

Worship Matters Video Intensive with Bob Kauflin
Session 5: Why Do We Sing?
(From Chapters 11-12 of *Worship Matters*)¹
Transcript

*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. Revelation and Response

A. God's Word is Central in Worship

"The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." - Exodus 34:6-7²

*"And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped."
- Exodus 34:8*

B. The Place of Singing

*"Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting."
- Psalm 147:1*

See also Zephaniah 3:17, Mark 14:26, Ephesians 5:18-19.

II. Music can help us engage with words memorably.

“Every culture has songs and rhymes to help children learn the alphabet, numbers, and other lists and even as adults, we use mnemonic devices or patterns—and the most powerful of these devices are rhyme, meter, and song.”³

- A. Implication 1: We should sing tunes that people can remember and want to remember.

- B. Implication 2: In our gatherings we should sing words that God wants us to remember.

“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.” - Colossians 3:16

“Show me a church’s songs and I’ll show you their theology.” - Gordon Fee

III. Music can help us engage with words emotionally.

- A. Reasons music affects us:
 - 1. Musical principles

 - 2. Personal History

 - 3. Cultural Associations

4. Musical Characteristics

- a. Puts space between words and repeat words and make it feel totally normal.
 - b. Has the ability of music to direct and amplify our emotions
- B. Implication 1: In our gatherings, our sung praise should be evidently, obviously passionate.
- C. Implication 2: The music we use in our gatherings should cover a broad emotional range.

IV. Music can help us engage with words in unity.

- A. Implication 1: We should use music that unites, rather than divides, the church.
- B. Implication 2: We should make it clear that it's the gospel—not music—that unites us.

“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility” - Ephesians 2:14

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” - Revelation 5:12

Session 5 Discussion Questions:

1. How could Scripture occupy a more central place in your times of singing than it presently does?

2. Why does God want us to sing?

3. What are a few ways music helps us? What are a few ways music can distract us?

4. Discuss the difference between emotions and emotionalism.

5. What hesitations or fears do you have about growing in passionate worshipful expression?

6. What are ways we can serve people who default to thinking that our unity is based more on musical preference than on the gospel that unites us?

¹ *Worship Matters* by Bob Kauflin, © 2008 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, IL 60187, www.crossway.org.

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³ Oliver W. Sacks, *Musicophilia: Takes of Music and the Brain* (New York: Knopf, 2007), 237.