Songwriting And The Pursuit Of God

Randy McCoy

Serious songwriting is much like our Christian walk. God works in us and makes us into people more like Him. It's a process that happens over time. Songwriting parallels this as it takes time and commitment to hone our skills and mature as songwriters.

There is still a further connection between our Christian walk and songwriting. As God matures us our focus of him becomes clearer. As we continue to improve as songwriters the focus or the theme of our songs becomes more clear. This truth is more than technical parallel. When we are having trouble-seeing Jesus in our life, people will have trouble-seeing Jesus in our songs.

The closer you draw to God the more Christ-centered your lyrics will become. This is important for us as worship songwriters because our goal should be to write songs to lead people into the Throne room of God. To do this our songs need to be well crafted, congregational in nature and theologically correct. We accomplish this by committing to grow in God and pursuing the craft of songwriting. As Jesus becomes the central person in our lives, He will then become the central focus of our songs.

Let me again emphasize that this is a process. I've been writing songs for almost 25 years and I'm still growing as a songwriter. It's a never-ending process. Becoming a disciple of Jesus is also a never-ending process. I've been walking with the Lord for 19 years and I've yet to arrive. Clearly, the connection between pursuing God and the Christ Centeredness of my songs is undeniable. I can not fathom being able to accomplish what God has called me to be, as songwriter and as a worship leader, if I were not pursuing excellence in my Christian walk and in the craft of writing songs.

Author and worship leader Ron Owens once wrote: "Our knowledge and understanding of God will greatly affect our ability to worship Him effectively." Do you want to become a great writer of worship songs? Pursue excellence, excellence in knowing God and excellence in the technical craft of writing. These two are interconnected.

Randy McCoy Bio:

Randy has been the worship pastor of the Vineyard in Kansas City North for many years. He has written Vineyard Music songs such as "Creation" and "My One Desire" ; both featured on the 2002 Vineyard Music USA release IF YOU SAY GO. Randy and his wife Jana live in Kansas City with their 4 children but soon to relocate to Houston as he has accepted the position of Events and Conference Director for Vineyard Music USA.