

Preparing to Lead Worship

7 Steps

To Preparing to Lead Worship

By

Jim R Williams

<http://www.worshipleadingtoday.com>

NOTICE:
This is a FREE Report
You MAY Give Away This Report or reprint it
As long as you do not alter it or misrepresent it.

**You Do NOT Have the Right
to Resell this Report!**

© 2010 Copyright Jim R Williams

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of this report may be reproduced or transmitted in any form whatsoever, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any informational storage or retrieval system without express written, dated and signed permission from the author.

DISCLAIMER AND/OR LEGAL NOTICES:

The information presented herein represents the view of the author as of the date of publication. Because of the rate with which conditions change, the author reserves the right to alter and update his opinion based on the new conditions. The report is for informational purposes only. While every attempt has been made to verify the information provided in this report, neither the author nor his affiliates/partners assume any responsibility for errors, inaccuracies or omissions. Any slights of people or organizations are unintentional. If advice concerning legal or related matters is needed, the services of a fully qualified professional should be sought. This report is not intended for use as a source of legal or accounting advice. By reading any document, the reader agrees that under no circumstances is the author responsible for any losses, direct or indirect, that are incurred as a result of use of the information contained within this document, including - but not limited to errors, omissions, or inaccuracies You should be aware of any laws which govern business transactions or other business practices in your country.

About the author

Jim Williams is a Lead Worshiper, elder, songwriter, and author who has been involved in the ministry and has been working with worship teams and small groups for over 10 years.

God has given him a passion for teaching the church about worship, and also a passion for mentoring lead worshipers.

Jim is the creator of www.worshipleadingtoday.com which features a newsletter that is aimed at teaching practical applications to help worship leaders grow and become more effective in their calling.

He has created a "Leader of Worship Mentoring" course:

<http://www.leaderofworship.com>

And he has authored many articles about leading worship and worship team building which can be found on his blog at www.worshipleadingtoday.com/blog

Jim is a husband of 21 years, and the father of 2 children.

When not writing or seeing to his work in the church, Jim loves to spend his time with his family.

Table of contents

Step 1 - Surrendering your Leadership – page 7

Step 2 - Ask God what He wants our worship to look like – page 9

Step 3 – Be in The Word daily – page 11

Step 4 – Daily prayer and intercession – page 13

Step 5 –The importance of Journaling – page 14

Step 6 – Take care of your physical body – page 15

Step 7 – Personal worship time – page 17

Every Worship Leader wants to use their gifts and talents to the fullest and become an effective, competent, and confident Worship Leader.

The simple fact is **it can take years of trial and error** to gain the experience and knowledge necessary to become an effective Worship Leader and Worship Team builder.

Would you like to

- Speed up the learning curve
- Save time and money
- Cut years from the learning process,
- Avoid many of the mistakes that you would have made in order to gain your knowledge and skill in leadership and team building.

Introducing: "The Leader of Worship Mentoring Program"

The "Leader of Worship Mentoring Program" is a 20 week course that deals with real life practical issues such as:

- How to build team unity
- How to deal with difficult members
- How to choose team members
- Having productive rehearsals
- How to lead a very cold congregation
- How to engage the congregation in worship
- Creating flow in a worship service
- **And much much more.....**

Every week for 20 weeks you'll receive a new lesson packed with information that will

- Increase your skill,
- Increase your knowledge
- Improve your leadership abilities.

Get Started Today at

<http://www.leaderofworship.com>

Foreword

I want to thank you for taking the time to read "Preparing to Lead Worship" 7 Step's. Each step details areas that I have experienced over the years that have helped me and others develop as Worship Leaders.

Often times we can get so caught up in the daily activities of our calling that we can neglect areas which when ignored can hamper our leading. At least for me I know this to be the truth. Early on in my ministry I got so involved in other things that I neglected some basics and my ministry suffered for it.

Thankfully I have been blessed to be surrounded with patient and loving people who have guided and helped me along the way.

The 7 steps outlined in this book are the results of that guidance.

My prayer is that these 7 steps will save you time, help you avoid the many mistakes I've made, and help you develop as a worship leader.

Be blessed my friend!

Be To the Praise of His Glory,
Jim R Williams

Step 1

Surrender your leadership fully to the Holy Spirit

This could quit possibly be the most important aspect in preparing to lead worship. In fact it could be the most important aspect in worship leading period! Well, come on get to it you say, what is it? Ok here it is:

"We worship by the Spirit of God. Philippians 3:3"

With that in mind we must acknowledge that, The Holy Spirit is the true worship leader. We are lead worshipers. I know this may sound like a play on words, But when we understand that the when we surrender to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to empower us and lead us, we will be leading the church, not by our power, but in the Holy Spirit's. It will be the worship that God desires. It will be both glorifying to God and edifying to others.

You could be the most talented musician or vocalist in the world, But if you do not allow the Holy Spirit to lead you, you will not be as effective as you could be.

Early on when I first started leading worship, I thought that it was my job to get the people excited, to get them involved, to get them to sing, to express emotion in worship. More often than not I came away from the service frustrated, wondering what I was doing wrong. Wondering why are they not engaging in passionate worship to our God who deserves our all.

Then one week while at a retreat in Tennessee, I felt the Spirit telling me to just relax, stop trying to lead with my talents, and let Him lead me. If I'm honest I would have to say that this was easier said than done. At that moment I surrendered my leadership to the Spirit, but it took time for me to fully let go because I had been leading with my talents for so long.

Once I realized my place, and knew that it wasn't up to me to get the church to engage, leading worship became such a joy and so much easier. It is so freeing to allow the Holy Spirit to lead me, and watch Him work in the church,

This week as you are preparing for worship, I want to encourage you to surrender your leadership fully to the Holy Spirit. And ask Him to lead you in leading the church in worship. Then simply obey. It might seem awkward at first. You might not always feel it, but you will be in the will of God. Just step back,

Watch God work.



Step 2

Ask God what He wants our worship to look like

My pastor, who was a lead worshiper and student ministry leader, before he became a lead pastor, taught me this next important step. He said, before you write down the first song, before you build the order of the service, before you do any phase of planning, ask God what He wants our worship to look like.

What a novel idea!

I mean if the service is.....

- To God,
- For God and,
- About God

Wouldn't be wise of us to ask God what He wants our worship to look like?

Just ask Him:

- **God** what do **You** want the service to look like?
- **God** what songs do **You** want sung?
- **God** what scripture do **You** want read?
- **God** do **You** want anyone to give a testimony of Your grace?

In doing this no one can complain that you only sing and play the songs you personally like. Especially if you let them know that you ask God what songs to choose, what the order will be and so on. How can anyone argue with that? Well actually they can, and someone might, but at least this way you can share with them your process, and you've got God backing you up.

I have even gone as far as to place a piece of paper on the stage with the following words: God, what are You doing today, I will follow You! This week as you begin planning for the service, ask God what "He" wants our worship to look like.



Step 3

Be in The Word daily.

This step should seem obvious, but you would be amazed at how many lead worshipers I've met who don't make being in The Word a daily priority. How can we possibly lead in the worship of God, without spending time in His word getting to know Him? We can't truly worship whom we don't really know. We get to know God, by daily being in His word. Just a chapter a day! 20 minutes total time! Well, ok when you really dive in 20 minutes can become 2 hours. But that is the power of The Word! You become hungry for more! just reading 1 chapter a day will make a huge impact on your ministry.

Here are just a few of the reasons to be in The Word daily.

And by the way, they are just the tip of the iceberg.

- By being in The Word daily, you will be able to discern whether the lyrics to the songs being sung are doctrinal and scriptural.
- By reading and studying The Word daily you learn of God's love, His grace, and His mercy.
- By reading and studying The Word daily you learn who you are in God.
- Spending time each day in The Word will increase you faith.

- Being in The Word daily helps you write His Word on your heart.
- By being in The Word you'll better prepared for ministry.
- By being in The Word daily will strengthen you for the not so fun times of ministry
- By being in The Word daily you will be better prepared to share The Word in the service.

The list goes on and on.

The point is simple.

Be in The Word of God daily!

Here's a bonus thought. At our church we've started what we call "1St and 10". Meaning that the first thing we do is take 10 minutes to read a chapter of scripture. We don't dig in or study. We just read. For example: Before rehearsal, before elder / staff meetings, before a small group meeting, in the morning with your family, with a friend over coffee. How better to set the attitude and atmosphere than with The Holy Word of our amazing God.

Be in The Word of God daily!

Step 4

Daily prayer and intercession

Daily being in prayer and intercession must be a priority in our preparations for worship.

Why?

Because God is passionately in love with you! He wants to have dialog with you! (And by the way prayer is not just you talking. It also involves you being quiet to listen.) Can you imagine a relationship with no communication? Prayer is simply communicating with God. It's having a conversation with The One who happens to be passionately in love with you, about the things that concern both you and Him. I ask my mentor this question one time, "If you could change one thing about the beginning of your ministry what would it be?" His answer, I would have spent more time in prayer and intercession.

So for whom and what should you pray and intercede for?

Well, for starters:

- The worship team
- Congregation
- Pastor
- The service (from start to finish)

The list is really endless, but the above mentioned should form the foundation.

I want to encourage you to make being in prayer and intercession a daily priority in your preparations for leading worship.

Here's a free tip: if you are shy about public prayer: When you pray in private, pray out loud. It will help you become more comfortable when you pray in front of the church.

Step 5

Journaling

Journaling is a great way to both record and process what God has spoken to you. It's also a useful tool to use at a later time, to reflect on and review some of the 'gems' that you have received.

It could be insights, prayers that have been helpful, meaningful passages. Without writing them down you may forget those blessings and some very important lessons!

Whether you find yourself in a particularly good time when you are experiencing the love of God, or in a particularly difficult time when you wonder if He is even there, journal keeping can help you to continue to seek the Lord.

Though journaling can be a very personal time with the Lord, the Spirit may lead you to share some of your journal during the service. Sharing a testimony of what God has been doing in your life, will both glorify God and encourage others, which is our ultimate goal.

I promise you that keeping a journal will become a wonderful testimony of the Lord's faithfulness in your life, and as a testimony of your journey with the Lord. Give it a try.

Step 6

Take care of our physical bodies.

You might wonder about this next step, but believe me it is very important in preparing for worship. In fact it's important for ministry and life period. Scripture tells us that when we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, The Holy Spirit comes to live within us. In fact our bodies become the temple of the Holy Spirit. Knowing that fact, it should be a God honoring priority for us to take care of our physical bodies.

How do we do that?

By exercising, eating well, and getting plenty rest. If we neglect any of these, our health will suffer, which in turn will cause our service and our ministry to suffer.

To use a sports analogy:

- We practice and prepare through the week.
Sunday, or whenever you service is, is game day!

Not to say in any way that church is a game or that we are performers, nothing could be further from the truth.

My point is this,

You must be prepared to give God your best! You must be in good health, to give your best.

God deserves nothing less!

I have type 1 diabetes, so my health is # 2 only behind my relationship with Christ on my priority list. Neglecting my health would be dishonoring to the God who created me, to my family, and to the ministry.

Try to do some sort of physical exercise 3 – 4 times a week. Whether it's weight training, running, swimming, cycling, or whatever.

Just get moving.

Your body will love you for it.

And you will be honoring God.

Eat a well balanced diet. I know this can be tough since we can be on the run so much. Food is the fuel for our body. If you put junk food in it, it will run like junk. Work at eating a well balance diet, so your body will perform at its best.

Try to get 7-8 hours of good sleep every day. I know some people can operate on less, some need more. But the point is, while you sleep your body refuels and repairs itself, neglect it, and your body will suffer. You need to be alert, clearheaded and well rested. Especially when leading.

Take care of your body. It's the temple of the Holy Spirit.
Exercise, eat well and be well rested.
Honor God!

Step 7

Personal worship time

This last part is a big one. Here it is: You can't lead where you haven't been.

What do I mean by that?

You must make personal worship time, a part of preparing to lead worship. In other words, we must set aside time to privately through the week to worship God.

That could involve sitting down with your instrument, (if you play one) and going through the order of service. Not mechanically thinking through it but making it personal. It could be playing and singing your favorite worship songs. It could be listening to a C/D of good worship music, or simply spending time verbally praising God with some instrumental music in the background.

Some of the most wonderful intimate times of worship I have ever experienced, was just God, me and a worship C/D.

When you personally worship God in private through the week, it will show when you stand before the church to lead in corporate worship. The worship will be fresh. It will show on your face, and in your words, and actions. The Holy Spirit will lead you, to lead the church, where you have been,

In the presence of our Holy, Wonderful, Loving God.

The point is this, spending time personally worshiping God through the week, will better prepare you for leading the church. You will be amazed at the difference it will make.

Be to the praise of His Glory,

Jim R Williams