

From time to time we hear suggestions on how the worship service could be improved by changing either the order of songs, or this, or that, or the other. It is very important that we examine our worship service to see if it is properly spiritual and edifying, but I would like to suggest that 99 percent of the enthusiasm required for having a moving, uplifting service we must bring from home. The mechanics of the service are less important than we think. I believe that there is a basic problem in thinking that we can come to church 'cold' and get all fired up before we leave, or that we come to get 'pumped up'; and when we leave feeling flat, we wonder what was wrong with the service. Can you imagine how hard it would be for a coach to get a team ready for the big game if he waited until the start of the game to motivate them to do their best? No, he knows that they have to concentrate on it all week, and that he has to give a spirited talk to them daily to prepare them. And it is the same with us; we need daily spiritual food -- prayer, study, thought, and worship itself -- to be ready for the gathering of the saints together on Sunday.

It reminds me of my Scouting days, when we went camping with a new recruit. One of the first things to be done on a trip like this was to build a fire. A while after arriving at the campsite we glanced over to check on the new boy, who was trying to light a stick a couple of inches thick with a match. We soon taught him that it was easier to start a fire by gathering smaller sticks first, lighting them, and then adding the larger wood. It's not nearly as crazy as it sounds! We try to do the same thing for worship when we try to enthuse and uplift a whole mass of different people in the space of only an hour.

What I am trying to say is that if we could just get on fire individually for the Lord all of the time, then when we met on Sunday we would really be ablaze, a light unto the world! If we all were truly ready for worship, then I don't believe that the fire could be put out. The secret, then, to better worship is personal dedication to live for and worship our Lord Jesus Christ every day.