



Worship Team

Pastor Ryan Young

Feelings and Worship

God has promised us that He will never leave us or abandon us. But He did not promise we would always feel His presence. Yet, we treat a relationship with God as though we should always feel His presence. This has caused some pretty insecure worship experiences. The most common mistake we make in worship is seeking a good experience rather than seeking God. We often try to gain acceptance with God through the experience of having a good feeling. If I feel good then God is okay with me (we think) but if I don't have the feeling I would like to have, I live in doubt about my security in Him. Here's what we need to know if we know Jesus:

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

The life I live, I live by faith in the Son of God, not by feeling. Faith is accepting the reality of God's love without the entitlement of a feeling. The power of our worship is not in the feeling one gets from accepting God's love. Rather, the power of our worship is putting our faith in Jesus regardless of how we feel. In other words, if I wait on a feeling to validate me, I underestimate His power. Why? Because God's power is not just the experience of having a strong feeling. God is not "The Great Good Feeling in the Sky." I need to have a surrendered understanding that God is for me because I believe what Christ did for me. Not because I feel it but because I believe it. If I am really deferring to my deep need for Jesus, His powerful influence will be at work within me regardless of how I feel. I will be under the persuasive power of Jesus. Worship is trusting God not to get that feeling I crave but to be in the relationship I need. You were made for relationship with God but many would just be okay with no relationship with God and only good feelings all the time. That's why drugs and alcohol are so popular. Jesus doesn't want to be your next fix. Yet we worship Him like a drug, just wanting to feel good. Worship is the cause of a growing relationship with Christ, not a feelings fix.

Bible Classes

Gerardo Ramos

Do you ever wish your life had a big rewind button? Any time things go wrong, just hit the rewind button and do it over. In the world of golf, this is known as a "mulligan." Mulligan – when a ball goes astray, drop another and get on with it.

In our personal life, we are constantly searching for that big rewind button. Most of us have lived astray and hit the rewind button, only to end up back in the same mess. Many times, in my past life, I have found myself in that predicament. Growing up in the church and in youth group, I thought would never struggle with life. Why? Well, because I knew all the "right answers." Now I have the opportunity to teach them God's plan of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ. We have started a great Bible Study in the book of Romans. The apostle Paul argued persuasively that Jesus Christ alone can cancel a person's past. We have been made right with God through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. His blood paid for all our sins and has erased our past. As we go deeper into this bible study, their relationship with Jesus grows stronger. Not by knowing all the "right answers", but by *not* knowing all the right answers. I enjoy teaching the youth about God and His plan of Salvation. Believing in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is not enough to get you through life. Living in God's plans and depending on Him gets us through life. Every opportunity I get to share my life with them, I pray will help them to relate, understand, and apply His word. So that they won't depend on a big, rewind button every time something goes wrong in their lives.

Proverbs 1: 1- 7

The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: ² for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight;³ for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair;⁴ for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young-⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance-⁶ for understanding proverbs and parables, the saying and riddles of the wise.⁷ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.



Lyn's Lines

Pastor Lyn Hansen

Hey guys!!

What an exciting 2014 this will be!! So much on the horizon... Much of what I have to share will be incomplete information. As we get to the deadline to get info to our editor – I have limited info to pass on... but it's so exciting that I want to share what we know so far...

We are incredibly blessed to have the foremost church planter in the entire world coming to North Park Church Columbus campus. Yes, I am serious! Ying Kai is the founder of what is now called, "Training for Trainers". Ying has seen more than 1.7 million baptisms and more than 130,000 new church starts through this movement! This is an amazing opportunity. So far what we know is that we will have Ying at North Park sometime between February 27th and March 3rd.

I would like to introduce you to Mission Emphasis March at North Park! We have developed an exciting partnership with Ron Goombi, a Native American missionary in North East Nebraska. Ron is founder and pastor of the thriving Omaha Nation Baptist Church in Macy, NE. He also is involved in a number of other ministries spanning from Macy to Omaha. Ron and his wife Alphi have been ministering to North East Nebraska Natives for over 20 years. Recently, due to a shift in the strategy of the North American Mission Board, support for Ron and his family has ceased. We are blessed to have the opportunity to come along side and help keep this very important ministry growing. More information plus dates and times when Ron will personally be coming to North Park Columbus – as mission emphasis March approaches.

The evening of Friday April 4th will be a date you want to mark off your calendar as "BUSY" right now!! North Park is thrilled to bring Seventh Day Slumber to Columbus! Yes, again, I am serious!!! Seventh Day Slumber is one of the foremost Contemporary Christian Rock bands in the country. We at NPC share a kindred spirit with this band... Check Youtube for lead singer Joseph Rojas' powerful testimony. Appearing with Seventh Day Slumber will be "Consumed By Fire" and "At the Wayside". That's right, three bands! We are gonna need a lot of help and a lot of prayer – but we are also gonna see a lot of people come to know Jesus!

North Park Church Fremont Campus continues to grow! We have had several people officially join the

church in January as well as many new regular attendees. January 12th marked our one year anniversary since Sunday services began! In keeping with our tradition of being intentionally different, we will be celebrating our 13 month anniversary Sunday February 16th! It's going to be a great time!

See you soon,
Pastor Lyn

TeamKID

Crystal Hansen

TeamKID Club is still doing great!! We have gained a couple of kids, which is extremely exciting for me! I love seeing new faces! We have just come back from our Christmas break, and the kids seem excited to be back. We are still working on building great character. This past week we talked about forgiveness. Forgiveness is something I have been working on in my own life, so it was good for both the kids and me. I really enjoy the kids that come, and pray for them often. I would appreciate your prayers for our kids, they really need it. Some of them struggle with some big stuff.

We are desperate for leaders! Please be praying and asking God if this is an area He would like you to be. We are looking for someone to lead games, so if you feel like this is something you can do please contact me. These kids are our future, so we really need Spirit-filled leaders that can be an excellent example of great character. I will be praying for God to send me the right person, and I know He will. Please be praying with me.



Celebrate Recovery

Bonita Wilgocki

So, the holidays are over and life is getting back to normal; whatever normal is, really isn't normal at all, but life goes on, right? So what is your perspective as we begin this new year? Happy, joyous, and free? Or do you look through a pessimistic lens, and get ready to put up a defense against anything that may or may not be a sinister opponent?

Every Monday evening, North Park in Fremont holds Celebrate Recovery. I have come to cherish and love the team we have there. Every time I leave Fremont, I am encouraged. In the beginning, it was a somewhat daunting task. I was intimidated by leading worship, people I didn't know very well, horribly insecure in myself and my leading and always wondered how effective it was. I was leaning on my own strength, depending on others' approval and support, and working from an emotionally-based foundation. Three, maybe four months ago now, something changed. And someone changed. God became my God. He became my Savior. Now, I'm not saying that I became a new believer in Jesus Christ, but that I became a new kind of believer in Jesus Christ. I came to the end of my fight against surrender. I've changed my perspective. And these are the words that God used to break me:

"The Sovereign Lord has given me his words of wisdom, so that I know what to say to all these weary ones. Morning by morning He awakens me and opens my understanding to His will. The Sovereign Lord has spoken to me, and I have listened. I do not rebel or turn away. I give my back to those who beat me and my cheeks to those who pull out my beard. I do not hide from shame, for they mock me and spit in my face. Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be dismayed. Therefore, I have set my face like a stone, determined to do His will. And I know that I will triumph. He who gives me justice is near. Who dare oppose me now? Where are my enemies? Let them appear! See, the Sovereign Lord is on my side! Who will declare me guilty? All my enemies will be destroyed like old clothes that have been eaten by moths! Who among you fears the Lord and obeys his servant? If you are walking in darkness without a ray of light, trust in the Lord and rely on your God. But watch out, you who live in your own light and warm yourselves by your own fires. This is the reward you will receive from me: You will soon lie down in your own torment."

Isaiah 50: 4-11

It's pretty clear, isn't it? And what an amazing encouragement! I finally conceded to the undeniable fact that our Sovereign Lord has everything in control, including the growth of Celebrate Recovery in Fremont and in Columbus. Now here's the deal: very few of us are setting our face like a stone in determination to do His will, and most of us are still determined to get

the results that we think are best, for ourselves and everyone around us. What does this passage say? That if we are willing to work, yes work, for His Kingdom, we will, without a doubt, have victory!! But if we keep trying to build our own kingdom, guess what is going to happen? Haven't we had enough of torment? Yet I see people fall away from their relationships with God, honesty with themselves and others, and eventually commitments that they have made. How has your life changed in the last 6 months? If you are not moving forward, you are moving backward. God despises indifference! (Revelation 3:15-17) Until I allowed God to change my perspective, put down my defenses, and opened my eyes to His truth and promises, life was a continuous struggle and I had little or no peace. Praise God for His never-ending work!! We've got a consistent group of 8-10 in Fremont Celebrate Recovery, and there is honesty and a sincerity in those rooms that is truly of God. I am so grateful to be part of that. Join us, Monday nights at 7pm! Praying for you.