

Worship Matters Video Intensive with Bob Kauflin
Session 2: The Important Things: Skill and Life
(From Chapters 4-5 of *Worship Matters*)¹
Outline & Discussion Questions

I. The Missing Ingredient: Skill

II. Things to Remember About Skill

- A. Skill is a gift from God for his glory.

“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” - 1 Corinthians 4:7²

“All gifts from God are intended to direct our attention to God and create fresh affection for God.” - C.J. Mahaney³

The best we can be as leaders is pointers and signposts.

- B. Skill doesn't make us or our worship more acceptable to God.

“[We] offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”
- 1 Peter 2:5

- C. Skill grows through investment.

Many of us want the fruit of practice without actually having to practice.

III. What Skill Helps Us Do

- A. Skill helps us focus on the most important things.
- B. Skill helps us serve people more effectively.
- C. Skill helps us serve people more broadly.

IV. Skills to Develop

- A. Leadership

A leader sees a situation as it is, how it needs to change, and does something to bring it about.

“We speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.”
- 1 Thessalonians 2:4

- B. Musicianship

“[Excellence is] the process of becoming better than I once was. I am not to become better than someone else is or even like someone else. Excelling is simply--and radically--the process of improving over yesterday.” - Harold Best⁴

- C. Communication

Most of us can grow in our ability to express our thoughts more clearly, in a more compelling, and biblically faithful way.

For transitions think of a line from a song, a contrast, a Scripture, and an application.

D. Administration

- *Getting Things Done* by David Allen
- *What's Best Next* by Matt Perman
- *Biblical Productivity* by C.J. Mahaney

V. **The Skill of Living a Life of Worship**

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." - Romans 12:1–2

Jesus said the Father is seeking worshipers: not acts of worship, not feelings of worship, not moments of worship, but worshipers- something that encompasses all of life.

A. **The World** (the system of thought opposed to God that seeks to tempt us with its errors, vices, and pleasures)

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."
- 1 John 2:15–17

"For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" - 1 John 5:4-5

- B. **The Flesh** (that inner hatred toward God and the gospel that seeks to fight, deceive, and weaken us until we see Jesus)

Helpful books in the fight against sin:

- *Indwelling Sin, The Mortification of Sin, and Of Temptation* by John Owen (*Complete Works, Vol. 6*)
- *Overcoming Sin and Temptation*, published by Crossway
- *The Enemy Within* by Kris Lugaard

“Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.” - 1 Peter 2:11

“Be killing sin or it will be killing you.” - John Owen⁵

“The choicest believers, who are assuredly freed from the condemning power of sin, ought yet to make it their business all their days to mortify the indwelling power of sin.” - John Owen⁶

- C. **Satan** (our enemy who will do everything he can to make us miserable, unfruitful, and dangerous)

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” - 1 Peter 5:8

Session 2 Discussion Questions

1. Bob asks, "Is the worship of Chris Tomlin more acceptable to God than the worship of your local church?" What makes worship acceptable to God? What good things do not make worship "more acceptable" to God?
2. Discuss the role that skill should and should not play in the worship of God. What advantages spiritually does skill give us?
3. Out of the skills Bob lists to develop (leadership, musicianship, communication, administration), which area do you think you need to grow in the most? What are some practical ways you can do that? (Invite the perspective of trusted friends and leaders to help you answer this question.)
4. Bob says "worship is war." What competes for your worship when you're on stage? What competes for your worship off stage?
5. How is God by His Spirit helping you to combat the world, the flesh and the devil? Where have you seen growth in your life? Where have you seen growth in the other group members? Take some time to encourage each other by identifying evidences of God's grace working in one another.

¹ *Worship Matters* by Bob Kauflin, © 2008 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, IL 60187, www.crossway.org.

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³ From a message called "More Desirable Than Spiritual Gifts," given by C.J. Mahaney at the Sovereign Grace Small Group Leaders Conference, 1998.

⁴ Taken from *Music through the Eyes of Faith* by Harold Best, © 1993, p. 108. Used by permission of HarperSanFrancisco, a division of HarperCollins Publishers, New York, NY. All rights reserved.

⁵ Taken from *The Works of John Owen, Volume VI* by John Owen, edited by William H. Goold © 1967, p. 9. Reprinted by Banner of Truth Trust.

⁶ Taken from *Temptation and Sin* by John Owen © 1966, p. 7. Published by Banner of Truth UK. Used by permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.