

# WHY PRACTICE (REALLY) MATTERS

## *For Worship Team Members*

None of us joined the worship ministry with this attitude: **“I’d like to serve Jesus by burying my head in a music stand.”**

All of us on the worship team love Jesus, love people, and love music. And we want to worship God and serve people with our musical gifts. But we can’t do that if we’re hiding behind a music stand.

If we want to be effective lead worshipers, we need to practice. And to just be clear: preparation isn’t the end goal—it’s the means to an end. Our ultimate goal is this: ***We want to worship God freely and authentically, and encourage the congregation to worship God.***

So, to help motivate us make practice more of priority so we can lead worship better, here are three big reasons.

### **1. Musical Preparation In Scripture**

Our basis for everything we do needs to have it’s foundation in scripture. Here are three biblical reasons for preparation:

#### **Biblical Reason #1: A Call For Skillful Musicianship**

- Psalm 33:3 calls us to “play skillfully”.
- 1 Chronicles 15:22 tells us that the head Levite put in charge of singing got his job because “he was skillful at it.”
- And later in 1 Chronicles, we see a clearly that the temple musicians were “trained and skilled. There was a culture of musicians investing in their craft so they could become skilled.

The Bible calls for musicians to be skilled. Why? Because we can’t lead well what we don’t know well.

***If you’re called to the worship ministry, you’re called to be skilled. And skill requires preparation.***

## **Biblical Reason #2: Preparation Is An Act of Worship**

With the right heart attitude, our personal practice time can be a sacrifice of time, talent, and energy that we give in worship to God. Think about it: if you sing or play an instrument, that's actually *offering* your physical body to him. It's part of the living sacrifice talked about in Romans 12:1.

## **Biblical Reason #3: Preparation Helps Us To Provide Excellence and Beauty**

In Philippians 4, Paul encourages us to dwell on things that are beautiful, lovely, excellent, and so on. I believe one of the reasons Paul writes this is because experiencing beauty and excellence draws people to the ultimate Creator of those things.

If we create beautiful and excellent music, it stirs hearts and helps draw people to God. But we have to prepare to create that kind of beauty and excellence.

So that's the some of the Biblical encouragements for preparation. The next reason why practice matters is a practical issue.

## **2. Confidence & Freedom In Worship**

Consider this:

- *Preparation = confidence.*
- *Confidence = more freedom in worship.*
- *More freedom in worship = better able to lead and engage the congregation.*

And all of that equals a better experience for everyone. Our preparation helps create an environment that encourages all of us to worship.

And the next reason we should practice is one we forget too often.

## **3. It's Just More Fun**

When you know the music, it's just more fun. Singing and playing (and even mixing) are far more enjoyable when you don't have to think about all the mechanics of chords and lyrics and form and dynamics. You just know them.