

## Worship is a form of witness

**Text:** Acts 2:47



Hi everybody,

Hope you had a wonderful weekend. This weekend we celebrated the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stockholm SDA church. The weekend, as you can expect, was filled with celebration and praise as members shared personal testimonies and experiences of what the Stockholm church has meant to them. In fact, we had so many visitors on Saturday that we were forced to add extra chairs in the aisles as well as use the small hall to accommodate the overflow.

The whole weekend was truly a blessing both to the members of the Stockholm church as well as our friends and guests. The highlight for me personally was to witness two of our eldest members sing a duet in gratitude to God for all that He has done for us. This of course got me thinking!

There is, as you might understand, a direct connection between worship and witness. I have become more and more convinced that our very presence or lack of presence in Stockholm is vital to our witness. In other words we are being watched by the outside world. And the outside world marvels when a Christian can praise God in spite of all the problems and difficulties we face both personally and corporately in the world today. It is a powerful testimony.

Sometimes that outside world even gathers enough courage to join us in the pews as did many visitors on Friday evening and Saturday. The question is: What kind of worshipper are you? What kind of a witness are you? You may think it doesn't matter, but actually it does, because unbelievers are checking things out for themselves. Just think about it! Maybe someone sitting near you has never been to church before. But while the worship was going on, you are preoccupied with other things. You are talking with a friend or daydreaming or trying to text a friend on your mobile. That is why it is important to pay attention and engage during worship, not only for your own benefit but because unbelievers may be watching you.

I can speak from personal experience on this, because I came to faith as a result of Christians who worshipped. I still remember my first visit to the Adventist church in South Africa. While I was initially invited by a friend of the family to tag along, no one actually broke the gospel down for me and explained to me how to come to Jesus Christ. I discovered that by observing. The truth is that when I saw and experienced Christians fellowshiping together, caring for each other, sharing life with each other and singing songs to Jesus, I watched them and thought, *They have something I don't have. They have something I long to be become a part of.* The experience left a seed in my heart that God would eventually water many years later and lead me to accept Jesus Christ as my personal savior.

The point I am trying to make is that there is a definite connection between our worship and our witness. So let's be a good one, and let's make sure that our heart is in the right place

with God. I cannot but help reflect upon the fact of what an attractive group the early church was to a lost and watching world as they learned, loved, cared, worshipped, prayed, and helped out one another (Acts 2:47). The world literally watched and paid attention, and people we are told came to faith. So let us not forget that witnessing is **not just something we do; it is something we are.**

**God bless**

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P.s. Please pray for a young family in our church. Their son has been fighting cancer for some time. After a long and difficult period of chemotherapy doctors thought they had the cancer under control. However, he cancer has resurfaced. Pray that God will bring healing to the child and strength to the family.