

WHY DO I GET SO LITTLE OUT OF WORSHIP?

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Deceased

My cousin, returning from World War II, stopped off to visit with us and attended worship with us. He had come from a non-religious background, and it is doubtful that he had ever attended the services held by the chaplains, weak as they were. I have seen few people so miserable in my life as was that cousin when we were in worship. Hardly any verse could be mentioned or read that he had ever heard of; he knew nothing of the New Testament church or the proper divisions of the Bible. He had no idea as to the items of New Testament worship, or that Christianity was a life to be lived outside the services. He indicated he obtained nothing from the Bible study and worship. Of course he put nothing into it either.

Well, in his ignorance of all things pertaining to the Bible, it is understandable that he "got nothing from the worship". Of much more concern are those in the kingdom, some for years, who will still state, "I get so little out of worship!" We firmly believe the same point is true that relates to that cousin of mine; we get something out only when we put something in. There is no excuse for a child of God to come to worship and study with nothing, putting in nothing, and then expecting anything but nothing.

Just think of these points as we approach worship and study as a child of God.

1. Every song sung can remind me of Biblical truths and my need to feel more appreciation for God and His efforts for me.
2. Every Bible verse given in classes and worship has a lesson for me, and should remind me of similar verses, and especially of my own need to know more of the Bible.
3. Everything expressed in prayer should remind me of my own blessings, and of my own praying and how I can improve it.
4. Every point made in song, prayer, and remarks at the Lord's table should cause me to be more thankful for the sacrifice of the Christ and make me more appreciative of His death and shed blood.
5. Participation in giving to the Lord cause should awaken in me, greater appreciation and love for the kingdom, its work and for the part I can have in it.

Even in the announcements made, I can see opportunities for service in seeing to the sick, shut-ins, and the bereaved, to say nothing of opportunities to greet and welcome visitors and newcomers. Getting nothing out of services? You should be ashamed of yourself.

The fact is, I get something only when and if I put in something. If I come to worship with an empty bucket, want nothing in it, and by lack of interest block anything that starts to enter it, I will leave with an empty bucket. Keep it up, and the bottom will rust out completely.