

PSALMS, HYMNS, & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Colossians 3:16

Singing is used to worship, praise and celebrate in thankfulness to God. It testifies of the great things He has done. It is also used to teach, admonish and encourage us concerning the things of God.

Paul said don't give yourself to the excesses of wine but be filled with the Spirit (By) Speaking to yourselves in Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. *Eph. 5:18*

There is something powerful about a testimony, a prayer, a teaching, or a praise that is set to music. It reaches into the inner man, to the soul and spirit. It releases our emotions and our fears and inhibitions much like a wine does. Music can soothe us, calm us, excite us, motivate us, and inspire us. Singing is a bridge, a passage way, an entrance way that releases our spirit into spiritual realms. Non-carnal singing brings us into the realm of the Spirit, into Heavenly Places in Christ. Singing will help lead us to a life that is Spirit filled. A spirit filled life is the results of having a singing spirit, a thankful spirit, and a submitted (non-rebellious) spirit. Let us lift our voice in song.

Moses, Miriam, Hannah and Mary were all some of the Bible's greatest singers. They expressed their testimony of the great things God had done for them in a song. The book of Psalms is the one book in the Bible that is dedicated to songs. The psalms range from testimonies, to praise to declarations of doctrinal truth. This book lays the foundation of what singing to the Lord should be about. Many of the psalms were prayers. Some psalms only speak of the majesty of God; they are declarations of his worthiness. Other psalms are sung about the moving of God in the past, while some express hope for the future.

David was known as the sweet psalmist of Israel, giving them, Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. He was also, known to drive back demon powers and fears. When Saul first began his battle with insanity and fear, David could play on his harp the praises of God and a measure of peace would come to Saul's troubled mind. Saul and all Israel had a spirit of fear on them as they faced Goliath and the Philistine army. David, although a boy, did not have this fear. He had a faith and courage on him that can only come to those who spend time with God in worship. He knew who God was. It was in song after song that David declared, "There is no rock like our God." There is no savior, no deliverer like him. David knew this because he taught it to himself over and over again in song. David was called a man after God's own heart. Long before he was king, he sang the praises of God. His singing, thankful, submitted spirit brought him to the throne of Israel. It also kept David even when he sinned against the Lord.

In I Samuel 30, David was greatly distressed; Ziklag was burned with fire, families were gone and his own followers spoke of stoning him because all the people were grieved. But David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. I believe he got his harp and started singing. No better way to encourage ourselves than with singing with grace in our heart to the Lord. It is no wonder that Paul teaches us to use this powerful tool for the Lord. We must enter his gates with thanksgiving in our hearts and come into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him and bless his name.

David revitalized the Priesthood by instituting an order of priestly worship that gave new purpose to the Levites. He gave hundreds of priests work to do in the house of the Lord. Their sole responsibility was to sing, Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs in the temple worship. The Lord somehow gave David a plan to bring worship back to the house of God, back to all Israel. Something in David's conscience was stirred to life for the temple, the ark, the priest hood and worship in general after he partook of the showbread. This plan for worship was on the Divine order of Heavenly Worship, (Rev. 4)

At the Last Supper, the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples and instated the new covenant, they sang a hymn. It was after the singing of the hymn that Jesus left the upper room with his disciples and went to the Mount of Olives into Gethsemane. (I wish I knew the song they sung). Perhaps this was an encouragement to the Lord himself. He no doubt needed strength and encouragement for what he was about to face. It is not surprising that he sang a hymn before Gethsemane and the cross. If singing perhaps encouraged our Lord in his darkest hour, can it not do the same for you and I?