



THE INSIDE RUNNING

Worship encompasses much more than singing. It is giving ourselves wholeheartedly to God.

Promise Keepers Events prime men to really experience God because men's very presence is an act of worship. To attend, men have sacrificed their time, resources and opportunities to do other things. They have committed to come together for 15 hours to form a unique congregation that is drawn from many denominations and ethnicities. These men have come together for one purpose only – to honour Jesus.

The Events have always ended by singing the National Anthem. This song is an incredible declaration and prayer. It has deep significance, especially when all the verses are sung.

The special dynamics of Promise Keepers Events opens men's hearts for powerful encounters with God. Many men comment about how the music has affected them but perhaps their response to the worship music is simply an indicator of how far they have opened their hearts.

For me, when I decide to participate fully I immediately know God's presence on me and with me. The reassurance that He loves us and is with us is His response to us as we express our love for Him.



John

John Subritzky

Wholehearted Worship

May 2011

by Boyd Ratnaraja

The word "worship" has many parts to its meaning. It comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "worth-ship" which means to give worth to God. Also from the Greek word "proskuneo" which means to come forward and to kiss the hand as an act of adoration. And also from the Hebrew word "shachah" which means to bow down.

However, a lot of misconceptions exist about worship.

For myself, I was born into a Christian family and we spent a lot of time at church. Despite this, I thought worship was basically what we did at church. It was the songs, the lights, the music and everything that was happening on stage. My concept of worship was that it was something we did. But only at church.

Then one day, many years ago, I had an amazing encounter with God at a Christian conference and my concept of worship was changed forever. At that conference, God showed me that worship is far more than singing a bunch of songs. Worship is a lifestyle.

I love the definition of Pastor Rick Warren from Saddleback Church. He says, "Anything that you do that brings pleasure to God is an act of worship".

This statement has transformed my life. My attitude towards my wife, my friends, my leaders, my colleagues has changed. Because now I choose to make my attitude towards these people an act of worship to God.

Going out of my way to help someone is worship. Reflecting God's heart to those around me is worship.

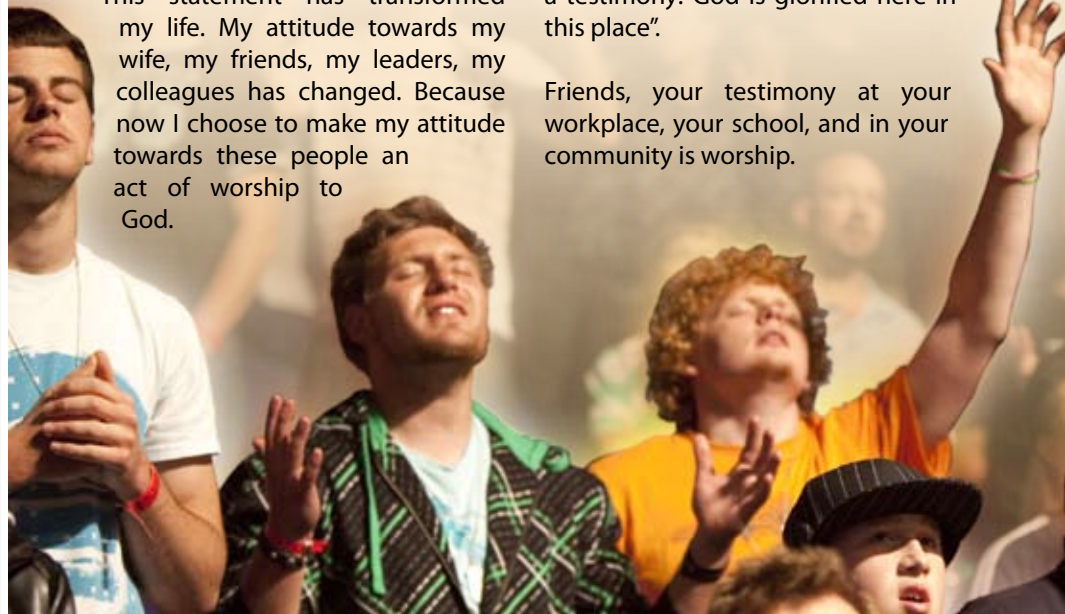
Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light shine so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven".

I remember back to a few years ago when I used to pick my mum up from work. One day I was in the carpark waiting for her and she was running late. So after waiting a while I went inside and inquired at the reception desk as to where she was and how long she was going to be.

When I told the receptionist whose son I was her face just lit up. She smiled at me and said, "Your mum is an amazing lady!"

She then went on to introduce me to my mum's work colleagues. I was amazed at the way they were all saying these kind words about my mum. I remember walking out of that building thinking, "Wow, what a testimony! God is glorified here in this place".

Friends, your testimony at your workplace, your school, and in your community is worship.



Romans 12:1 says this: **“Therefore I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to God. This is your spiritual act of worship.”**

The truth is, God is interested in our hearts. Genuine worship comes from our hearts and not just our lips.

John 4:23-24 reads, **“But the hour is coming and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”**

What this scripture is saying is that God is interested in our character not just our commitment. He wants us to worship Him in truth. He is interested in the condition of our hearts.

Hearts that consistently love and honour both God and people - now that’s worship.

“You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honour and power. For You created all things, and they exist because You created what You pleased.”

Revelation 4:11



QUOTES

Promise Keepers Worship

“ [The] music is so powerful... Men need to meet together. There is no better spiritual feeling than worshipping God along with hundreds of other men! ”
Greg, Wellington

“ The praise and worship was awesome, just hearing how all the voices in the auditorium came together to form a big beautiful sound as an offering to Him. ”
Willem, Auckland

“ This year’s highlight has been the worship in Transition!! When I was up the front worshipping my God, I could just feel His Holy Spirit, it was [the] best feeling I have ever had. ”
Jesse, Auckland (13 yrs)

“ I let go of my foolish inhibitions. I have never sung so loud with such passion! ”
Dean, Whangarei



Perspectives on Worship

Robert Morris recalls that in the ‘70s and ‘80s many worship songs came right out of Scripture. Then in the ‘90s a lot of songs were in the first person, with a focus on self: ‘I need’ and ‘Lord, what can You do for me?’ Morris says, “A lot of the songs being written were more me-centred than God-centred, but I think it was a lot of what the body of Christ was going through at that time.” Today Morris believes we’re moving back to songs that are based on Scripture and centred on God.

Robert Morris is from Gateway Church, Southlake Texas

“Being intentional about involving people of different races and cultures helps the congregation embrace the differences God created and helps prepare us for eternity.

It also fosters God’s greatest command: to love.”

Ken Reynolds is from Resurrection Life Church, Grandville, Michigan

Daniel Yohannan comments, “How humbling and what a privilege it was for me to stand with them [persecuted pastors in India] – with tears running down all our faces – as together we sang: ‘I have decided to follow Jesus / No turning back, no turning back!’” Most of these believers in the East, Yohannan says, know persecution will come if they receive Christ, so they expect suffering. “They follow Christ for who He is; not for what they can get.”

Daniel Yohannan is Vice President for Gospel for Asia

Excerpts from Charisma magazine, April 2011

High achieving sportsmen have opened the Promise Keepers *Game On* season with rousing *Curtain Raiser* events! Following four successful *Curtain Raisers* in the North Island, we are now bringing former All Black Eroni Clarke and the team to the South!

Eroni will tell his story and how his Christian faith is lived out. There will be an opportunity for men to become Christians, so you can invite men who are open to change in their lives. The second speaker will be from the Promise Keepers team.

Dunedin Wed 4 May – St Matthew’s Church, Cnr Hope & Stafford Sts

Invercargill Thur 5 May – Invercargill Central Baptist, 11 Deveron St

Check www.promisekeepers.org.nz for more information.

Pastors & Leaders Breakfast
Discover how a strategic planning tool can give greater focus to your Ministry with Men. Cooked breakfast.

Dunedin Thu 5 May; **Invercargill** Fri 6 May. Venues as above. 7.00-8.30am

PROMISE #1

A Promise Keeper is committed to honouring Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and obedience to God’s Word in the power of the Holy Spirit.

NEXT ISSUE: MISSION



Promise Keepers Men’s Events 2011 - Book Now!

- ◆ Dunedin 29-30 July
- ◆ Tauranga 26-27 August
- ◆ Auckland 7-8 October
- ◆ Christchurch 12-13 August
- ◆ Wellington 9-10 September

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