

## Dm 906 Reflection Paper Observation #1 and Discussion Board #4

**(1) What type of worship or discipleship practice did you observe?** This observation is a reflection of a Sunday morning worship service and Pentecostal church near my home. However, the “order of service” in this church is inflexible, routine, and short. Pentecostal worship is characterized via emotional, energetic expressions of worship with excellent spontaneity. Pentecostal worship is less formal and greater emotionally expressive than that of other Christian traditions. Participants worship with body, coronary heart and soul, as properly as with their minds. Worship provider was partly cutting-edge and typical songs. Participation in traditional worship services, in my experience, tends to be more platforms driven. Service often have a songs performed by a choir and soloist with a few congregational hymns inserted. When contemporary songs that was sung some the congregation stood up arms raised praising God. The lyrics of many songs sung in the churches today focus more on the worshiper’s experience of God than on God Himself. Every church service should have a time of worshipful singing to the Lord. This was done 11:30 am in the service, before the preaching of the word. I have found this order to be helpful, since the worship time seems to prepare our hearts to receive the preaching of the Word that follows. At this particular church most of the women heads was covered, and after praises and worship one of the elder took over for altar call. As everyone kneel at the altar the elder and other laymen start praying in the Holy Ghost. This is traditional in most Pentecostal churches I have been apart of or have visited, this went for about fifteen minutes. Afterward Pastor greeted everyone visitors and friends and start to sing and old hymn the congregation join in and some people began to pray in the spirit, shout, and dance. **(2) How and what did this activity teach facilitate worship or disciples?** This hymn help the congregation to get prepared for his message, most of the congregation got excited ready to hear the word

come fourth. Later Pastor kneel beside his church next to his wife and said a quick prayer that same to me a ritual. In this, congregation the majority of it was made up of young adults, middle age and the elderly. However, I notice young teenager, help out with the usher and greeter ministry, so they can feel a part of the service and get training to be and disciple. Has Pastor begins his message the Holy Spirit comes over and he start prophesying to some of his member tell them the storm is over in their lives. He also prayed for healing for several middle age people. (3) **What historical, biblical-theological, and practice understanding were reflected?** The Title of the Pastor message was **God's power Revealed:** Genesis 21:1-4 The Lord took note of Sarah as He said and the Lord did for Sarah as he promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son Abraham in his old age at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to Isaac. Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded Him. Sarah and Abraham named their named their child Isaac, which means he Laugh. That's funny because when God told Sarah she was going to have a son she laughed. When God told Abraham he was going to he was going to have a son, he laughed. But from the moment Isaac was born his name served as a continual reminder for everyone that nothing is impossible for God and that God must have a petty healthy sense of humor too. Sarah had doubted God's promise. Initially, she simply lacked the faith to believe God was telling her the truth. But wasn't too late for Sarah to grow in her faith and experience the desire of her heart. What I take from Pastor Message is that it is never too late for God to do what He promised He would do for us that believe. If life has squeezed you and pressed you to the point where you scoff at the dreams of your past, you need to look up. You need to have an experience with God directly or indirectly and have the faith. Psalm 66:18-20 (NKJV) If I had cherished sin in my heart the Lord

would not have listened but God has surely listened and Has heard my prayer v.20 Praise be to God who has not rejected my prayer or withheld His love from me. We all have prayer that have not been answered that same has if God did not hear them, however God answer prayer in His on timing not ours. It's never too late for God to answer prayers. Like Sarah and Abraham we often get frustrated with God because we feel He's delayed coming through for us in one situation or another. But when we start thinking that way we need to consider whether God may be delaying things because we've too become caught up in the facts. For example some people believe they will never be able to buy a house because of their credit but yet they keep praying for owner of a home. (4) **How, in light of the perspective of our course, could this practice be improved?** (Yes) This congregation was accustomed to doing a lot of walking and in and out sanctuary, while pastor was preaching. I think was because it took so long for him to start preaching. The call for salvation was intense, has if Pastor was pleading for some someone too except the Lord. However, I understand that souls are at risk but the Lord has to place the spirit of salvation into the person. According to James K. Smith (pg.162) Desiring the Kingdom; to be human is to be called. God is calling out and constituting a people who look peculiar in this broken world because they have been called to renewed image bears of God (Gen.1:27-28) Giving for titles and offering can be improves so only one offering can be received for both not giving twice in one service. Offering is an expression of gratitude. Is a symbolic but concrete indication that the commerce between God and humanity is not a contract but a covenant (pg.204 Smith). Discipleship was a point of importance for going to the mission field at this church for the local areas around Atlanta Ga. However, there was a need for volunteers to help make this happen. Notice in 28:19 that Jesus told the people who were gathered at the meeting in Galilee to make disciples of all nations. So the concern of discipleship is not just for individuals but also for

systems that affect people's lives, including government. Disciples were not just sent out to build a church. Christ sent them out to take authority.