

PREFACE

Worship has always been at the very core of human existence. When Moses confronted Pharaoh regarding the release of the Israelites from Egyptian rule, the dominant, underlying issue was not slavery. The prominent issue was worship. In the book of Exodus, the Lord instructs Moses on what he is to tell Pharaoh: “Then say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son, and I told you, “Let my son go, so he may worship me”” (Exodus 4:23).

As believers, we often equate worship with a musical experience. The term “worship service” is what we have come to recognize as our corporate time of singing prior to preaching. This very term evokes images of a music minister leading from a piano or guitar with a team of singers and musicians accompanying. Worship is much more than that. Music is just one of many vehicles we can use to worship God. In fact, I personally believe that the relationship we have with our spouse and children throughout the week is a far better expression of our worship to God than a song we sing for a Sunday morning church service. Other indicators can include the time we spend in prayer and our faithfulness in giving monetarily to God’s kingdom. God desires that our whole life becomes a service of worship.

Lifestyle of Worship evolved from a God-given burden to equip the body of Christ through biblical and practical teaching on praise and worship. A lifestyle is defined as the consistently integrated way of life of an individual as typified by his or her manner, attitudes and possessions.¹ Worship means to honor or reverence a divine being or supernatural power, to regard with great or extravagant respect or devotion.² A *lifestyle of worship* is a continual state of being in which God is revered through a surrendered life filled with sacrificial acts of service.

Chapter 1 covers fundamental principles and addresses what I believe is the biblical foundation upon which all praise and worship expressions should be built. Chapter 2 explores the depths of worship and further defines a *lifestyle of worship*. Chapter 3 focuses on maintaining a *lifestyle of worship* with an emphasis on the mind as life’s battle ground. The last chapter, designed specifically for worship leaders, provides guidelines to assemble, motivate and energize a praise and worship ministry team.

Boxed text statements have been placed in each lesson to reinforce key principles covered. Although each chapter builds on the previous one, each lesson has been designed to stand alone. Each can be taught in approximately one hour and is suitable for a Bible class or a small group setting.

This manual is not intended to be an exhaustive study on the subject of worship, but rather a concise teaching on fundamental, practical and biblical principles of praise and worship. I have taken a non-musical approach in order to reach a broad range of readers, regardless of their prior knowledge or style preferences. I believe this is an invaluable resource for those engaged in platform ministry within churches.

My personal vision statement is to help people experience a dynamic worship atmosphere in which salvation, healing, deliverance and blessing will flow to them from the manifest presence of God. My prayer is that this manual will enlighten and motivate us to establish a *lifestyle of worship* – a life that is consumed, motivated and energized by His presence.

His Minstrel,
Rev. Alvin Miranda