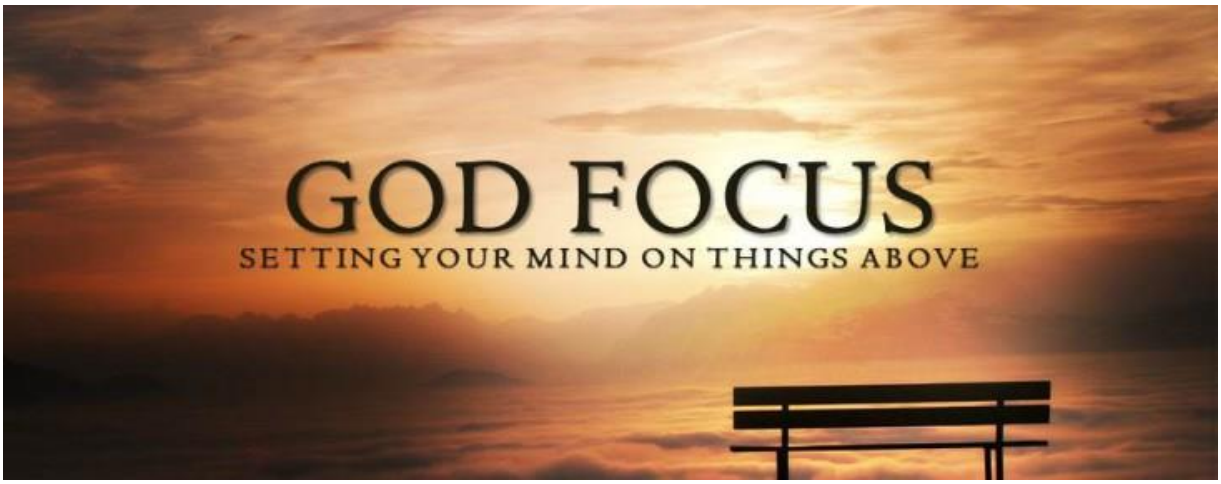
Where Is Your Brain On Sunday Mornings?

by Mark Cole

Leading public worship at a good level is challenging. There is leading the band and singers and getting the best out of a group of volunteers of various abilities. There is picking the right songs for your congregation. There is working on good arrangements of the songs. There is running good rehearsals. Then there are all the technical aspects: lyrics, media, sound, equipment, staging, lighting and tuning. There are lots of details.

Sometimes in the busyness of all those details we forget where our main focus is supposed to be. Sometimes on Sunday mornings we are so focused on remembering the lyrics and chord progressions and working with the team that we are distracted from the main thing.



A while back, I helped out at a small church that didn't have a band. So I thought I would try something that I had never done before. I bought some worship tracks from MultiTracks.com and lead worship by myself with tracks. Suddenly most of the distractions were gone. I didn't need to worry about everyone else. It was quite freeing. I memorized the music and just worshipped God as I lead.

I didn't have to worry about the band being in tune or playing at a good level. I didn't have to worry about running a good rehearsal. I didn't have to wonder if the band was going to play the right notes and do the arrangement correctly. It was just me, the tracks, my instrument and God. Sure, I was still leading a small congregation, but somehow that stripped down set-up helped me focus more on the main thing…. God!

One of my favorite worship leaders is Darlene Zschech. It has been my observation that she has the ability to stay focused on God during all the demands of live worship. What a gift. It seems so simple: Put God first, stay focused on the Creator!

So the challenge, for me, is to know the music so well that I don't have to think about it. The challenge is to get past all the details and focus on the main thing. And the main thing is worshipping and loving God and leading our congregations to do the same.

So where is your focus? Have you and your worship band paid the price in your rehearsals so you can focus on the main thing? I don't want to be satisfied with just doing good music. I want to encounter the living God in my worship time. I want my congregation to sense the Presence of the living Savior as we honor Him together. I want to worship and love the Lord with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. Frankly, I don't want to be satisfied with anything less!

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The article above and many additional insights may be found on Mark's blog at http://markcole.ca/

Check out Mark's new book - "Leading Worship ~ Notes from a Grand Adventure" available in Kindle or Soft Cover Editions. This is a great gift for the musician or worshipper in your life.