



The Practice of Passionate Worship

From Scripture:

Exodus 8:1 – Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him,
"Thus says the LORD: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.'"

2 Samuel 6:14 – David danced before the LORD with all his might.

Psalms 27:4 – One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

Psalms 84:1-2 – How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Psalms 100 – Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.
For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalms 122:1 – I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

Psalms 147:1 – Praise the LORD!
How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

Psalms 149:1 – Praise the LORD!
Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Matthew 18:20 – For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Luke 10:27 – "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your strength, and with all your mind;
and your neighbor as yourself."

Luke 24:52 – Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;
and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Ephesians 5:19-20 – Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves,
singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts,
giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase:

p. 37 – Passionate Worship means an extraordinary eagerness to offer the best in worship, honoring God with excellence.

p. 39 – An hour of Passionate Worship changes all the other hours of the week.

p. 50 – In churches marked by Passionate Worship, people don't merely show up and sit passively in their pews; they are actively engaged, genuinely connected, personally addressed, and deeply challenged. The message touches them, the music moves them, and the service changes them.

p. 55 – The responsibility for the quality of spiritual life in the congregation does not reside only with the pastor. And committees and teams and staff can't do it on their own, either. What each person *brings* to worship shapes the experience for everyone as much as what he or she *finds* there. Passionate Worship begins with each worshipping individual.

p. 55 – John Wesley encouraged the early Methodists to "sing lustily and with good courage. Be aware of singing as if you are all half dead or half asleep, but lift your voice in strength. . . Above all, sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature." In how we sing and pray, in how we greet others, in how we approach the sacraments, Passionate Worship begins with our love for God, our desire to open ourselves to God's grace, and our eagerness for relationship to God. What kind of attitude and eagerness do you bring with you to worship?

From The Vital church

By Clark M. Williamson and Ronald J. Allen:

p. 75 – The experience of worship is an end in itself. It glorifies God, and it provides an occasion for God and people to commune.

p. 87 – The root of vital worship is the awareness of the presence of the living God.

p. 98 – One of us once heard a sermon entitled "Any Old Bush Will Do." The preacher's point is that God can use "any old bush" to speak to us as God spoke to Moses at the burning bush. Much the same is true of worship. Any intelligible form will do, as long as it is charged with appropriate theological content and is led with passion befitting the living God.

From Other Sources:

A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer; it sings because it has a song. – *Maya Angelou*

When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the morning light, for your life and strength. Give thanks for your food, and the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies with yourself. – *Tecumseh (Shawnee chief)*

People often say that inspiration doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing – that's why we recommend it daily. – *Zig Ziglar*

Unless a sermon leaves us dissatisfied with either ourselves or the preacher, it is a poor sermon. – *Unknown*