

The Worship Book of Why



Winter Bible Study Series
January 31, 2016

Why Do We Invite Response in Worship?

This final section of TWBW examines three elements of worship that involve, at least in part, our personal responses to God's presence in worship. Each of these elements merit their own "sessions," and certainly further study. I've put them under the same umbrella due to the general nature of our study. In addition to the thematic compression of these topics, due to last week's cancellation, we are combining sessions 3 and 4 today. Hang on . . .

Why do we pray in worship?

The New Testament demonstrates several instances where the church is found praying together publically. For example:

Acts 1:12-14; 2:42; 4:23-31; 12:12

Scripture also instructs us to pray together. For example:

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 4:2; 1 Timothy 2:1

Think about the ways we include corporate prayer in our times of worship . . .

Invocation (pastoral/opening prayer) w/The Lord's Prayer

Offertory blessing/commitment

Closing prayer or benediction

Why do we give?

A few important preliminaries . . .

- Our message at FBC is not *"We want 'your money!'"*
- We want you to be totally surrendered to the Lordship of Christ in every area of your life.
- We want you to experience the financial freedom that comes with honest biblical stewardship.
- Part of the responsibility of church membership involves your participation in supporting the ministries of the church to which you belong.

After all, FBC "pays for stuff" through the faithful stewardship of God's people.

But, why do we give in worship?

Let's rework our prepositions – think of giving *as* worship.

If: Worship = offering, does not offering = worship?

So, what we're really asking is, *"Why do we give worshippers an opportunity to worship through giving each week?"*

Giving as worship:

1. helps us prepare for the worship moment;
(2 Cor. 9:7)
2. reminds us that the way we handle money is a spiritual matter;
(2 Cor. 9:7)
3. keeps our focus on God as our source for all of life;
(2 Cor. 8-11)
4. offers us a consistent time of accountability.
(1 Cor. 16:1-2)

Why do we appeal for life change?

In short, **we do so because worship, by its very nature, calls forth something from the worshipper**. Individuals may fail to respond (not hearing, or simple disobedience), but the call to response is there. Remember the **Isaiah 6** passage with which we started this study? What were the changes in his life that Isaiah experienced?

You may notice that each time we gather for worship there is a consistent and constant appeal (invitation) woven throughout the service. Of course, we conclude with a “Hymn of Response,” but that final song is not the only appeal given during our worship time.



What ways do we invite worshippers to respond in some way . . . ?

Each worshipper may need to respond differently to the very same appeal. Some may need to “stop something” while others need to “start something.” Some response decisions may be minor in their public application, others may need to take more visible responses, such as steps toward church membership or baptism (a very public and worshipful response to Christ’s call on a person’s life).

No matter how long we’ve been on our spiritual journey, each time we encounter God in worship, we should leave that moment changed. All of us. Each time.