AN INTERVIEW WITH ANDY PARK

WORSHIP LEADING IS A PRIVILEGE

How do you, as a songwriter, turn an initial idea into a corporate worship song?

Turning an initial burst of inspiration into a song requires writing and rewriting, along with hard work, commitment, perseverance, and a willingness to make mistakes. It's not uncommon for me to have fifteen or twenty pages of scribbles and notes for one song. It can take weeks or even months to get it right. Even now, I'm working on a song that is probably ninety-five percent done, but it's still tedious because I'm sweating it out. Wimber told me it would be like that: "Songwriting is ten-percent inspiration and ninety-percent perspiration." He was right.

A great songwriter is willing to learn through trial and error. For example, I did the song *We Exalt Your Name* once or twice in church but I didn't really like the chorus. So I put the song down for a whole year until I wrote a new chorus. Only then was the song finally done.



As a seasoned worship leader, do you have any words of wisdom for an emerging worship leader? Anything they should bear in mind as they take a greater role in their church or small group?

Worship leading is a privilege, and that's something I am constantly reminding myself of. During my last recording project, I kept thinking to myself: "Why do I get to do this? It's amazing."

We should always be thankful for the opportunity, whether it's eight people gathering for an 8 a.m. prayer meeting, or eight hundred people at a conference. We are never entitled to anything – the platform is not our "turf." It's something that belongs to God, and we should always look for ways to share it.

Being teachable is another important asset. Grow where you're planted; serve in the church. Emotional passion comes and goes, so long-term commitment is vital. Don't let the ministry become more important than God. If you're anything like me, you can find yourself working really, really hard to be successful. All of a sudden, I realize that I'm a little out of whack—I'm putting way too much energy into turning out a product. I just need to be a friend of God, loving my wife and loving my kids.

