

## Worship-Leading and Spiritual Transformation.

Written by Grant Nuss

Sunday, 15 January 2017 11:18

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Dallas Willard in his book entitled “Renovation of the Heart” writes that; “We live from our heart. The part of us that drives and organizes our life is not just the physical. This remains true even if we deny it. You have a spirit within you and it has been formed. It takes on a specific character. The human spirit is an inescapable, fundamental aspect of every human being; and it takes on whichever character it has from the experiences and the choices that we have lived through or made in our past. That is what it means for it to be “formed.”

As we discussed yesterday, being in worship leadership necessitates God working His character into our hearts. In so much that we are “formed,” God continues to “transform” us to be more like His Son, Jesus, but, here’s the deal, we must surrender our lives to His transformation. Without that surrender God can do nothing with us. David valued God’s presence above all and was known for integrity, obedience, passionate worship, his desire to play with skill, and humility before God, all of which is needed in the heart of a worship leader. God desires worship that is both passionate in spirit as well as founded on principles of truth. Skill and art alone do not impress God nor does passion with no boundaries, so we come before God not on our terms or with our methodologies, but in accordance with God’s regulations and desires.

Remember the words of the Lord to Isaiah; “These people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men” (Isaiah 29:13). Our worship is not to be given to God in accordance to the expectations of man, but out of the simplicity of the heart in the fear of the Lord. As worship leaders

We need insure that we are balanced in our approach of God, being both passionate and reverent, dedicated to honouring the presence of the Lord and not the pleasures of man. Extremely important. We sing songs like “Give us clean hands” and my prayer is that we take heed of what it is about – living a godly life. Listen, in case you know it not, worship-leading is an extremely high calling, this not leading songs, this is leading God’s people into a place of intimacy with Him. With this high calling means higher demands with regards to attitude, action, character, and lifestyle. Let’s press pause here in this context. I was called in to mediate a meeting involving a young worship-leader who had chosen to move in with fiancée and had stated that they were sleeping-together. What would your advice have been to the leadership of that church? “But he is such a good musician and singer” the pastor said to me. Let’s be real, all of us have been guilty of assuming that an ‘artist’ is qualified to lead worship because of their skill, but in the end, it is God who qualifies the artist. If you are a leader reading this today, refuse to fall into the trap of promoting people to, not only worship-leading, but any ministry role for the sake of their ability, it is a ‘heart’ issue. **Psalm 24:3-4**; “Who may ascend the hill of the

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Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.”

Israelson writes that; “Just as God called the Israelites to purity regarding ministry in His presence, we likewise are called to new levels of holiness in Christ Jesus. Artistry, skill, programs, and good works are not sufficient to endear the presence of God; we need to have an authenticity of heart, but at the same rate we cannot ignore the scriptural commandments and examples for how people are to express themselves to God. The worship leader is responsible before God and the people to worship God in both spirit and truth by serving with the gifts and wisdom given from the Lord as well as in sincerity, integrity and obedience. “In Christ there is such a thing as a transformed, well-adjusted, Spirit-filled artist. Imagine what God could do with an artistic temperament that’s completely yielded to Him.” What is a worship leader to be? Ever more like Christ as we are increasingly changed to be more like Him..