

Worship Matters Video Intensive with Bob Kauflin
Session 8: Effects of Leading: Spirit-Empowered Living and Hope
(From Chapters 16-17 of *Worship Matters*)¹
Outline & Discussion Questions

*A faithful worship leader
magnifies the greatness of God
in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit
by skillfully combining God's Word with music,
thereby motivating the gathered church to proclaim the gospel,
to cherish God's presence, and to live for God's glory.*

I. God's Presence in the Bible

"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God." - Revelation 21:3²

II. God's Presence Today

"Christian musicians must be particularly cautious. They can create the impression that God is more present when music is being made than when it is not; that worship is more possible with music than without it; and that God might possibly depend on its presence before appearing." - Harold Best³

"Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!" - Psalm 105:4

*"Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!"
- Psalm 139:7-8*

A. Enjoy God's Promised Presence

"God's presence is always a gift of His love. It can neither be worked up nor prevented by the efforts of men. It is not brought about by the church, nor is it dependent upon the strength of the faith of those who come together. It is the fulfillment of His own promise. When His children assemble themselves to worship Him, there is nothing more certain than his promised presence."

- Robert Rayburn⁴

- God is with us when we meet because He's promised to be with us.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." - Matthew 18:20

- God has promised to be present when we sing.

"Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart" - Ephesians 5:18–19

- God has promised to be present when His word is preached.

"And my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" - 1 Corinthians 2:4

- God is present when we serve others through the power of the Spirit.

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone."
- 1 Corinthians 12:4–6

The Effects of Trusting God's Promised Presence:

- We won't feel pressure to make God "show up" when we gather.
- We won't have to wonder if our church is "big enough" for God to show up.

- We can emphasize being faithful more than being creative.

B. Pursue God's experienced presence

"There can be no substitute for that manifested presence of God which is always a biblical possibility for the people of God. When it is not being experienced they should humbly seek him for it, not neglecting their ongoing duties, nor denying their present blessings, but recognizing that there is always infinitely more with their God and Father who desires fellowship with those redeemed by the blood of his Son and regenerated by the work of his Spirit." - Graham Harrison⁵

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." - 1 Corinthians 12:7

C. Anticipate God's Unveiled Presence

III. Living for God's Glory

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." - 2 Corinthians 3:18

- **Humility**
- **Holiness**
- **Security**

- **Gratefulness**

*And **be thankful**. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with **thankfulness** in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** to God the Father through him.” - Colossians 3:15–17*

“A Buddhist temple never resounds with a cry of praise. Mohammedan worshipers never sing. Their prayers are, at the highest, prayers of submission and of request. They seldom reach the gladder note of thanksgiving. They are never jubilant with the songs of the forgiven.” - W.M. Clow⁶

- **Mission-Mindedness**

“Missions exists because worship doesn’t.”⁷

Session 8 Discussion Questions:

1. What is a Biblical understanding of God's presence?
2. What narrow understandings of God's presence have you had to work through in your own life and leadership?
3. What is meant by God's promised presence? What implications does this have on how we approach our gatherings?
4. List some of the ways you see God's experienced presence in your church on any given Sunday.
5. What effects should a well-led, gospel-centered, Christ-exalting meeting have on people? How do we want people leaving our meetings?
6. How can you grow personally in your understanding of and experience with the Holy Spirit?

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⁵ Taken from "Worship and the Presence of God," by Graham Harrison on BannerofTruth.org. Used by permission given March 27, 2017.

⁶ Taken from *The Cross in Christian Experience* by W.M. Clow. Published 1910 by Hodder & Stoughton (London), p. 278.

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