

Vocalist Workshop Notes – Heather Cooper

The role of the worship vocalist.

The role of the worship vocalist is to firstly, above all else give glory to God! Secondly it is to encourage and lead us as a church and a congregation by thanking and praising God for his goodness. This in turn prepares our hearts to receive the word and creates an atmosphere for the rest of the service.

Worship is an expression of love and awe to God. Worship is a shift in our perspective. We lift our eyes above our circumstances and fix them on our Lord and our Saviour. We declare His word and His truth.

Here are some points that have helped me keep my eyes and my heart on the Lord when I worship. Things that have helped me find freedom in my worship.

1. UNDERSTAND IT IS NOT ABOUT US IT IS ALL ABOUT GOD

He is the reason we are singing! We are singing TO Him! Not just about Him but TO Him!

2. KNOW WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST!

Insecurity can cripple us as singers and worshippers. We need to be secure in God and see ourselves how He sees us.

1 John 3:1, Philipians 4:13, Psalm 139:13, 1Corinthians 6:19, Ephesians 2:10, 2 Corinthians 5:17

3. Believe and sing out every word with faith & conviction.

Believe that the words you are singing are breaking through strongholds and situations in your life and the lives of your congregation There is power in the word!

4. Understand that God dwells in the atmosphere of his praise.

God shows up when we praise Him!

Psalm 22:3, James 4:8, Jeremiah 29:13

5. Understand we are on an Altar not a stage.

An altar requires an offering and sacrifice. We are offering up worship and praise to God and it must cost us something.

Some key ingredients for great worship vocals

1. Unity –

a. Vocally

Blending listening to each other for dynamics and flowing with that. Warming up together before hand.

b. Spiritually

Being united spiritually –**Matthew 12:25, Psalm 133.**

Support each other up. Don't vi for positions or be jealous of each other. We are not doing this for our glory, we are doing it for God's glory. Meet together & pray together as vocalists.

2. Humility

Do everything with a servant heart. For God and His people. [Philippians 2:3-11](#) [Luke 14:11](#), [1 Peter 5:6](#)

Allow God to elevate you in HIS timing. LOVE where he has placed you and called you for now.

3. Boldness

We are called to be Bold in our worship. Boldness is the opposite of fear. [Romans 8:31](#), [2 Timothy 1:7](#), [Hebrews 4:16](#): - The bible tells us over and over to 'Fear not' [Ephesians 6:14-17](#)

4. Revelation

- Revelation of who God is and His character – carry that in your spirit when you are worshipping
- Revelation of why we worship and how it blesses God and His church

5. Knowledge of words/parts/songs

- Know your songs
- Know your words
- Know your parts (sort out who is singing what before each service)

6. Musical Ability

- Develop your craft – get singing lessons
- Practice, warm up before each service
- Listen to other worship singers – develop your ear

7. Worshipping in spirit and in truth [John 4:23-24](#)

1) It is in spirit or from the heart, in other words it is sincere. God IS spirit so we must worship Him in spirit

2) It is in truth, that is it is according to the Word of God, which is the TRUTH [Jn. 17:17](#)

How do singers lead people in worship?

By example!

We show them how to worship by going there first. We also lead them by encouraging them. We encourage them by engaging them. When we worship with all our hearts the congregation will want to join in!

Leading worship is not about trying to get people to sing. It is worshipping ourselves so that others will follow our LEAD! We need not to focus so much on worship leading, but instead focus on being a lead worshipper.

Stage presence & worship

We are here to direct people to God – Their attention is initially on us but should be reflected to God IF we are leading them there.

The difference between performance and worship is heart & focus. Performance is about US – worship is about God.

Some things to think about with stage presence

- Don't close your eyes too much – look at the people. Don't get too lost in your own personal worship – Remember we are here to lead. If you are a worship leader we also need our eyes open to know what is going in the service. If our pastor is telling us to wind up or the MD is trying to get our attention
- Smile ☺ - this helps to engage & connect people .We are called to be full of joy
Phillippians 4:4
- Be confident (Bold)
- Don't let how you look be a distraction – choose appropriate and comfortable clothes
- Use your body expressively– hands, arms, feet! - Find freedom with your body
 - Move within your space – don't feel you have to stand in just one spot
 - Ask God to help you with areas of insecurity or fear in relation to this
- Hold your microphone close to your mouth when singing
- Study Gods word in relation to worship – understand how God commands us to worship
- Worship him with everything you have – don't hold back – spiritually & physically