

Why I'm in Celebration Mode

I have been wondering why I am out-of-touch with other Christians, even those in the Creative Worship Team and our wider group. I want to celebrate Jesus while they seem to want to focus on worship. They get lost in worship while I want to radically celebrate for some unknown reason.

I've 'passed' the desire to only worship. I've moved on. Worship has its place, but it's just one facet of our interaction with the Bridegroom, as his Bride. The Bride celebrates the Bridegroom and vice versa.¹ I want to celebrate him because of my intimate relationship with him. He's the 'desire of nations', my 'pearl of great price', the centrepiece of my life, and my beloved. Worship flows out of my recognition of and submission to his majesty and greatness. Celebration flows out of abandoned love for him and my constant desire to be with him because he fulfils all our desires. This is what we were originally created to do – to relate to him in this way.

I was concerned about this difference of mine to others, but now I'm at peace. After listening to Mike Bickle's teaching on the Bride, I now know why I feel the way I do. (See an extract from his audio teaching below). I am in the 'dance' with the Bridegroom. I've deliberately placed myself there. He wants me there and I want to stay there. As times become more difficult it will be in this place of intimate relationship, borne out of radical abandonment, that will see me through. Trust (faith) becomes easier when I'm totally abandoned to someone.



Regarding the flute in 'The Flute and the Dirge' in Matthew 11, Mike Bickle states this:

*"The people didn't celebrate in a way that led them to wild abandonment of obedience to God... Celebration [means] the revelation of the wedding and the celebration leads us to give everything in over-joy to God. An over-joy, an overflowing expression of abandonment – that's called 'the dance with the Lord'. "Our money is yours. Our time is yours. Everything is yours". We've entered into the 'dance'. A lot of people enter into the 'dance' with their feet, but they don't enter in with their lifestyle. The 'dance' Jesus wanted [was] the radical abandoned response that was motivated by celebration. It's far more than the natural dance... He's talking about the abandonment to God as the response that flows out of genuine celebration. Our problem is we don't 'dance' with all of our heart... We think we rejoice, but [our] rejoicing is far too superficial. God's calling us into a rejoicing where everything is his in the 'dance' – the 'dance' of radical obedience – the spiritual violence of verse 12."*²

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

1 – READ: Song of Songs and also Jesus' parables

2 – Mike Bickle "Studies in the Bride of Christ" Session #1 MP3, [11:45-13:07]