 Chr. 25:1 "Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should **prophesy with** harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals." see (Isaiah 30:27)

5. _____ create "the watercourse" (*rivers of instrumental worship*).

Gen. 4:21 "His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute."

Jubal / Yuwba = to create a stream; to bring or cause a flow.

Psalm 46:4 "There is a river whose **streams** make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells."

"There is a river whose tributaries bring joy to the divine city" [Har]
(see John 7:38)

6. Eliminate _____!

This teaching does not just apply to those on stage who are singing, speaking, or playing. It actually applies to everyone from the parking lot to the nursery and beyond! Let's look at one example. Let's say a church uses lighting and visual effects to enhance the worship experience. If the lighting and camera people are not sensitive and consciously involved in creating the atmosphere, they can become more of a hindrance than a blessing.

II. Discussion

- 1) How would you define "spontaneous moments" in worship? How often do you experience them?
- 2) What are some blessings as well as potential dangers that are released when make room for "prophetic worship"? (*refer to definition*)
- 3) What would be the difference between a good musician and a "prophetic minstrel?"
- 4) How do we intentionally create a flow of instrumental worship? What are some ways the "flow" is interrupted?

- 5) How do lighting engineers, sound engineers, ushers, camera people, and all other servants in the meeting influence the atmosphere? Both positive and negative examples will be profitable to discuss.

III. Prayer Points

- 1) Pray for sensitivity and awareness of the leading of the Holy Spirit for every worship time.
- 2) Ask for, long for, and earnestly desire the gifts of the Spirit to operate in the gatherings of God's people:

1 Cor. 12:31 "But earnestly desire the best gifts."

1 Cor. 14:1 "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy."

- 3) Pray for a brand new level of faith and expectancy that God will meet with you as you intentionally make new places for his voice to be heard during worship.
- 4) Pray for the anointing and wisdom to be psalmists and minstrels, not just musicians.
- 5) Ask the Lord to make your place of worship a place where people meet with, hear from, and are radically changed by God... every week!