

# Top 3 Priorities for Worship Leaders

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## 1. Character of Worship Leaders (Who We Are)

### a. child of God

- worship leadership begins with worship lifestyle ROM 12:1-2
- worship lifestyle begins with personal, private transformation via the renewing of your mind.
- the best work you do begins with intimacy with God. your time with God: the most important part of your day.
- Leadership is as simple as listening to God and doing what he says -- Perry Noble.
- seek to be honest with yourself and God, so you can be honest on stage.
- your calling is simpler than you think. Jesus called the disciples to be with him. MARK 3:14
- your calling is to be with Jesus. worship leading is a step of obedience flowing from that calling.
- as a NewSpring worship leader, you never walk in the door alone.
- the potential for your kingdom work is unlimited when built on the most basic relationship you have with God.

### b. minister to people

- first, minister to your Pastor. he has the heaviest weight to carry. his marriage is the most important one in the church. pray, encourage, serve.
- your accessibility and authenticity offstage empowers your authority onstage.
- remember that you never walk into a room alone. you carry the name of Christ, your church and your leaders with you everywhere. remember that there is no such thing as an accidental or insignificant conversation.
- service is better than a song.
- you can't make yourself too small. but don't be like King Saul. 1 SAM 15:17
- you are a church leader. here's what the bible says: 1 TIM 3:1-7
- the great commission doesn't have the words "Lead Worship" in it. MATT 28:20
- count others more significant. PHIL 2:3-4

### c. worship leader

- your talent can take you places your character can't sustain you - stanley.
- are you skilful in playing? this was the first thing mentioned about David. 1 SAM 16:18
- know your bible 2 TIM 2:15. it takes 40 hrs to read cover to cover. people are more spiritually vulnerable during worship, so know the Word to guard and guide them. if you never read it, you may hyperfocus on one point or be too broad to be any good to anyone.
- read the bible. think for yourself. own every inch of your theology.
- if you lay eyes on every verse, the Spirit can recall it for you.
- you didn't start it, you can't sustain it, you aren't going to get the glory for it. ROM 11:34
- operate from Godliness, not giftedness. 1 TIM 4:7
- write. PS 149:1. only you can write your songs. you will not be judged on one song, but on your life's body of work.
- seek a new song! all the songs in the universe are not sufficient to fully extol the glory of God.
- get that song out so it doesn't hinder the next one.
- Don't let your pride keep you from writing. Co-write!
- seek the glory that comes from God. 2 THESS 1:11-12 PROV 25:6-7

## 2. Responsibilities to NewSpring (What We're Paid For)

- a. leading worship -- we have been chosen, hired to provide NewSpring Church with biblical, evangelistic, excellent, relevant music for our services.

- b. ministering to people/building the church -- we are charged with leading our congregations with their needs in mind first. their needs, not our preferences. we have been charged with pastoring our musicians. invest. serve.
- c. discipling children of God -- we are a part of a great movement within the Church global, and it is our responsibility to disciple our church members and to serve worship leaders at other churches as much as we can.

### 3. Definitions of Excellence

- a. the priority: every service must begin with the end in mind... adhering to the vision of NewSpring
- b. the process: every service must be prayerfully planned by the Spirit via our team, weeks in advance. the band, visual, and lighting must have the proper planning materials in advance. rehearsal must be thorough and well prepped.
- c. the product: every worship service must contain music that is in tune and in time, with smooth transitions, music thoughtfully chosen to move people toward the sermon material and the invitation. biblical, authentic, excellent, evangelistic, relevant.

in order for excellence to exist, the worship leaders, the band, production team, and the congregation must all have a Spirit filled, authentic, relaxed, world-class experience. the process must be as excellent as the product.

### Stuff We Bump Into On A Regular Basis

1. WORKING UNDER AUTHORITY a problem with your pastor is a symptom of your problem with Jesus. Learn how to say "Yes, but..."
2. MANAGING A BAND prayed up, prepped, punctual... then you can play. lead them. serve them. care for them. invest in them. pray for who you need.
3. HOLDING AUDITIONS grace and truth. exalt the nursery and the parking team. your charge is to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. EPH 4:12
4. PLANNING/SONG SELECTION. pray. repeat. style should serve.
5. SETUP/TEARDOWN/VOLUNTEERS. people are worth more than gear. pray for who you need.
6. GOSSIP. up is fine. down or sideways can get you fired around here.
7. PRAY. why trust your ability to add, when God's a multiplier? whiteboard. 2 COR 9:10 MATT 7:7. God will richly provide if you ask, or else he's a liar. (he's not a liar.)
8. COMMUNICATION. overdo it. face to face is best. email and txt can make you want to murder a loved one.
9. EXPECTATIONS. beware of "should." God's expectations must remain the highest.
10. CHEERLEADING. we must be the initiators of encouragement for our staff.

### Q&A

What has worked for you in terms of developing younger, next generation musicians and vocalists for leading worship?

-- pray for the next gen. see who God raises up. teach the bible. then, give them the skill.

Could you share some personal experience and thoughts about songwriting for church? Was it important or a priority for the Newspring leadership team to have original music? What are some tips for writing successful worship song?

-- wait for margin. to me, building the church is more important than building your own career.

-- do it as a team. it's more fun, less prideful, and better quality most of the time.

-- tips: read the word, pray... write from that place. write together. don't use it just because it's yours.

Favorite song selection techniques? -- pick with prayer. pick with a team.

Resources for the newest stuff out? -- itunes. your friends. but be picky and don't use so much new stuff. Loop and click programming? -- we use Tama Rhythm watch. Ptools and Reason. Song structure charting for the band? -- we do it all ourselves by ear. chord charts.

Does NewSpring pay musicians and vocalists? Why or why not? What are your thoughts on the issue?  
-- 1 TIM 5:18 1 CHRON 25... whatever you do, maintain high expectations.

How much time with your team is spent discussing the theology of the songs, or even the theology of worship? is it necessary?  
-- yep... theology of worship is paramount. we discuss it weekly. doing that takes care of the theology of songs.

What about non-Christians in the worship team?  
-- Possibly for one song in a set, if they have skills that would contribute to an excellent service. Otherwise, your team should be able to mature together spiritually with everyone fully alive and on board. (Just as you need God's direction to lead, your team will also need his voice to follow)

When performing a song by another artist, do you perform it as-is or do you add your own inflections?  
-- Both, depends on the service. Secular tunes may need to be rearranged to be pulled off with excellence. If you can't do it, don't. Make it excellent and keep it fresh.

For Rose Angela, How do you deal with all the testosterone and how do you generate harmony (peace) with the guys?  
-- The green room needs to have an atmosphere of encouragement. Serve each other to create a blessed, loving environment. Keep short accounts - deal with stuff immediately. The attitude of the leader sets the temperature of the room.

What importance do you place on musical expression versus talent?  
-- Don't hold it in if it's in there. Video your band so they can see what they look like during worship. Ask yourselves "Do we look dead?" You're modeling worship. Practice your music so that you may be mentally/spiritually/physically free enough to worship. If you love God and are worshipping him, you aren't dead. So don't act like it.

How far in advance do you pray and prepare for a service?  
-- At least one month. Begin rehearsals with the most familiar song, move to the hardest, and end on a good note with another familiar song.

What dangers, decisions, and mistakes did you have first starting off?  
-- Have a lunch conversation. Ask potential band members point blank if they are a Christian. Know your band, there can be no hiding. You can't afford spiritual compromise. Be bold, open, and honest with each band member. Talent is vital, but spiritual health is above all. You can't trade one for the other.

How do you get people to commit?  
-- Be respectful of their time. Don't noodle, stay on task and get things done. Offer advice. Invest in their lives. Pray for them. Help them become better players. An intentional investment will cause them to naturally step up. Also, pay them!

## **NewSpring's Band Expectation Letter**

Hey Folks!!!!

I am so thankful for each of you. I cannot express to you just how honored we are that you would partner with us in this ministry of Worship at NewSpring Church.

Let me take a minute to outline our expectations of you. we set these prayerfully, trusting that they will provide us with a professional atmosphere that will both bless you and bring about the best musical worship excellence that God is worthy of. these are standards that we are holding ourselves to... we don't expect you to strive toward some standard that we are not intent on pursuing also.

so here goes:

as a NewSpring Musician, we expect you to be:

1. Punctual. Most of our call times are hard-start. for example, if the call time is 7am, that means that the downbeat of the 1st song will be happening at 7am. so, if you arrive at 7am, you're late. so far we've built a culture of being a little early to get warmed up and enjoy some fellowship. let's keep that going! as your worship leaders, we will do our best to lead you in this area by arriving early to serve you.

2. Prepared. Because of the value we place on excellence, we require that you be fully prepared for rehearsals and services. this means that you must completely learn parts for the songs prior to rehearsal. We use rehearsal as a time to tighten up each part and possibly to create new ones. so, if you aren't prepared, you hold back the entire team from being able to honor God with an unblemished sacrifice of musical worship on sunday. Heavy, isnt it!? haha! we completely understand that everyone has different skillsets, so if you don't have the music that you need to be prepped properly, please inform us so that we can get you what you need. we utilize [planningcenteronline.com](http://planningcenteronline.com) to ensure that you have mp3s and charts weeks in advance.

Also, being prepared means that you bring any and all appropriate gear that you will need to effectively be a part of the band. remember, we do not provide earbuds for our musicians, although we do have a few pairs around if you forget. [westone.com](http://westone.com) has some incredible earbuds for sale directly from their website. the UM1 and UM2s are the best i've seen. part of the reason that we pay you guys is so that you will have the tools you need to make great music... strings, sticks, earbuds, etc.

3. Prayed Up. at NewSpring, you aren't just a musician, you're a worship leader. the thousands of people in our campuses and thru the internet are looking to you to lead them closer to God thru music. you must be connected to God thru the week and on sunday to be able to lead our people effectively.

these 3 things are vital to our success and obedience to God's calling on our ministry. it's a heavy responsibility, but one that brings us tremendous joy! can you believe that we get to do this?

so, with that said, we will hold each of you accountable to the 3 things listed above, not just because it makes us better, but because we believe that this makes YOU better.

If we feel like you are falling down on any of the above expectations, we will give you grace, but you must understand that we will drop you from the roster if you are often late, unprepared or spiritually unhealthy. We are not trying to be legalistic... we are simply aware of the high calling placed on us and want you to join us in it!

we know that you desire to become the best musician you can possibly be. and we want that for you. this isn't just about what you give to NewSpring, this is about what NewSpring builds in you.

thank you so much for your participation and your heart for God and NewSpring. This is just the beginning for us; the best is yet to come!