



**Psalms, Hymns,
and
Spiritual Songs**

Do you ever ask yourself...

*Why do we
sing so much?*

Do you ever ask yourself...

*Do we really
have to sing?*

Do you ever ask yourself...

*Is singing all that
important?*

Do you ever ask yourself...

*Does God
really care?*

Do you ever say to yourself...

*I don't feel
like singing.*

Do you ever say to yourself...

*I'd rather sit
and listen.*

Do you ever say to yourself...

*It's only
singing.*

Do you ever say to yourself...

*I don't get
much out of it.*

Do you ever say to yourself...

*Singing isn't
my "thing".*

Do you ever say to yourself...

*I'm not very good
at it anyway.*

The truth is...

*Singing is a critical
part of being God's
elect people.*

Exodus 14:31-15:1

“When Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and believed in Him and in His servant Moses...”

Exodus 14:31-15:1

“Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD. They said:

I will sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted...The LORD is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. This is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him...”

Psalm 95:1-2

“Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation! Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout triumphantly to Him in song.”

Psalm 96:1-3

“Sing a new song to the LORD; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to Yahweh, praise His name; proclaim His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonderful works among all peoples.”

The Biblical Precept

- Foretold of the Messianic Age – Isaiah 11-12
- Commanded by Apostles – Eph 5:19; Col 3:16

*Both prophet and apostle make
it clear that we are to sing in
worship to God*

The Biblical Practice

- Jesus at the Last Supper – Matt 26:30
- Paul and Silas in prison – Acts 16:25
- Taking place now in heaven – Rev 5:9-14; 7:9-12

*If these deem it proper, how
can we refuse?*

The Biblical Principles

- Render Praise to God (Hymn)
- Teach and Admonish (Col 3:16)
- Enrich with the Word (Col 3:16; Eph 5:18-19)

*Singing together reaches
upward, outward, and inward*

The “Magic” of Singing

- Words set to music have a way of “sticking” in our minds
- Music is a powerful memory and emotion trigger
- Singing allows us all to “speak” at the same time, yet in a decent and orderly way

So the question arises...

*How do we make our
singing as effective
as possible?*

Song Leadership

- Any collective activity needs good leadership in order to live up to its potential
- Singing is no different
- Development of good leaders is key

The Song Leader Should:

- Take his job seriously
 - Be prepared – practice and material
 - Assure songs are scriptural
 - Select proper songs for the occasion

The Song Leader Should:

- Provide clear and visible leadership
 - Be *seen and heard*
 - Pitch and speed
 - Verses to sing
 - Upcoming events

The Song Leader Should:

- Be engaged and engage the congregation
 - Lead with enthusiasm
 - Have a positive demeanor
 - Exercise caution when selecting newer material

Individual Participation

- A congregation is made up of *individuals*
- Participation of *all individuals* is necessary if a collective is to live up to its potential
- Singing is no different

Each Individual Should:

- Participate – Col 3:16; Eph 5:19
 - Vocally – Psalm 51:14-15
 - Intellectually – 1 Cor 14:15
 - Emotionally – Joy / Lament / Celebration
 - Spiritually – 2 Chron 29:30; Neh 12:46

Each Individual Should:

- Follow the leader – 1 Cor 11:21-22; 14:26-40
- Recognize that what each of us sings is directed toward:
 - God – Upward
 - Others – Outward
 - Ourselves – Inward

Each Individual Should:

- Realize the public declarations we each make
 - “I Am Thine, O Lord...”
 - “I’m Not Ashamed to Own My Lord...”
 - “I Want to Be a Worker...”
 - “Mold Me and Make Me After Thy Will...”
 - “Jesus is All The World to Me...”

A Song Service Is Not...

- A “break from preaching”
- Simply a time to “practice singing”
- An hour for “winging it”
- An occasion of “lesser importance”
- An opportunity to “visit somewhere else”

A Song Service Should Be...

- An occasion for all to be actively involved
- A time to learn new material... new ways to express spiritual thoughts and ideas
- A planned and decently-executed activity
- Considered as important as any other service
- An occasion to worship with spiritual family

Hebrews 13:14-15

“For we do not have an enduring city here; instead, we seek the one to come. Therefore, through Him let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess His name.”

Hebrews 10:24

“And let us exhort one another in order to promote love and good works...”

Psalm 146:1-2

“Hallelujah! My soul, praise the LORD. I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing to my God as long as I live.”