

# WORSHIP TRAINING - WEEK 10

## THE CONSTANT EXPECTATION OF THE HEAVENLY

As we lead worship more and more we will no doubt experience the good, bad and the sleepy of worship meetings! There are times when everything flows well and we journey seamlessly into the courts of God. There are times when the going is a little tougher, but in the end we journey somewhere meaningful. And there are a few of those “ground swallow me up” meetings where nothing seems to go as planned.

And then there are those other occasions when something far deeper and brighter happens – a breaking through into something distinctly heavenly. Times when every person in the room is overwhelmed by God and overflowing in unstoppable adoration. Times when God’s presence moves among us in such a powerful way that every heart is bowed and every tongue stilled. Moments of an intensely intimate reverence as undone hearts encounter the glory of God. And though these heightened times are only occasional, we need to lead worship with a constant expectation of the heavenly.

**Matt Redman**

## TALKING POINT

Some questions to get us thinking:

1. Have you ever been in a time of sung worship similar to what was described above? Why do you think that was different from say, a time that wasn’t so ‘heavenly’? (think personally and then corporately)
2. Do these times simply happen at God’s appointing or can we bring about these times (without manufacturing them falsely)?

## BE READY

Every time we lead congregational worship, we must do so with a longing for heavenly and holy moments and a knowledge that no amount of striving or experience could ever make these moments happen. They cannot be manufactured or formularised. They are grace, pure grace. The only thing we can do is prepare our hearts and create an environment of dependence.

Oswald Chambers said:

*Complete weakness and dependence will always be the occasion for the Spirit of God to manifest His power.*

Sometimes our sense of expectancy can be dampened by seasons of dryness. In these seasons it can be so easy to give up seeking God for breakthroughs. The temptation is to settle, especially if we’ve had years of much perseverance and little progress. We must not allow ourselves to become depressed or discouraged by these seasons. Instead we lean on the sovereign plans of God and learn to ride out, even embrace, these times, all the time crying out for sacred congregational moments in the Lord’s presence.

One of the most healthy things to instill in the hearts of a congregation is a sense of readiness. In all too many worship meetings we are simply not “ready”. We have not come prepared for an encounter. We are ready and expectant perhaps simply for the natural and social aspects of meeting with other people. But we have not come ready and expectant to meet with the Living God. The key to a constant expectation of the heavenly is to remember that worship is a spiritual thing. In the most powerful and profound worship meetings, “deep calls to deep”. It is a spiritual event – the deep places in us responding and resonating with the deep places of God.

### SUM IT ALL UP...

- We want to be worship leaders who see glimpses of heaven when we meet and do corporate worship.
- One key in seeing that is being expectant and prepared for this.
- Worship is a spiritual event.