

MY JOURNEY

T O O D E E P

SPEAKING OF WORSHIP:

In my continuing journey of leading worship.....

I have not thought it proper to go “too deep” in a congregational setting. It’s like there was a “spiritual governor” (like in a car so you can’t go past a certain speed), an unwritten law that seemed very justified in my mind. I thought things like, ‘everyone’s at a different place with the Lord,’ ‘some people wouldn’t understand,’ ‘intimate times of worship with the Lord should be private, not public,’ ‘after all, there is a time limit here, and I want to keep with the program,’ etc. By the way, I’m not alone in this. Several other worship leaders that I know do agree with this line of reasoning to this day.

Recently, however, after one of those ‘especially public’ intimate worship times, I started to feel like I was slipping away from being able to lead worship in a Church setting. I thought, “if I go any further, the line between public and private will be blurred, and that’s just not right...it’s like I’m naked, I’m vulnerable, I just don’t know how this is going to end up.” Of course I wanted to go deeper, but I was afraid if I did, I would lose touch with ‘people.’ I thought I would not ‘fit’ anymore into this public environment as a worship leader, I thought I had become *so free* that others eventually would not be able to relate, follow or appreciate where I was heading.

After that service, I talked to a sister in the Lord about my ‘problem.’ How I was really feeling quite helpless to know how to approach this. She agreed that some things are probably best keep private and she appreciated my predicament. A few hours later I got a call from this same sister, she said these words, no explanation, just these words from Genesis: “they were naked and they were not ashamed.” WOW! The second I heard that WORD I knew it was straight from the Lord, and that He was giving me the ‘go ahead,’ the ‘approval’ that I should pursue this leading into the deep waters of worshipping God.....congregationally. *(Now, I know about authority, and I do submit to it...and just so you know, the human authority in the Church has always encouraged me toward freely worshipping. I hear them saying, ‘we want the Holy Spirit to have His way in this place...our desire is to worship the Lord in Spirit & in Truth, be free.)*

Yes, God spoke to ME!! The God of the universe spoke directly to me!! But in all the excitement that HE actually spoke to ME (so clearly) and called to me to go ahead and go deeper, I neglected to obey His voice, I neglected to apply and do His WORD! I wonder how many times I’ve missed the blessings of obedience by getting caught up in the fact that the word was even given in the first place!

Now, a couple of months later, just last week, I was once again ‘called’ by God to go deeper. This time the call came through a song. Have you ever listened to someone as they told you what they were learning and you think, ‘yeah, I so wish I was where you are right now’ then you feel guilty or convicted because you’re not there? For me, it was conviction, not guilt that propelled me to investigate the words and meaning of the song, ‘You Won’t Relent’ (or SEAL) written by Misty Edwards. SONG OF SOLOMON 8:6=7

As I read this author’s view of worship (not about the song), I saw the simplicity and depth of her relationship as it relates to worship of the One, True God.

A n d t h i s t u r n e d o u t t o b e . .



PART 2 of the “too deep” revelation the Lord was calling me to. Through her abundance of depth, I realized my utter lack and need to go deeper. I began once again to ask the Lord to bring me to that point where with reckless abandon, I would sing and surrender in worship to the King of Glory. That night as I led worship at a Wednesday night prayer meeting (where the youth and adults meet for worship together), we were all (that is, those who wanted to go) taken deeper in worship (through song) than we had gone on any previous Wednesday night. God really set me a little more free that day, He took me to the deep waters where I couldn’t touch the bottom...where I couldn’t navigate or control the experience myself, where I was almost lost in His glory forever....and I didn’t care who was there, I wasn’t concerned about the time; I was spiritually naked and was not ashamed. I really don’t know what some of the others thought that night, but for me, it was a taste, just a taste of what it means to go TOO DEEP...I want to live where I’m breathing (spiritually:) under water; to genuinely worship Him in Spirit & in Truth; I want to go TOO DEEP for any of it to be about me, TOO DEEP for any of my flesh to survive.... So deep that ultimately, only Jesus remains to receive the worship He alone deserves. Peace In, Big D

