

Facedown - The Songs

Matt Redman

Praise Awaits You

This song is rooted in the first verse of Psalm 65 – “Praise awaits you O God in Zion”. It’s a really cool thought. When we get together to worship God, praise awaits Him. After everything He’s shown us of His glory and His love, we should always be ready to sing His praise. So often our experience when we get up to lead worship on a Sunday morning is that we’re not ready. The key to preparing our hearts for worship is ‘revelation’. As soon as we start feeding on the revelation of God and reminding ourselves of all He’s done for us, something awakens within us and we are ready to bring Him praise.

Nothing But The Blood

I wrote this song on the baritone guitar. Rhythmically and tonally, the baritone takes you somewhere different. I’ve wanted for a while to write a song about the blood of Christ. In Hebrews there’s a verse that talks about ‘the blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel’. I thought that was a powerful phrase, and it gave birth to the opening lyric of the song – focusing in on the fact that Christ’s blood accomplished something that nothing else – no other claim, no other idea, no other religion or philosophy – could ever achieve. I borrowed some lines from the old hymn “Nothing But the Blood” because it said exactly what I was trying to convey in the chorus.

Seeing You

I’ve never written a song that has felt quite as conceptual as this one. I’ve been teaching for a while on the concept that in worship, a response is always the result of revelation. So often in worship we focus on response, but it’s really important as lead worshippers that we plug into revelation - because that’s is the fuel for response. When you fill your worship times with revelation, the response takes care of itself. I don’t think we can really sing about anything meaningful, spiritual, real and deep until we’ve seen something of God. It’s about inhaling the wonder of God and breathing out His praise. The purest form of worship happens when we’ve glimpsed something of the glory of God.

Gifted Response (We Will Worship You)

Some theologians use the term ‘gifted response’ when teaching on worship. Worship is not something we can do of our own merit. We can’t come on our own; we need to come through the blood of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Nor do we have anything to give God that wasn’t already His! Even the very breath we breathe to sing a song is a gifted response - because God gave us that breath in the first place. The song goes on to talk about how deeply mysterious a thing congregational worship is - we don’t just stand in a room and sing songs, we actually get involved in something far too deep for minds to comprehend.

Dancing Generation

I’m always trying to find a new celebratory song. I was at Soul Survivor in England last year in the midst of 20,000 young people, and as I watched them in our worship times completely giving everything to God, I thought, ‘This is a dancing generation.’ Louie Giglio spoke once about how when King David danced before God it was because of the mercy of God. So I think we’re a dancing generation because of His great mercy. We’re also a shouting generation, shouting because of His glory.

Pure Light

This song is slightly different than any song I’ve ever written. Louie Giglio showed me these words when we were on a retreat together with some other lead worshippers one time. We were talking about the concept of the holiness of God and His pure light. The lyrics felt like they fit together so well with what we were doing on this album. “To see You as You are/To glimpse the wonders yet unseen/Assist my sight, unveil my eyes to see you.”

Worthy, You Are Worthy

I actually wrote this song a few years ago. It started off as a very tender little song, but then I moved it up a few keys and we started using it at church with more of an anthem feel. We’ve nearly recorded it a few times, but I’m glad we waited until now as it seems to fit in really well with this ‘live’ recording. My friend Chris Tomlin is leading the song with me, and it was a real blessing to

have him involved.

Facedown

I feel like this song has been in me for a while. I was writing a book by the same title, and I knew I would really love to have a song about it. The song conveys the fact that facedown worship is a response to the glory of God – we'll fall facedown as His glory shines around. We talk so much in worship about what we're doing instead of what God's doing and who He is. I really wanted this song to be about God, and not about us. So that was a great entry point to this song – it tells us that He is the centre, and everything we do in worship is simply in response to the wonder and the splendor that He shines on us.

Breathing the Breath

I've been writing a little bit about how God doesn't need anything from us. Sometimes we can be patronizing in our worship and sing as if He needs it from us. But the fact is that He's altogether different, he's otherly, he's absolutely self-sufficient. Every single offering we bring to Him – not only does He not need it, but it came from Him in the first place. So this song says, 'We have nothing to give that didn't first come from Your hands... All we do is give back to you what always has been yours....' Scriptures in Acts 17 and Romans 11 talk about this exact idea.

Mission's Flame

I feel like I want to write some more 'sending out' songs. We need more songs that remind us we're on a mission. This is an expression of that idea. Let worship be the fuel for mission's flame/We're going in the power of Your name/We're going, for we care about Your praise/Send us out. This summer in London there's a massive mission going out called "Soul in the City," and hundreds of churches and thousands of people will be coming together, so this song was inspired by that idea.

If I Have Not Love

This is a spontaneous song that came to me about a year ago. I'd been wanting for a long time to write a song about that Corinthians passage that says, 'We could speak with the tongues of men and angels, but if we don't have love then we're just a clanging cymbal.' That's so true. If I have not love, I really have nothing. I wanted to put this song at the end of the album because there are a lot of songs where I'm trying to dig a little deeper and lyrically make His praise glorious. But there's also a time for a simple little love song, and I hope this one is just a reminder that we don't have to get big and clever to worship God. Sometimes it just comes down to 'Do I love Him or not? Do I show Him my love?'