

Greetings and Shalom!

Dear friends, we are honored that you have taken time from your busy day to spend with us. We hope that the information you read below will not only help you better understand who we are but gain spiritual insight to

In The Midst Team Member - Carl Dobbins



Carl Dobbins is a native Nashvillian – a rare bird in Nashville these days. He grew up as the oldest of five children. From an early age, Carl has been involved in music, starting in the elementary school band program in the fourth grade. He continued to be involved in music through high school playing a variety of instruments including trumpet, trombone, tuba, baritone horn (euphonium) and bass guitar. His passion for music led to a scholarship to Tennessee State University where he studied music education.

At the end of his sophomore year at T.S.U., Carl left school to pursue music full time. Moving to Los Angeles, California, he spent nearly a year as music director for At Home Records recording artists “The Natural Experience”. Soon Carl returned to Nashville and re-enrolled at T.S.U. During this time, he was hired as bassist for gospel recording artist Bobby Jones and The New Life Singers. Besides touring, Carl also appeared on Bobby’s television show “Nashville Gospel” and recorded one album with him. After a three year stint

with Bobby Jones, Carl performed with various other groups and artists including seven years as a founding member of a contemporary jazz group known as Apollo, as well as some time as bassist for country music artist Ronnie McDowell and R & B artist Rufus Thomas.

In the spring of 1993, Carl rededicated his life to Christ and has seen the Lord move powerfully in his life and home. Over the past 11 years, God has birthed a passion for praise and worship in him that continues to grow. His desire is to see people touched by God in the midst of praise and worship.

Carl resides in Nashville, Tennessee with his wife Lila. They have been married 23 years and have four children, James Talley, Carla, Allyson and Katie. He is the bass player for In The Midst Ministries and participates occasionally on worship teams at his home church and also performs locally with a jazz quartet.

ITM Song of the Month - Cleanse Me Now

Lord we love to sing Your praise all day long
Of Your might acts and wondrous deeds
Cause to You our praise belong
But Lord we long for something deeper
As we come to worship in this place
Cause when we're in Your holy presence Lord
We'll never be the same

Chorus

Just to know Your love
Just to feel Your embrace
Just to know Your power is touching me
Come and cleanse me now
Cleanse me now
Come and Cleanse me now with Your grace

Words and Music by Tom Long
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What is Worship?

Asking the question, “What is worship?” is kind of like asking, “What is love?” You know it when you experience it but putting it into words is difficult. One can define praise – an act of applauding or extolling someone for his or her deeds. You can even know praise when you see it. But worship is different. Worship is something you almost have to experience to understand. Jesus said in John 4 “the Father is seeking those who would worship Him in spirit and in truth.” Let’s start by examining the “truth” part of that statement.



We know that the first use of the word worship in the Old Testament was in Genesis 22 when Abraham speaking to his servants said, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship and we will come back to you.” The Hebrew word here for worship is shachah, which means to prostrate, bow down, stoop or crouch. Throughout the Old Testament, the use of the word worship was in reference to the word shachah. The only other word referenced was cegid, which also meant to prostrate oneself.

Worship is an act of submission. The Old Testament examples show us that frequently they laid flat on their stomach to worship God. Worship was not shouting and clapping and blowing the trumpet, but rather a solemn act of bowing down and being silent. To this day, one of the ways that people in foreign countries show their kings and queens respect is by bowing down or crouching before them. This use of the word worship can be looked at in that way.

In the New Testament we see reference to the Greek word proskuneo, which also means to prostrate oneself or show homage or reverence to. In John 4, Jesus was saying, “The Father is seeking such to [prostrate or bow down in submission] before Him...”

God, when speaking to Isaiah, said, “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of Me is made up only of rules taught by men.” (Isaiah 29:13) God desires true worship. As in the words of Jesus, He desires not only the “act” of worship but also the “spirit” of worship. A connection, if you will. Song of Solomon illustrates a lover calling his love into his bed- chamber. God seeks intimacy.

I can say to my wife in public that I love her. I can even do things that show her and others that I love her. But, only she and I will know the depth of our relationship. It is important to worship God privately as individuals. But I believe that there is a more powerful element that God desires in worship that can only happen when His Bride comes together corporately of one mind, one spirit and in unity to worship Her Lord. There is something undeniable that happens in unified corporate worship that invokes the presence of God in a measure of power and intensity that we cannot accomplish as individual worshipers. God is a personal God. However, I believe it is His great desire that we unite in one spirit as one body to worship Him. It is through this avenue that I believe He will make ready His Bride for His coming.

Let's take a look at some examples of songs we sing today that would fall in the category of Worship:

“Lord I give You my heart. I give You my soul. I live for You alone. Every breath that I take. Every moment I’m awake. Lord, have Your way in me.”

I Give You My Heart

By: Reuben Morgan

“You are awesome in this place, mighty God. You are awesome in this place, Abba Father.”

Awesome God

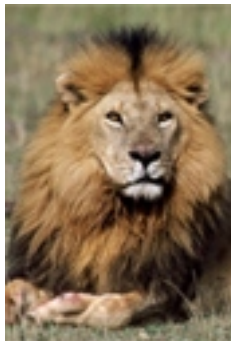
By: Rich Mullins

“I worship You, Almighty God. There is none like You. I worship You, O Prince of Peace. That is what I want to do.”

I Worship You

By: Sondra Corbett

From the desk of Tom Long



Last month one of our prayer topics was the Lord's timing. How appropriate that proved to be. I found myself on several occasions needing to discern rather quickly whether a choice suddenly before me was in the Lord's timing or a distraction. God always speaks, we must listen. God always leads, we must be willing to follow.

Godly counsel is important. But it is more important first that we take it up with God personally. In our youth we often find ourselves relying on our emotions and the advice of others. In maturity may we hone and perfect our ability to hear the Lord letting faith produce confidence in our hearing.

Walking in a spirit of worship has a profound affect on our ability to hear. I have found in my own life that when my focus is stayed on my Lord and I walk in worship that I make better choices and at the proper timing.

May we watch over our hearts to keep them humbled before our God and may we ever work towards a spirit of unity with the singular goal of pleasing our Lord. And may our lives be profoundly marked by the love and peace of God.

May God's richest blessings rest on you today!

Worshipping God His Way,

Tom Long



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