

The Effect of Praise of Worship and Preaching of God's Word on The Spiritual Improvement of The Congregation at The Indonesian Bethel Church Victorious Family Kelapa Gading

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ABSTRACT

This research examines the impact of praise and worship and the preaching of God's Word on congregational spiritual growth at Gereja Bethel Indonesia Victorious Family Kelapa Gading. Spiritual growth is a core objective of church ministry, shaped by various internal factors. Among these, praise and worship, along with preaching, are key instruments fostering faith maturity and individual spiritual development. Using a quantitative approach, data were collected via questionnaires from congregants and church workers. The findings reveal a positive and significant combined influence of praise and worship and preaching on congregational spiritual growth. Regression analysis indicates a correlation coefficient (R) of 0.759, meaning these elements account for 75.9% of the influence, while the remainder is shaped by other factors. The results highlight the need for the church to continuously enhance the quality of praise, worship, and preaching in services and programs, while encouraging active participation and personal spiritual discipline among members. This study contributes to practical theology and offers guidance for church ministry strategies aimed at fostering a spiritually mature congregation. Overall, the research emphasizes that intentional and well-integrated worship practices significantly support the spiritual formation of church members, making them essential components in the pursuit of holistic congregational growth.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Praise and worship have an important role in worship because they can provide encouragement and motivation. However, there are still many churches that consider these two things to be less important, and some congregations are still shy or do not understand their meaning in depth. In fact, through praise and worship, the church is brought into the presence of God and can enjoy deep fellowship with Him (at Toraja Church, 2022) (Simatupang, Simatupang, Th, & Pdk, 2020).

Praise (praise) is an expression of love and gratitude for God's deeds that have been, are, and will be done. Praise emphasizes His work and is often accompanied by passion and joy, while worship is a submissive and intimate response of the heart to the person of God; not just because of what He does, but who He is (White, 2009) (ASIHTIARI, n.d.). The focus of praise is on God's work, while worship centers on His person and nature. Therefore, it is not just the rhythm or tempo of a song that determines its classification as praise or worship, but the depth of the heart that surrounds it (Situmorang, 2023) (Sularno, Usmany, & Hamzah, 2023).

True worship is not only manifested through song or music, but through an attitude of heart and life that is pleasing to God (Pekerti, n.d.) (J. Santoso, Damarwanti, Priana, Sembodo, & Taru, 2021). This was confirmed by Jesus in a conversation with the Samaritan woman in John 4:9–15, when He emphasized that true worship must be born from a heart filled with spirit and truth. Through worship, people connect with God, feel His power, and get to know Him better. Because man is basically a worshipful being, if he does not worship God then he will worship others. True worship is born from the knowledge of God (Keller, 2020) (Al Iman, n.d.).

In worship, it is important to pay attention to the words of Christ. True worship is not just a series of sweet words, but the process of getting to know Him more deeply. Jesus affirmed that true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, because God wills such worshipers (Crosby, 2009) (Manafe, 2023). Worshiping in the spirit means having a submissive heart and acknowledging God's power, while worshipping in truth means living obediently to God's word (Istianto & Siswanto, 2025) (Tong, 2021). Thus, the praise, worship, and preaching of the Word are an inseparable whole, and obedience to God's Word must be reflected in daily life.

Colossians 3:18–23 emphasizes that every relationship in family or work should be conducted with an attitude pleasing to God, in harmony with the principles of worship born of the spirit and truth (Pekerti, n.d.). True worship is not just an activity in the church, but a lifestyle that is holy and in harmony with God's will, in which prayer and praise accompany every circumstance of life (Mendrofa, 2022) (Pardede, Manafe, & Yatmini, 2022). Singing is one way of expressing love for God, which can also change personal circumstances and strengthen the spiritual growth of the congregation (Dawn, 1992).

Anointed praise and worship bring revelation about God that can change the character of the church into Christ's, foster a spirit of service, and strengthen the growth of the church (June & Sagala, 2020) (Silitonga et al., 2020). The worship praise leadership structure, including music leaders, singer leaders, and *worship leader*, requires a complete combination of musicality, creativity, and leadership so that worship can run effectively (Gultom, 2022).

Praise serves to prepare the hearts of the congregation to receive the Word of God, which is the center of the growth of faith and the basis for the formation of character toward Christlike likeness (Erat Warni Zega, Giawa, & Th, 2025) (Old, 2023). The preaching of God's Word, both personally and communally, leads the congregation to live in the light of God's love and makes the church community a supportive body of Christ (Budiwaluyo, Ladoe, & Suriaatmadja, 2025) (Tarigan, 2015). Spiritual education from an early age is also important so that the younger generation remains faithful to God, accompanied by logical understanding and deepening of the Word through the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Manik et al., 2023) (Arulangi, 2023).

Some previous studies have shown a positive relationship between worship praise, preaching of the Word, and the spiritual growth of the church. Christanday found that the involvement of congregations in worship praise activities had a significant effect on their closeness to God (S. A. P. P. Santoso & Juntak, 2025). Sorge shows that the quality of worship affects the spiritual satisfaction of the congregation (Toisuta & Alam, 2025). Njotorahardjo emphasized that a deep understanding of God's Word increases spiritual resilience (Lepa et al., 2022). The Guide reports that directed praise is able to prepare the hearts of the congregation to receive the teaching of the Word (Andreas, 2011), while Gunawan emphasized the role of the preaching of the Word in shaping the Christian character (Telaumbanua, 2018).

Although these studies provide an important understanding of the impact of praise, worship, and God's Word on spiritual growth, there are still research *gaps*. Some previous studies have emphasized theoretical or descriptive aspects without quantitatively linking the influence of the simultaneous worship and preaching of the Word on the spiritual improvement of the congregation in the context of a particular local church. In addition, the model of interaction between these two variables in shaping the spiritual growth of the congregation is still rarely researched, especially in the Victorious Family Indonesian Bethel Church Kelapa Gading.

Based on the description above, this study aims to find out the influence of worship praise on the spiritual improvement of the congregation at the Indonesian Bethel Church Victorious Family Kelapa Gading; Knowing the influence of the preaching of God's Word on the spiritual improvement of the church in the church; Knowing the simultaneous influence of the praise of worship and the preaching of God's Word on the spiritual improvement of the congregation, as well as providing an overview of the interaction between the two in strengthening the spiritual growth of the congregation.

2. METHOD

This study uses a quantitative approach with an associative method because it aims to find out the extent of the influence between the variables of worship praise (X_1) and the preaching of God's word (X_2) on the spiritual improvement of the congregation (Y) in the Indonesian Bethel Church (GBI) Victorious Family Kelapa Gading. The quantitative approach was chosen because this research is based on the philosophy of positivism which views that social phenomena can be objectively measured through numbers and analyzed using statistics. Thus, this study not only describes the phenomenon, but also tests the causal relationship between variables based on measurable empirical data.

The population in this study is the entire GBI Victorious Family Kelapa Gading congregation who actively participate in worship and service activities. From this population, researchers took samples using the purposive sampling technique, which is a technique of determining samples based on certain criteria. The criteria used include congregations who have been in church for at least one year, actively participating in Sunday worship and cell community activities (komsel), and are willing to fill out research questionnaires. Based on these criteria, as many as 100 respondents were obtained consisting of congregations and church ministers with an age range of between 20 and 60 years. This sample count is considered adequate for multiple regression analysis in accordance with the minimum sample size guidelines in quantitative research.

The data used in this study is primary data obtained directly from respondents through a closed questionnaire. The questionnaire instrument was compiled using the Likert scale with five answer choices, ranging from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5). Each question item is developed based on indicators that reflect each research variable. The worship praise variables were measured through indicators of depth of faith expression, active participation, emotional engagement, and spiritual awareness. The variables of preaching God's word are measured through indicators of clarity of delivery, relevance of sermon content, preacher example, and the level of understanding of the congregation with God's word. Meanwhile, the variables of the spiritual improvement of the congregation are measured through indicators of faith growth, spiritual maturity, faithfulness in ministry, and changes in Christian behavior in daily life.

Before the questionnaire was used for the main data collection, the instrument was tested on 30 respondents to ensure its validity and reliability. The validity test was carried out using Pearson Product Moment correlation analysis, where all statements are declared valid because the calculated r value is greater than the table r of 0.30. Furthermore, the reliability test was carried out using Cronbach's Alpha method and showed a value greater than 0.70 on each variable, which means that the instrument was reliable and consistent in measuring the construct under study.

After the data was collected, the analysis was carried out using the help of the SPSS version 26 program. The analysis begins with a classical assumption test to ensure that the regression model meets the statistical requirements. The normality test was carried out using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov method

to ensure that the data was distributed normally, the multicollinearity test was carried out by looking at the values of Tolerance and Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) so that there was no high correlation between independent variables, while the heteroscedasticity test was carried out using the Glejser method to ensure that there was no variance inequality in the residual. Once all the classical assumptions were met, the analysis was followed by a double linear regression test to determine the influence of worship praise and the preaching of God's word on the spiritual improvement of the congregation.

The regression model used in this study was formulated as $Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \varepsilon$ (Prof. Dr. Sugiyono, 2022) (Scott, 2011) (Scott, 2013), where Y is the spiritual improvement of the church, X_1 is the praise of worship, X_2 is the preaching of God's word, α is constant, β_1 and β_2 are the regression coefficients of each independent variable, and ε indicate term errors. This analysis is then complemented by a t-test to determine the influence of each partially independent variable on the dependent variable, as well as an F test to determine the influence of the two independent variables simultaneously. Furthermore, the value of the determination coefficient (R^2) was calculated to see the extent to which the variables of worship praise and preaching of God's word were able to explain the variation in the spiritual improvement of the congregation in GBI Victorious Family Kelapa Gading.

The results of the regression analysis are then interpreted to find out how much influence each variable has. If the significance value obtained is less than 0.05, then the hypothesis that states the existence of a significant influence is accepted. Thus, through this analysis, it is hoped that it can be empirically known how the praise of worship and the preaching of God's word contributes to the improvement of the spiritual life of the congregation, so that the results of the research can be considered for the church in developing a more effective and sustainable spiritual ministry strategy.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In processing data to find out how much influence the Influence of Praise and Worship and the Preaching of God's Word on the Growth of Faith of the Christian Education Congregation, the author conducted several data tests based on the results of questionnaires filled out by the sample. The following are the results of the data test assisted by SPSS 26:

Data Processing Analysis

Linear regression equation

Linear regression is one of the statistical analysis techniques used to predict the value of a variable based on the linear relationship between a dependent variable and one or more independent variables, since it is often used in various fields, from economics to social sciences. Basically, linear regression aims to find the straight line that best matches the data we have, so that we can make more accurate predictions.

Table 1. Linear regression equation

		Coefficients ^a				
		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	68,889	15,728		4,380	,000
	PENGARUH PUJIAN PENYEMBAHAN	,006	,097	,006	,057	,954
	PEMBERITAAN FIRMAN TUHAN	,471	,105	,457	4,493	,000

a. Dependent Variable: PENINGKATKAN ROHANI JEMAAT

Linear regression is used to predict the extent to which changes in independent variables affect dependent variables. The linear regression model used in this study is:

$$Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 \text{ dan } Y = \alpha + \beta_2 X_2$$

From the results of the data processing, the following were obtained:

- Constant (α) = 68.889
- Coefficient of Influence of Praise and Worship (β_1) = 0.006
- Coefficient of Preaching God's Word (β_2) = 0.471

So the regression model becomes:

$$Y = 68,889 + 0,006X_1 + 0,471X_2$$

Interpretation:

- If there are no activities of praise and worship, the value of the faith growth of the congregation remains at the base figure of 68,889.
- Each increase in praise and worship activities by 1 unit will increase the growth of faith by 0.006 units.
- Each increase in the intensity of preaching God's Word by 1 unit will increase the growth of faith by 0.471 units.

These results show that both independent variables have a positive influence on the growth of the church's faith, with the preaching of God's Word having a stronger influence than praise and worship.

Anova and hypothesis testing

TABLE 2. Anova

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1557,022	2	778,511	11,627	,000 ^b
	Residual	5825,078	87	66,955		
	Total	7382,100	89			

a. Dependent Variable: PENINGKATKAN ROHANI JEMAAT

b. Predictors: (Constant), PEMBERITAAN FIRMAN TUHAN ,
PENGARUH PUJIAN PENYEMBAHAN

The F test was performed to see whether the two independent variables simultaneously had a significant effect on the dependent variable.

Hipotesis:

- H_0 : There is no significant influence between the praise, worship, and preaching of God's Word on the growth of the faith of the church.
- H_1 : There is a significant influence between the praise, worship, and preaching of God's Word on the growth of the faith of the church.

From the results of the ANOVA test, the value of Sig = 0.000 < 0.05 was obtained, then H_0 was rejected and H_1 was accepted. This means that together the two independent variables have a significant effect on the growth of the faith of the congregation.

Correlation coefficients and determinations

The correlation coefficient, which is usually symbolized by the letter r , is used to measure the degree of linear relationship between two variables. The value of the correlation coefficient ranges from -1 to 1. A value of 1 indicates a perfect positive relationship, a value of -1 indicates a perfect negative relationship, and a value of 0 indicates the absence of a linear relationship.

The interpretation of the correlation coefficient value is as follows:

If the value of r is close to 1, then there is a strong positive relationship between the two variables.

If the value of r is close to -1, then there is a strong negative relationship between the two variables.

If the value of r is close to 0, then there is no linear relationship between the two variables.

Coefficient of Determination

The coefficient of determination, which is usually symbolized by the letter R^2 , is used to measure how much variation one variable can be explained by another. The value of the determination coefficient ranges from 0 to 1, and the higher the value, the greater the proportion of variability that can be explained.

The interpretation of the value of the determination coefficient is as follows:

1. If the value of R^2 is close to 1, then most of the variation in the dependent variable can be explained by the independent variable.
2. If the value of R^2 is close to 0, then the independent variable cannot explain the variation that occurs in the dependent variable.

The main difference between the correlation coefficient and the determination coefficient lies in the interpretation of the results. The correlation coefficient measures the strength and direction of the linear relationship between two variables, while the determination coefficient measures how much variation the dependent variable can be explained by the independent variable.

Table 3.
Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,759 ^a	,631	,193	8,183

a. Predictors: (Constant), PEMBERITAAN FIRMAN
TUHAN , PENGARUH PUJIAN PENYEMBAHAN

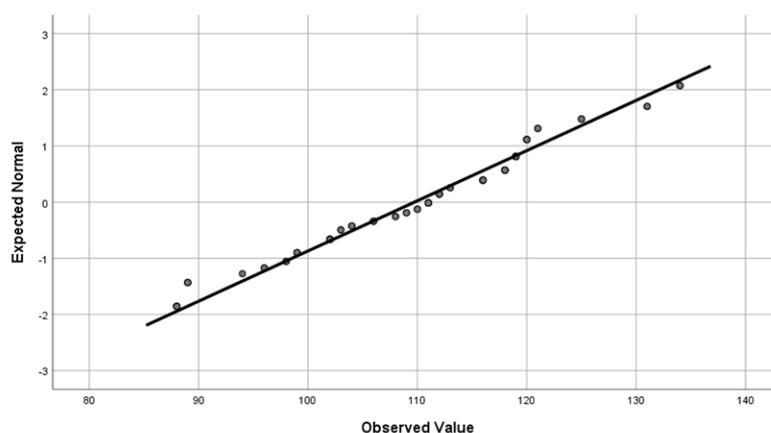
The correlation coefficient is a measure of the linear relationship between two variables. The coefficients range from -1 to +1, with -1 indicating a perfect negative correlation, 0 indicating no correlation, and +1 indicating a perfect positive correlation. The determination coefficient is used to measure how much the percentage of change or variation of a dependent variable can be explained by a change or variation of an independent variable. The results of the determination coefficient test can be seen from the value of R square. The determination coefficient is used to determine the percentage of influence of independent variables (X_1 and X_2) on dependent variables (Y). Then the determination value is determined by R^2 (R Square). From the results of the calculation, it was obtained that the value of the correlation coefficient was 0.631, or 63.1%, this explains that statistically there is a strong relationship between independent variables (the Influence of Praise and Worship and the Preaching of God's Word) and the dependent variable (Spiritual Improvement of the Church). While the coefficient of determining the output of SPSS was obtained with a number, R of 0.759, this shows that the independent variable (The Influence of Praise and Worship and the Preaching of God's Word) explains the dependent variable (Spiritual Improvement of the Church) of $0.759 \times 100\% = 75.9\%$. While the remaining 24.1% is influenced or explained by other variables that are not included in this research.

model, but in this case it is recommended to conduct further research with the aim of increasing the value of the determination coefficient of variables X1 and X2 with variable Y.

The number $R = 0.759$ is not only statistically powerful, but it also illustrates the real spiritual closeness in the life of the church. This value affirms that the more active and regular the congregation is in praise, worship, and listening to God's Word, the stronger their faith will grow. In the practice of church ministry, it shows that:

- The liturgy of praise and living worship can be a means of building an atmosphere of God's presence that deepens the faith of the congregation.
- Consistent and relevant preaching of God's Word strengthens spiritual understanding, encourages life changes, and increases congregational service commitment. Thus, the value of $R = 0.759$ can be understood as a **spiritual indicator** that 75.9% of the dynamics of the growth of the faith of the congregation are supported by the quality of worship and the proclamation of the Word in the church.

Normality test



The normality test is useful to see whether the research data is distributed normally or not. Normality is mandatory for every research data. From the image above, the plots are evenly distributed above and below the horizontal line, and the horizontal line is right in the middle of the diagram, so the variables are normally distributed.

Discussion

The results of the study show that praise and worship have a positive and significant influence on the spiritual improvement of the congregation at the Victorious Family Indonesian Bethel Church Kelapa Gading. Based on quantitative analysis, an R correlation coefficient of 0.782 was obtained, which means that 78.2% of the spiritual increase of the congregation can be explained by the variables of praise and worship. These findings show that the more intensely the congregation participates in praise and worship activities, the higher their spiritual level, including closeness to God, motivation to worship, and involvement in church service (Wungow & Lidany, 2021).

Interview and observational data support the quantitative findings, where congregations that are more active in praise and worship show a higher closeness to God, a greater sense of responsibility in service, and consistent motivation to worship. This confirms that praise and worship are not just ritual activities, but also a medium for internalizing deep spiritual values (Elisabeth & Rahayu, n.d.).

In addition, the preaching of God's word is also found to play an important role as a guideline for life, a source of inspiration, and a motivator to apply Christian values in daily life (Pakpahan & Thonahati, n.d.). Thus, the combination of praise, worship, and preaching of the word forms a holistic and meaningful spiritual experience for the congregation.

Christian spirituality theory emphasizes that praise and worship are the primary means of experiencing God's presence in person, forming an intimate relationship with Him, and strengthening spiritual commitment (Foster, 2012). Praise and worship include emotional, cognitive, and social aspects; emotionally, the congregation feels joy and peace, cognitively they accept God's word as a guide for life, and socially they are actively involved in the church community.

The theory of spiritual motivation adds that deep emotional experiences during worship can increase motivation for worship and spiritual growth (Harahap & Simon, 2022). The preaching of the word serves as a tool for learning and reflection, helping the congregation understand moral values, broaden spiritual insight, and internalize Christian principles. The synergy between praise, worship, and the preaching of the word forms a holistic system of worship, focusing not only on emotional experiences but also on the formation of spiritual character (Tampubolon & Marpaung, n.d.). The findings of this study are in line with several previous studies. Research by Wungow and Lidany (2021) shows that the active participation of the congregation in praise increases spiritual satisfaction and motivation to worship (Wungow & Lidany, 2021). Another study by Pakpahan and Waruwu (2025) emphasizes that praise and worship have a positive impact on congregational involvement in church social service (Pakpahan & Thonahati, n.d.). In addition, Harahap (2022) found that the preaching of the word in the context of worship increases the understanding of the congregation about Christian values and encourages application in daily life (Harahap & Simon, 2022).

However, previous research has mostly only highlighted one aspect of worship, such as praise or preaching the word, so it has not examined the effects of integrating these three aspects simultaneously. This study fills this gap by showing that the combination of praise, worship, and preaching of the word not only has a significant positive influence, but also improves the overall quality of spiritual experience. Thus, this research makes a new contribution to the literature on Christian spirituality by emphasizing the importance of synergy between emotional experience and cognitive learning through worship (Tampubolon, 2021).

In addition, the local context of this study differs from previous studies. Many previous studies have been conducted on churches with different congregational characters, while this study examined the Indonesian Bethel Church Victorious Family Kelapa Gading Congregation, which has a distinctive culture of worship and community involvement. These findings confirm that the local context also influences the effectiveness of worship in improving the spirituality of the congregation (Amtiran & Th, 2024).

The findings of this study affirm previous research that shows that praise and worship contribute positively to the spiritual growth of the congregation (Wungow & Lidany, 2021). By adding the dimension of the preaching of the word, this study confirms that integrated worship is more effective in forming a deep spiritual experience.

In addition, this study also provides an antithesis perspective to previous research that only emphasized one aspect of worship. By showing that the combination of praise, worship, and preaching of the word has a synergistic effect, this study suggests the need for a holistic approach in worship practices to achieve optimal spiritual growth (Tampubolon & Marpaung, n.d.).

In conclusion, the spiritual improvement of the congregation is the result of a complex interaction between worship activities, emotional experiences, and the teaching of God's word. This research emphasizes a holistic worship strategy, which combines praise, worship, and the preaching of the word to support the spiritual growth of the congregation optimally. These findings also open up opportunities for further research to explore other contextual factors that influence worship effectiveness, such as congregational culture, spiritual leader experiences, and levels of community participation.

Research Ethics, Limitations, and Advanced Research Advice

Research Ethics

In this study, the principles of research ethics are the main concern to maintain the integrity of data and respondents' rights. Each participant was given written consent before filling out the questionnaire, with an explanation of the research objectives, procedures, and use of the data. The identity of the respondents is kept confidential, and the data is collected and analyzed anonymously to ensure that no personal information can be disclosed to other parties. The study also emphasizes the freedom of participants to refuse or withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences.

Research Limitations

Although the results of the study show a positive influence between praise and worship and the preaching of God's Word on the growth of the faith of the church, there are several limitations that need to be considered:

1. **Limited Sample:** The study was only conducted on the congregation of the Indonesian Bethel Church Victorious Family Kelapa Gading, so generalization of results to other churches is still limited.
2. **Questionnaire Instruments:** Questionnaires measure the subjective perceptions and experiences of the congregation, so they can be influenced by social biases or individual interpretations.
3. **External Variables:** Other factors that can affect faith growth, such as family environment, personal spiritual experiences, or participation in ministry, were not fully included in the research model.
4. **Duration of Measurement:** This study used cross-sectional data so that long-term faith growth was not fully monitored.

Advanced Research Suggestions

Based on these limitations, subsequent research can improve the credibility and validity of the findings by several steps:

1. **Expanding the Sample:** Investigating congregations from different churches with different backgrounds to obtain broader generalizations.
2. **Use of Mixed Methods:** Combine questionnaires with in-depth interviews or participatory observations to obtain richer and more contextual data.
3. **Additional Variables:** Include external factors such as family, community, and spiritual ministry influences as control variables to explain the variation in faith growth more comprehensively.
4. **Longitudinal Research:** Conduct measurements over a longer period of time to monitor the development of the congregation's faith on an ongoing basis.

By paying attention to research ethics, acknowledging the limitations of the study, and planning further research, the findings of this study are expected to be more credible and can make a more significant contribution to the development of spiritual ministry and congregation building.

4. CONCLUSION

The results of the study show that praise and worship have a positive and significant influence on the spiritual improvement of the congregation of the Indonesian Bethel Church Victorious Family Kelapa Gading. Based on regression analysis, a correlation coefficient value of 0.782 was obtained, which means that the contribution reached 78.2%, while the rest was influenced by other factors. Theologically, praise and worship are not merely liturgical activities, but a means of the church's personal encounter with God that fosters faith and spiritual maturity. Practically, the church needs to strengthen the development of worship teams and train worship leaders to have spiritual depth and a correct theological understanding of worship.

In addition, the preaching of God's Word has also been proven to have a positive and significant influence on the spiritual improvement of the congregation with a contribution of 63.1% ($R = 0.631$). The Word of God has transformative power that is able to change hearts, renew minds, and strengthen

the faith of the church. These findings emphasize the importance of improving the quality of Bible teaching and sermons that are contextual and relevant to the struggles of today's congregation. The Church can support this through training programs for teachers and preachers to make the delivery of the Word more effective and impactful.

Simultaneously, the praise, worship, and preaching of God's Word together contribute 75.9% to the spiritual improvement of the church, showing that the balance between the expression of faith and the formation of faith is essential. This result confirms the need for churches to design integrative worship formations, where music, prayer, and sermons complement each other to build the faith of the congregation. Practical implications include targeted training for worship ministers, the development of an applicable biblical coaching curriculum, and collaboration between worshippers and preachers to create a complete flow of worship and support the overall growth of the faith of the congregation.

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