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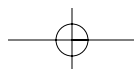
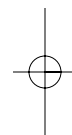
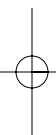
## Let's Get Vertical!

**T**he essence of worship is an unrestrained giving of yourself to your heart's greatest treasure. One thing, above all others, will lay hold of your deepest affection and truest allegiance. As a Christ-follower, your passion for him will find genuine pleasure in giving—giving adoration, giving thanks, giving time and service, and giving attention throughout each day of your life. This is the beginning of worship.

Because worship connects you to the object of your highest devotion, it establishes a vital relationship, the most vital of all, in fact. It is a relationship destined for intimacy, as fantastic as that may sound. The greater the giving of yourself—the more freely your heart pours out delight—the deeper the intimacy between you and God. This is real kingdom living. This is what you are made for.



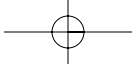
# worship











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## the worship tools

### Read it . . .

*A Lifestyle of Worship*  
David Morris  
Living it out every day.

*The Unquenchable Worshipper*  
Matt Redman  
A passionate call to a first-love worship.

*Exploring Worship*  
Bob Sorge  
The modern classic on the theology and practice of worship.

*Worship Evangelism*  
Sally Morgenthaler  
Drawing people to God through non-religious worship.

*For the Audience of One*  
Mike Pilavachi  
A Godward view of 24/7 worship.

*The Air I Breathe*  
Louie Giglio  
Worship as life.

*The New Worship*  
Barry Liesch  
Fresh perspectives on worship planning and practice, history, theology, and spiritual formation.

*Blended Worship*  
Robert Webber  
Strategies for combining traditional and contemporary forms.

### Surf it . . .

[www.worshiptogether.com](http://www.worshiptogether.com)  
An online worship community.

[www.sloppynoodle.com](http://www.sloppynoodle.com)  
Hip teen community with devotions, music, prayer, and so forth.

[www.passionnow.org](http://www.passionnow.org)  
Events and resources to light a fire in university students.

[www.integritymusic.com](http://www.integritymusic.com)  
Music, forums, events, and resources.

### Hear it . . .

- World Service*, Delirious
- Illuminate*, David Crowder Band
- Arriving*, Chris Tomlin
- Facedown*, Matt Redman
- More Than Life*, Hillsong United
- Satisfy*, Kathryn Scott
- Conversations*, Sara Groves

### Do it . . .

- International House of Prayer*  
[www.ihop.org](http://www.ihop.org)  
24/7 worship and prayer in Kansas City.
- World Prayer Center*  
[www.theworldprayercenter.org](http://www.theworldprayercenter.org)  
24/7 worship and prayer in Colorado Springs.

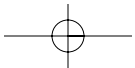
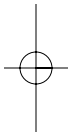
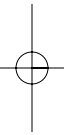
## TOP TEN

### The Top Ten Ways to Rebel Against Idols

- 10** Give the best part of your day, not your leftovers, to being with God.
- 9** Volunteer one Saturday morning at your local homeless shelter this month.
- 8** Pass up the \$100 tennis shoes for something comfortable and affordable.
- 7** Pray specifically for the people in your sphere of influence.
- 6** Feed your soul with kingdom-affirming images from television, music, and movies.
- 5** Take a foreign missions trip this year.
- 4** Enjoy sports but don't overdose.
- 3** Build a healthy body instead of a glamorous image.
- 2** Develop your spiritual gifts as intentionally as your career.
- 1** Make it your lifelong quest to know yourself and to know God!

No other gods, only me.... Don't bow down to them and don't serve them because I am God, your God, and I'm a most jealous God.

**Exodus 20:3,4 ASV**



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## A Wildfire of Truth and Passion

### CHARLES WESLEY

1707–1788



**Love** divine,  
all loves excelling  
Joy of heaven,  
to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling  
All thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus thou art all compassion  
Pure, unbounded  
love thou art  
Visit us with thy salvation  
Enter every trembling heart.

Charles Wesley, 1747

**C**harles, along with his better-known brother, John, broke upon the scene in eighteenth-century England with a position of sheer rebellion. In the midst of a pervasive religious view that emphasized the complete wickedness of men and women and a limited salvation that extended only to the “elect,” these passionate brothers led a revolt of grace.

Though both were ordained Anglican priests, John was the preacher and the more public figure while Charles unleashed a tidal wave of worship through hymns and poetry—literally hundreds of hymns and thousands of poems. He was one of the most prolific English poets of all time.

But the radical soul of Charles was birthed out of great personal struggle and self-doubt. After a missionary stint in Georgia, the spiritual insights

of Kezie, his younger sister, greatly impacted him, and he wrote in his journal: “By degrees the Spirit of God chased away the darkness of my unbelief. I found myself convinced. . . . I saw that by faith I stood.”

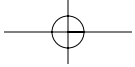
And stand he did. Together with his brother, John, and the preacher George Whitefield, Charles sparked a revelation of God’s free grace that was seeded into the human heart and available to all. Even while church officials barred them from English pulpits, crowds of up to 25,000 would gather outdoors to be influenced by the radical nature of this young and zealous worshiper. A movement had begun. And it would help instigate the revival known as the First Great Awakening across the ocean in America.

And even though this movement became known as Methodism, later Methodists often found themselves unwilling to sing many of Charles’ hymns. Why? Because the depth of passion contained in his lyrics felt too profound, too intimate, and too radical for some with lesser fire in their souls. This was a man who burned. As his brother John put it, “Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come for miles to watch you burn!”

The fiery heart of Charles Wesley changed his world . . . and yours.



wisdom from the past



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## The Question

**What occupies  
the greatest  
amount of time,  
thinking, and  
emotional energy  
in your life?**



**T**he tough reality is that people usually judge others by their actions, yet they judge themselves by their intentions. The result is a distance—sometimes larger, sometimes smaller—between the person you think you are and the person you actually are.

Christ-followers want Jesus himself to be the center of their universe: the sun around which their lives orbit. But that central place is challenged by many imposters, many false gods that draw attention and affection after their own empty promises. What is at stake is nothing less than your worship!

You need to be brutally honest with yourself and consider where your mind settles when nothing else is occupying its attention. Is there something that sucks up all your free time

and energy? Then, the all-important query: Is whatever dominates your mind born of God's kingdom? Or is it really characterized by the empty and temporary shell of this world's system?

It's not that you shouldn't enjoy simple pleasures—good music, a fun movie, eating with friends, or a favorite hobby. But if your life is defined by those things, then you will be impotent as a world-changer. The New Rebellion worshipers keep first things first—they give the first and best of themselves to God and his interests, and, as a result, they live in such a way as to make kingdom impact upon the world.

**O**nly God is worth your greatest loyalty. Only God deserves the praise of your life.

Only God is worth your greatest loyalty. Only God deserves the praise of your life. And it is your life that will show, more than your words, who or what is your greatest love. So go ahead, rebel against all those false gods and go for the real adventure of worshiping God alone with all that you are and all that you do. You won't be disappointed.

**Love** the Lord  
your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and  
with all your mind and with all  
your strength.

Mark 12:30 NIV



## Pure Worship from an Authentic Voice

### REBECCA ST. JAMES

singer



**“To** experience all the freedom and joy God has in store for you, you can’t coast or stop. None of us can.

We must keep moving by allowing God to empower us, and he does that by changing us. Through discovering and pursuing our God-given purpose, we stay on track and away from distractions that take our focus off of Him and that rob us of the power He offers....”

from *SHE*, by Rebecca St. James

**R**ebecca, whose real name is Rebecca Jean Smallbone, was just a regular Aussie girl in 1991 when she relocated to the United States, but could she ever sing! As a young teenager, Rebecca decided to rebel. Fortunately, she rebelled against the right stuff, choosing to live a life of radical obedience to Christ.

Her driving hunger for God led her to weave her passion into lyrics, lyrics that took America by storm several years later when her second album—with the simple title *God*—took off. The heart cry of this New Rebellion worshiper lies thick in the gripping lines of her songs.

“Rebecca’s commitment to God and His Word have clearly been the central tenets of her music and ministry, and I think that’s the main reason for her success and her popularity,” said Mark Moring of *Campus Life* magazine.

“Sure, her music is hip and innovative, but it’s her underlying commitment to Christ and her unabashed proclamation of God’s love that primarily attract the listener.”

One of the ways in which Rebecca confronts this world’s system is by speaking out for sexual purity among young people. There are few things that fracture the souls of men and women more than sexual immorality. Scripture says that “all other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body” (1 Corinthians 6:18 NIV). This radical singer invites people everywhere to say no to the lies of this world and to be fully abandoned to God.

Of course, God redeems and heals every kind of sin to include sexual sin, but the New Rebellion generation are those who rise up to call young people to a new vision of personal purity so that they can impact this world as worshiping warriors for God.

### vital stats

- Born July 26, 1977
- Cut first album at age 14
- Favorite verse: Acts 20:20  
*However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me.*
- Impacted greatly by a missions trip to Romania
- For fun, she loves to swing dance, swim, and read Christian fiction



wisdom from the now