



# Worship Matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God

*Bob Kauflin*

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## **Worship Matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God** Bob Kauflin

Combining biblical foundations with real-world application, a pastor and professional songwriter guides worship leaders and pastors to root their corporate worship in unchanging scriptural principles rather than divisive trends.

Nothing is more essential than knowing how to worship the God who created us. This book focuses readers on the essentials of God-honoring worship, combining biblical foundations with practical application in a way that works in the real world. The author, a pastor and noted songwriter, skillfully instructs pastors, musicians, and church leaders so that they can root their congregational worship in unchanging scriptural principles, not divisive cultural trends. Bob Kauflin covers a variety of topics such as the devastating effects of worshipping the wrong things, how to base our worship on God's self-revelation rather than our assumptions, the fuel of worship, the community of worship, and the ways that eternity's worship should affect our earthly worship.

Appropriate for Christians from varied backgrounds and for various denominations, this book will bring a vital perspective to what readers think they understand about praising God.

BOB KAUFLIN traveled with the Christian group GLAD for eight years as a songwriter and arranger before becoming a pastor with Sovereign Grace Ministries in 1985. He is now the director of worship development for Sovereign Grace, overseeing its music projects and teaching on congregational worship. He and his wife, Julie, have six children and an ever-growing number of grandchildren.

## **Worship Matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God Details**

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## From Reader Review Worship Matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God for online ebook

### Brian says

I am not a worship leader. I'm a pastor. No, wait - that makes me a worship leader, just not in the realm of music. That's an important distinction to make, and one which Bob Kauflin makes in this valuable book: "Anyone who encourages others to praise God can be referred to as a 'worship leader.' Worship can involve music, but it can happen without it as well." Careful thinking like that make this book a treasure-trove of biblical wisdom and practical insight on worship.

Kauflin unpacks what a worship leader does, discusses healthy tensions in our theology and practice of worship, speaks specifically to the relational dynamics in which every worship leader is involved (with the church, the team, the pastor), and more.

The book is rooted in the Gospel, robust in theology, and well-written. I was encouraged and instructed. And I'm committed to making sure every present and future member of our church's worship team gets a copy. This is a great book for pastors, worship leaders, and worship teams. In fact, it's a great book for any one who wants to worship God in spirit and truth. It is practical enough to be of real use to musicians and leaders, but it is general enough to encourage and help any believer.

Spread the word. This is a great book on worship! Thanks Bob Kauflin for serving the church with this book.

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### Susan says

Worship Matters is much more than a handbook for worship leaders or a musical position statement. Kauflin delves into the theology of worship and explores the ways in which that theology should drive decisions made in both a corporate and personal worship context.

This book challenged me to think about the why's behind the worship activities we partake in every week, and far from being a defense of a particular application of music in worship, Kauflin instead encourages all worshipers to draw their patterns and positions from Scripture.

This book is well worth the read, even if you don't agree with every single conclusion Kauflin makes about application.

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### Matt Tyler says

This is an excellent book for anyone who desires to think more about corporate worship. While more needs to be said on this subject, this is a wonderful place to start. We need more guys like Kauflin, guys who are gifted musically and have a passion for deep theology. One of the great things about this book is that it can be used by various groups of people who are similar in theology, but whose congregational services may look different. In this sense then this book provides a great foundation. That foundation will need to be built on though by other books as well as the pastors and leaders in each particular church.

## Graham Heslop says

Some reviews of this book amount to little more than, 'It was too long.' And, I would agree with those, if this book wasn't so cleverly structured and set out, with easily navigated sections, chapter headings, and subheadings. Kauflin demonstrates an immense amount of practical experience, musical expertise, careful theological application, Spirit given wisdom, and an understanding of both team dynamics and leadership roles in the local church. This book would benefit anyone involved in worship, those who lead the church and anyone who is interested in gaining a fuller and biblically faithful view of music in the life of the Christian.

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## Josh Miller says

When I was first given this book just over a year ago by our song leader, I wasn't too enthused. It appeared to be a stuffy, boring treatise on using music in a church to worship God. I couldn't have been further from the truth!

This book is an excellent read and one that has greatly enriched me in several ways. As a Christian, it helped me to see that worship is not just during the music service. As a pastor, it has helped me see the different dynamics that go into planning and preparing a service which glorifies God in ALL aspects.

In the book, Kauflin describes how a few years before the book was written (2008), he set out to come up with the definition for a "worship leader." He wanted to clarify his understanding of what God was calling him to do in the church he was serving. Here is what he came up with:

A faithful worship leader  
magnifies the greatness of God in Jesus Christ  
through the power of the Holy Spirit  
by skilfully combining God's Word with music,  
thereby motivating the gathered church  
to proclaim the gospel,  
to cherish God's presence,  
and to live for God's glory.

For a good portion of the book, he takes each line of the above definition he came up with and writes a particular chapter. Again, each chapter was solid both biblically and practically.

The last two chapters were outstanding. One was written to song leaders or worship leaders in conjunction to their relationship with the pastor they are serving. Wow - Kauflin spares no words and gets below the surface when it comes to issues that often arise between music leaders and the pastor of a church.

The last chapter is written to pastors and encourages them that they are to be the (they actually are whether they realize it or not) the one who teaches, leads, shapes, and molds the people in their churches towards worship more than the music (worship, song, etc) leader will do.

This will be a book I will refer to in the years to come as we seek to worship God in a manner fitting the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

## **Suzy Sia says**

A privilege to somehow be mentored by Bob Kauflin about worship through his book. I find what he has written here to be relevant and applicable. His experiences in worship has been very helpful in identifying issues faced by worship leaders and members of the worship team. It all boils down to what is in the heart of a man. :)

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## **Bill says**

What a breakthrough book in this area. Bob Kauflin is equally solid as he discusses both the biblical basis for worship/music and the practical musical issues. As a long time worship leader, this is the book I enthusiastically recommend on the topic - get it and read it.

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## **Josue Manriquez says**

This is an excellent book whose primary focus is on worship in song, and the one leading it. I do not completely agree with a few of his conclusions, but for the most part I think every Christian--especially church leaders--should read this book.

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## **Philip says**

Most of the readers who will crack open this book will tell you that worship matters, but most of them will not be able to tell you why it matters so much. For this reason, Kauflin sets out to demonstrate the significance of worship and the biblical teaching regarding it. The book is far more than a theology of worship, but is an extremely practical guide to worship. Rather than focusing on the theoretical, Kauflin dwells on the practical and gives many personal illustrations of the challenges of crafting a worship service.

The work is divided into four parts. The first focuses on the person who leads the congregation in worship. From the very beginning, the writer points us past the show and glamour of the stage and the Sunday morning presentation to the important things. What really matters? Is it the performance, or is it something greater. The greatness of worship, Kauflin points out, should lead the worship leader to a depth of humility because all are inadequate for the task ahead of them. Following this, the writer demonstrates four areas in which all worship leaders struggle (viz., heart, mind, hands, and life). In each area, significant applications are made. The reader is challenged to a number of tests to reveal whether he has made an idol out of ministry or is desiring God first and foremost. The worship leader is also challenged to recognize the significance and importance of sound doctrine. Kauflin also offers here an excellent challenge on the importance of skill in worship. He presents as a careful balance between distracting from worship (failure to have skill) and self-exaltation (idolatry of skill). In regard to life, the reader is reminded that the worship leader must model a life worthy of the Lord. These applications are of great import and spill out in the broader discussion of the book.

Section two moves from examining the worship leader and moves to the discussion of the task of corporate worship. Kauflin defines the task of the worship leader as follows: "A faithful worship leader magnifies the

greatness of God in Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, by skillfully combining God's Word with music, thereby motivating the gathered church to proclaim the gospel, to cherish God's presence, and to live for God's glory" (55). The following eleven chapters expand on the particulars of this definition.

Part three is entitled "healthy tensions" and the writer walks the reader across the tightrope of a number of tensions such as transcendence and immanence, head and heart, internal and external, vertical and horizontal, planned and spontaneous, rooted and relevant, skilled and authentic, for the church and for unbelievers, and event and everyday. No worship leader has failed to see the significance of these tensions in the weekly routine of preparation for corporate worship and it is for this reason that the writer's discussion of these tensions is so powerful for those considering the topic.

The final section dwells on the relationship between the worship leader and the people, the church, the worship team, and the pastor. Kauflin pushes the worship leader to be an example in his public and private testimony. In order to do this, the worship leader is urged to be deeply involved with the people of the church. A number of very helpful suggestions are also given in regard to effectively leading a worship team. The practicality of this chapter is incredible. Lastly, the relationship between the worship leader and the pastor is, according to Kauflin, of great importance. In spite of the worship leader's skill and desires, he must be willing to submit to the leadership of his pastor.

This reviewer found the following points of great significance in the first section:

"Worship matters. It matters to God because he is the one ultimately worthy of all worship. It matters to us because worshipping God is the reason for which we were created." (19)

"...far too little has been said about the worship wars going on inside us. And they're much more significant." (21)

"...worship isn't primarily about music, techniques, liturgies, songs, or methodologies. It's about hearts. It's about what and who we love more than anything." (25)

What you love six days of the week will influence how you worship on the 7th. (26)

"...music expands the soul and opens us to new ways of experiencing God. But being moved emotionally is different from being changed spiritually." (30)

"When we're dodge about our theology, we're really saying we want our own Jesus." (31)

"If our doctrine is accurate but our hearts are cold toward God himself, our corporate worship will be true but lifeless. Or if we express fervent love for God but present vague, inaccurate, or incomplete ideas of him to those we're leading, our worship will be emotional but misleading--and possibly idolatrous. Neither option brings God glory." (32)

Overall there is no point in which this reviewer can find fault with the theology, instruction, or approach of the work. The book is unparalleled in its depth and breadth on the topic. In a similar vein, this reviewer would recommend that the reader also read Bryan Chapell's *Christ-Centered Worship* for a number of practical methods for achieving the challenges set forth in this work.

Extremely well-written in a most enjoyable and readable style, Kauflin has presented the church with powerful direction for a new generation of worship leaders. This generation of worship leaders will take their responsibility with pious reverence in light of the significance of the task ahead, because... worship matters.

### **Buddy Draper says**

This is an excellent book that every worship leader/pastor should read.

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### **Joshua Sparkman says**

Excellent book on what it means to be a worship leader in the church. I appreciate Kauflin's emphasis on worship as a way of life and thus the need for personal holiness in a worship leader. Throughout the book, he balances theological/philosophical comments with practical tips. The chapters about "healthy tensions" were very helpful.

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### **Nathan Good says**

This is an excellent book that focuses around leading the singing portion of a church service. The first two sections of the book (The Leader and The Task) are excellent but somewhat slow going at times due to the extremely theoretical nature to them (although Bob mixes many personal stories and experiences into these sections). The next two sections (Healthy Tensions and Right Relationships) are much more applicational. I would recommend this book to anyone who takes part in leading singing or is interested in learning more about worship, but for those who are short on time I would HIGHLY recommend simply reading Section 3 - Healthy Tensions.

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### **K.A. Thederahn says**

This is the second of Bob's books that I've read. His thirty plus years of full time experience as a worship leader definitely comes through here, and the book is littered with practical examples of how to improve our individual and collective worship as the Body of Christ. This goes far beyond singing, but includes every moment of our lives. For my friends who are worship leaders or musicians such as I, this book is worth the time

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### **Ana Ávila says**

Lectura obligada para todo pastor y para los miembros del ministerio de adoración corporativa.

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Must read for every pastor and for every member of a corporate worship team.

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### **Jeremy Pynch says**

I wish I would have read this book a few years ago. When I took the role of "Worship Director" at my

church, I admit that I had little idea of what I was stepping into. This book has impacted how I view worship as a whole, how I view my job, how I view my pastor, and how I view my church. I am grateful for the wisdom and truth that Mr. Kauflin has poured into my life through this book.

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