

A Healthy Body
The Respiratory System: Worship
August 14, 2016

Introduction

Read Isaiah 6:1-8. What a passionate worship experience this must have been for Isaiah! To be in the presence of the Lord with the enormous train of His robe surrounding him as it fills the temple. Mighty seraphim are hovering above Him (each having six glorious wings and voices so loud that the whole room is shaking) as they call out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of heaven's armies! The whole earth is filled with His glory!" Isaiah's heart must have been bursting with joy and excitement! Then, the Lord speaks. "Whom shall I send as a messenger to this people?" It's probable that Isaiah's reply of "Here I am. Send me" loses some of its enthusiasm in written form. He might have even resembled that kid back in grade school who was always jumping out of his seat shouting, "Ooh! Pick me! Send me!"

Passionate Worship includes both a spirit of awe and joy and is fully realized when we feel like we are in the presence of God. For some, this feeling comes alive every day through activities like singing along with your favorite Christian radio station, or perhaps by diving into the Scripture or a daily devotional. For others, getting there is a little harder. But even if your exuberance tends to lie deep within, isn't it exciting to think of a worship experience like this happening today? Let's talk about some ways we as a healthy Body of Christ could help make that dream a reality!

Digging Deeper

Characteristics of Passionate Worship

Communion with God

- As we heard in this week's sermon, worship is not about singing beautiful songs, praying eloquent prayers, or hearing inspiring preaching. Instead, it is all about God and having communion (or fellowship) with Him. The songs, prayers, and sermon are merely means to that end. Discuss experiences you have had during worship when you felt the presence of God.

Confession of sin

- Through confession we release all of our wrongs into the hands of God. As Isaiah says 6:5, "I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips and I live among a people with filthy lips." You see, we all have something in common - we are all sinners. It feels good to know we are not alone in that. How can confession encourage us? Do you have an accountability partnership with someone? If so, share how that helps keep you on track spiritually speaking.

Connection with other believers

- God made us to be in relationship with Him and others. He hates loneliness! Genesis 2:18 (NIV) says: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." It's pretty clear He wants us to spend time with one another. How do you spend time fostering healthy

Christian relationships? Mentoring, small groups, accountability partnerships, seeking fellowship opportunities at church and community events are some ways to get that ball rolling.

Celebration of God's mercy and grace

- Isaiah confesses that he is a sinner living amongst sinners, but in practically the same breath, he praises God and all his sovereignty. (Isaiah 6:5b NLT), "Yet I have seen the King. The Lord of heaven's armies." How can spending more time in God's word enable us to see our true selves and help us recognize the need for God's grace?

Commitment to serve God's purpose

- Send me Lord! Even if it interferes with my plans. What we say is nothing if it doesn't cause us to DO! Can you think of an experience you have had when you felt motivated enough by hearing someone else's passion for something that it put your feet into motion?

Ways we can contribute to Passionate Worship

- Prayer. It is important to focus on prayer before, during and after service. We must pray for the service itself and for everyone in it. Of course, this can be done on your own or in a group. But would you consider signing up one Sunday to serve in one of our prayer rooms for this purpose? Signup sheets are located near the prayer rooms at Fusion and Transmitter.
- Presence. We are better together. Believe it or not, your presence blesses those around you. Miracles happen when God's people gather together. Read Matthew 18:20. Now make a commitment that (unless you are ill or out of town) you will be at church each week.
- Participation. Combined voices make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Shout out your praise to Jesus, lifted hands in praise, boldly stepping forward for prayer, etc. Others hear it and feel God's presence working through His people. Do you ever feel a desire to step out of your comfort zone to let loose in prayer, praise and worship? What stops you?

Conclusion

When we come to worship on Sunday mornings, the main goal should not be to leave entertained or even informed, but rather to be transformed! Real worship changes us and creates a new commitment to serve the Lord. We inhale God's spirit and we exhale our service.