

Preface

ABOUT THE CONCEPTION



This, to be honest, wasn't supposed to be a book. In fact, when I started writing it, there was this nagging voice, "Must you write everything!" I had been writing quite a bit of late. Despite the nagging voice, I could at the same time feel a heart burning and laden with refreshed vigour to put in record the secrets of a life of worship. Insights justifying why it is important that we be worshipping vessels, in and out of season, kept on flooding my spirit.

Worshipping God is the best thing one can do; being in His fellowship, worshipping Him in His presence is so fulfilling—it can't be traded for anything else. When God bombarded me with the awe of His majesty, I couldn't help but capture them in writing.

The voice that nagged me at the beginning, questioning why I should want to write everything, was drowned as the conviction was crowned. That worshipping is a very important area for both man and God fuelled me on.

This is how it all started. I already had other manuscripts that I was working on and I was not about to start a new one. Then things started happening in rather unprecedented ways. One of the leaders in our local church approached me one Sunday after the service.

I had relocated to a new town and joined a local church. Being new in the church, he told me that I should feel free and tell them if I had something 'burning' in my heart that I felt God wanted me to share with the church.

I never picked it. I could tell that he was sincere but I was so

‘shy’ to just walk to them and say I wanted to preach. In my naivety, I had tried it earlier elsewhere and it never worked—in fact, it backfired so badly. However sincere you may think you are, this kind of thing isn’t always received with open hands every place.

I wasn’t in the least to make the same mistake again—I usually ‘force’ myself to learn from mistakes. Even when I was asked, I still lacked the will to say that I had something in my heart that I would wish to share.

Initially, I thought that if God ‘burned’ something in my heart, He would correspondingly provide a ‘platform’ to share it. When this didn’t work the way I had thought, it was time to learn what God wanted me to do with what He was putting in my heart. For sometime, God continued putting things in my heart, ‘without providing a platform’—or so it looked to me.

I sincerely believed that the things He continued impressing in my heart were not only meant for me but also for others, hence a need to share them. It was then that God spoke to me. About this one, there was no doubt. It was so clear—as clear as the day God spoke to my heart and revealed how desperate I needed to reconcile with Him through Christ’s salvation.

What God spoke to me was not out of nowhere, I knew God had called me to write but I kept on thinking that it was for the future and that its time had not come. At least, I would need to build some ‘celebrity profile’ before embarking on such an assignment. God commanded me: “Write!”

In the process, I learnt that we don’t necessarily need a platform in the nature of a pulpit to preach God’s Word. Neither do we need a crowd of people to preach to for us to feel that we have truly been used of God. Furthermore, we don’t need ‘celebrity profile’ to be used of God. God taught me that even if I minister faithfully to one person or a small group of people, it is still worth every effort. What matters is not the magnitude of our assignment but the attitude to what we have been called to do.

Since then, as I embarked on writing, any time something ‘burned’ in my heart, I would quickly capture it by a pen and a paper. In this way, I realised that God had given me so much that I have been running many titles at the same time. I also realised that

one can ‘preach’ to individuals and it is as important as someone to whom God has given a big platform and a big crowd. It is the faithfulness behind the assignment that matters.

After approximately half a dozen times being asked if I had something that God had put in my heart, I finally but reluctantly accepted that I could share ‘something’. Nevertheless, it almost backfired when I was asked, “What is it you want to share?”

It was difficult! The fact was that I didn’t know what I was to share at the moment. I would trust God to give me something in the course of the week.

Sometimes, one may actually feel that God has put something specific to speak about at a specific time and place. This, however, is not always the case. Sometimes you may be called upon to speak and you don’t even know what you are going to say.

In some cases, one can be invited to speak on a specific topic. Otherwise, mostly you can be asked to speak on whatever God puts in your heart. The ‘problem’ is that God may not put something in your heart well in advance enough to describe it to someone who wishes to know beforehand what you plan to talk about.

For me, when I am asked to speak, I wouldn’t wish to necessarily speak what I spoke elsewhere or what ‘burned’ in my heart two days ago, for example. What usually happens is that God can ‘liven’ something in your heart today. Two days later, you struggle in vain to capture the ‘life’ and the anointing with which it came. This, to me, means that I have to trust God for something ‘new’ each time I am called upon to minister—unless I had been asked to speak on a specific topic. If it is something that God burned in my heart which I had already shared elsewhere or that hadn’t been shared, I would only pick it if God ‘refreshes’ it. Otherwise, messages may, most literally, be time and place specific. That is to say, a message that was burning in your heart yesterday might not necessarily burn today even if the place remains the same. Equally, a message that did well in one place is not necessarily for every other place.

It was true that something had burned in my heart about a month earlier but I wasn’t sure if it was a good idea to commit myself to it. When it looked like I had to confirm what I would

share, I kind of felt put in a corner. The result was that I mentioned what I thought I might preach on but never felt it ‘burning’ as it did when it was all aflame in my heart the first time.

Though it was explained away but to me (many others probably might have had the same impression), ‘insisting’ that I had to confirm what I would talk about created the impression that I had to be ‘censored’ for the church to be ‘sure’. It kind of sounded like I would be allowed to speak only after establishing that I wouldn’t ‘preach strange things’. According to me, if uncertainty was the reason, then the ‘censor’ would only be called for if I am the one who went and asked that I wanted to speak or if I had just ‘appeared from nowhere’. I felt that the short time I had been there was ‘long enough’ for my testimony to be extracted, in one way or the other. I had been there ‘long enough’ to establish the kind of doctrines underlying my belief.

Finally, after an extended ‘debate’, I was allowed to speak but after the ‘debate’ I felt empty and dry—the excitement was gone. There was, however, still about three days to go.

I completely lacked inspiration to talk about what had ‘burned’ in my heart about a month ago, although I had mentioned it.

After ‘struggling’ in vain to capture the ‘fire’ of what had burned in my heart earlier, I decided to trust God for something else. Sunday was approaching. My Saturday, the day I thought I would identify and prepare a message for the following day, was crowded. I had been invited to attend a meeting that I felt I couldn’t attend and still work on a message in readiness for Sunday. I attended though. I came back home late. There wasn’t enough time to do any preparation.

The fact is, I did most of the ‘preparation’ in the morning of the Sunday. That was when I finally got a breakthrough and felt that I had something from God, ‘burning’ in my heart. It was completely different from what I had hinted to the leadership that I would be talking about. I had told them that the way God works with me is that sometimes I may climb the pulpit with one message but end up preaching another. I had to say this so that should it happen, I may not be ‘grilled’.

An important explanation I was given was that the leadership

usually finds out about a topic that relates to what God had been emphasising of late. It happened that God was manifesting Himself in the praise and worship. For about a month, we had been praising and worshipping with little or no extensive preaching. And we liked it. It was so good!

As some of us were overtaken by the glorious worship, it wouldn't be true to assume that everyone had a 'good time' during the worship. Sometimes some people may 'explode' in worship while others stand there feeling dry and empty, wondering why some are 'euphoric'. It was out of this that God impressed in my heart to talk about "secrets of a life full of worship".

As I spoke, I realised that there was so much about the secrets of worship that though I tried to cover as much as I could, it was impossible. The result was that I stretched the meeting—more so because I didn't have a watch on my wrist, neither was there one on the wall. I am not quite sure how much time we took but when I finally ended it, I didn't only feel that there were more secrets but also that each secret of worshipping God was more than enough to cover a whole service. That was when a voice whispered, 'You have a new title—Write!'

About The Book

This book is meant to reveal some of the 'secrets' that would make it 'easy' to have a ceaseless worship of God. It is what would be called, in the popular language, "Worshipping made easy".

Though the book talks about "secrets", we may be aware that the "secrets" of a functional and fulfilling life with God are always open. The book 'counts' up to eleven secrets. This is not meant to make a claim that this is exhaustive, neither are they to be regarded as "eleven steps to experiencing a fulfilling worship". They are nevertheless, part of the principles that, I believe, would give 'enough' ground to securely sustain if not to improve on a worshipping life.

The book doesn't also make a claim that for one's life to begin to resound with worship, one has to *annex* the eleven secrets. Some

people may begin to experience the sweetness of worship as soon as they take the first step. It is, however, advisable to go for all of it. Worshipping God has infinite grounds just as God whom we worship is infinite.

Worship is an act of absolute commitment. It is pure and unadulterated; it requires a pure heart. This purity is enhanced by the grace of God that puts us on a platform unreachable by our own endeavours. On this platform, we can find our way through to the throne of God. These and other aspects are what the book emphasises.

The book exposes what to resolutely go for, not just as a preparation for but also an act of worship in itself. When we are going to plant the seeds of worship, we must prepare and cultivate the grounds of our relationship with God.

This book is justified on the basis that worshipping God is the most important engagement man can ever get into. When one finally fuses his spirit with God's desire and pleasure in praise and worship, nothing else comes close. Nothing can shear this perfect unity with God—fun will not; poverty will not; temptation based on sensualities will not; persecution will not. Nothing will.

This book aims at helping believers capture the spirit and the pleasure of worship. A life that is insured by ceaseless worship is a life grounded and built securely in God. It will not be defeated. Any believer that wants to insure his/her life against the uncertainties of life must make his/her life an embodiment of worship.

Oh if only people would know what it means to have a whole-hearted worshipping fellowship with God! My heart laments what people who do not worship God lack:

Why should they need pressure
To do what was meant to be done out of pleasure?

They embrace the earthly distraction
To embarrass the heavenly instruction.

They have a shallow fellowship
Because of a fallow relationship.

They pursue earthly pleasure
Instead of peruse heavenly treasure.

What was meant to be a simple confession
They have made to be a sampled confusion.

By confessing confusion
They have confused the confession.

They respond to the exhilaration of the popular culture
But disregard the reconciliation by the 'pricking' Scripture.

Instead of becoming receptive to the Word
They become deceptive to the world.

May I appropriate the Apostle Paul's prayer for the Ephesians
for *you* who have decided to read this book:

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,

which is his body, the fullness of him who
fills everything in every way.
—Ephesians 1:17-23.

May I sound an alarm! Don't allow the enemy stop you from reading through this book. May I equally point out the most important mission of this book: Don't read this book for the sake of reading—DO something about what you read!

May God bless you as you read; may He open wide the gates of His manifestation as you worship Him. It is my prayer that God will use this book to reveal to you His heart and pleasure in worship. May His glorious magnificence shine in your heart and set it aflame with an unquenchable desire and drive to worship Him forever. And as you worship, may you harvest the joy of life. May the peace that surpasses understanding flood your soul as you celebrate the assurance of the link to the source of our being, even the everlasting cords of love—cords that can never be broken! May your life be linked to the very source and essence of existence.

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