

# *Learning to Worship God* by Dwayne Moore

## SAMPLE

## CHAPTER 6

### THE FIRE SPREADS

#### Worship as a Catalyst for Multiplication

*“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”  
— Psalm 103:2*

*Formation Habit: Return and Remember*

*Formation Result: Lasting Worship*

**Practice companion:** For daily reflection and guided practice, complete Week 6 in *The NLW Pathway Guide*.

We have one final movement in this journey through *Learning to Worship God*. Before we move forward, it is helpful to remember the path that has brought us this far.

We began by learning to acknowledge God first—to awaken to His presence, His nearness, and His worth. We then learned to commune with Him, not merely as observers of truth, but as sons and daughters invited near. From there, we considered how worship must aim at its true center, bringing our lives back to God as the rightful object of our love, attention, and obedience. We then saw how worship overflows, moving beyond private devotion into ordinary relationships and faithful witness. And in the last chapter, we considered how worship is lived in motion, as love takes shape in the sacred everyday.

As this journey comes to a close, the question is not only what God has shown us, but what we will remember and return to after these pages are finished. Lasting worship requires holy remembrance. We return to what God has revealed, remember what He has formed in us, and carry the fire forward into the lives of others.

This matters because our worship is never only about us. When we forget, others are affected. When we return, others are strengthened. Our loved ones, our teams, our

churches, and the people God entrusts to our influence are impacted by the condition of our hearts.

Now we come to a vital question: How does worship continue to live and spread? How does a heart that has been awakened remain warm? How does devotion move beyond a gathering, beyond a moment, beyond one person, and begin to kindle others?

This chapter is about holy fire.

Paul wrote to Timothy, “For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God” (2 Timothy 1:6). That phrase matters: *I remind you*. Timothy already had a gift from God, but it needed tending. It needed attention. It needed to be stirred back into flame. That is why remembering is so important. We do not return and remember because nothing has happened in us. We return and remember because something *has* happened in us, and we are called to steward it well.

The writer of Hebrews says, “For our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:29). On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God was manifested in “divided tongues as of fire” (Acts 2:3). Fire warms. Fire purifies. Fire spreads. And when God genuinely sets a heart aflame, that life cannot remain spiritually cold.

Yet not every fire is the same. Some flames are public and impressive, but shallow. Others are quieter, steadier, and truer. Some burn brightly on a platform and go dark in private. Others are tended in secret until they become a source of warmth for many. The question before us is not whether we can appear passionate. It is whether the fire of worship is real, whether it is fed by communion with God, and whether it continues to spread through the ordinary faithfulness of surrendered people.

That is the great aim of this chapter: to keep the fire alive—not for ourselves only, but for the people God has placed around us. Lasting worship remembers. Lasting worship returns. And lasting worship spreads.

### Always Keep a Hot Heart

When I was a teenager, I was invited to speak at a pastors conference. I was young and still learning what it meant to follow and serve the Lord. I loved God, and I wanted my life to count for Him.

After the conference, an elderly and well-respected pastor saw me outside and walked over to me. He placed his hand on my chest, looked at me with kindness and seriousness, and said something I have never forgotten:

“Son, always keep that hot heart.”

That was all he said. But those simple words stayed with me.

He wasn't talking about hype, personality, emotionalism, or youthful excitement. He meant spiritual fire. He was talking about a heart that stays tender toward God, responsive to His Spirit, alive to His Word, and willing to obey.

Over the years, I have returned to that phrase many times: *Keep a hot heart.*

*Not a hard heart.*

*Not a cold heart.*

*Not a distracted heart.*

*Not a performative heart.*

*A hot heart.*

A heart warmed by communion with God. A heart that still responds when He speaks. A heart that keeps returning when it drifts. A heart that remembers what God has done and refuses to let worship become stale, mechanical, or merely public.

That is one of the great burdens of this final chapter. As this journey comes to a close, the question is not simply, "What did I learn?" The question is, "How will I keep the fire alive?"

Because worship that lasts must be tended. It must be remembered. It must be returned to again and again. God is the One who lights the fire, but we are called to steward what He has kindled in us.

We must therefore ask ourselves soberly: What keeps the heart hot? It is not applause. It is not novelty. It is not outward momentum. It is not even ministry usefulness. Hearts stay warm by remaining near the fire of God Himself. "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" the disciples asked in Luke 24:32 (NKJV). Hearts burn when Christ draws near, when truth is opened, when pride is confessed, when the soul stops posturing and begins listening again.

This kind of heat cannot be borrowed for long. It cannot be sustained through public activity alone. It is cultivated in secret surrender, renewed repentance, reverent attention, and daily dependence. A person may have less outward strength than before and yet possess more spiritual fire than ever. That is the kind of life we should desire—not the appearance of vitality, but the reality of it.

### **Guarding the Secret Fire**

One of the gravest dangers in spiritual leadership is allowing public fire to exceed private fire. That imbalance may not be obvious at first. In fact, it can look fruitful for a season. A person may still speak effectively, still organize persuasively, still move others emotionally,

still be entrusted with duties others see. But if the public flame is being fed by reputation while the inner life is being starved, the person is in danger.

The better image is not the platform, but the well.

A platform is where others see us. A well is where we draw water. If we give more attention to the platform than to the well, eventually the visible work begins drawing from a depleted source. At first there may still be enough left to function. There may even be enough to impress. But over time the soul begins to crack. Ministry becomes mechanical. Prayer becomes thin. Scripture becomes material instead of bread. The heart learns how to perform nearness to God without actually living there.

This is why Proverbs 4:23 says, “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life” (ESV). Springs matter more than surfaces. Wells matter more than stages. The hidden life matters more than the visible moment because the visible moment can only transmit what the hidden life contains.

Jesus warned of this danger in solemn terms. He spoke of people who performed striking works in His name and yet did not truly know Him (Matthew 7:22–23). The issue was not activity, but intimacy. Not public usefulness, but private relationship. Not spiritual vocabulary, but spiritual reality.

Psalms 51 shows David at one of the lowest points of his life. He had sinned grievously. He had tried to cover it. But when God mercifully confronted him through Nathan, David returned. He prayed for a clean heart, a steadfast spirit, restored joy, and opened lips. He did not merely want relief from guilt. He wanted restored worship: “O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise” (Psalm 51:15).

David reminds us that lasting worship is not sustained by flawless performance. It is sustained by mercy, remembrance, and continual returning.

To guard the secret fire, we must learn to resist the temptation to live off borrowed flame. We cannot depend on yesterday’s anointing, last week’s tears, another person’s faith, or the emotional atmosphere of a gathering. We must come to God ourselves. We must let His Word search us. We must confess sin before it hardens. We must refuse the quiet vanity that prefers being seen as spiritual to actually being made holy. We also need to give someone permission to ask us the hard questions and hold us accountable.

This guarding is not grim; it is life-giving. The soul that tends the secret fire is not burdened by pretense. It is freed from it. There is great relief in no longer trying to appear full while secretly running on fumes. God does not ask us to manufacture fire. He calls us to remain near Him, where the true flame is given and sustained.

And when private fire is stronger than public fire, something beautiful happens: integrity returns. A person becomes the same before God and before others. Speech carries weight because it arises from reality. Service gains steadiness because it is not being propped up by image. Worship ceases to be an event we manage and becomes an offering we live.

## God Is the True Worship Leader

This truth brings needed relief: God is the true Worship Leader.

That sentence may require us to slow down and breathe for a moment. Many leaders carry pressures they were never meant to bear. They feel responsible for the atmosphere, the response, the momentum, the outcome, the emotional engagement of the room, even the sense of whether God “showed up.” Such burdens can make worshipers anxious, controlling, and exhausted. They can subtly train us to become producers of moments rather than humble servants who also participate in the presence of God.

But Scripture does not present us as the masters of worship. It presents God as the One who initiates, invites, reveals, and draws. Jesus said, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him” (John 6:44, NKJV). He also said, “The true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him” (John 4:23, NKJV). The Father is the Seeker. The Spirit is the Enabler. The Son is the Way. We do not create worship; we respond to God’s gracious summons.

What relief this brings to pastors, worship leaders, and all who serve the gathered church. We are not required to conjure awe. We are not called to manipulate tenderness. We are not assigned to produce transcendence. We are invited to take our place as servants in a holy meeting already being led by God Himself.

This changes the posture of leadership. Producers feel they must control everything. Servants who participate understand that they must offer themselves faithfully and then trust God to do what only He can do. Producers often panic when the visible moment feels unimpressive. Servants who participate remain steady because they know the Lord is able to work beneath what eyes can measure. Producers become preoccupied with effect. Servants who participate remain occupied with obedience.

Of course, this does not excuse carelessness. Scripture calls us to serve with diligence, order, reverence, and love. But diligence is different from drivenness. Preparation is different from self-importance. Responsibility is different from control. The leader who knows that God is the true Worship Leader can prepare well, pray deeply, speak truthfully, and then rest. That leader can decrease without fear because Christ does not need to be supplemented by our anxiety.

This truth also protects the congregation. When leaders act like producers, people are subtly disciplined to become consumers. But when leaders act as humble servants who also

participate under the leadership of God, the whole church is invited into shared reverence. The room is no longer orbiting gifted personalities. It is being turned toward the Lord.

And that is where worship becomes safe again—not easy, not shallow, but safe in the deepest sense, because it is no longer resting on human pressure. It is resting on God.

And even if you never stand on a platform, this truth still frees you. You are not responsible to manufacture spiritual outcomes in your family, group, class, workplace, or church. Your calling is to offer yourself faithfully and trust God to do what only He can do.

## The Aroma of Christ

If worship is real, it will not remain trapped inside a meeting. It will enter the atmosphere of ordinary life.

Paul wrote, “Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place” (2 Corinthians 2:14, NKJV). Notice the breadth of that phrase: *in every place*. Worship does not merely belong in sanctuaries, retreats, prayer rooms, or moments of obvious devotion. The knowledge of Christ is meant to spread like fragrance into boardrooms, homes, hospital corridors, classrooms, kitchens, counseling offices, sidewalks, and stressful meetings.

This is one of the surest tests of whether worship has gone deep: does it change the atmosphere around us when there is no music, no stage, no public recognition, and no obvious spiritual momentum?

The aroma of Christ is not theatrical. It is often quiet, but unmistakable. It is present when a follower of Jesus refuses corruption in a business setting. It is present when a husband or wife answers gently instead of defensively. It is present when a parent offers patient correction instead of irritated control. It is present when a church leader enters a tense meeting and brings humility rather than ego, prayerfulness rather than self-protection, truth rather than calculation. Worship has entered the room when Christ is being made known in the spirit we carry and the way we are present with others.

This is why Romans 12:1 remains so central: “present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship” (ESV). The body matters because worship must inhabit real places. Our mouths, our schedules, our reactions, our choices, our tone, our handling of inconvenience, our responses to being misunderstood—all of this becomes part of the offering.

We are often tempted to divide the sacred from the ordinary, as if worship reaches its peak in heightened moments and then recedes while “real life” resumes. But in Christ, the ordinary becomes the place where worship proves itself genuine. A person who can speak

passionately in a gathering but cannot carry the character of Christ into the pressures of daily life has not yet understood the full reach of worship.

The prayer, then, is not merely, “Lord, meet us in the service.” It is also, “Lord, make us fragrant when the pressure rises. Let the knowledge of Christ spread through us in every place.”

## Little Fires Everywhere

The kingdom of God often advances through what the world would call small lives.

Over the years, we’ve traveled to churches and nations teaching about whole-life worship, and we hear the same testimony again and again: “What we learned changed our lives.” Not because the framework itself is magical, but because when people begin to see worship as relationship, attentiveness, surrender, communion, and lifestyle, their spiritual lives start to come together. What once felt fragmented becomes coherent. And when a life becomes coherent in Christ, it begins to overflow.

That is what I think about when I remember Mom Lucy in Zambia. We met her in a very rural area, deep in the bush. As we taught about inward, upward, and outward worship, something in her came alive. She didn’t treat it like a private insight or a passing moment. She carried it to others. She shared it with pastors, worship leaders, women, families, and churches. Over time, God used her to teach thousands throughout Zambia and neighboring countries. The fire spread.

There was no celebrity platform around Mom Lucy. No spotlight. No polished stage. Just an ordinary woman with an attentive heart and a life warmed by God. And that is exactly the point. Worship does not need visibility to be powerful. Some of the strongest fires in the kingdom burn quietly, then warm everyone nearby. Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16, NKJV). Light shines in villages and homes, in conversations and prayers, in faithful obedience that never makes the news.

I think too of Pastor Danny in Kenya. When he first heard this teaching, he said, “This is exactly what our churches need.” He saw immediately that whole-life worship was not just a message for a service, but a way of life that could renew hearts, families, and congregations. As our NLW Kenya Director now, Danny travels throughout Kenya, spreading what he calls “little fires” of worship revival.

That phrase says so much: *little fires* of worship catching from heart to heart, family to family, church to church. Pastor Danny carries a vision to bring this message to all 47 counties of Kenya, and it is already changing homes and communities. What began as truth received became truth embodied, then truth multiplied. That is how the fire spreads.

Ministry team members like Lucy and Danny help me see the heart of this movement because they remind us how God works. He delights in using ordinary, surrendered people. Not just the visible ones. Not just the celebrated ones. He uses people who are alive in Him. People whose worship is not confined to a meeting but carried into daily life. As Paul wrote, “Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place” (2 Corinthians 2:14, NKJV).

This is more than an idea. It is how God revives hearts. One surrendered life strengthens another. One burning heart becomes a spark. One small flame becomes many. The fire spreads, not always through spectacle, but through contact. One life touched by God becomes a source of warmth for another.

### The Widening Circle

The church grows in depth as well as breadth, not merely through events, but through embers carried in ordinary people. Not merely through public ministry, but through daily faithfulness. Not merely through celebrated voices, but through hidden saints whose devotion keeps igniting courage, reverence, repentance, and hope in others.

Fire that is truly from God does not terminate in the person who receives it.

If the heart remains hot, if the secret fire is guarded, if Jesus-followers remember that God Himself is the true Worship Leader, and if worship enters the atmosphere of ordinary life, then the circle begins to widen. Families are affected. Churches are steadied. Workplaces are altered. Children are formed. Friends are strengthened. The weary are warmed. The distracted are awakened. The merely religious are called into living communion with God.

This widening circle is not the result of human ambition. It is the natural movement of living worship. When God sets a person aflame, others begin to feel the warmth. Sometimes this happens through words. Sometimes through prayer. Sometimes through courageous obedience. Sometimes through suffering borne with trust. Sometimes through long seasons of ordinary faithfulness that quietly prove God worthy again and again.

Paul told Timothy, “What you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2, NKJV). There is the widening circle: from one life to another, and then outward again. The same pattern applies to worship. What is received in truth must be lived, guarded, and passed on.

So let us keep the fire alive. Let us resist the false fire of mere image, activity, or applause. Let us seek the kind of inner aliveness that can survive aging, adversity, obscurity, and responsibility. Let us draw more from the well than from the platform. Let us rejoice that God Himself leads His people in worship. Let's carry Christ into the places where ordinary life unfolds. Let's be sure to honor the "little fires" through which He is warming the world.



And let us remember this: the goal is not to look aflame, but to burn with holy love for God.

So go forward with a hot heart. Guard the secret fire. Refuse the emptiness of living for the platform while neglecting the well. Receive the relief of knowing that God Himself is the true Worship Leader. Carry the aroma of Christ into homes, churches, conversations, meetings, and all the ordinary places where life unfolds. Honor the little fires God has placed around you and be willing for Him to make your life one of them.

If that fire remains, it will spread.

### Gathering the Threads

Worship must be tended so it can last and spread. God lights the fire, but we are called to steward what He kindles in us.

Key threads:

- Keep a hot heart.
- Lasting worship requires remembrance and return.
- The secret fire must be guarded.
- Worship multiplies as ordinary lives carry the aroma of Christ.

## CHAPTER 6

# TRUE WORSHIP

