

The Character Of A Worship Leader

By Kirk Henderson

I Sam. 16:18 – “I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him.”

As a worship leader, I am always amazed and humbled at the task before me. Helping hundreds of people each week to experience the power and presence of God is quite an awesome task and one which requires much prayer and preparation.

As I have traveled to other churches, I've met other worship leaders from many different backgrounds. The ones who are truly making an impact all have one thing in common: they are men and women of character.

You can be the most amazing pianist in the world or be the most anointed singer in your church, but if people don't trust your character, you're not going to lead with great success. You see, God uses our character to support the gifts, talents and abilities in which he uses us. Without character, the demands of ministry would soon cause us to buckle under its weight.

There are six areas of David's character which were evident to those who knew him. Let's look at them now.

A Skilled Musician

“I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the Harp.” David was a skilled instrumentalist and was known for his ability. There is something to be said for the musician or singer who invests in their craft; who take the time necessary to practice their skill.

It was part of David's character to exercise discipline in his gift. And because of it, it helped to make him reknown throughout the city.

A Man Of Authority

“He is a brave man....” I believe that David commanded authority. When he spoke, people listened; when he issued a command, people responded.

People simply want to follow someone who knows where they are going. If you are properly under the authority of your Pastor and you have been given a responsibility for your ministry, then you have the right and the mandate to walk in authority. Carry out your Pastor's vision with diligence and fortitude and watch people rally around you.

A Warrior

“...and a warrior.” We are all aware of David's warrior nature. He “cut his teeth” on lions and bears. These experiences of his youth would later qualify him to overtake the real enemies of God in real warfare.

Music ministry is not simply a fun way to sing songs together. The more unity, skill and purpose of a group, the greater the anointing and warfare it will experience. Any local church that is advancing the kingdom of God will experience warfare. And usually the praise and worship team will be at the forefront of it. Judah always goes before the people into battle.

Psalms 68:1 says, "May God arise, may His enemies be scattered; may His foes flee before Him." All we have to do to engage in warfare is to praise God and we immediately attract the attention of the forces of darkness. Effective praise and worship ministries will need strong leaders and intercessors who believe in the power of prayer. This team will not underestimate the power of the enemy. They will purposefully and boldly advance a spirit of praise and worship that will be a dynamic part of a local church.

Articulates The Vision

"He speaks well..." This person knows the core values of his ministry and can articulate them with precision. He represents his pastor and church in any situation.

A Man Of Excellence

"...and is a fine-looking man." The bible tells us David was a good-looking young man. I believe he had a spirit of excellence in the way he presented himself. As leaders in God's house, we must be mindful of our appearance. Not in a prideful sense but rather with an understanding that God wants our very best. We see the same principle in the sin-offerings of the Old Testament. We would not have brought an animal with a blemish to give to God, only the best of our flock.

Let's be excellent, not only in our appearance, but in the way we communicate and relate with our team and leaders.

Anointed For The Task

"And the Lord is with him." This is by far the most important part of our character. We need God's anointing and presence in our ministries. This was the one thing missing from King Saul's character; and probably the root reason he loathed David so much.

It takes much more than great skill and presence to lead a congregation in worship. Seek God's presence and favor in everything you do. His anointing will always bring us through.

We need great character to accomplish God's purpose! May we all have it in increased measure by the power of God working in us.

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