

Pure Joy

As a worship leader, I go through different seasons where the Lord gives me revelation on a personal level and then mirrors it on a wider level relating to the worship life of the church. This principle is often seen through the Scriptures where the prophets experience the word of the Lord personally before they bring it to a wider congregation of people.

Recently, the Lord has been speaking to me about purity and it's link to joy, as one seems to contribute to the other. By delving deeper into the depths of God, we find that we are shaped into His image, and it's in this place we discover the springs of life that bring us so much joy.

In our sung worship, we need to continue to express the greatness of our God so that people experience a vision of our magnificent Lord Jesus that puts the challenges and pressures of this life into perspective. We will never reach the end of discovering the greatness of our God, therefore we will always have something new to sing about Him as we keep exploring the depths of His glory.

As our eyes are opened more fully to the Lord's goodness we will find ourselves being caught up into heaven's celebration of Jesus, releasing us to sing and dance as He does. In his book Trinity Roger Forster writes,

"This is the song and dance God. That is the God we read about in the Scriptures. You won't find him in the ideas that we inherit from Greek philosophy. The God who sings, harmonizes and makes music, 'he will rejoice over you with singing' (Zephaniah 3:17, NIV), who moves and dances, and speaks of his procession, or goings, into the sanctuary, in which singers and women with tambourines follow, (Ps 68:24-25, NIV) is the dynamic Hebrew, Trinitarian God."

This is the God we worship and lead others to worship, and it is in this sense of joy and celebration that we allow our praise to be lifted to new heights, releasing the church to dance, throwing off the fears and worries that seem to surround us in these days so that we may enjoy the God who has set us free from such chains to be overcomers.

In order to lead others into this higher level of praise, we as worshippers must live in a state of purity that will allow us to see the face of the Lord. It was face to face that Moses found the favor of God in Exodus 33, as he cried out for the presence of God to be in their midst. Matthew 5:8 says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God", and there are other references that help us to understand the relationship between 'seeing' and 'purity' such as Psalm 11:7, Psalm 17:15. To allow God to make us pure is itself an act of worship and surrender, making way for a deeper hunger for the things of God, enabling us to press further in to His presence.

We have an amazing opportunity to see the Lord do so much in these days as we celebrate with passion the triumph of His death and resurrection!