

## Foreword

It would be easier to write a book about the lives of the prophets, the parables of Jesus, or the letters from Paul than to write about worship. Writing about worship is a formidable challenge because even in the Bible, the subject is shrouded in mystery. We don't actually know what worship by the earliest believers in the Old Testament *looked* like or *sounded* like. We don't really know what it entailed. There are no videos. We do our best to imagine and feel what the experience would have been like, based on timeless scripture passages.

In Chapter 3, John Bolin describes how worship begins at home. Scripture tells us that when Moses and the Israelites were at Mount Sinai, and Moses went into the Tent of Meeting,

*Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to his tent. (Exodus 33:10, NIV)*

Even in those early days, worship began at home.

We also know that worship can be taught:

*So one of the priests who had been exiled from Samaria came to live in Bethel and taught them how to worship the LORD. (2 Kings 17:28, NIV)*

As a worship leader and writer of worship songs, my life has been a continuous attempt to “teach” myself and fellow believers to worship the Lord based on biblical narratives. Some of this includes

our choices, such as obedience, or a posture of gratitude and rejoicing as John describes in Chapters 5 and 6. Others include singing together—something John covers extensively in chapter 8.

John's book is like a kaleidoscope: with each chapter, you turn the tube a little more and see new colors and patterns that bring a fresh perspective on one of the most mysterious and joyful aspects of our faith. We were created for His pleasure—to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. May it begin in our hearts and in our homes.

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