

When thinking about what to write about, a friend suggested I choose something that I'm passionate about. If you know me and my family, you know that thing is music. Furthermore, that thing is worship. Worship is something I struggled with growing up but now it is where I feel closest to God. My college years have been the years where I've been more open in worship, but it took a long time to feel as comfortable as I am now. I used to keep my hands clasped either in front of me and I would keep my eyes open. At Winterfest one year in high school, I was very close to opening my hands but I decided that's all I would do and I still didn't do it. The same thing happened the next year.

Why was I so focused on what to do and how people would view what I was doing? I wasn't letting the Spirit take over my soul and letting Him move me. I went to camp that year (my senior year) and on the first night, there was a thunderstorm while we were worshipping. At first, it scared me but then I felt calm and it was soothing. I was very comfortable at that point and that night, I opened my hands towards God and I closed my eyes. That night was truly unforgettable. Why? Because the Spirit was moving me in a way I hadn't been moved before.

My freshman year at OC, I would open my hands but I wouldn't close my eyes unless it was in a dark place and no one else could see me. There were those thoughts of people judging the way I worship. With View 63 (OC's weekly worship night), I have been able to worship freely and I truly believe that God has placed that freedom in my heart. He knows that is the way I get the closest to Him and so He cares enough to make me carefree and to not worry about judgment. Now, I get goosebumps constantly. You will find me being as free as can be whenever and wherever I get the chance to worship.

Every summer, I get to travel with an awesome group of people spreading the Gospel through song. I see God working through us and through our voices. Our concert opener is an invitation to "Magnify the Lord" with us and to "Come Exalt His Name together" .

I've realized that the beginning lyrics correlate to conquering my "fear" of worship growing up:

"I sought the Lord and He answered me

And delivered me from every fear

Those who look on Him are radiant

They'll never be ashamed"

Letting the Spirit take over me while worshipping is one of my favorite things and I hope we, as God's children, magnify the Lord with every song.