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The Taste Test

*A Call for Authentic
Apostolic Pentecostal Worship*



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Written by
Elder Keith Joel Walker



Introduction

In the realm of faith and worship, the call for authenticity rings louder than ever. Just as a chef meticulously tastes their dish to ensure it meets the highest standards, so too must we examine the essence of our worship and preaching within the Apostolic Pentecostal tradition. This book serves as a commentary and guide for Apostolic Pentecostal preachers, encouraging a return to the roots of our faith, where the fire of the Holy Ghost ignites genuine worship, repentance, and transformation. Read and obey Acts 2:38.

Chapter 1

The Aroma of Authenticity

- **The Scent of the Spirit:** Discuss the biblical significance of aroma and fragrance in worship, referencing 2 Corinthians 2:15-16. What does it mean for our worship to be a sweet-smelling savor unto God?
- **Identifying the False:** Explore the characteristics of worship that lacks the anointing—emotionalism without substance, hype without holiness.

Chapter 2:

The Sound of Pentecost

- **A Certain Sound:** Examine Acts 2:1-4, focusing on the sound that accompanied the outpouring of the Holy Ghost. What does it mean to have a “certain sound” in our worship today?
- **Discerning the Distortion:** Analyze modern worship styles that may carry a distorted spirit, comparing them to the biblical model of worship that brings glory to God.

Chapter 3

The Taste of True Worship

- **Taste and See:** Reflect on Psalm 34:8, “O taste and see that the Lord is good.” What does it mean to experience the goodness of God in worship?
- **The Recipe for Authentic Worship:** Outline the key ingredients of genuine Apostolic worship: holiness, truth, and the presence of God.

Chapter 4

The Role of the Preacher

- **The Preacher’s Heart:** Discuss the importance of the preacher’s spiritual condition in delivering the Word. How does personal holiness affect the message?

- **Authentic Apostolic Preaching:** Provide guidelines for preaching that aligns with the Apostolic tradition, emphasizing the necessity of the Holy Ghost's anointing.

Chapter 5

The Fruit of the Spirit

- **Evidence of True Worship:** Explore the fruits of the Spirit as indicators of authentic worship. How do love, joy, peace, and other fruits manifest in our gatherings?
- **Transformation Through Worship:** Share testimonies and stories of lives changed through genuine Apostolic worship experiences.

Chapter 6

Fables and Folklore

- **Anecdotes from the Faithful:** Include stories from seasoned Apostolic believers that illustrate the power of authentic worship and the dangers of performance-based faith.
- **Lessons from the Past:** Draw parallels between historical Pentecostal revivals and contemporary worship practices, emphasizing the need for a return to our roots.

Chapter 7

The Power of Testimony

- **Sharing Our Stories:** Discuss the importance of personal testimonies in worship. How do testimonies strengthen faith and encourage others?
- **Building a Culture of Testimony:** Provide practical ways for congregations to incorporate testimonies into worship services, creating an environment of openness and encouragement.

Chapter 8

Performance vs. Presence

- **The Dichotomy of Worship:** Analyze the difference between performing for an audience and inviting the presence of God into our midst. What are the signs of a performance-driven service?
- **The Impact of Presence:** Discuss how the genuine presence of God transforms worship, leading to true encounters with His power as seen in Acts 2:38.
- **Reclaiming Worship:** Offer strategies for churches to shift the focus from performance to presence, ensuring that worship is centered on glorifying God rather than entertaining people.

Chapter 9

The Role of Music in Worship

- **The Heart of Worship Music:** Explore the significance of music in Apostolic worship, referencing Colossians 3:16. How can music enhance or detract from the worship experience?
- **Choosing the Right Sound:** Provide guidelines for selecting music that aligns with Apostolic values and fosters a genuine encounter with God.

Chapter 10

Cultivating a Holy Atmosphere

- **Creating a Sacred Space:** Discuss the importance of the physical and spiritual environment in worship. How can churches create a space that invites the Holy Spirit?
- **Prayer and Preparation:** Emphasize the need for prayer, fasting, and spiritual preparation before services, ensuring that the church is ready to receive the move of God.

Conclusion

A Call to Action

As we conclude this exploration of the taste test for Apostolic Pentecostal worship, we are reminded of the necessity to seek the authentic presence of God. Just as my Italian grandmother would not serve a dish that wasn't up to her standards, we must not settle for a diluted version of worship. It is time for Apostolic

Pentecostal believers to rise up, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, and create an atmosphere where His glory can dwell.

Appendix

Practical Steps for Authentic Worship

1. **Personal Reflection:** Encourage readers to assess their own worship practices and seek the Holy Ghost's guidance.
2. **Church Guidelines:** Provide suggestions for churches to cultivate an environment of authentic worship, from music selection to preaching styles.
3. **Prayer and Fasting:** Highlight the importance of prayer and fasting in preparing hearts for genuine worship experiences.
4. **Workshops and Training:** Offer ideas for workshops that train worship leaders and preachers in the art of authentic worship and preaching.
5. **Community Engagement:** Suggest ways to engage the community in worship, emphasizing outreach and service as integral to the Apostolic mission.

Final Thoughts

This book aims to inspire a deeper understanding of what it means to worship authentically in the Apostolic Pentecostal tradition. By tasting and testing our worship, we can ensure it reflects the true

essence of our faith, rooted in the power and presence of the Holy Ghost. Let us strive for a worship experience that not only honors God but transforms lives, igniting a passion for holiness and a hunger for His presence.

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Read and Obey Acts 2:38

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