THE CALL TO SEE: A WORSHIP LEADER'S REFLECTION

KRIS MACQUEEN

Worship is always a response to God. This is a foundational understanding for us as worship leaders, and as worshipers. We do not, will not, and never have initiated anything with God. Worship always begins with Him, and ends with Him. He calls to us, and we respond. He acts in our lives, and we respond. He allows us a glimpse of Him, and we respond. The human soul is forever called to respond to God. Our natural response to any revelation of God is worship. When we respond to God in worship, He always responds back to us with a glimpse of something more.

THE GOD BEYOND US

We would all agree that God never changes, and He is in no way inconsistent from one moment to the next. Yet our understanding of who God *is* constantly is being modified, altered and sometimes even radically changed. It's important to know that it's *we* who are shifting in our view – not God.

How does this work? When we think of God, we inevitably think in ways that are small. We approach God within the framework of our understanding, which is problematic as there is simply too much of God for us to contain in either our heads or our hearts (a mystery in itself, as He does indwell us with His Spirit). It may be the case that what we know of God is more or less true, but it is never *complete* in the truest sense of the word.

A CHILD IN THE DARK: A STORY ON SEEING

Imagine a child who has been locked in a pitch-black cave for so long that she has no memory of the sun, nor of any light at all. Suddenly, there is a loud crack, and a tiny opening has emerged. A smidgen of sunlight trickles into the cavern. From this tiny ray of light, the child will be able to glean something of the nature of the sun, and this would evoke a response of wonderment as the ability to see is experienced for the first time.

We would imagine that all kinds of ideas pop into her mind about the light. She studies the newly illumined portion of stone floor and is filled with awe. But she is curious, as most children are, and she is cold and tired of the dark. So, she decides to go on an adventure to discover the source of this new wonder. Guaranteed, there is nothing that could prepare this poor, deprived child for the fullness of light and warmth she is just beginning to encounter. The sun has not been revealed in its fullness, and thankfully so. If a full exposure to sunlight were to suddenly be experienced, the child would go blind.

A CHILD IN THE LIGHT

She climbs up out of the cave, slowly as her eyes adjust. Sometimes the light even hurts as it grows in strength, and she eventually is able to stare up at the deep blue sky. It is alive with millions of tiny specks of light, and directly above is giant glowing orb, casting it's light. Who knew such a thing could exist! She has found the true source of her light, she thinks to herself. There is more joy, more awe, more wonderment. "Rejoice in the Great Light!" she shouts in her heart.



No. We have not seen it all. There is more to discover. I would rather stare at the sun than the moon. I would rather stare at the galaxy than the sun. I would rather stare at the universe than the galaxy. I would rather stare at God than the universe He has made.

Worship begins and ends with God, who is forever knowable – yet never completely known.



Kris MacQueen is a worship leader and artist with the Winnipeg Centre Vineyard community in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He and his wife Liv serve within their city, learning both to see, and to help others to see, along a shared journey of faith.

A few more hours pass, and she is continually in awe of this newly found, moonlit landscape – clouds, trees and creation she has never known existed appear before her. She is thankful for the light, and could have no greater joy, she thinks, than what she has now discovered. Dawn slowly approaches, and the great sun rises from the eastern horizon. The moon she has been reveling in is now so completely outshone by the sun that it becomes a mere watermark against the bright blue of the day sky. Now, there is a whole new revelation of light!

She thought she had found the true source of light in the moon. Now, she beholds the sun! Has her journey of discovery and awe reached its conclusion? What could possibly be left in her revelation of light that is more amazing than the sun? There are shooting stars, lunar eclipses, solar eclipses, and northern lights yet to come to her awareness. One day, she discovers that the sun is just one of billions of suns, contained in just one of a billion galaxies containing billions of stars.

OPENING OUR EYES

What is the point to this story for us? We are called to continually *see* in this life, but never to fully comprehend. There is always more to be seen, and to be understood. Is our greatest revelation of God really just a reflection of but one great facet of God; a facet we see as the moon merely reflects the light of the sun – just one sun of billions?

We are called to open our eyes, and to see God. We are on an adventure as we glimpse more and more of God. As worshiping artists, there is a particular call to see, and to keep on seeing. We stagnate in our art (or worse) when we think that we have "seen it all," or have even seen *most* of it all.





