

## WORSHIP SERIES

### FOUR DIMENSIONS OF WORSHIP

Let's look at the book of Ephesians chapter 3. This morning we want to speak about the four dimensions of worship. We are taking it from the book of Ephesians chapter 3 as our basic text. Paul in the book of Ephesians is writing regarding the glorious church that will be perfected and be in its glory when Jesus Christ comes again. In writing about the glorious church, we realize the apostle Paul was really excited and thrilled. For in the first chapter of Ephesians he writes so fast that there is hardly a full stop in his sentences. He has prayed only two prayers in the book of Ephesians. One is in chapter one and the other is in chapter three. In his prayers in chapter three, he mentioned something that would apply to praise and worship.

*Eph. 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, that you being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

He says that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. That's God's desire for our lives that we will be full of His fullness. But to be filled with all the fullness of God involves these four dimensions of width, length, depth and height. What do these four dimensions speak of? Of course, they relate directly to the love of God and our experience of God. But this morning we want to just look at one of the many aspects of worship. We want to look at it from the praise and worship, new music, new songs and just the whole area of music.

## Width

Let's look at the first word *width*. When we speak about *width*, the Greek word here also means *thickness*. How thick something is. The bible has another word for *thickness* and it's the word *fatness*. The word *fat* in Psalms and Proverbs talks about the goodness in our soul. It doesn't mean obesity. It means a richness.

Lets turn to Ps. 63:5 *My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness*. The word *fatness* here talks about a richness of life and richness of experience. Fatness, thickness, width is the first aspect of praise and worship that we want to look at. Thickness or fatness here refers to our experience. When we compose a new song or create a new melody to God to worship and praise God, they can only come out of our experience. We cannot give beyond what we have experienced. Our worship of God is limited by our experience. Therefore, when we come to praise and worship we realize that praise and worship is not just a theology. It is an experience with God. Whoever leads it, whoever does it and whoever wants to enjoy it needs to experience God in order to bring it forth. We cannot give what we have not experienced. We can receive information about what somebody else have experienced but we can never give without having our own experience.

As we look at the non-Christian world, we find that the great music, poetry and compositions have always come out of the thickness of human experience. In our message on "Depths of Worship," we emphasized that the sweetest melody

and deepest worship of God come from two extreme situations in our lives, the joys and the sorrows we are experiencing. When we worship God in those times of rich experience of sorrow and tears, when we seek for some harmony in the chaos that surrounds us some music comes out of our lives that would touch other lives. And in our joy and tribulations, when all the surrounding things are moving with great energy we also try to find an expression of harmony on our inside and out comes a joy. And these great things that come not are not only true in music but also true in the other realms like human arts, sciences, literary, movies, etc as well. They have come out of the richness of human experience.

After Japan surrendered to the Allies after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II, the whole nation was so devastated. Strangely, the nation turned to classical music and in particular, to that song called Beethoven No. 9, which became one of the energizing forces of that nation. So that in Japan today if you talk about music and say, "No. 9," they know what you are talking about. Because No. 9 is Beethoven 9 symphony. That is the most popular music so far. They would have huge choirs to sing it as a celebration. If you have heard Beethoven 9 symphony it is all joy. It is the story of Joy. How joy tries to come out in life. Then things drown out the joy. Then after everything has drowned it, up it comes again. Until in the end, everything to show that there can be nothing that can destroy the joy. And that song gave the nation life.

When the Japanese invented the C.D (compact disc), the inventor said it must contain the Beethoven no. 9 symphony in one piece and that's how you ended with the C.D. with seventy-four minutes. Since Beethoven no. 9 symphony was the best selling album in that country, it made more economic sense to mass produce the CD with a playing time to fit that album. You would have thought that any inventor would have made the length of the playing time of a C.D. to be 60 or 90 minutes, much like audiotapes and videotapes. Why make it seventy-four minutes long. It was because the Beethoven no. 9 symphony meant so much to the Japanese that when the new invention came along, they said, "Lets not break up the no. 9 symphony. Lets make sure that this new invention can take the whole of the no. 9 symphony on one side." That's how much that music meant to them. In their deepest agony, sorrow and confusion, Beethoven no. 9 symphony was instrumental in raising their spirits up and setting them on the road to recovery and reconstruction. That's in the secular world.

Many of the great poetry that we love come from times of human experience. Some times when a nation or a family is going through great trial it has been a song that has knitted them and held them through those times of trial and testing. If the devil can't steal your song, he can't steal your success. Many of the Psalms have been written in times of great sorrow. Every time when something happened, in the time of great sorrow David finds solitude in a song to worship to Him.

Lets look at Psalms 34 The introduction stated "A Psalm of David when he pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed." So this is a Psalms that was written when David was running away from Saul. If you recall the story, it is found in I Samuel. David has been in the high places of life. Remember how he slew Goliath and all the women were singing, "Saul has slain a thousand, and David his ten thousand." He is the same one who Saul in the end appointed and he was like a captain over the army. The bible tells us that he went in and out among them and he behaved wisely. David's name was greatly esteemed among all the Israelites. He was married to the king's daughter. And everything looks great and promising for him. All things seem to be going his way except that he doesn't have his father-in-law's approval or blessings. And one day when Saul decided to kill David, he fled. That was when he went to Abimelech the priest. He lost every thing. He became a fugitive. From a prince he became a fugitive. And how low can you get to when you have to come to your enemies to ask for help. His own father-in-law was pursuing him. His nation rejected him. As he came to his enemy, some of them recognized him and said, "Isn't this David the one who slain Goliath?" He came to ask for help and now they are going to kill him. And he pretends that he was a mad man. And he has to do it well enough for everybody to be convinced that he is mad, letting saliva to drip from his mouth etc. and they drove him out like a madman. How low can you sink and it was in that time that David sang, "I will bless the Lord at all times." Who has thought of blessing the Lord at that time? But yet, the greatest worship psalms come to God in times of great distress. There are also many similar Psalms composed in times of great trial and afflictions.

There is another one in Psalms 3, "A Psalm of David when he fled from

Absalom his son." David has reached his peak. All the nations around him were at rest. He has conquered, established his kingdom, prosperous, well recognized and suddenly his son turns against him. And David has to flee from his son with his mighty men. And in his sorrow and despair, rejection, he lost everything. Have you ever lost a kingdom? We know the end of the story that he managed to get his kingdom back but at that point no one knows whether he was ever going to get his throne back. And on his way out, Shimei cursed him. He goes away like a wounded dog. And yet in his sorrow, despair and rejection David wrote this Psalm 3:1 *Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me. "There is no help for him in God."* But David knew his God and he says *But You O Lord are a shield for me. My glory and the One who lifts up my head.* When no one lifted up his head, his song lifted up his head to the Lord. When he has lost all his glory and kingdom, he says, "My glory is in You, O Lord." To the world, he was put to shame. But in God, he found his refuge and out of it came a song in verse 7 *Arise, O Lord. Save me, O my God. For You struck all my enemies on the cheek bone. You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people.*

David never allowed anything to cause him to despair without a song. Some of his songs say, "You encompass me with songs of deliverance." When you are down and out, look for a song on your inside. And it will lift you up. For some of us who are not musicians or composers, do you notice that some times in our deepest sorrow and fear and trial God brings to our memory a song? There is a sudden remembrance of the words of a song or a melody of a song for you to hold on. And they are the strings by which God will pull you up. He starts by pulling your spirit up with a song. I believe that's what David does. Every time when something happens, he writes a song. When David says, "Sing a new song," he really means it. Remember when David says, "Sing a new song," he meant a new song. Whatever happens David finds a song. When Saul died, when Jonathan died he composed a new song. When he had victory when all his enemies were at rest he sang a new song. Whatever happens he sings a new song. He finds a song that will express what was going on in his inside. In times of great joy, salvation and deliverance, it is also time for a new song.

People like Hannah who is neither a musician nor a composer went through

a great trial in I Sam. 1:5 *But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the Lord had closed her womb. And her rival also provoked her severely to make her miserable, because the Lord had closed her womb. So it was year by year when she went up to the house of the Lord, that she provoked her therefore she wept and did not eat.* Nobody knows the sorrows she had been through.

It sounds like some of those Negro spirituals. Do you know that Negro blues and spirituals came during the trial of slavery? See those poor black Africans were brought over as slaves to the United States. They didn't own their lives. If they did something wrong, their white masters could chop off their hands or their legs as a punishment. The book and television series "Roots" reminded many of this dark chapter of American history. Those people were suppressed, oppressed but there was a song in their hearts. And you would agree with me that no one could sing like them. No one sing like those black Americans because there was a song in their heart. Remember if the song in your heart doesn't die, you will not die. That is your life force. That is the life line that is thrown down to you. I know some of those old Negroes spiritual songs that are very touching. Why do they touch us? Remember point No. 1 width or thickness. If the song doesn't touch your heart it will not touch another person. If the music doesn't touch your heart, it won't touch another. If you don't know the blues, you can't sing the blues.

Some of those songs are precious. They touched me deeply in my life in a Baptist seminary when I was also going through persecution and rejection, first from my father and family, then from the seminary faculty for my Charismatic beliefs. Those were precious songs sent to me from the Father to pass through that trial in my life. People who understood what it is like to be persecuted, who understood rejection, who understood loneliness, and out of that experience they found a harmony. Though the world is in chaos, they found a harmony on their inside and that melody comes out. And those songs will give them encouragement and lift the up and they will press on to another day. If the devil can't steal your song he can't steal your future.

And here is Hannah who has been through such oppression and constantly

she is being provoked. All she knew was tears. But one day, her turning point came when she stopped looking at herself and started looking to God, She said, "Lord, if you give me a child, I will give him back to You." The day of your deliverance is when you can be lifted up from looking inward to looking towards God's heaven above. And the day Hannah stopped looking at herself and said, "Lord I will give this child back to your kingdom," God gave her a child. When she got the child and when the child was two years old, she brought the child to the temple. She told the little boy Samuel, "Mama has to sent you to the temple." "Why, Mama?" "Mama promised when you have grown, Mama will bring you back to God because you belong to God." That day she must have dressed her best and brought that little two years old boy to surrender him to God. As she walked down to the temple that day, tears must be running down her eyes. She remembered the Lord kept His promise and she was going to keep her promise too. Though she was not a music composer, she brought forth a beautiful song of praise. And as she brought that little boy to the temple out of her richness and thickness of her experience she said in I Sam.2:1 *My heart rejoices in the Lord. My horn is exalted in the Lord. I smile at my enemies because I rejoice in Your salvation.* And a song came out from her heart. Song and music is what God makes us human being to have. But unless that music and that song touch your life, unless you experience it you cannot speak of it, you cannot touch it. You can mouth the words, you can hit the chords but you can't convey the experience. Only the one who experiences that song can convey the life. That's the first point. If the song and the music don't touch your life, you cannot touch another life.

There are other people like Mary in the gospel of Luke. We read about how she became the instrument by which Jesus Christ will come through. And how when she met Elizabeth there was joy that filled her life. And out of her came that special song that we call it the song of Mary, the Magnificat is found in Lk. 1:47 *My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.* She said my spirit, my soul, my heart rejoices in God.

Every time we come to church on Sunday, every time you meet in your home for praise and worship sing songs that speak of your experience. Even if you don't compose songs and play music, you can sing somebody's song that expresses the experience of your heart. Those are the type and the realm of worship that means a lot of God. God doesn't want you to just sing songs. He

wants you worship Him from your experience of Him. That is why when you are Spirit filled your song also changes. And you sing songs that are different. You can't really sing about Pentecostal power until you know about Pentecostal power. See there are songs that we can never sing until we have experienced Him.

In the book of Revelation, we read about the one hundred and forty-four thousand. Rev. 14:1-5 *Then I looked and behold a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne before the four living creatures, and the elders, and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.*

And this is in heaven we are talking about because the Spirit of praise and worship is such that you never worship without experience. That's the first dimension. You never worship God without experience. It is so important when we select songs for worship that expresses the time that we are in, that it expresses the experiences that we are in. If it is in the time of great victory then the song must be such. And if it's a time of great trial that people are going through then the songs must be of such. The first dimension of song is that it flows from our experience.

Verse 4 *These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being first fruits to God and to the Lamb.* Now these were among the first fruits of the other period called the tribulation period, the seven-year period. We are from a different dispensation from them. But they were special. Remember when the book of Revelation started they numbered twelve thousand of each tribe. In the seven-year period, they were ordained to go forth and challenge the anti-Christ. They must have experienced many trials.

*Verse 5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.* Point one thickness or width. In your sorrows and in your joy whatever it is the first dimension is that you never worship God beyond your experience. Examine your own experience and you find it there. For those composers of music every time you have new experience in God you will find that there is a song somewhere to bring out. Listen to it very carefully and bring it forth. Even those who are not composers of music its also for you. There is a song somewhere on your inside to bring forth and that song will lift you up. You can have five pianists and each one of them will play differently. Why do they have so many people playing the same symphony composed by the same composer Beethoven? It is the same song written by the same composer played by people differently. It depends on our experience and how we express ourselves. But remember this first dimension never go beyond your experience. Therefore, if you want to expand in praise and worship you need to expand your experiences of God. The deeper, the greater, the richer, your experiences the more you add to this dimension of worship.

## Length

Second dimension, length. Length speaks about two areas but I will classify it under one. Length speaks about relationship. Thickness or width speaks about experience, personal experience. Length speaks about relationship - how we relate to one another. There are two aspects of relationship we want to consider. No. 1 is in the areas of our encounter with people - how they enrich our lives and we enrich their lives. If we choose to be all alone we are not enriched. Let me give some examples here. If you hear the new songs of some composers, you would notice that almost all the songs they composed are almost the same. They may have slightly different tunes, slightly different words but they are almost of the same genre. If you hear David Ingles' songs, you would notice that all his songs are basically of the same genre. They are different songs but have the same basic touch. They are one particular style.

Here is an important point to consider. There are many different styles in expression. And through our relationships with one another, we enrich our expression. And each type of style develops one particular aspect of your soul.

Therefore, we need relationship and fellowship so that our soul muscles can develop proportionally. See if you do weight lifting, you would find that just lifting the dumb-bells in a different way would cause different muscles to be developed.

In the same way, there are differences of development in our soul. If we are used to only a particular type of music, we need fellowship and relationship with other types of music in order to bring forth a very wide and lengthy variations of music. For example, suppose all you like is jazz. Every time you sing, "Amazing Grace," it sounds jazzy. You have only developed one type of muscle. You need to develop other muscles. Then on the other extreme, there are those who just love hymns. Every song they sing must be like a hymn. Then when the congregation sings a fast marching and victorious song like "Glory, glory alleluia," they would sing it in a hymn style. All you are used to is only one particular style, one type of muscle. Sometimes when we are not used to certain music, we think that is ungodly. All the songs you learned are country and Western. See it has nothing to do with godliness or holiness. Some times, it has to do with what we are used to. Only some types of muscles have been developed in our life.

How we judge the godliness of a Christian song is different. You judge it by the lives of the people who sing it. You judge it by the wordings. And you judge it by the contents of the song. Fast music develops different aspects of our life. When I see a young person who doesn't know anything about Beethoven, I would ask him or her, "Do you know Beethoven?" He answers, "Who is Beethoven?" I try to encourage those people who are so used to fast music to develop a taste for classical music so that they don't have one particular part of their muscles developed. For example, if you were to develop only your hands you would look very funny having big fat hands and thin body. And those who are only used to classical music and think that only classical music is godly and anything else is ungodly, that's also not a fair statement. We need to push them a little bit and get them into some of these fast songs. There is a place and purpose for them.

There is a story in the Reader's Digest about a whale that got stuck in the Artic circle many years ago. These groups of whales travel through the Artic circle. They got into a certain part of the Artic circle and the ice formed around them and they couldn't get out. They would literally freeze to death unless help was given. So the human beings there sent an ice breaker in. They broke a pathway through the ice so that the whales could follow them. But after they broke a pathway through the ice, they tried every way to get the whales to follow them but the whales would not follow them. They tried everything and then they tried music. They put on Michael Jackson's music and the whales wouldn't respond. They put on rock music and the whales wouldn't respond. In the end when they put on Beethoven's music, the whales got into line and marched out on Beethoven. I didn't know that whales appreciate classical music. But there is something about classical music.

I have done some studies. Many of the great thinkers and genius are brought up at some point with great exposure and love for classical music. Believe me if you want to develop the intellectuality capability of your child put them on the classical music. They will be brilliant. It stretches the intellectual part of their soul muscles. Then the fast music develops great scientists, mathematicians. Then there are other types of music that may be suitable for the sportsmen and sportswomen. I am trying to widen your experiences to show that you don't go against fast music neither do you go against slow music. Lets be a balanced church and understand that there are many developments in different areas. And the problem out there is more in theme and in the lifestyle. If there is any uniqueness in music, it belongs to the Spirit of God. That's the first area that we are talking about that the fellowship that is necessary to generate the different muscles in our soul. We need to learn the different types of music in order for it to develop our soul quality on our inside.

There is a Greek word that is used in the book of Matthew 18:19 *Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.* The word *agree* is the Greek word *symphoneo* which implies a symphony. It implies also a harmony. If your music or your song lacks width, it lacks thickness and if it doesn't touch you, it cannot touch another one.

No. 2 in regard to length if your music or song lacks fellowship it will also lack unity. It would not be able to unite people. Instead, you would just shut yourself up by yourself. There is something in music that unites people. Why do nations have national anthem? It is so that the whole nation can be united behind the theme. So there is a sense of unity in music too. Music is in the area of what I call colors. If you only used one type of music, it is like being used only to one color. Maybe red is your favorite color so you end up with red skirts, red shoes and red earrings. Your front door is red, your car is red, it gets dull. We need many colors to form a pattern. The more colors there are, the richer the pattern will be. So we need the fellowship in order to broaden our taste, broaden our perspective and appreciate those things that are coming forth in our life.

And *symphoneo* is important in the fact that when our music began to take on many colors, it can reach more people. You see I was born without being used to wearing ties and coats. Some of you will remember how in my earlier days as a preacher, I didn't wear any ties. I wore short sleeves shirt. But then I realize I was only reaching out to a particular group of people not because of my message but because of my style. And God has to teach me how to use a tie so that we can reach to all strata of society. We are comfortable when we are informal. We are comfortable when we are formal because we get used to both. We got to enlarge our taste and our style for the sake of the gospel because it will extend our outreach. If you only speak in a particular type of lingo and every time, your type of music and song come up like "Hi man, Hi man," you will reach to people but only to a particular type. How wonderful if you can do both. That's what we are pushing your muscles to do.

Some times it need hard work but we have to push ourselves to understand that we need different colors to reach different groups, every tongue, color, race, creed and culture. If your music is only like the Chinese music, you only reach to the Chinese. We have to have different styles and different tastes so that we reach out to the Chinese, to the Indians, to the different races, to the different people of the world. That means our choice must be widened. We must add different colors to our lives, to our personality, otherwise our outreach will be limited. If you don't have relationship and fellowship, your outreach is affected. So, its

important for us to get used to things we are not used to. It has nothing to do with the gospel.

The gospel is the same whether the preacher wears a three-piece suit or a two-piece suit. It's the same gospel but the vessel that delivers it does some times determine whom he reaches. So lets be realistic in the particular area of *symphoneo* where you can cover more people through your stretching of your relationship, your ability to relate. Some young people don't know how to relate to older people. They have a problem. Maybe they got to change certain style. Some older people have a problem relating to a younger person. You got to enlarge something on your inside so that you could relate to young and to old. It is something of the harmonizing power of music on our inside that needs stretching before our music becomes universal. At first, your music comes from your own particular race and culture. Then it becomes more Asian as you gradually are exposed to the different Asian musical styles – Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Malay, tribal etc. Your music covers more of Asia. Then it becomes more universal as you take in European, American, Latin etc styles. You can see today different types of music can reach a wider group of people. If it's a question of style, we can compromise. If it's a question of doctrine and holiness then you can't compromise. But let's not mix style with doctrine and holiness. Style can change but doctrine and holiness doesn't change.

Let's look at I Chron. 25 in the area of relationship. The second aspect of relationship is in the area of submission and authority. In a group, not everyone can play the first fiddle. If you have three fiddlers, one has to be the first fiddler and the others have to be in the background just to support him. You cannot compete with the first fiddler; you can't, you have to be in submission. In any song, you will have to decide which instrument is going to be dominant and which is sub-dominant. And I notice that David set apart the musicians in I Chron. 25: 2, *Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah and Asharelah; the sons of Asaph were under the direction of of Asaph who prophesied according to the order of the king.*

Notice they know what submission is. And it is important because the smarter or the greater your talent is, the tendency to be unteachable is greater.

You say, "I know my way, I know this way." All instruments have different expressions when played by different individuals. Every expert musician will tell you that no two pianos of the same brand are actually the same. No two guitars of the same brand and the same model are the same. The expert here can tell there is a slight difference. They are just like human beings with different thumbprints. And so, it is the same for expression. We need to know that one of the most important things to develop in praise and worship as musicians and as composers in God is to learn to be teachable. Maybe you wrote a song and somebody says, "Well, this song may sound better this way." You say, "Don't touch my song." That's a wrong attitude. "You kill my song you kill my baby." If that song is your baby then you need that baby to be brought to Jesus and let it be dedicated. Maybe somebody else may be able to improve on your song. I may have a new song for the Lord but I would ask some musicians to develop and enrich the tunes so that in the end, it will have a more universal appeal. Maybe you like certain keys all the time but few people will be able to sing that key. So if you want your song to reach the body of Christ, you will have to change your key. You say, "No I love this key." "Yes, but those keys are difficult to reach." So what happens when you fellowship with people they improve on what you have. They say, "We can't reach that. Can you come down a little bit?" And so, your song changes your composition changes, your music changes. Maybe your music has only one particular style but through fellowship with another person, your music takes on richer tunes. The danger is when you don't fellowship with musicians of other stripes and shades, you might be the proverbial goose that flies with feathers of the same flock. Just because you love jazz, you only move around with jazz-loving people. Learn to fellowship across the gap. If you are a young musician, go and fellowship with those older ones and your music will take on a more universal outlook. See there is an area of fellowship that is required.

And here Asaph submitted to the king. And then the sons of Asaph submitted to him look at verse 5 *All these were the sons of Heman the king's seer in the words of God to exalt his horn.* Now the word *his horn* is singular. He is not talking about God's horn. He is talking about exalting the things that David felt were important. The music helps establish the king's authority in his kingdom. And they were helping David establish his kingdom and not building a kingdom of their own. Vision is important. Whose vision is it anyway? Is it your own individual vision or is it God's vision? Is it God's kingdom that we are building

or is it our own kingdom that we are building? Notice the musicians know their role. Their role was to play a supporting role in David's kingdom and exalt his horn not their own horn. And strangely, it was not God's horn they were exalting but David's although David's would use the song to exalt the Lord. Of course, ultimately David's composition exalted the Lord.

And it said *God gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters*. After some time he got seventeen musicians in his home. It takes quite a lot of fatherly coordination. Once in a while, he whacks them with the violin stick. They grew up under his music ministry. All these were under the direction of their father for the music in the house of God. If you don't learn submission, your talent can never come up. You can be the best musician in the world but the only place you could sing is on a lonely island with a few monkeys in the coconut trees. And you will live and die with an epithet that says, "Here lies a man that nobody knows," although you may be a great musician. If we desire to have length, we must learn to relate to one another.

## Depth

The third area is what we call depth. In the first area, we said that width has to do with experience. If the music doesn't touch you, you cannot touch other people. The second has to do with length. If your music doesn't have a relationship, it won't have an outreach and it won't bring unity. So the greater your relationship the greater your outreach. If you want to reach further, you should have length of relationship. Some people may not be good musicians or singers but because they are able to relate well with people, they would have more opportunities to reach out more. So relationship builds out-reach.

The third area is depth. Depth has to do with the Word of God. If your song and worship lacks the Word, it lacks depth; it is very superficial. The song sounds nice but there is a lack of depth since the composer is not firmly grounded in the Word. And the third point if your music lacks the Word it lacks eternity. It only has a temporal power. The bible says, "Heaven and earth shall

pass away but My Word shall not pass away." Only the Word has eternity. The Word that God speaks is the binding force of all atoms and molecules. We need the Word in our music, in our song, in our life. When the musicians play the guitar and you are full of the Word, the music sounds different. They may not speak one word but it comes in their music. The depth of the music has the Word. And of course, the Word is expressed in languages too.

We realize here in Mk. 4 in the parable of the sower and the seed that when it talks about the roots growing it talks about the Word growing in our life. Depth has to do with the Word. When we are deep in the Word, there will be many things that come. We can speak mysteries of God, sing of the mysteries of God. Look at people like Hannah in I Sam. 2 she speaks of theological things that even a theologian may not fully understand. And she prophesied things to come. Look at the song of Mary, the Magnificat. She speaks of things to come. She prophesied in such beautiful poetry. Look at people like Daniel who has his music coming at a great victory. We know the story in the book of Daniel chapter 2 that the king gave an instruction for everyone to be killed. And they took Daniel and were about to kill him. And Daniel asks, "Why is the king's command so urgent?" He found out that the king has even forgotten his dream and yet he wanted his wise men to give him his dream and interpret it. No one could do it. Daniel says, "Give me time." The king gave him time to seek out God. He called his three friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and they prayed to the Lord for revelation. That's the story in Daniel chapter 2. And I love that prayer meeting because if you don't get your answer in the morning you die. That night in the over-night prayer, nobody slept. And the next day, it is recorded that Daniel got the answer from God. And the bible says that when they got their breakthrough, Daniel worshipped God. And when he speaks of things of God that's powerful look at what sentences he spoke – they were powerful theological things.

See a lot of our songs lack theology. All you have is a ten-year-old vocabulary and you got a new song from the Lord, "I like you Lord, I like you Lord, I like you very much." That's all; you don't have much theology in what you say. There is a lack of depth and we need depth for eternity. And there are something written from the book of Psalms especially from 116 to 118. Those are the Psalms that are always being sung at the Passover. And there are some words that are powerful. So when you have words that are powerful they compose it in

many different form like the song, "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that save a wretch like me," powerful words. But some composers have taken those same words of "Amazing Grace" and set them in other songs like, "Heaven is in my heart". And there are some songs that you don't forget because of the words. Martin Luther wrote, "O Mighty Fortress is our God". You never forget those words. And I like part of the verse that says how the devil comes and one little word will fall him. These are depths. What about, "Rock of Ages cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee." These are words that have theology and eternity. If your song doesn't have the Word, it won't have eternity in its heart.

## Height

Fourth, we have width, depth, length and the last one height. Height speaks about heaven. We call Him the Most High God seated in the heavenly places with Christ Jesus. Let me just give one scripture in Col. 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.* Let the word of Christ - notice the Word of God in our heart in abundance will produce music and worship in you. Sometimes when I read the Word and meditate on the Word, after an hour I find that my spirit man is full and all I want to do is worship God. And out of my mouth just comes, "Worship O God I thank you, O God I love you for your Word." It's a sense of well being on our inside when we are fed on the Word. The richness of the Word of God in our spirit man will produce praise and worship.

See height speaks about the Spirit because it is the same Spirit that raises us from the dead and sets us at the right hand of God. When we talk about Spirit, we always emphasize on the resurrection power the same Spirit of God that raise Jesus Christ from the dead. This is found in Eph. 1. Now Eph. 5:18 *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The fourth area has to do with melody. In heaven, there are melodies that we never hear. On this earth, we can only hear roughly between twenty vibrations to twenty thousand vibrations. The human ear is capable of that only. But in heaven, we are not limited to twenty vibrations to twenty thousand vibrations. We can hear pitch that we cannot hear on this earth. We can hear sounds that we can never hear on this earth. We may not just have four parts we may have eight parts, ten parts, a thousand parts at the same time. In heaven, there are things and melodies we do not hear on this earth. How melodious heaven must be. When we speak about height, we speak about melodies that bring us into heavenly realm.

If you don't have the width of experience, your song won't touch others. If the music doesn't touch you, it doesn't touch others. Length speaks about relationship. If your song, music praise and worship lack length, it lacks reach. If your song doesn't have relationship and fellowship, it won't have an outreach. Depth speaks about the Word. If your song or music lacks the Word, it lacks eternity. If it doesn't have the Word, it won't have eternity in its heart.

Fourthly, if your song doesn't have heaven, it won't have God's presence. Because God dwells in heaven and when God wants to bring His presence here you need to create the same melodies and presence. This is why the psalmist says God dwells in the praises of His people. If you want God's presence, you must produce the same heavenly atmosphere first for God to dwell in. If your song doesn't have height, it doesn't have heaven. And if your song doesn't have heaven, it doesn't have God's presence. There is no touch of heaven. You can compose out of your own human ability but if you don't have heaven, you won't have God's presence.

Sometimes some tunes have a tremendous heavenly quality. Look at Ps. 54 onwards and you also find some different experiences that David had. Ps. 51 is also one of David's experiences after he had sinned with Bathsheba; he found a song that harmonized him. If you want to be more scientific about it just remember this. Every sin is a discord. When you have a wrong habit in your life it is because of a discord on your inside. Do you know sometimes you got a

wrong desire for certain things? These wrong habits and desires are discords in your soul. If somehow you can put music back into those discords, your habits disappear. I challenge you to do it. Your weaknesses will disappear and you can become more like Christ because your spirit man inside becomes more harmonized. God never made you for sin. God never made you for evil. Evil and sin are discord you got so used to. But when they become tuned to the music of God, those things disappear out of your life.

In Ps. 54, look at the introduction to the Psalm. *"To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. A Contemplation of David when the Ziphites went and said to Saul. Is David not hiding with us?"* He sang a song. No wonder he is a man after God's heart. Nothing can stop a song coming out of him.

Look at Ps. 56 look at the introduction. *"To the Chief Musician, Set to The Silent Dove in Distant Lands. A Michtam of David when the Philistines captured him in Gath."* Again, it came from his experience. When they captured him, he got a new song. But notice that new song had an old tune. It was set to another tune and the tune was called *"The Silent Dove In Distant Land."* But that tune can be everlasting. Sometimes everlasting tunes do reach our heart.

Sometimes it's the words of the song that reach you and they are the third dimension of depth. Sometimes it's the tune that reaches you and that is the fourth dimension of height. Our worship must have four dimensions. Sometimes it's the song that touches you. The melody doesn't sound too good, the words doesn't sound too good but something touches you and it is the first dimension of experience. And sometimes it's the second dimension of length. The quality in the song that links and touches you and makes you synchronize with the person who is singing. It is important to have four dimensions in our praise and worship, in our song composition, in our music.

In Ps. 57 look at the introduction. *To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy."* A Michtam of David when he fled from Saul into the cave. Again, it was composed out of his experience. But look, he has a certain tune and we don't

know what the tune is but it says the tune is "Do not destroy".

Look at Ps. 58 look at the introduction. *To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do not Destroy." A Michtam of David.* Don't you think that is quite a favorite tune? Look at Ps. 59 he changed the wordings and he kept the same tune. You see there are some tunes that are heavenly. So, they could be melodies that lifts us up all the time.

Ps. 59 the introduction. *To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy" A Michtam of David when Saul sent men, and they watched the house in order to kill him.* That must be a powerful tune. Some tunes are so powerful and so heavenly that they lift you up all the time. You just put new wordings inside. So you know that sometimes when we worship in the Spirit there is a powerful tune that comes out and you sing different verses for the same old tune. And you can keep adding and they lift you higher and higher because you have caught on the heavenly waves. The tune of "Do Not Destroy" must be a tune that lifted David up during his hard times. And every time he had a hard time, the tune comes but he sang a different word.

Look at Ps. 60 *To the Chief Musician. Set to "Lily of the Testimony" A Michtam of David. For teaching, when he fought against Mesopotamia and Syria of Zobah, and Joab returned and killed twelve thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.* There must be something about that tune and David sang that song when he fought against Mesopotamia and Syria of Zobah and Joab returned and killed twelve thousand Edomites in the valley of Salt. He came back victorious and picked up his harp and said, "Lets sing a new song."

Look at the crossover to Ps. 73. When you come to Ps. 73, you cross into different section called, "Book Three." As you enter Book Three, it was probably a different time, in a different decade. But suddenly you see in Ps. 75 look at the introduction. *To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy." A Psalms of Asaph. A song.* That must be a favorite tune. It must be something so heavenly that they just can't forget the tune. The tune is so catchy that it lifts up to heaven all the

time and possibly many years later after many things had happened and this time the composer was not David but it was Asaph. Now that tune possibly came from David. After many years later, the song must be old and the wordings are quite old but the tune was as fresh as manna from heaven. They took an old tune "Do Not Destroy" and put new words into it and it was still as fresh as manna from heaven. It smells like fresh bread out of the oven. That is what heaven is like. If your song has heaven, it has the heavenly presence. It is fresh from above.

So there are four dimensions of worship that we speak about. They are width, which speaks about experience. And if your song doesn't touch you, it won't touch others. Second is length; it speaks about relationship and fellowship and if your song lack fellowship, it lacks out-reach. Its very short it cannot reach far. If you want to reach far, you will need fellowship and relationship. Thirdly, the depth speaks of the Word of God in your song. If your song, music, praise and worship lack the Word, it lacks eternity. Fourthly, height speaks about heaven; if your song doesn't have height and if your song lacks heaven, it lacks the freshness of God's presence. We need all four dimensions to enter into God's presence.