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## Introduction

“Praise – Get the Hell Out” is a multi - part book that hopefully you’ll read to the end and not get so mad and write me off as a heartless fat jerk. Part I is a 15-day devotional on praise. It deals with aspects of praise and worship and how to apply those principles to your life. Every church has a “worship segment” each time they gather for corporate worship. However, most churches never teach on why we do what we do or teach on the implications of praise and worship in our every day life. Most worship times are treated as a warm up act to the preaching. Hopefully this book will teach you a little bit about your personal worship and how to apply the secret weapon of praise to every area of your life. Then when you gather with others in corporate worship, the over flow of your private praise, worship and devotion will spill over to your congregation.

Part II of this book is specifically written for those involved in worship ministry and church leadership. Whether you are a worship leader, pastor, an instrumentalist, vocalist, involved in tech ministry, or you’re a worshiper that leads from the seats of a congregation, it addresses a lot of the obstacles we face as artists and musicians with our egos and our intentions. It challenges the status quo of how we “do” church. You will be forced to ask yourself what you believe about ministry and what you believe about yourself. You might get a little ticked off, that’s ok, I don’t even ask that you believe everything. But I want to encourage you to possibly look at another side of the coin. Not that you have to agree with me at all, but just think about it and choose what you can take away and apply to your own life and your own ministry.

I have been involved in worship ministry for close to 20 years now. I grew up in the home of a music minister. All I’ve ever known is church. I’ve seen the good and the bad of ministry and I’ve almost left the church all together about 5,000 times (and that’s just this week).

I’ve had the privilege of working as a worship pastor, worship leader, studio instrumentalist, lead singer, background singer, band member, producer, a church staff arranger, songwriter, worship consultant, and I’m sure a few other things. I’m fortunate that I don’t have a real job and I actually get paid to do something that I love. Through the years, I’ve learned a lot of things about ministry and leadership and have poured my heart and soul into the chapters of this book. I could tell you a lot of things that I’ve been a part of and mention people’s names that you would recognize and have seen on TV and heard on the radio that I’ve had the honor to be able to rub shoulders with and learn from. But at the end of the day, none of that matters. What matters is how I live my life today and what I’m doing to influence others on the journey towards Christ.

If you’re involved in local church ministry and think your church and your situation is different than my experiences and that I can’t relate to where you are, I promise you, I really can. I’ve been on staff at a church with around 7,000 people with about 375 people involved in the

worship ministry alone and I've been on staff at churches with less than 150 members. I've worked with choirs, vocal teams, orchestras, bands and I've also worked in places that only had a piano and organ and no one could sing. I've led worship at traditional churches wearing a coat and tie, waving my arms and saying "on the third", and I've led worship with jeans and a t-shirt wearing flip flops doing secular songs that you'd know off the radio. I've had to lead "Beulah Land" in a worship service, and then walk to another building at the same church and lead worship with all the lights, smoke, volume, cameras and production of a rock concert, all within the same hour. I've worked with music ministries that had a yearly budget similar to our government and worked with churches where the only budget was whatever I was willing to spend out of my own pocket. No matter what the situation is, each church is distinctly different, yet struggles with the same things. This book deals with a few of those conflicts that keep people from moving forward in ministry.

I hope this book will challenge you to think a little bit. I hope you'll go to another level in your own personal times of worship. I hope that if you're involved in a worship team, it will challenge you to be the best servant-leader that you can possibly be. I hope that you'll realize a few things to look out for in your own personality that might keep you from being a better worship leader. Most of all I hope you will learn and apply how to praise and get the hell out of your life.

- Jason Lee