

# Time for Intentional Transformation

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In today's church we have done a remarkable job in many instances of creating opportunities for students to be involved in praise and worship. In most circles praise and worship are equated with music, but most know that music is just one way we can be involved in worship.

A concern seems to be rising in many circles of student ministry that needs to be addressed. It is centered on the question, "**Are we raising-up students that are good at praise and worship but aren't so good at discipleship?**" While the answer will not be fully exhausted in this short article, I hope that it will be used as a springboard to your thinking about the topic.

Today's students are really good in the acts of worship. They are good at entering into attitudes of singing and praising. The follow-up questions become, "**Do they know the person they are singing to? Can you worship someone or something that you do not really know?**"

Before you write this off, let's explore just a little further. **Is it enough to sing and raise one's hands (which are good) but fail to connect with the God they are singing to?**

Scripture is clear that one of the main ways we get to know God is by reading His Word and allowing His Word and the Holy Spirit to transform our lives. **If the only Word students get is through the choruses or hymns they sing, is that really enough?**

Can I get to know God intimately if I spend limited time with Him throughout the week? How can the God of the universe speak to me and reveal Himself to me if the only time I spend with Him is during corporate worship? Is it enough of an experience for me to get to know the one I am singing about and to? **Where does a daily experience of speaking to and hearing from God fit in? Is that experience necessary?**

Christ was obviously convinced that spending time with His Dad was pretty important. Many passages refer to Him getting alone to pray and spending time with His Father. Christ reminds us that "**He does not do anything unless the Father directs Him to do it.**" If that is true, how did He find out what God wanted Him to do unless He was communicating with Him at times other than just when He and the disciples were in corporate worship?

**Today's students seem to know little about Scripture or the story of Scripture. But to be fair, most adults today do not know Scripture well either.** This is not advocacy for less worship but an appeal for student ministers and leaders to evaluate what is going on in their own ministries and lives to see if somehow acts of worship have replaced intentional times of personal prayer, Scripture reading, and study. **Surrogate**

**discipleship is not really discipleship at all.** We can learn from others, but unless the Holy Spirit is actively transforming one's life, growth is not really happening.

Worship is both corporate and individual. One purpose of corporate worship is to train Christ followers to worship on their own. Otherwise corporate worship becomes a "fix" that attendees get that will hopefully last long enough to get them to the next corporate worship experience. Bringing pleasure to God is an every Christ follower opportunity and joy. **Are you helping your students understand that in their own lives?**