

THE WORSHIP REVOLUTION

Become who you were created to be



John **Barrett**

The Worship Revolution

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“Become who you were created to be”

John Barrett



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Chapter 1

Sons Of Liberty

Rev-o-lu-tion: a sudden, radical, or complete change.

*"I know not what course others may take;
but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."*

~ Patrick Henry, n.d. ~

It all happened in the late seventeenth hundreds in the heart of America. After the French and Indian War, colonists were required to pay more taxes to the British Empire. The Empire believed that since British forces kept the colonists safe from France, they should pay a larger portion to the crown. When Britain imposed the Stamp Act in March of 1765, the colonists became outraged. The colonists felt they had no say in the matter, and the taxes were just another form of control from England. This birthed the famous historical quote, "No taxation without representation." With such control coming from Britain the colonists began questioning if they were really living free. Instead of grumbling around the hearth, a group of artists, farmers, lawyers, and family men took initiative and began meeting together in order to form a secret organization. As the British continued to create new taxes and laws under the crown, this underground group began to devise a plan that would forever change the course of history. They desired freedom from British law, believing they knew how to govern themselves better than an

overseas dictator. After all, they had fought for their land, farmed their land, and raised their families on the land. They began to stand up against the British empire for their wanted independence. This group of revolutionists became known as The Sons of Liberty, led by Samuel Adams. The Sons of Liberty grew in number, gathering more and more “patriots” from the colonies joining their cause. They fought for freedom through organized demonstrations, newspaper articles, petitions, pamphlets and eventually by force. Because of their convictions and passion for freedom, the Sons of Liberty became the catalyst for the American Revolution leading to America's freedom and the publishing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The Sons of Liberty truly paved the way for an American republic, “Of the people, by the people, for the people.” What started as a dream for freedom became a reality to these men and women. A reality leading to the freedoms that we possess today.

The Sons of Liberty were a remarkable group of revolutionists fighting for a worthy cause. Hungry for a freedom that was being suppressed by the powers ruling over them, they responded with passion, power and purpose. They were ready for a change. The harvest was ripe and the revolutionists reaped freedom.

Much like the American colonies of the sixteenth century, I believe the world today is ripe to join in on its own revolution. A revolution that has been going on throughout history. A revolution that isn't taking place on the physical battlefields, but one that is taking place in the hearts of the people.

There is an awakening taking place in the heart of those crying out for freedom, though they must be careful to not look for this freedom in the wrong places. Throughout history some have looked for “it” in the enlightenment revolution. In the sixties others looked

for “it” in a sexual revolution. Today there are those who are looking for “it” in a political revolution. But the “it” we are all looking for can only be found in a spiritual revolution. A revolution that Jesus started over 2000 years ago with three simple words...“Come follow Me.” People are feeling hopelessly imprisoned, abused and slaughtered on the inside. There is a desperation like never before. The further away we get from those three words, “Come follow Me”

“The **further** away we get from those three words, ‘**Come follow Me**’ - the greater the **void** is in our life.”

- the greater the void is in our life. The more we run from God’s presence the more confusing life gets. We can sense something is wrong with our present circumstances, but confusion takes over, and we are unable to identify the

problem. This leads to a downward spiral of trying to fix our lives with things of this world, when in reality, only Christ can fill this void. The world is in need of a group of revolutionists, the Sons of Liberty of this time, to rise up and fight for the cause, bringing focus, freedom, and truth to this generation.

Acts 2:17

In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

God is raising up, from this generation, those that are like the Sons of Liberty. A people driven with a passion for freedom. Not a political freedom, but a spiritual freedom that comes only from the

One Who can set us free, Jesus Christ. A freedom from the power of sin that entangles us and hinders our destiny. A freedom from hopelessness and shame that haunts us. A freedom from worthlessness and guilt that traps us in a spiritual prison. A freedom that was paid for by the blood shed on the battlefield of the cross.

Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed.

These revolutionists will hear the call to follow Christ and lead others to the presence of an amazing God. The original Sons of Liberty were made up of ordinary people that did extraordinary things. Artists, lawyers, traders, and politicians were compelled by a cause to stand up for freedom. I believe that God is calling every one of His followers to stand up and fight in this revolution as "Sons of Liberty" for the world today in order to take a stand against the onslaught of the enemies lies that are destroying peoples lives. People from all professions, all walks of life, and all nations are being called to enter the revolution daily. They are rising up from the most unlikely places to bring change to the world. They are driven by a compassion to see freedom for the captives, and liberty for those in need. This compassion will start a sudden, radical change in the world.

I have felt the stirring of this revolution for a while now. I have felt it ever since I gave my life to Christ as a freshman in high school, though I couldn't quite put a name to it. Then, many years

later, God showed up in the most *likely* place, and two words came together forming a complete change within me and those around me. I believe these two words will and already are forming a movement that will change this generation. Two words that could possibly be the most powerful combination we've known...

The Happening...

I have been involved with youth ministry ever since I graduated from high school. In that time I have been a part of over a thousand youth nights and worship nights. But on one Sunday evening, at our weekly student ministry service, "it" happened. Not the usual happening of a youth night, but a happening that changed my whole paradigm on what this revolution is about. Something triggered a whole new outlook on how I view our purpose in life. And it didn't stop with me. Our entire youth group was impacted.

The evening started with us gathering together to talk about a common word in church...worship. After the discussion, we entered into a time of worship. Everything was going as planned. It was a "good" worship time, and then "it" happened. The atmosphere began to change. The mood began to turn. We became more than spectators, as something began to stir in our hearts. Our attention moved beyond the songs we were singing to something greater. In the midst of worship I sensed God was moving in a powerful way, and I knew we needed to pray for each other. We stopped singing, and I made a call for those that were sensing God tugging on their heart to come forward for prayer. This was a call for those who weren't satisfied with going through the religious motions, but truly wanted more of God's presence in their lives. As the students began to come forward I started to pray over them. God began to speak a phrase to me that

shook my spirit. It was a phrase that I had never heard before. As I began to pray, the words came out so smoothly...I started to ask God for a WORSHIP REVOLUTION to break out. As we began to pray this, we could literally feel the power and responsibility of this phrase weigh heavy on our hearts. Students began to weep, some just fell to their knees in silence. We began to hunger for something greater than the music. Something greater than the lyrics. Something greater than “church.” We began to hunger with a passion for God’s presence like never before. Words were not enough to describe our want for God’s power. We began to cry out for His Kingdom to come within us and around us. There was a desperation for the Holy Spirit to invade our lives with the life of God. This was a beautiful display of His presence colliding with our life. Then it hit me, this Worship Revolution wasn’t just a passing theme for our worship night, but a movement that God is wanting to ignite across the world. This night of revolutionizing our idea of worship has led me to believe that the spiritual revolution we need will come through a lifestyle of worship...A WORSHIP REVOLUTION.

Worship is the foundation of who we are called to be. It is the core of our being. If we are going to experience God’s kingdom on earth then it is going to take a Worship Revolution. Worship should be at the center of everything we are and do as followers of Christ. A Worship Revolution changes the very way Christianity moves forward. It ushers in God’s presence on this earth. A Worship Revolution fuels the heart of evangelism. A Worship Revolution does not try to convince people to follow Jesus, it compels them to run after Him. It causes us to be so in love with Jesus that sin is disgusting, (yes, even the thought of it turns us in the other direction). It pushes us to spend our lives in His presence so that there is no idle time to

mess around with the temptation and the traps of the enemy. A Worship Revolution transforms us daily into the people God has called us to be. This revolution starts with a group of people that won't settle for anything less than what God has destined for them. This revolution births a new breed of worshipers all around the world. Not just church goers, but devoted, pursuers of God. A group of people that are driven with passion, power, and purpose for a cause beyond themselves. Those who overflow with compassion for others because of their love for God. Those whose battle cry is...

**“A worship
revolution
transforms us daily
into the people
God has called us
to be.”**

Psalm 24:3-6

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior. Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face, O God of Jacob.

The Generation

Worship Revolutionists are not content with “making camp” at the base of the mountain. They desire to go to the heights where God’s presence is. We read in the book of Exodus that God’s chosen people, the Children of Israel, escaped generations of slavery under Egypt’s control. God raised up a revolutionist named Moses to lead

them out of bondage into the promised land He had for them. A land of freedom and provision for their every need. Yet, just a few chapters later, after they escaped Egypt's control, the same people began to complain about traveling through the desert. They lost sight of what God had done for them. They lost their way because of greed, selfishness, and sin. They wandered in the desert for forty years because of their attitude and disobedience to God.

Exodus 19:1-3a

On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord God called to him from the mountain...

During their journey, the Children of Israel came to the Desert of Sinai where they set up camp for a time. They became quite content with camping out at the base of Mount Sinai while Moses went up to the high places to meet with God. Moses was a Worship Revolutionist. He was willing to give up to go up (give up everything to go up the mountain and be with God). Are we willing to give up our comfort to go up and meet with God like Moses did? God spoke the secrets of His heart to Moses in the high places. God showed Moses a glimpse of who He was on the mountaintop. Moses had a God encounter while the others lived their familiar normal lives at the base.

It was not an easy job for Moses to climb Mt. Sinai to meet with God. Climbing to the top of a 7,500ft mountain where the air is thin is no small feat for anyone, but for an eighty year old man, I would

“Sometimes we have to leave our **comfort** and step out onto the rocky places that are **difficult** to navigate, in order to be used by God.”

think it would be quite a task. Moses could have opted out of this difficult journey and stayed in the comfort of the base camp, but he chose to rise to the challenge of climbing the mountain. Sometimes we have to leave our comfort and step out onto the rocky places that are difficult to navigate, in

order to be used by God. If you visit Mt. Sinai today, you will find coffee shops along the mountainside. These shops provide hikers with a much needed break as they journey to the top. Many hikers do not even make it to the top because exhaustion gets the best of them. It is easy to see how the comfort of “base camp” would be appealing to the Children of Israel. It is easier to relax surrounded by the comforts of camp at the bottom of the mountain, than climb to the top. Lazy and content with an intoxicating life of entertainment, hobbies, and socializing, the Children of Israel missed the presence of the Creator God revealing Himself in the high places. What is worse is that they did not even know they were missing the encounter of a lifetime.

I wonder how many of us live the same type of life as the Children of Israel, camping out at the base of the greatest adventure we could ever imagine. Walking around, day by day, keeping busy, and wondering through life with no real sense of where God is. As children, we start life with a curiosity to explore. As we get older, exploration can turn into apathy, and apathy turns into entropy. Not

just physically but spiritually as well. We start to settle rather than pioneer.

Worship Revolutionists are pioneers, blazing new trails, and always on the move for God. We hear stories of these pioneers, like Moses, who have gone up the mountain. We see their passion, discipline, and their faith. We stop and wonder what it would be like to give it all and go. But then we calm ourselves back down into what we call, “Reality.” We never step up the mountain. We have gotten comfortable at base camp. We have found ways to entertain ourselves and keep our minds from spiritual wonder. We have learned how to make average feel like greatness.

“We have learned how to make **average** feel like **greatness**.”

Camping Out

My family went camping for the first time not too long ago. My wife and I took our two girls out into the deep, deep, dangerous wilderness a.k.a. my in-laws front yard. That's right, at least fifty long feet from A/C, bathrooms, showers, and a refrigerator. We figured this would be a safe place to start our camping adventures. As we began to shop for all the camping gear we needed, we were overwhelmed. There is nothing that someone hasn't thought of that you “need” in order to go camping. There are battery powered torches, portable cell phone chargers, battery powered fans, cushioned mats to sleep on, blow up mattresses, tents bigger than my house. You name it, they have it. We have made it so luxurious to camp that it can actually be quite enjoyable and comfortable. But no matter how

many contraptions for comfort the camping industry comes up with, a tent can never compare to our home. I think about the early nomads and how they had to truly “camp out” because they had nothing else. As time moved on, shelters replaced their tents, and houses replaced their shelters. They gladly gave up their tents for greater facilities as their skills and resources advanced. I sometimes wonder if an early nomad were transported in a time machine to today (and saw our beautiful homes with all their amenities) if he would find it strange that some choose to sleep in a tent in the woods for recreation.

No matter how comfortable we make our camping experience, it will always be second best to our home. It will always be an inferior copy of the real thing. Sure, a tent may not come with the utility bills or insurance premiums that a house does, but I think we would all agree that those extra burdens are worth it in the end. I don't think there are many out there that would trade their real home for life in the forest. Yet, if not careful, we can make this trade in our spiritual lives. We can condition ourselves to believe that life at “base camp” is just as good as the real thing. All the while, God has mansions and air conditioning waiting for us if we would choose to go up the mountain.

Zig Ziglar, one of my favorite speakers, tells of a famous study done with fleas. Scientists took a group of fleas and put them in a jar with a lid. The fleas tried hard to jump out, but were met with disappointment as they smashed their little heads against the lid. After a period of time, scientists removed the lid, providing an escape for the fleas. They were home free! But the fleas didn't take advantage of this. Had they become content in their little mason jar home? Not quite. The fleas did not escape because they had conditioned them-

selves to jump below the height of the lid. They believed the lid was still on the jar. They were living on past experience rather than exploring the possibility of escape. We too can condition ourselves to jump only as high as the lids that we and others put on our lives. We can colonize familiarity and leave the pioneering to the brave. Unfortunately, this type of living did not go well for the Children of Israel. They never got to enter into the Promise Land that God had set out for them, because they stopped just short of the journey. Not until Joshua stepped in, and a new generation emerged, were the Children of Israel able to enter into the Promise Land. The previous generation missed being part of a revolution during its time.

Today, just like in the days of Moses, there are generations of people who are so intoxicated with the world that they are numb to the presence of an awesome God. Like the Children of Israel, some have drugged themselves with false idols, money, selfishness, and comfort. Instead of being awakened to the reality of what God has for them, they find themselves asleep in the reality around them.

I have been deeply impacted by the revolutionary lyrics in the song, “Asleep In The Light” by Keith Green (who, by the way, was a Worship Revolutionist in the 70s and 80s). He wrote...

*The world is sleeping in the dark
That the church just can't fight
'Cause it's asleep in the light
How can you be so dead
When you've been so well fed
Jesus rose from the grave
And you, you can't even get out of bed*

What powerful words for the church! I believe a Worship Revolution is taking place where people are beginning to awaken to the greatness of God. They are starting to detox their lives from the poison of the world. As these Revolutionists awaken to the greatness of God, worship is rushing out of them like an uncontrollable class 5 rapid. They are not content with just talking about God, debating doctrines, and creating committees. They have tired from hearing rumors of God moving. They want to experience the life-changing power of God in their own lives and in the lives of those around them. They are becoming the Sons of Liberty for this generation.

“Their bags are packed and they’re ready to go,” in the words of John Denver. What is in their bags? I believe their bags are packed with faith to believe, forgiveness to give, peace to be comforted, perseverance to endure, courage to risk, wisdom for guidance, and strength to finish.

There is a choice we all have to make to either go up the mountain or give up at the base. Famous basketball coach John Wooden said,

“There is a choice you have to make in everything you do. So keep in mind that in the end, the choice you make, makes you.”

Isn’t that so true? If Worship Revolutionists are going to ascend into God’s presence they have to make the choices to go. No one can make that choice for them.

The Worship Revolution is about a sudden, radical, complete change for God. It is about changing our approach to worship, our passion to worship, and our understanding of what worship truly is. I am not just talking about singing louder, raising our hands higher,

or playing an instrument during a "worship service." I am talking about the revolution of a worship lifestyle that happens twenty-four seven. This revolution is not just hype or revival, it is a life-long, life-giving, life-changing devotion that is birthed out of a relationship with the Creator of the Universe. I hope you are ready to start an amazing journey of letting go of the past and embracing the future that God has for you and for this generation. Be ready for your heart to overflow with joy, your mind to know the Creator, your soul to find peace, and your strength to be God-sized. Let the Worship Revolution begin...

About John Barrett...

John was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on Valentines's Day, February 14th, 1980. His family moved to Brown County, Indiana where John grew up and graduated from high school. After his graduation, John was accepted into a hands-on internship program at a large church in New Albany, Indiana. This opportunity gave John the experience and training he needed to start his journey into full-time ministry. John began to travel doing guest speaking, worship leading, and leadership conferences around the country. He has served on staff at churches in Indiana, Tennessee, and Oklahoma. John has led mission teams throughout central America, taught leadership development for businesses, churches, schools, and government organizations. He is a certified coach, speaker, and trainer with Dr. John C. Maxwell. John has a passion to help people DISCOVER their gifts, DEVELOP their potential and DO great things.

John met his beautiful wife Erin in high school where they worked together for a few weeks at a local restaurant. They reconnected while John was serving as youth pastor back in his home town. In 2003 they were married and started their journey together. John and Erin have 2 beautiful daughters, Zion & Allie.

John is a writer, musician, artist, blogger, life and leadership coach. Most importantly though, he is a husband & father to his amazing family.

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THE WORSHIP REVOLUTION

Become who you were created to be

We were created to worship. Worship is more than religion, more than songs, more than just rituals. Worship is a lifestyle that is lived out daily. The Worship Revolution is about a sudden, radical, complete change for God. It is a call to rise up and become part of a generation that will seek the face of God and stand for truth. In this book, John gives great insight and inspiration into what the life of a Worship Revolutionist looks like. The Worship Revolution will challenge you to become who you were created to be.



John Barrett is a gifted speaker, writer, musician, and artist. He is dedicated to helping people discover their gifts, develop their potential, and do great things with their life. John and his wife live with their two daughters in Indiana.

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