



Worship Design at ICWW

The Principle of Designed Moments

On Sundays, pastors, worship leaders, and production staff create a dynamic, Spirit-filled worship atmosphere. Everyone wants to experience a move, but few want to honor the holiness involved in designing the worship service to facilitate a move of God.

Those involved in worship must understand that Sunday service does not begin on Sundays. To experience a Spirit-filled atmosphere, we must adhere to worship design. The Spirit is not random nor chaotic. Let's examine the principle of "designed moments" in scripture.

Dedication of the First Temple

2 Chronicles 7:1-3 *When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven. It consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the Temple. The Priest could not enter the temple of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled it. When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the Lord above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshipped and gave thanks to the Lord saying, "He is good; his love endures forever."*

This is what we want at ICWW; we want "fire" to come down from heaven and the glory of the Lord to fill the temple. Every week we want people to experience the weightiness of the Spirit of God filling up the temple. We want an atmosphere to be ripe to make preaching easy and deliverance routine.

Design Positions The House For A Move

The move of God that happens in chapter seven was not random. It is the product of Solomon and the priests having stuck to the design God had for that house:

2 Chronicles 6: 12-13 *Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands. How he had made a bronze platform, five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had placed it in the center of the outer court.*

Note the following design elements that released the incredible move of God in chapter seven:

- **The altar.** This is not an accidental altar; it was placed there by design. This speaks to the physical layout of a worship space. Where every seat is placed, the height of the stage, the preaching table on the stage, the set, lights, and screens are all important considerations. They must all be used and placed with intentionality.

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- **The position.** Where everyone stands is part of the design. Solomon stood where he stood by design. Before the dedication, the Spirit of God revealed to Solomon where he and the high priests should stand. Solomon had the discipline to stay where God told him to witness what God was about to do. If Solomon veered off from the position, the moment that might be created would be missed. Where the worship leader and singers stand is essential. Each movement and position on the stage conveys something about God to the people. In a hybrid environment, movements must be restricted to a box so that the people online might also remain engaged in the experience.
- **The posture.** Solomon spread out his hand; this was by design. Solomon made a bronze platform by design; premade. He stood on the stage and dramatically knelt. God wants people to experience an atmosphere more than he wants their attendance. The Spirit revealed designed elements in the building of the Temple and then used those designed elements to release his glory on the house. There is no rigidity in designing a worship plan. Still, there understanding that design produces flow, and flow is yielded to sensitivity. When this happens – “something happens” when we gather.

Other Instances of Design In the Bible

The Ark of the Covenant: Exodus 25-40

- The Ark is a designed element God uses to deliver His people.
- The Spirit entered the dedication of the Temple because the designed element of the Ark was present.

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind: John 9:1-12

- The mud Jesus used did not heal the blind man; God did. Jesus uses the mud for dramatic presentation to build the faith of the people watching. The mud was used as part of the design to create a moment and increase faith.

The Fall of Jericho: Joshua 6

- Marching around Jericho was a designed element.
- The March was predetermined.
- God made the walls fall after they marched (design).
- Design sets up the outpouring the Spirit intends.

Design or Pretend

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A great production can imitate a spiritual design but will deliver little. People will leave a well-produced service with a good feeling, but their lives will remain unchanged because there was no encounter. Likewise, those who lean toward no design, as if designing is an insult to “freedom,” will lead people to experience emotionalism. In these services, people will have “caught” or “felt” the Spirit, but there will be no lasting residue on the house. They are then left to keep trying to “catch” He, who is not running from them. Remember this:

Poor design or No design can only result in the manufacturing of God’s presence.

“Designed moments” are entirely of the Holy Spirit because he operates in decency and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40). It is neither decent nor to have no design or poor design.

We are a “Word” house. If the scripture did not release it, we are not doing it. When we plan worship songs, the prayer and the teaching must be aligned, in sync, and well designed. Everything we do when we gather centers around this principle so that we gather in a spiritual residue that is palpable.