

## Praise Portions Sampler

### Useless Worship

#### Theme:

Worship that's not initiated and directed by God is worldly and powerless.

#### Scripture:

Have someone read Colossians 2:20-23.

#### Illustration:

You will need a puppet for this illustration. You can use a sock or even just your hand as a "make-believe" puppet if you don't have a real one.

Hold your puppet (or make-believe puppet) up. Be sure everyone can see your arm below the puppet. Say, "We've all seen puppet shows. Those little singing animals and rag dolls seem to come to life right before our eyes. Do you remember how disappointing it was when you saw the arms of the puppeteers or perhaps saw someone's head pop up accidentally? Kind of took the magic out of the moment, didn't it?"

When God lives his life through us, it's more than magical. The way he gives vitality to our lifeless souls is *supernatural*. But when we try to control ourselves, we become the puppeteers of our own lives, if you will. When that happens, the "magic" is gone. Our attempts at worship to God deteriorate into nothing more than a fake and disappointing human *show*.

#### Key verses and phrases to reiterate:

- "Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules?"
- "These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings."
- "Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship..."
- "...but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence."

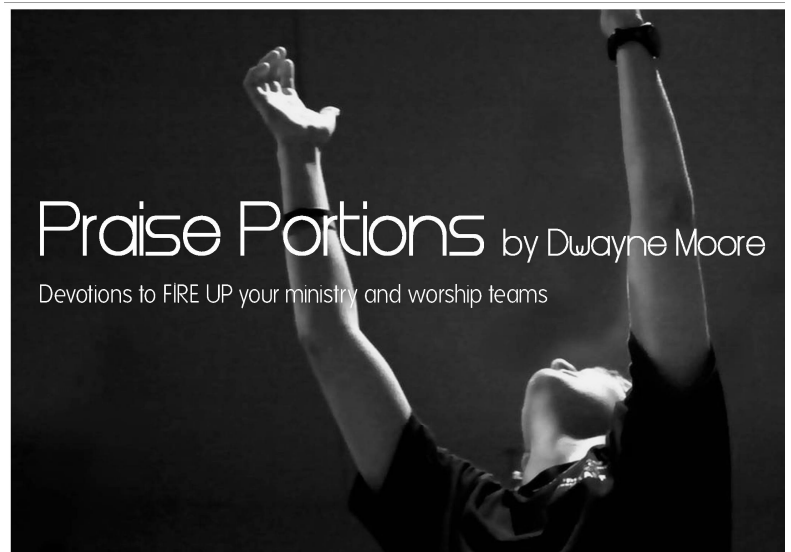
#### Teaching:

Far too many people—even many of God's own people—wallow in self-motivated, self-initiated, and self-imposed worship. They completely miss the point of worship. Worship is about God. It's not about who *you* are or about what you want. The focus of true, biblical worship is on God living *his* life through you—not the other way around.

God-honoring worship is not something you can initiate. You can't kill your own fleshly nature. You can't put yourself up on a cross. It would have no spiritual affect whatsoever on your sinful nature. No one can live a life of worship to the Lord through their own abilities and merit. You must realize—and live as though—you are dead in *Christ*. When you became a Christian, you literally died in *him*.

Who are you to know how the Lord should use you and get glory from you? A sacrifice doesn't look up from the altar at the priest and tell him what to do with its carcass, does it? No. In the same way, it's not reasonable or logical to think that Christians can know and dictate know what's best for us. Only Jesus, the great high priest, knows what you need and how you can best bring honor to him.

All you can do is lay yourself on God's altar in your heart and acknowledge you are dead to your own wants and abilities. Then trust your Savior and Priest to help you overcome your sinful habits and addictions. Allow the Holy Spirit to use you and live *through* you. That's the kind of worship



## Praise Portions Sampler

### Useless Worship (continued)

God seeks from his people—*whole-life* worship that's *initiated* by the Spirit and directed by Biblical truth.

You can be sure of this: Worship that *God* starts in you will be worship that flows through you and reaches his throne. It will be worship that he's *completely* pleased with.

#### *Reflection and Discussion:*

1. What do you think some people try to reach up to God and please him on their own, rather than dying to their own ideas and abilities?
2. Why are our attempts to worship God and honor him in vain unless he initiates and motivates the worship in us?
3. How do you believe God must feel when we only want to worship him on Sundays at church, rather than every day?

#### *Prayer Response:*

*Have everyone repeat this prayer after you:*

Holy Lord, what do you want me to do today? Where do you want me to go? How can I serve others and serve you? O Lord, you open my mouth, and my lips will praise You. You well up inside me, Holy Spirit, and pray and praise through me. You initiate and determine my worship.

I know that if you create my worship, then you will, in turn, be pleased with my worship. Thank you, Jesus, for such calm assurance and simple instructions! I want to love, adore, and praise you with all that is within me.

---

#### *About the Author:*

**Dwayne Moore** is a veteran author and teacher. He's lead and taught worship in over 1000 churches and conferences. His best-selling book, *Pure Praise: A Heart-focused Bible Study on Worship*, has helped worship teams and churches around the world experience true, lifestyle worship. He's the founder of Next Level Worship ([nextlevelworship.com](http://nextlevelworship.com)), a ministry which provides quality worship discipleship resources.



© 2011 by Dwayne Moore

Please do not copy or distribute this material in any form without the written permission of Next Level Worship, LLC.

To subscribe to *Praise Portions*, please email us at [office@nextlevelworship.com](mailto:office@nextlevelworship.com).