
Bob & Devon Kauflin
**PRACTICING FOR PARTICIPATION:
REHEARSING THE RIGHT THINGS FOR THE
RIGHT REASONS**

I. **Introduction**

II. **The Right Reasons**

- A. To exalt the greatness and goodness of God (Ps. 34:1-3)

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.
Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

- B. To enable the Word of Christ to dwell in people richly. (Col. 3:16)

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.

- C. To encounter the presence of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:7)

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

- D. To edify the church. (1 Cor. 14:26)

What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

III. **The Right Things**

- A. Your life

1. Loving God
2. Loving the gospel
3. Loving God's Word
4. Loving God's people
5. Becoming more like Christ

- B. Prayer

- C. Engage your team

1. questions

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2. prayer
 3. encouragement
 4. involvement
 5. talk about lyrics
 6. remind people why we do what we do (reasons just mentioned)
- D. Make sure everyone can hear.
- E. Cultivate excellence
1. Becoming better.

"Excellence is the process of becoming better than I once was. I am not to become better than someone else is or even like someone else. Excelling is simply--and radically--the process of improving over yesterday." Harold Best
 2. Undistracting excellence.
We will try to sing and play and pray and preach in such a way that people's attention will not be diverted from the substance by shoddy ministry nor by excessive finesse, elegance, or refinement. Natural, undistracting excellence will let the truth and beauty of God shine through. We will invest in equipment good enough to be undistracting in transmitting heartfelt truth.
(<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-unites-us-in-worship-at-bethlehem>)
- F. Establish feel (if there is one).
- G. Establish primary instrument (if there is one).
- H. Remember the context
1. who you're serving
 2. who you're playing with
 3. the occasion
- I. Prioritize rehearsal points.
1. Beginnings and endings
 2. Transitions in and between songs
 3. Specific songs.
- J. Prioritize your congregation.
1. variety in arranging
 2. pull instruments out
 3. dynamics
 4. leave space
 5. volume of mix
- K. Look out during rehearsal.
- L. Consider your congregation.

- M. Practice Spontaneity.
 - 1. change things in rehearsal
 - 2. stretch out at times
 - 3. make sure you have time to be spontaneous (don't overplan)
- N. Communicate goals and process.
- O. Review - each song as you go and at the end.
- P. At the end, start at the beginning one more time.