May I Have This Dance

New Testament Insights for God’s Dancers

Ruth Ann Mayer
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First printing - July 2002

May I Have This Dance
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Cover and Title Page Photos
Dan Mayer, One Accord Ministries
Photos on Pages: 1, 2, 6, 10-28, 32-44, 48, 52, 54 and back cover
Mary E. Wasmuth, About Images Photography
Photos on Pages: iii, iv, 3, 4, 30, 46, and 50

Cover Design
Ruth Ann Mayer

Printed in the United States of America

ONE ACCORD Ministries
11036 Rio Vista Drive
Austin, TX 78726

www.christiandance.com
To my “A” team ...

Adrienne, Alexander and Ashley

Three young dancers who understand the importance of glorifying God, evangelizing the lost and ministering to believers with spiritual maturity.

Thank you for patiently enduring the first draft of this book and providing the motivation for me to get it right!
Acknowledgments

Once again, I say thank you to my dear husband, Dan, who has supported me throughout the writing, reviewing and production of this latest book. As is often the case in a marriage, it was Dan who sat patiently listening to my verbose babbling as I worked through different ideas. (I write much more succinctly than I speak so you can imagine his pain.) It was Dan that I turned to for every technical problem that arose with my personal computer. It was Dan who figured out how we could print this book in color affordably. (He bought One Accord a professional color printer!) And it was Dan who took many of the beautiful photographs you will see throughout this book. I thank God for this precious man who shares my vision to spread the Gospel through dance.

A sincere thank you to my Pastors, Charles and Marquita Patterson of Church of the Hills in Austin, Texas for graciously agreeing to write the Foreword and for their Godly counsel in reviewing the final draft. Showing God’s love in its various forms is their daily walk and I thank them for being a continual source of wisdom and inspiration.

My grateful appreciation to Emiko Kumamoto and Jeanne McGowan for their assistance in reviewing the final manuscript. They cheerfully tackled the job of proofreading and working through each lesson for spiritual integrity and applicability. As One Accord dancers and leaders of Hill Country Bible Church’s dance ministry, they are uniquely qualified to lend their talents to this task. Thank you for your friendship and support. I consider it a privilege to partner with you in this ministry.
Foreword

The ministry of sacred dance, as with any other ministry, requires a great deal more than talent and gifting. Talent, a wonderful gift given by God, is essential to the ministry of sacred dance. However, for that gift to produce fruit in God’s Kingdom every dancer must cultivate a growing relationship with the Lord that increasingly unfolds His heart for His people. A person that expresses purity in worship and focuses people on Jesus more than him or herself will be able to produce fruit that lasts.

In this book, Ruth Ann Mayer skillfully unfolds God’s Word in a way that reveals God’s heart for those called to the ministry of worship through sacred dance. You will be energized with new vision as you work and pray through the scripture and principles presented.

Jesus said, “...I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last (John 15:16 NIV).” As you pursue the ministry of sacred dance, “May I Have This Dance” will help equip you to bear fruit that will last.

Charles Patterson
Senior Pastor
Church of the Hills
Austin, TX
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Use this Book</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romans</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Corinthians</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Corinthians</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galatians</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephesians</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippians</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colossians</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Thessalonians</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Thessalonians</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Timothy</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Timothy</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titus</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philemon</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrews</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Peter</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Peter</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3 John</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jude</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revelations</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Introduction

When God calls us to the ministry of dance our initial response is a zealous, “Yes Lord!” The Bible says our child-like faith delights our Heavenly Father and he rejoices with us as we accept our newfound calling. This first step is to be one of many as our Christian walk moves from glory to glory.

But what was intended to be a journey often never grows beyond this initial zeal. Instead our calling stalls, slowly dries up and we wonder if we really heard from God at all. Why does this happen? Why does a dancer or a dance ministry experience a season of prosperity only to wither and die? It happens because we misinterpret God’s initial grace period for our fully developed calling. It happens because we think God is asking: “Would you like to dance?”; when he is really asking: “May I have this dance?”

God exhorts us to add knowledge, understanding, wisdom and revelation to our initial zeal. He extends grace to us for a season, but his expectation is that we will use this time to study and apply His Word to our character and calling. He never intended for any ministry to operate solely on zeal. A dance ministry is no exception.

The first time God asks, “May I have this dance?” is when we are called. He repeats this question each time he inspires us to choreograph a new work. And just before we step out to minister in dance, he whispers again, “May I have this dance?” This question is not an invitation to dance - it is a soul search. God is examining our hearts and motives and he is waiting for our answer. Our response determines whether we will “minister” in dance or “perform” a dance.

God is looking for spiritually mature, servant-dancers who will align themselves with his vision and purposes. He is looking for dancers who are willing to move out of their infancy. He is looking for servants who are willing to add knowledge, understanding, wisdom and revelation to their initial zeal. By studying and applying the inspired word of God to our character, dancers can fully develop their calling and fulfill their destiny for God’s Glory and Kingdom purposes!

May God richly bless you as you work through each of these lessons.
How to Use this Book

These lessons can be the basis for:

- a group study,
- a mentor/protégé activity or
- an independent study by individual dancers.

Each lesson requires dancers to read scripture and apply God’s Word to their character and calling. The lessons are designed to provide direction, but leave room for the Holy Spirit to impart a timely word. Space is provided to personalize each lesson by writing in what the Holy Spirit is impressing on your heart. Use Appendix A to compile these thoughts.

One approach you might consider is teaching from one book each month. Since each lesson is comprised of three scriptures and a word study, you could discuss:

- The first scripture the first week of the month;
- The second scripture the second week;
- The third scripture the third week;
- Word study and improvisational movement the fourth week of the month.

This would allow your dancers to receive a brief teaching at every weekly meeting, but still leave plenty of time for dancing.

The word study is offered to help dancers understand that movement was used throughout the New Testament to express worship unto and for our Heavenly Father. To maximize this learning experience:

- Look up the scriptures using a KJV Bible. Refer to Appendix B.
- See how the words were used in their original context.
- Discuss the significance to God’s dancers.
- When applicable, use improvisational technique to explore dance movements that might express the word.
Leader and Lesson Outlines
**MATTHEW**

- 4:10 You must worship the Lord your God; serve only Him.

For dancers this means:
A. When we minister in dance, we must stay focused on worshipping only God!
B. We are to use our talents to serve him.
C. 

- 6:1 Take care! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired, because then you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven.

For dancers this means:
A. Our dances should flow out of a love for God, not out of a desire to showcase our talents.
B. When we minister in dance, our motives need to be pure.
C. 

- 21:16 Jesus replied, “Haven’t you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, You have taught children and infants to give you praise.”

For dancers this means:
A. Children should be encouraged to praise God with dance.
B. Children can be powerful worshippers.
C. 

---

**Greek Word Study**

Proskuneo
(Pros-koo-neh-o)

To: Prostrate

Ref: Matthew 2:2

---

**Prayer**

Lord, you are worthy of our worship. Keep our hearts focused on you and our motives pure when we are dancing. Let our dances flow out of our love for you. Help us Lord to encourage the children to praise you with dance. May we never lose their zeal to worship with all our hearts.
MATTHEW

• 4:10 You must worship the Lord your God; serve only Him.

For dancers this means:
A. When we minister in dance, we must stay focused on worshipping only ________!
B. We are to use our talents to ________ him.
C. ____________________________

• 6:1 Take care! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired, because then you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven.

For dancers this means:
A. Our dances should flow out of a __________ for God, not out of a desire to showcase our talents.
B. When we minister in dance, our motives need to be ____________
C. ____________________________

• 21:16 Jesus replied, “Haven’t you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, You have taught children and infants to give you praise.”

For dancers this means:
A. Children should be encouraged to praise God with __________.
B. Children can be _______________ worshippers.
C. ____________________________

Greek Word Study

Proskuneo
(Pros-koo-neh-o)

To: _______________________
Ref: _______________________

Prayer

Lord, you are worthy of our worship. Keep our hearts focused on you and our motives pure when we are dancing. Let our dances flow out of our love for you. Help us Lord to encourage the children to praise you with dance. May we never lose their zeal to worship with all our hearts.

Vocabulary: Dance, God, Love, Powerful, Pure, Serve
MARK

• 7:7 These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far away.

For dancers this means:
A. We must not confuse ritual with true worship.
B. If we want to minister in dance, we must dance with our hearts first, then our bodies.
C. 

• 11:8-9 Many in the crowd spread their coats on the road ahead of Jesus and others cut leafy branches in the fields and spread them along the way. Jesus was in the center of the procession and the crowds all around him were shouting, “Hosanna!”

For dancers this means:
A. Worship can be expressed through words and symbolic gestures.
B. Jesus should always be in the center of our dances.
C. 

• 14:3 Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had leprosy. During supper, a woman came in with a beautiful jar of expensive perfume. She broke the seal and poured the perfume over his head.

For dancers this means:
A. Intense worship can require generous gifts and acts of love.
B. When we dance, we need to offer lavish worship and sincere emotion.
C. 

Greek Word Study

Airo
(ahee-ro)

To: Lift Up
Ref: Mark 15:21

Prayer

Lord, help us to be true worshippers. Show us how to dance with our hearts as well as our bodies. Help us always to keep Jesus at the center of our dances and inspire us to create works that show lavish acts of love.
MARK

- 7:7 These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far away.

For dancers this means:
A. We must not confuse __________ with true worship.
B. If we want to minister in dance, we must dance with our hearts first, then our______.
C. __________________________________________

- 11:8-9 Many in the crowd spread their coats on the road ahead of Jesus and others cut leafy branches in the fields and spread them along the way. Jesus was in the center of the procession and the crowds all around him were shouting, “Hosanna!”

For dancers this means:
A. Worship can be expressed through words and symbolic ________________.
B. Jesus should always be in the center of our ________________.
C. __________________________________________

- 14:3 Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had leprosy. During supper, a woman came in with a beautiful jar of expensive perfume. She broke the seal and poured the perfume over his head.

For dancers this means:
A. Intense worship can require generous gifts and acts of ________________.
B. When we dance, we need to offer _____________ worship and sincere emotion.
C. __________________________________________

Prayer
Lord, help us to be true worshippers. Show us how to dance with our hearts as well as our bodies. Help us always to keep Jesus at the center of our dances and inspire us to create works that show lavish acts of love.

Vocabulary: Bodies, Dances, Gestures, Lavish, Love, Ritual
LUKE

- 5:9 ...for he (Simon Peter) was awestruck by the size of their catch, as were the others with him.

For dancers this means:
A. Being awestruck is an appropriate response to the works of our Heavenly Father.
B. When we dance, we should communicate our awe to our congregation and one another.
C. 

- 18:14 For the proud will be humbled, but the humbled will be honored.

For dancers this means:
A. God sees what is in our hearts.
B. We should always approach God’s altar with genuine humility.
C. 

- 24:52 They worshipped Him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God.

For dancers this means:
A. Worshipping Jesus in dance should fill us with great joy!
B. We should praise God throughout our dances.
C. 

Greek Word Study

Skirtao (Skeer-tah-o)
To: Skip or Leap
Ref: Luke 6:23

Prayer
Lord, we are in awe of your greatness. We are humbled and feel privileged to be chosen to deliver your message of love to your people. Help us Lord to stay in a genuine attitude of worship throughout our dances ~ for apart from you we can do nothing.
LUKE

- 5:9 ...for he (Simon Peter) was awestruck by the size of their catch, as were the others with him.

For dancers this means:
A. Being _______________ is an appropriate response to the works of our Heavenly Father.
B. When we dance, we should communicate our awe to our _______________ and one another.
C. ________________________________________________________________

- 18:14 For the proud will be humbled, but the humbled will be honored.

For dancers this means:
A. God sees what is in our _______________.
B. We should always approach God’s altar with genuine _______________.
C. ________________________________________________________________

- 24:52 They worshipped Him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God.

For dancers this means:
A. Worshipping Jesus in dance should fill us with great _________!
B. We should praise God ________________ our dances.
C. ________________________________________________________________

**Greek Word Study**

Skirtao
(Skee-rah-o)

To: _______________
Ref: _______________

**Prayer**

Lord, we are in awe of your greatness. We are humbled and feel privileged to be chosen to deliver your message of love to your people. Help us Lord to stay in a genuine attitude of worship throughout our dances ~ for apart from you we can do nothing.

Vocabulary: Awestruck, Congregation, Hearts, Humility, Joy, Throughout
JOHN

- 4:24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

For dancers this means:
A. We were made in God's image.
B. God expects us to worship Him in spirit and in truth.
C. ___________________________________________________________________

- 8:47 Anyone whose Father is God listens gladly to the words of God.

For dancers this means:
A. God’s word should be revered and treated with respect.
B. When we dance, we need to believe in the power of God’s word.
C. ___________________________________________________________________

- 11:4 Lazarus’ sickness will not end in death. No, it is for the glory of God.

For dancers this means:
A. God can use circumstances to show His glory.
B. We need to dance expecting God to reveal himself.
C. ___________________________________________________________________

Greek Word Study

Agalliao
(Ag-al-lee-ah-o)
To: Jump for Joy
Ref: John 5:35

Prayer
Father God, help us to worship you in spirit and truth. May we listen gladly to your words and believe in their power. May we always dance expecting you to reveal yourself in a miraculous way!
JOHN

- 4:24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

For dancers this means:
A. We were made in God's _________.
B. God expects us to worship Him in spirit and in _________.
C. ____________________________

- 8:47 Anyone whose Father is God listens gladly to the words of God.

For dancers this means:
A. God's word should be revered and treated with _____________.
B. When we dance, we need to believe in the ______________ of God's word.
C. ____________________________

- 11:4 Lazarus' sickness will not end in death. No, it is for the glory of God.

For dancers this means:
A. God can use circumstances to show ________ glory.
B. We need to dance ______________ God to reveal himself.
C. ____________________________

Greek Word Study

Agalliao
(Ag-al-lee-ah-o)
To: ______________
Ref: ______________

Prayer
Father God, help us to worship you in spirit and truth. May we listen gladly to your words and believe in their power. May we always dance expecting you to reveal yourself in a miraculous way!

Vocabulary: Expecting, His, Image, Power, Respect, Truth
ACTS

- 7:54-60  The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen ... and as they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And he fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!”

For dancers this means:
A. We need to be prayed up because not everyone is going to see our witness for Jesus as a blessing from God.
B. We need to forgive those who do not embrace our gifts.
C. 

- 8:18-21  When Simon saw that the Holy Spirit was given when the apostles placed their hands upon people’s heads, he offered money to buy this power. But Peter replied, “May your money perish with you for thinking God’s gift can be bought! You can have no part in this, for your heart is not right before God.”

For dancers this means:
A. Do not chase after the manifestations of God.
B. Our true motives are revealed in what we say and do.
C. 

- 10:44  Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who had heard the message.

For dancers this means:
A. Our job is to deliver God’s messages.
B. The Holy Spirit causes change in hearts.
C. 

Greek Word Study
Hallomai
(Hal’-lom-ah-ee)
To: Spring Up
Ref: Acts 3:8

Prayer
Lord, help us to be good witnesses for your glory. Help us to forgive those who misunderstand our calling. Keep our motives pure so that your message is delivered and the Holy Spirit has the opportunity to change hearts.
ACTS

7:54-60  The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen ... and as they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And he fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!”

For dancers this means:
A. We need to be prayed up because not everyone is going to see our __________ for Jesus as a blessing from God.
B. We need to forgive those who do not __________ our gifts.
C. __________

8:18-21  When Simon saw that the Holy Spirit was given when the apostles placed their hands upon people’s heads, he offered money to buy this power. But Peter replied, “May your money perish with you for thinking God’s gift can be bought! You can have no part in this, for your heart is not right before God.”

For dancers this means:
A. Do not __________ after the manifestations of God.
B. Our true motives are __________ in what we say and do.
C. __________

10:44  Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who had heard the message.

For dancers this means:
A. Our job is to deliver God’s __________.
B. The __________ causes change in hearts.
C. __________

Greek Word Study

Hallomai
(Hal’-lom-ahee)

To: __________
Ref: __________

Prayer

Lord, help us to be good witnesses for your glory. Help us to forgive those who misunderstand our calling. Keep our motives pure so that your message is delivered and the Holy Spirit has the opportunity to change hearts.

Vocabulary: Chase, Embrace, Holy Spirit, Messages, Revealed, Witness
ROMANS

- 10:2 I know what enthusiasm they have for God, but it is misdirected zeal.

For dancers this means:
A. Our enthusiasm to dance for God should not turn into misdirected zeal.
B. We need to trust God’s will for our dances and do it his way.
C.  

- 12:2 Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

For dancers this means:
A. Do not copy the way the world dances – for personal fame and glory.
B. Let God transform you as a dancer by changing the way you think.
C.  

- 14:20 Don’t tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, there is nothing wrong with these things in themselves. But it is wrong to eat anything if it makes another person stumble.

For dancers this means:
A. Don’t argue among yourselves; debating which dance styles are acceptable before God.
B. A style of dance is only inappropriate if it would not bless your congregation or intended audience.
C.  

Greek Word Study
Kampto (Kamp-to’)
To: Bow or Kneel
Ref: Rom 14:11

Prayer
Father God, refine our enthusiasm so it does not resemble misdirected zeal. Transform our hearts and talents into works of art that delight you. Help us to set aside our personal preferences and choose dance styles that will edify our congregation.
ROMANS

- 10:2 I know what enthusiasm they have for God, but it is misdirected zeal.

For dancers this means:
A. Our enthusiasm to dance for God should not turn into misdirected ____________.
B. We need to trust God's will for our dances and do it ____________ way.
C. ____________

- 12:2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

For dancers this means:
A. Do not copy the way the ____________ dances – for personal fame and glory.
B. Let God ____________ you as a dancer by changing the way you think.
C. ____________

- 14:20 Don’t tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, there is nothing wrong with these things in themselves. But it is wrong to eat anything if it makes another person stumble.

For dancers this means:
A. Don’t ____________ among yourselves; debating which dance styles are acceptable before God.
B. A style of dance is only ____________ if it would not bless your congregation or intended audience.
C. ____________

Greek Word Study

Kampto
(Kamp-to’)

To: ____________
Ref: ____________

Prayer

Father God, refine our enthusiasm so it does not resemble misdirected zeal. Transform our hearts and talents into works of art that delight you. Help us to set aside our personal preferences and choose dance styles that will edify our congregation.

Vocabulary: Argue, His, Inappropriate, Transform, World, Zeal
1 CORINTHIANS

- 10:33 I (Paul) try to please everyone in everything I do. I don't just do what I like or what is best for me, but what is best for them so they may be saved.

For dancers this means:
A. We need to be aware of our self-centered natures.
B. We must never lose sight of our priorities: God, others, then us.
C. 

- 12:7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.

For dancers this means:
A. It is each dancer's responsibility to explore the parameters of their gift.
B. Our spiritual gift of dance, given to us by the Holy Spirit, is meant to be shared with our church.
C. 

- 14:26 ... everything that is done (during a church service) must be useful to all and build them up in the Lord. But be sure that everything is done properly and in order.

For dancers this means:
A. Our dances need to have clear messages that edify.
B. Always obtain permission from leadership before dancing spontaneously.
C. 

Greek Word Study

Anastasis
(An-as'-tas-is)
To: Stand Up
Ref: 1 Cor 15:12

Prayer
Lord, help us to use our God-given talents to deliver the message of salvation. Inspire us to choreograph works that edify and encourage. May our dances blend with the overall service and help to sustain the anointing.
1 CORINTHIANS

• 10:33 I (Paul) try to please everyone in everything I do. I don’t just do what I like or what is best for me, but what is best for them so they may be saved.

For dancers this means:
A. We need to be aware of our ___________ natures.
B. We must never lose sight of our priorities: God, others, then ____.
C. ___________

• 12:7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.

For dancers this means:
A. It is each dancer’s responsibility to ___________ the parameters of their gift.
B. Our spiritual gift of dance, given to us by the Holy Spirit, is meant to be ___________ with our church.
C. ___________

• 14:26 ... everything that is done (during a church service) must be useful to all and build them up in the Lord. But be sure that everything is done properly and in order.

For dancers this means:
A. Our dances need to have ___________ Messages that edify.
B. ___________ obtain permission from leadership before dancing spontaneously.
C. ___________

Greek Word Study

Anastasis
(An-as’-tas-is)
To: ___________
Ref: ___________

Prayer

Lord, help us to use our God-given talents to deliver the message of salvation. Inspire us to choreograph works that edify and encourage. May our dances blend with the overall service and help to sustain the anointing.

Vocabulary: Always, Clear, Explore, Self-Centered, Shared, Us
2 CORINTHIANS

- 1:22 He has commissioned us, and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment of everything he will give us.

For dancers this means:
A. God has put us into service for his purposes and glory.
B. He recognizes us by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.
C. ____________________________

- 3:4-6 We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. It is not that we think we can do anything of lasting value by ourselves. Our only power and success come from God. He is the one who has enabled us to represent his covenant.

For dancers this means:
A. We can step out in faith and holy boldness because of our trust in God.
B. We know that our power and success as dancers comes from God.
C. ____________________________

- 5:20 We are Christ’s ambassadors and God is using us to speak to others.

For dancers this means:
A. God has chosen us to be Christ’s diplomats.
B. We must speak to others through our dances.
C. ____________________________

Greek Word Study
Katoptrizomai
(Kat-op-trid'-zom-ahee)
To: Reflect
Ref: 2 Cor 3:18

Prayer
Father God, it is a privilege to be chosen and commissioned by you to share the Gospel through dance. We know that our power and success comes from you. We step out in faith and holy boldness because of our trust in you.
2 CORINTHIANS

- 1:22 He has commissioned us, and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment of everything he will give us.
  
  For dancers this means:
  A. God has put us into __________ for his purposes and glory.
  B. He __________ us by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.
  C. __________

- 3:4-6 We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. It is not that we think we can do anything of lasting value by ourselves. Our only power and success come from God. He is the one who has enabled us to represent his covenant.

  For dancers this means:
  A. We can step out in faith and holy boldness because of our __________ in God.
  B. We know that our __________ and success as dancers comes from God.
  C. __________

- 5:20 We are Christ's ambassadors and God is using us to speak to others.
  
  For dancers this means:
  A. God has chosen us to be Christ's __________.
  B. We must __________ to others through our dances.
  C. __________

Greek Word Study

Katoptrizomai

(Kat-op-trid'-zom-ah-ee)

To: __________

Ref: __________

Prayer

Father God, it is a privilege to be chosen and commissioned by you to share the Gospel through dance. We know that our power and success comes from you. We step out in faith and holy boldness because of our trust in you.

Vocabulary: Diplomats, Power, Recognizes, Service, Speak, Trust
GALATIANS

3:3 After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?

For dancers this means:
A. Stay close to God throughout your entire dance.
B. Do not stray from his path and do your own thing.
C. 

5:13 You, my brother, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

For dancers this means:
A. We can dance with great joy because Jesus died for our sins and set us free.
B. We are not to use our gift of dance for selfish reasons; rather to edify and encourage others.
C. 

6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

For dancers this means:
A. If you dance to please yourself, you will not fool God because he sees your heart.
B. Many dancers need to be praying for crop failure!
C. 

Greek Word Study

Zeloo (Dzay-lo'-o)
To: Be Zealous
Ref: Gal 4:18

Prayer

Father, keep us close to you as we choreograph and minister in dance. Help us stay in an attitude of worship and not stray from your path. We dance with great joy because Jesus died to set us free!
- 3:3 After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?

For dancers this means:
A. Stay _________ to God throughout your entire dance.
B. Do not stray from his _________ and do your own thing.

- 5:13 You, my brother, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

For dancers this means:
A. We can dance with great joy because Jesus died for our sins and set us _________.
B. We are not to use our gift of dance for selfish reasons; rather to edify and encourage _________.

- 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

For dancers this means:
A. If you dance to please yourself, you will not fool God because he sees your _________.
B. Many dancers need to be praying for _________ failure!

Vocabulary: Close, Crop, Free, Heart, Others, Path
• 1:12 God’s purpose (for creating us) was that we who were the first to trust in Christ should praise our glorious God.

For dancers this means:
A. We were created to praise God.
B. God uniquely wired us to worship him with dance.
C. 

• 3:20 Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.

For dancers this means:
A. We should not try to dance or create dances without God’s inspiration or help.
B. Only with God can we fulfill the destiny he has planned for us.
C. 

• 5:16 Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days.

For dancers this means:
A. Be in a state of readiness (24:7); willing and able to serve on short notice.
B. Don’t do just any dance; pray and ask God to reveal his will regarding a dance.
C. 

Greek Word Study

Sophia
(Sof-ee'-ah)
To: Get Wisdom
Ref: Eph 1:16-17

Prayer

Lord, thank you for uniquely wiring us to praise you with dance. You have a divine appointment for every dance, so we patiently wait on your timing. We stay in a state of readiness and expectancy for your call to serve.
1:12  God’s purpose (for creating us) was that we who were the first to trust in Christ should praise our glorious God.

For dancers this means:
A. We were created to __________ God.
B. God uniquely wired us to worship him with __________.
C. __________

3:20  Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.

For dancers this means:
A. We should not try to dance or create dances without God’s inspiration or ________.
B. Only ________ God can we fulfill the destiny he has planned for us.
C. __________

5:16  Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days.

For dancers this means:
A. Be in a state of readiness (24:7); willing and able to ________ on short notice.
B. Don’t do just any dance; ________ and ask God to reveal his will regarding a dance.
C. __________

Greek Word Study
Sophia (Sof-ee’-ah)
To: __________
Ref: __________

Prayer
Lord, thank you for uniquely wiring us to praise you with dance. You have a divine appointment for every dance, so we patiently wait on your timing. We stay in a state of readiness and expectancy for your call to serve.

Vocabulary: Dance, Help, Praise, Pray, Serve, With
2:15 You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of crooked and perverse people. Let your lives shine brightly before them.

For dancers this means:
A. Our dances should have a positive impact on our world.
B. Our dances should shine brightly in a dark world.
C. 

3:13-14 No dear brothers and sisters, I am not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.

For dancers this means:
A. We need to keep growing spiritually and focus all our energy on what God has called us to do.
B. As dancers we need to look forward to what lies ahead and strain to finish the race God has put before us.
C. 

4:13 For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.

For dancers this means:
A. God is the source of our strength.
B. Apart from God we can do nothing.
C. 

Greek Word Study

Epiteleo
(Ep-ee-tee-oh-oh)
To: Accomplish
Ref: Phil 1:6

Prayer

Father God, help us to use our talents to impact our world for your glory. May we always reflect your majesty and power. Help us Lord to look forward, straining to finish the race you have put before us with the understanding that you are the source of our strength.
PHILIPPIANS

- 2:15 You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of crooked and perverse people. Let your lives shine brightly before them.

For dancers this means:
A. Our dances should have a Positive _______ on our world.
B. Our dances should ________ brightly in a dark world.
C. ____________________________

- 3:13-14 No dear brothers and sisters, I am not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.

For dancers this means:
A. We need to keep growing spiritually and focus ______ our energy on what God has called us to do.
B. As dancers we need to look forward to what lies ahead and _________ to finish the race God has put before us.
C. ____________________________

- 4:13 For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.

For dancers this means:
A. God is the ____________ of our strength.
B. ______________ from God we can do nothing.
C. ____________________________

Greek Word Study

Epiteleo
(Ep-ee-tel-eh'-o)

To: __________________________
Ref: _________________________

Prayer

Father God, help us to use our talents to impact our world for your glory. May we always reflect your majesty and power. Help us Lord to look forward, straining to finish the race you have put before us with the understanding that you are the source of our strength.

Vocabulary: All, Apart, Impact, Shine, Source, Strain
COLOSSIANS

• 1:11-12 May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father, who has enabled you to share the inheritance that belongs to God’s holy people, who live in the light.

For dancers this means:
A. We should dance with joy, always thanking the Father.
B. God has enabled us to share the Gospel through dance.
C. ______________________________________
   ______________________________________

• 3:14 The most important piece of clothing you must wear is love.

For dancers this means:
A. The garments we minister in are incomplete without God’s love.
B. No matter how beautiful our garments, how clever our choreography, how skilled our delivery, without God’s love, we are only performing a dance – not ministering in dance.
C. ______________________________________
   ______________________________________

• 3:23 Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

For dancers this means:
A. Work hard and cheerfully at learning how to dance.
B. Dance as though you were dancing for the Lord rather than for people.
C. ______________________________________
   ______________________________________

Greek Word Study

Ergon
(Er’-gon)
A: Deed or Action
Ref: Col 3:17

Prayer

Father God, we dance with great joy and thankfulness because you have enabled us to share your Gospel through dance. Show us the divine difference between “ministering” in dance and “performing.” Help us always to dance for you – our audience of one.
COLOSSIANS

• 1:11-12 May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father, who has enabled you to share the inheritance that belongs to God's holy people, who live in the light.

For dancers this means:
A. We should dance with ________, always thanking the Father.
B. God has enabled us to ________ the Gospel through dance.
C. _______________________________________________________________________

• 3:14 The most important piece of clothing you must wear is love.

For dancers this means:
A. The garments we minister in are incomplete without God's ________.
B. No matter how beautiful our garments, how clever our choreography, how skilled our delivery, without God's love, we are only performing a dance – not ________ in dance.
C. _______________________________________________________________________

• 3:23 Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

For dancers this means:
A. Work hard and cheerfully at ________________, how to dance.
B. Dance as though you were dancing for the ________ rather than for people.
C. _______________________________________________________________________

Greek Word Study

Ergon
(Er’gon)
A: ______________________________________________________________________
Ref: ______________________________________________________________________

Prayer

Father God, we dance with great joy and thankfulness because you have enabled us to share your Gospel through dance. Show us the divine difference between "ministering" in dance and "performing." Help us always to dance for you – our audience of one.

Vocabulary: Joy, Learning, Lord, Love, Ministering, Share
1 THESSEALONIANS

- 2:4 For we speak as messengers who have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people.

For dancers this means:
A. We are to dance as messengers approved by God and entrusted to deliver the Good News through dance.
B. Our goal is to please God when we dance, not people.
C. ______________________

- 5:8 But let us who live in the light think clearly, protected by the body armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.

For dancers this means:
A. We should aim to dance clearly and confidently.
B. We should step out in holy boldness because we are protected by God’s love and secure in our salvation.
C. ______________________

- 5:12-13 Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord’s work. They work hard among you and warn you against all that is wrong. Think highly of them and give them your wholehearted love because of their work.

For dancers this means:
A. Support and respect those who lead your dance ministry.
B. Show your honor by working alongside them to accomplish your ministry’s Kingdom purposes.
C. ______________________

Prayer
Lord, help us to focus on pleasing you, not people. Help us to step out in holy boldness, protected by your love and secure in our salvation. Show us how to support our leaders. May our walk and talk reflect our respect for the job you have given them.
1 THESSALONIANS

- 2:4 For we speak as messengers who have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people.

For dancers this means:
A. We are to dance as messengers approved by God and entrusted to ____________ the Good News through dance.
B. Our goal is to ____________ God when we dance, not people.
C. ____________

- 5:8 But let us who live in the light think clearly, protected by the body armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.

For dancers this means:
A. We should aim to dance ____________ and confidently.
B. We should step out in holy boldness because we are protected by God’s love and ____________ in our salvation.
C. ____________

- 5:12-13 Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord’s work. They work hard among you and warn you against all that is wrong. Think highly of them and give them your wholehearted love because of their work.

For dancers this means:
A. Support and ____________ those who lead your dance ministry.
B. Show your honor by working along side them to ____________ your ministry’s Kingdom purposes.
C. ____________

Greek Word Study

Ktaiomai (Ktah'-om-ahee)

To: ____________
Ref: ____________

Prayer

Lord, help us to focus on pleasing you, not people. Help us to step out in holy boldness, protected by your love and secure in our salvation. Show us how to support our leaders. May our walk and talk reflect our respect for the job you have given them.
2 THESALONIANS

- 1:11 And so we keep on praying for you, that our God will make you worthy of the life to which he called you. And we pray that God, by his power, will fulfill all your good intentions and faithful deeds.

For dancers this means:
A. We need to ask God daily to grow and perfect us in our calling.
B. We need to acknowledge that only with God’s power will we fulfill our good intentions and faithful deeds.
C. 

- 3:3 But the Lord is faithful; he will make you strong and guard you from the evil one.

For dancers this means:
A. We need to trust God and his ways when we dance.
B. Only God can protect us from the destructive purposes of Satan.
C. 

- 3:13 And I say to the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good.

For dancers this means:
A. God’s strength will sustain you in your calling.
B. Don’t let your flesh talk you out of ministering.
C. 

Greek Word Study

Klesis
(Klay-sis)
A: Calling
Ref: 2 Thess 1:11

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to grow and perfect our calling.
Protect us from the destructive purposes of Satan.
Please go before us, Lord, removing the obstacles and showing us the way.
2 THESSALONIANS

- 1:11 And so we keep on praying for you, that our God will make you worthy of the life to which he called you. And we pray that God, by his power, will fulfill all your good intentions and faithful deeds.

For dancers this means:
A. We need to ask God daily to grow and perfect us in our __________.
B. We need to acknowledge that only with God’s __________ will we fulfill our good intentions and faithful deeds.
C. ____________________________

- 3:3 But the Lord is faithful; he will make you strong and guard you from the evil one.

For dancers this means:
A. We need to __________ God and his ways when we dance.
B. __________ God can protect us from the destructive purposes of Satan.
C. ____________________________

- 3:13 And I say to the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good.

For dancers this means:
A. God’s strength will __________ you in your calling.
B. Don’t let your __________ talk you out of ministering.
C. ____________________________

Greek Word Study

Klesis
(Klay'-sis)
A: ____________________________
Ref: ____________________________

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to grow and perfect our calling.
Protect us from the destructive purposes of Satan.
Please go before us, Lord, removing the obstacles and showing us the way.

Vocabulary: Calling, Flesh, Only, Power, Sustain, Trust
1 TIMOTHEY

- 2:9 ... be modest in your appearance ... wear decent and appropriate clothing and do not draw attention to yourself.

For dancers this means:
A. Our costumes should be modest, decent and culturally relevant.
B. First, learn how to dance in a way that draws attention to God; then think about what to wear.
C.

- 4:4-5 Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it. We may receive it gladly, with thankful hearts. For we know it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

For dancers this means:
A. God originally created dance as a form of worship.
B. Dancing before the Lord is made holy by the word of God and prayer.
C.

- 4:7-8 Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness. Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more important, for it promises a reward in both this life and the next.

For dancers this means:
A. We should never neglect our spiritual walk!
B. A dancer’s training is incomplete without spiritual knowledge, understanding, wisdom, revelation and the love of God.
C.

**Greek Word Study**

**Epairo**

(Ép-ah-eer-oh)

To: Raise Up

Ref: 1 Tim 2:8

**Prayer**

Lord, thank you for creating dance as a form of worship and sanctifying it with your Word and prayer. May our dances always draw attention to you. May our costumes beautify your sanctuary. May we never tire of seeking your will for our calling.
1 TIMOTHY

- 2:9 ... be modest in your appearance ... wear decent and appropriate clothing and do not draw attention to yourself.

For dancers this means:
A. Our costumes should be modest, ___________ and culturally relevant.
B. First, learn how to dance in a way that draws ___________ to God; then think about what to wear.
C. ___________

- 4:4-5 Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it. We may receive it gladly, with thankful hearts. For we know it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

For dancers this means:
A. God originally created dance as a form of ___________.
B. Dancing before the Lord is made ___________ by the word of God and prayer.
C. ___________

- 4:7-8 Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness. Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more important, for it promises a reward in both this life and the next.

For dancers this means:
A. We should ___________ neglect our spiritual walk!
B. A dancer's training is ___________ without spiritual knowledge, understanding, wisdom, revelation and the love of God.
C. ___________

Greek Word Study

Epairo (Ep-ahee-ro)

To: ___________
Ref: ___________

Prayer

Lord, thank you for creating dance as a form of worship and sanctifying it with your Word and prayer. May our dances always draw attention to you. May our costumes beautify your sanctuary. May we never tire of seeking your will for our calling.

Vocabulary: Attention, Decent, Holy, Incomplete, Never, Worship
2 TIMOTHY

• 1:6 “This is why I remind you to fan into flame the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you.”

For dancers this means:
A. It is every dancer’s responsibility to fan into flame their gifting.
B. It is a leader’s responsibility to help team members maximize their gifts.
C. 

• 2:2 Teach these great truths to trustworthy people who are able to pass them on to others.

For dancers this means:
A. We should be faithful, committed servants.
B. We should look at our abilities (our talents) honestly and objectively.
C. 

• 3:16-17 All scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God’s way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.

For dancers this means:
A. We need to study God’s word to learn how he wants us to glorify him with dance.
B. Studying God’s word will equip us to minister in dance with knowledge, understanding, wisdom, revelation, holy boldness and power.
C. 

Greek Word Study
Anazoprueo
(An-ad-zo-poor-eh’-o)
To: Fan into Flame
Ref: 2 Tim 1:6

Prayer
Lord, help us to fan into flame the spiritual gift you have given us. Give us a heart to study your Word so we are equipped to minister in dance effectively. Thank you for trusting us to pass these great truths on to others.
2 TIMOTHY

• 1:6 This is why I remind you to fan into flame the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you.

For dancers this means:
A. It is every dancer’s responsibility to fan into flame their _________.
B. It is a leader’s responsibility to help team members ______________ their gifts.
C. ______________________________

• 2:2 Teach these great truths to trustworthy people who are able to pass them on to others.

For dancers this means:
A. We should be ____________, committed servants.
B. We should look at our ____________ (our talents) honestly and objectively.
C. ______________________________

• 3:16-17 All scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God’s way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.

For dancers this means:
A. We need to study God’s word to ____________ how he wants us to glorify him with dance.
B. Studying God’s word will ____________ us to minister in dance with knowledge, understanding, wisdom, revelation, holy boldness and power.
C. ______________________________

Greek Word Study
Anazoprinveo
(An-ad-zo-poor-eh'-o)
To: ______________________
Ref: ______________________

Prayer
Lord, help us to fan into flame the spiritual gift you have given us. Give us a heart to study your Word so we are equipped to minister in dance effectively. Thank you for trusting us to pass these great truths on to others.

Vocabulary: Abilities, Equip, Faithful, Gifting, Learn, Maximize
TITUS

• 2:7 Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching.

For dancers this means:
A. The way we dance reflects our spiritual maturity.
B. Our choreography should not compromise God’s teachings.
C.

• 2:12 We should live in this evil world with self-control, right conduct and devotion to God.

For dancers this means:
A. We should dance before the world demonstrating excellence tempered with self-control.
B. There should be a divine difference in the way we dance.
C.

• 3:10 If anyone is causing divisions among you, give a first and second warning. After that, have nothing more to do with that person.

For dancers this means:
A. If we are causing division, we should be warned twice, then dismissed from the ministry.
B. When we cause division, we jeopardize the mission God has given our ministry.
C.

Greek Word Study

Logos
(Log’-os)
A: Message
Ref: Titus 1:9

Prayer

Father God, help us to dance with spiritual integrity. May there always be a divine difference in our choreography. Lord, help us always to put God and our ministry’s mission before our own desires.
TITUS

- 2:7 Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching.

For dancers this means:
A. The way we dance reflects our spiritual __________.
B. Our choreography should not __________ God's teachings.
C. __________

- 2:12 We should live in this evil world with self-control, right conduct and devotion to God.

For dancers this means:
A. We should dance before the world demonstrating excellence tempered with __________.
B. There should be a __________ difference in the way we dance.
C. __________

- 3:10 If anyone is causing divisions among you, give a first and second warning. After that, have nothing more to do with that person.

For dancers this means:
A. If we are causing division, we should be warned twice, then __________ from the ministry.
B. When we cause division, we jeopardize the __________ God has given our ministry.
C. __________

Greek Word Study

Logos
(Log'os)
A: __________
Ref: __________

Prayer

Father God, help us to dance with spiritual integrity. May there always be a divine difference in our choreography. Lord, help us always to put God and our ministry's mission before our own desires.

Vocabulary: Compromise, Dismissed, Divine, Maturity, Mission, Self-Control
PHILEMON

• 1:6 You are generous because of your faith. And I am praying that you will really put your generosity to work, for in so doing you will come to an understanding of all the good things we can do for Christ.

For dancers this means:
A. Dancing for the Lord requires that we be generous with our time and talent.
B. Because of our actions, God will reveal unlimited creative things we can do for Christ.

C.

• 1:7 I myself have gained much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because your kindness has so often refreshed the hearts of God’s people.

For dancers this means:
A. A leader experiences great joy and comfort when a dance member displays unselfish love for others.
B. One of our goals when we minister in dance, is to refresh the hearts of God’s people.
C.

• 1:10, 16 My plea is that you show kindness to Onesimus. He is no longer just a slave; he is a beloved brother, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you.

For dancers this means:
A. We are to forgive team members who truly repent.
B. A dancer who repents and changes, will mean much more to your ministry.
C.

Greek Word Study
Epignosis (Ep-ig’-no-sis)
To: Understand
Ref: Phi 1:6

Prayer
Lord, help us to not grow weary of being generous with our time and talent. May our dances refresh the hearts of your people. Help us God to forgive, as you have forgiven us, and embrace the brother who has truly repented and changed.
PHILEMON

1:6 You are generous because of your faith. And I am praying that you will really put your generosity to work, for in so doing you will come to an understanding of all the good things we can do for Christ.

For dancers this means:
A. Dancing for the Lord requires that we be ___________ with our time and talent.
B. Because of our actions, God will reveal unlimited ___________ things we can do for Christ.
C.

1:7 I myself have gained much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because your kindness has so often refreshed the hearts of God's people.

For dancers this means:
A. A leader experiences great joy and comfort when a dance member displays ___________ love for others.
B. One of our goals when we minister in dance, is to ___________ the hearts of God's people.
C.

1:10, 16 My plea is that you show kindness to Onesimus. He is no longer just a slave; he is a beloved brother, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you.

For dancers this means:
A. We are to ___________ team members who truly repent.
B. A dancer who repents and ___________ , will mean much more to your ministry.
C.

Greek Word Study

Epignosis
(Ep-i-g'-no-sis)
To: ___________  
Ref: ___________

Prayer

Lord, help us to not grow weary of being generous with our time and talent. May our dances refresh the hearts of your people. Help us God to forgive, as you have forgiven us, and embrace the brother who has truly repented and changed.

Vocabulary: Changes, Creative, Forgive, Generous, Refresh, Unselfish,
HEBREWS

• 2:12 For he (Jesus) said to God, I will declare the wonder of your name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise you among all your people.

For dancers this means:
A. Like Jesus, we are to declare the wonders of God to our brothers and sisters.
B. Through our dances, we are to praise God before the saved and unsaved.
C. 

• 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

For dancers this means:
A. God uses people to choreograph his dances.
B. But we must never become arrogant and forget that He is the creator and giver of divine inspiration.
C. 

• 5:4 No one can become a high priest simply because he wants such an honor. He has to be called by God for this work, just as Aaron was.

For dancers this means:
A. No one should join a dance ministry just because they want to.
B. To be effective and last in this ministry, you need to feel called by God for this work.
C. 

Greek Word Study
Anorthoo (An-orth-o-'o)
To: Lift Up
Ref: Heb 12:12

Prayer
Heavenly Father, help us to declare your wonders to our brothers and sisters. May we always remember that you are the giver and creator of all our dances. Reveal your will to us Lord. Help us to know if we are truly called to the ministry of dance.
HEBREWS

2:12 For he (Jesus) said to God, I will declare the wonder of your name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise you among all your people.

For dancers this means:
A. Like Jesus, we are to ______________
   the wonders of God to our brothers and sisters.
B. Through our dances, we are to
   ______________ God before the saved and unsaved.
C. __________________________

3:4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

For dancers this means:
A. God uses ______________ to choreograph his dances.
B. But we must never become arrogant and forget that He is the creator and
   ______________ of divine inspiration.
C. __________________________

5:4 No one can become a high priest simply because he wants such an honor. He has to be called by God for this work, just as Aaron was.

For dancers this means:
A. No one should join a dance ministry just because they __________ to.
B. To be effective and last in this ministry, you need to feel __________ by God for this work.
C. __________________________

Greek Word Study
Anorthoo
(An-orth-o-o)

To: ________________________
Ref: ________________________

Prayer
Heavenly Father, help us to declare your wonders to our brothers and sisters. May we always remember that you are the giver and creator of all our dances. Reveal your will to us Lord. Help us to know if we are truly called to the ministry of dance.

Vocabulary: Called, Declare, Giver, People, Praise, Want
JAMES

- 2:17 Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all – it is dead and useless.

For dancers this means:
A. Our faith should be visible in our dances.
B. Our dances are useless if they are so abstract that our faith cannot be seen by others.
C. 

- 2:24 We are made right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.

For dancers this means:
A. We are made right with God when our dances reflect our faith.
B. It pleases God every time we dance for him – for this is the way we demonstrate our love for him.
C. 

- 4:8 Draw close to God and God will draw close to you.

For dancers this means:
A. If you maintain a close relationship with God, you will never have to search for the anointing.
B. Because the anointing abides within, it is released to flow when we come into the presence of God.
C. 

Greek Word Study

Rhipizo
(Hrip-i-d'-zo)
To: Toss
Ref: James 1:6

Prayer

Lord God, let our faith shine through our dances. Help us to stay focused on your message and not stray spiritually when we are choreographing a new work. We know that it delights you when our dances reflect our faith.
**JAMES**

- **2:17** Faith that doesn’t show itself by good deeds is no faith at all – it is dead and useless.

    For dancers this means:
    A. Our faith should be _______ in our dances.
    B. Our dances are useless if they are so _______ that our faith cannot be seen by others.
    C. ____________________________

- **2:24** We are made right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.

    For dancers this means:
    A. We are made right with God when our dances _______ our faith.
    B. It pleases God every time we dance for him, for this is the way we _______ our love for him.
    C. ____________________________

- **4:8** Draw close to God and God will draw close to you.

    For dancers this means:
    A. If you maintain a _______ relationship with God, you will never have to search for the anointing.
    B. Because the anointing abides within, it is released to _______ when we come into the presence of God.
    C. ____________________________

---

**Greek Word Study**

**Rhipizo**

(Hrip-id'-zo)

To: ____________________________

Ref: ____________________________

---

**Prayer**

Lord God, let our faith shine through our dances. Help us to stay focused on your message and not stray spiritually when we are choreographing a new work. We know that it delights you when our dances reflect our faith.

---

Vocabulary: Abstract, Close, Demonstrate, Faith, Flow, Reflect
1 PETER

• 1:14-15 Obey God because you are his children. Don’t slip back into your old ways of doing evil; you didn’t know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God – who chose you to be his children – is holy.

For dancers this means:
A. We are to dance out of obedience and love for God.
B. We must strive to create and present dances that are holy and acceptable offerings in God’s eyes.

• 2:9 … you are a chosen people, you are a kingdom of priests, God’s holy nation, his very own possession. This is so you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

For dancers this means:
A. God chose us to serve him by dancing – our talent belongs to him.
B. We are to create and present dances that show the goodness of God.
C.

• 4:10 God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God’s generosity can flow through you.

For dancers this means:
A. Our talent for dance is a spiritual gift from God.
B. Use your gift wisely so God can flow through you.
C.

Greek Word Study

Eklektos
(Ek-lek-tos’)
To: Be Chosen
Ref: 1 Peter 2:9

Prayer

Lord, help us to create dances that are acceptable offerings to you. Keep us from slipping back into old patterns and evil ways. We thank you for our gift of dance and we purpose in our hearts to use it wisely.
1 PETER

• 1:14-15 Obey God because you are his children. Don’t slip back into your old ways of doing evil; you didn’t know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God — who chose you to be his children — is holy.

For dancers this means:
A. We are to dance out of _________ and love for God.
B. We must strive to create and present dances that are _______ and acceptable offerings in God’s eyes.
C. _______

• 2:9 … you are a chosen people, you are a kingdom of priests, God’s holy nation, his very own possession. This is so you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

For dancers this means:
A. God chose us to _________ him by dancing – our talent belongs to him.
B. We are to create and present dances that _________ the goodness of God.
C. _______

• 4:10 God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God’s generosity can flow through you.

For dancers this means:
A. Our talent for dance is a _________ gift from God.
B. Use your gift _______ so God can flow through you.
C. _______

Greek Word Study
Eklektos
(Ek-lek-tos’)
To: _________
Ref: _________

Prayer

Lord, help us to create dances that are acceptable offerings to you. Keep us from slipping back into old patterns and evil ways. We thank you for our gift of dance and we purpose in our hearts to use it wisely.

Vocabulary: Holy, Obedience, Serve, Show, Spiritual, Wisely
2 PETER

1:20-21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy in scripture ever came from the prophets themselves or because they wanted to prophesy. It was the Holy Spirit who moved the prophets to speak from God.

For dancers this means:
A. Prophetic dances are messages from God.
B. God imparts to the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit inspires the dancer to speak through movement.
C. ________

3:15 And remember, the Lord is waiting so that people have time to be saved.

For dancers this means:
A. God does not want anyone to perish.
B. Every dance is an opportunity to share the Gospel and Gods’ love.
C. ________

3:18 But grow in the special favor (grace) and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For dancers this means:
A. We are to mature spiritually as well as technically.
B. God expects us to move beyond ‘zeal’ and dance with spiritual authority and power.
C. ________

Greek Word Study

Gnosis
(Gno'sis)
To: Have Knowledge
Ref: 2 Peter 3:18

Prayer
Heavenly Father, thank you for trusting us to deliver your precious messages. Thank you for revealing to us that the “message” is more important than the “messenger.” We understand that every dance is an opportunity to share the Gospel and your love.
2 PETER

- 1:20-21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy in scripture ever came from the prophets themselves or because they wanted to prophesy. It was the Holy Spirit who moved the prophets to speak from God.

For dancers this means:
A. Prophetic dances are _____________ from God.
B. God imparts to the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit _____________ the dancer to speak through movement.
C. _____________

- 3:15 And remember, the Lord is waiting so that people have time to be saved.

For dancers this means:
A. God does not want anyone to _____________.
B. Every dance is an opportunity to share the _____________ and Gods’ love.
C. _____________

- 3:18 But grow in the special favor (grace) and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For dancers this means:
A. We are to _____________ spiritually as well as technically.
B. God expects us to move beyond ‘zeal’ and dance with spiritual _____________ and power.
C. _____________

Greek Word Study

Gnosis
(Gno'-sis)

To: _____________
Ref: _____________

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for trusting us to deliver your precious messages. Thank you for revealing to us that the “message” is more important than the “messenger.” We understand that every dance is an opportunity to share the Gospel and your love.

Vocabulary: Authority, Gospel, Inspires, Mature, Messages, Perish
1-3 JOHN

- 1JHN 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

For dancers this means:
A. Every dance has a spirit; test it to see whether it is from God.
B. We need to have discerning spirits that test for truth.
C. 

- 2JHN 1:9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

For dancers this means:
A. We must not forsake our spiritual growth so we can focus on dancing.
B. Apart from God, a dance is just a dance.
C. 

- 3JHN 1:11 Do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.

For dancers this means:
A. We risk sending a confusing message if we imitate the world.
B. There should be a divine difference in our choreography and how we dance.
C. 

Greek Word Study

**Chrisma**
(Khris'-mah)
To: Be Anointed
Ref: 1 John 2:27

Prayer
Lord, we ask for discerning spirits so we can always know your will for a dance. Help us not to get ahead of you for we know that apart from you we can do nothing. We desire to do only good works and not imitate what is evil. Thank you for showing us the difference.
1-3 JOHN

- 1JHN 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

For dancers this means:
A. Every dance has a ______; test it to see whether it is from God.
B. We need to have __________ spirits that test for truth.
C. ____________________________

- 2JHN 1:9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

For dancers this means:
A. We must not __________ our spiritual growth so we can focus on dancing.
B. __________ from God, a dance is just a dance.
C. ____________________________

- 3JHN 1:11 Do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.

For dancers this means:
A. We risk sending a confusing ______________ if we imitate the world.
B. There should be a divine difference in our ____________ and how we dance.
C. ____________________________

Greek Word Study

Chrisma
(Khris’-mah)

To: ____________________________
Ref: ____________________________

Prayer

Lord, we ask for discerning spirits so we can always know your will for a dance. Help us not to get ahead of you for we know that apart from you we can do nothing. We desire to do only good works and not imitate what is evil. Thank you for showing us the difference.

Vocabulary: Apart, Choreography, Discerning, Forsake, Message, Spirit
JUDE

1:18-19 In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires. These are the ones who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

For dancers this means:
A. There will be dancers who want to follow their own desires.
B. These are the artists that divide you, who follow their natural instincts and do not have the Spirit of God living in them.
C. 

1:20-21 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

For dancers this means:
A. Continue growing in your faith and dancing as directed by the Holy Spirit.
B. Choose to dance every dance for the glory of God until Jesus returns.
C. 

1:24 And now, all glory to God, who is able to keep you from stumbling, and who will bring you into his glorious presence, innocent of sin and with great joy.

For dancers this means:
A. God is able to keep us from stumbling in life and our dances.
B. He will use dance to bring us and others into his glorious presence, innocent of sin and with great joy.
C. 

Greek Word Study
Parakaleo
(Par-ak-al-eh'-o)
To: Exhort
Ref: Jude 1:3

Prayer
Father God, help us to follow you ~ not our natural instincts. We choose to dance every dance for your glory until Jesus returns. Thank you for keeping us from stumbling in life and our dances.
JUDE

- 1:18-19 In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires. These are the ones who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

For dancers this means:
A. There will be dancers who want to follow their own __________.  
B. These are the artists that _________ you, who follow their natural instincts and do not have the Spirit of God living in them.  
C. _________

- 1:20-21 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

For dancers this means:
A. Continue _________ in your faith and dancing as directed by the Holy Spirit.  
B. Choose to dance _________ dance for the glory of God until Jesus returns.  
C. _________

- 1:24 And now, all glory to God, who is able to keep you from stumbling, and who will bring you into his glorious presence, innocent of sin and with great joy.

For dancers this means:
A. God is able to keep us from ________________ in life and our dances.  
B. He will use dance to bring us and others into his glorious ________________, innocent of sin and with great joy.  
C. _________

Greek Word Study

Parakaleo  
(Par-ak-al-eh′-o)  
To: _________  
Ref: _________

Prayer

Father God, help us to follow you ~ not our natural instincts. We choose to dance every dance for your glory until Jesus returns. Thank you for keeping us from stumbling in life and our dances.

Vocabulary: Desires, Divide, Every, Growing, Presence, Stumbling
REVELATIONS

• 4:11 You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created.

For dancers this means:
A. It is a privilege to praise God with dance!
B. God created dancing for His pleasure – not ours!
C. 

• 8:4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel’s hand.

For dancers this means:
A. Our dances, like prayers, rise like incense up to the throne of God.
B. If our dances are like prayers, they will be a sweet fragrance unto the Lord.
C. 

• 19:10 Worship God! For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus.

For dancers this means:
A. Bow before the Lord God Almighty!
B. The reason you are called to dance is to give a clear witness for Jesus!
C. 

Greek Word Study

Marturia
(Mar-too-ree-ah)
To: Witness
Ref: Rev 19:10

Prayer

Heavenly Father, it is a privilege to praise you with dance. May our dances always be like a sweet fragrance rising up to your throne. We bow before you Father God and declare to the world that Jesus Christ is Lord!
REVELATIONS

- 4:11 You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created.

For dancers this means:
A. It is a ___________ to praise God with dance!
B. God created dancing for ______ pleasure – not ours!
C. ___________

- 8:4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel’s hand.

For dancers this means:
A. Our dances, like prayers, rise like incense up to the ___________ of God.
B. If our dances are like prayers, they will be a _______ fragrance unto the Lord.
C. ___________

- 19:10 Worship God! For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus.

For dancers this means:
A. ___________ before the Lord God Almighty!
B. The reason you are called to dance is to give a clear ___________ for Jesus!
C. ___________

Greek Word Study

Marturia
(Mar-too-ree'-ah)

To: ___________
Ref: ___________

Prayer

Heavenly Father, it is a privilege to praise you with dance. May our dances always be like a sweet fragrance rising up to your throne. We bow before you Father God and declare to the world that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Vocabulary: Bow, His, Privilege, Throne, Sweet, Witness
Conclusion

Dancers, congratulations on completing these lessons. I know first-hand how our passion to dance can cause us to set aside this aspect of our training. It can be so hard to sit down and be still before the Lord when we are uniquely wired to worship him with movement.

At first, it almost seems contradictory. Can you imagine what the world thinks: “Improve as dancers by studying the Bible?” It is kind of funny and a little hard to explain – maybe that is what God was talking about when he said we would be considered ‘peculiar’ people. But I am sure of this one thing – God’s Word “in” us is the key differentiator, the divine difference, between sacred and secular dancing. It is the power of God’s Word flowing through us that accomplishes his kingdom purposes.

So, thank you for submitting to your leadership’s wisdom in this matter, for not giving in to your flesh and for straining to finish the race God has put before you. I believe he is very pleased with you and rejoicing over your decision – your choice – to add knowledge, understanding, wisdom and revelation to your zeal.

I hope these lessons have sparked lively conversations at your weekly meetings. Did you always agree with one another’s insights? Did the Holy Spirit impart a timely word for your dance ministry?

Compile these insights into a list (Appendix A). I believe you will receive a ‘rhema’ word from God.

Individually, I hope that your calling as dancers has been challenged, encouraged and refined by this experience. Has the Holy Spirit shown you areas in your character or calling that need changing? Do you have a better understanding of God’s expectations for you as a dancer?

As a group, I pray that you share a new vision for your purpose in God’s Kingdom; a fresh anointing that manifests itself in a powerful expression of unity of praise for the benefit of your church body.

Finally, every time God whispers, “May I have this dance?”, I pray your “Yes Lord!” comes from a place of deep spiritual awareness; profoundly and forever changed by the power of His Word.
Appendix A
God’s “Rhema” Word for You

A “rhema” word from God is one that the Holy Spirit drops into your heart. It results in a revelation about a person, event or situation. You may not receive a “rhema” word for each lesson in this book; but when you do, use this outline to compile these revelations.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matthew</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Corinthians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Corinthians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galatians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephesians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colossians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Thessalonians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix A ~ Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Books of the New Testament</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Thessalonians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Timothy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Timothy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philemon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Peter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Peter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3 Johns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revelations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summarize God’s "Rhema" Message to You
Appendix B
Greek Word Study ~ KJV

Example: In Matthew 2:2 the word “worship” in Greek is “Proskuneo” which means “to prostrate” oneself.

Re-read this scripture with this newfound knowledge and understanding. Get a revelation for what God was really trying to say to us.

“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen his star as it arose and we have come to prostrate ourselves before him.”

Do you see the very physical act of worship that the wisemen were desiring to give Jesus? It was not a cognitive activity, but a public display of adoration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scripture Ref</th>
<th>The Word</th>
<th>In Greek</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Means to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matt 2:2</td>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Proskuneo</td>
<td>(pros-koo-neh’-o)</td>
<td>Prostrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark 15:21</td>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>Airo</td>
<td>(ahee-ro)</td>
<td>Lift Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke 6:23</td>
<td>Leap</td>
<td>Skirtao</td>
<td>(skeer-tah’-o)</td>
<td>Skip/Leap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John 5:35</td>
<td>Rejoice</td>
<td>Agalliao</td>
<td>(ag-al-lee-ah-o)</td>
<td>Jump for Joy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts 3:8</td>
<td>Leaping</td>
<td>Hallomai</td>
<td>(hal’-lom-ah-hee)</td>
<td>Spring Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rom 14:11</td>
<td>Bow</td>
<td>Kampto</td>
<td>(kamp-to’)</td>
<td>Bow or Kneel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Cor 15:12</td>
<td>Resurrection</td>
<td>Anastasis</td>
<td>(an-as’-tas-is)</td>
<td>Stand Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Cor 3:18</td>
<td>Beholding</td>
<td>Katoptrizomai</td>
<td>(kat-op-trid’-zom-ah-hee)</td>
<td>Reflect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gal 4:18</td>
<td>Zealously</td>
<td>Zeloo</td>
<td>(dzay-lo’-o)</td>
<td>Be Zealous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eph 1:17</td>
<td>Wisdom</td>
<td>Sophia</td>
<td>(sof-ee’-ah)</td>
<td>Wisdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil 1:6</td>
<td>Perform</td>
<td>Epiteleo</td>
<td>(ep-ee-tel-eh’-o)</td>
<td>Accomplish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col 3:17</td>
<td>Deed</td>
<td>Ergon</td>
<td>(er’-gon)</td>
<td>Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Thes 4:4</td>
<td>Possess</td>
<td>Ktaomai</td>
<td>(ktah’-om-ah-hee)</td>
<td>Acquire Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Thes 1:11</td>
<td>Calling</td>
<td>Klesis</td>
<td>(klay’-sis)</td>
<td>Vocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Tim 2:8</td>
<td>Lifting</td>
<td>Epairo</td>
<td>(ep-ah-ee’-ro)</td>
<td>Raise Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Tim 1:6</td>
<td>Stir up</td>
<td>Anazopureo</td>
<td>(an-ad-za-poor-eh’-o)</td>
<td>Fan into Flame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titus 1:9</td>
<td>Word</td>
<td>Logos</td>
<td>(log’-os)</td>
<td>A Message</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil 1:6</td>
<td>Acknowledging</td>
<td>Epignosis</td>
<td>(ep-ig-no-sis)</td>
<td>Understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heb 12:12</td>
<td>Lift</td>
<td>Anorthoo</td>
<td>(an-or-th-o’-o)</td>
<td>Lift Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James 1:6</td>
<td>Tossed</td>
<td>Rhipizo</td>
<td>(hrip-id’-zo)</td>
<td>Toss Back/Forth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Peter 2:9</td>
<td>Chosen</td>
<td>Eklektos</td>
<td>(ek-lek-tos’)</td>
<td>Favored</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Peter 3:18</td>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>Gnossis</td>
<td>(gno’-sis)</td>
<td>Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 John 2:27</td>
<td>Anointing</td>
<td>Chrisma</td>
<td>(khris’-mah)</td>
<td>Anointing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jude 1:3</td>
<td>Exhort</td>
<td>Parakaleo</td>
<td>(par-ak-al-eh’-o)</td>
<td>Exhort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev 19:10</td>
<td>Testimony</td>
<td>Marturia</td>
<td>(mar-too-reer’-ah)</td>
<td>Witness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References


May I Have This Dance

As Christian dancers, God encourages us to move beyond our initial zeal (Rom 10:2) into an arena of spiritual maturity and competency. He asks us to seek knowledge, understanding, wisdom and revelation so that we can step out in faith and holy boldness to proclaim His glory with power. “May I Have This Dance” is a resource to help with this journey. I pray as you reflect upon each lesson that it will draw you closer to God and into a deeper understanding of His purpose for your calling.

Matt 4:10 “You must worship the Lord your God; serve only Him.”

For dancers this means:
A. When we minister in dance, we must stay focused on worshipping only God!
B. We are to use our talents to serve him.

Greek Word Study
Proskuneo
(Pro-sko-nē-ō)
To: Prostrate
Ref: Matthew 2:2

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ruth Ann Mayer received her calling to the ministry of Sacred Dance in 1987 and was commissioned in 1989. She has studied classical and contemporary dance for fifteen years. She has choreographed, directed and performed in Christian productions, outreach programs and church services. Ruth Ann teaches Christian Dance classes in Austin, Texas and actively participates in her church dance ministry. Her books, videos, workshops and Christian Dance website have been instrumental in helping churches throughout the world establish and enhance their dance ministries.

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