

Don't loose your song!

“Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:19 - NCV)

The Bible has much to say about singing and making music to the Lord. **Isaiah 30:29** says, *“You will sing a song like the song you sing on a festival night. Your hearts will be joyful like someone going out with a flute on the way to the Lord’s mountain, to the rock of Israel.”* The “song” often represents joy and happiness. James 5:13 says, *“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.”* Note, it is out of the heart that the song is born. As Christians our hearts should be full of songs!

Psalm 149:1 tells us to, *“Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song.”* Praising the Lord and singing a ‘new song’ to the Lord, are different! In **Psalm 40:3**, David says this about the new song God has put in his mouth. He says, *“Many shall see it and fear, and trust in the Lord.”* In other words, the ‘new song’ is not just a song of praise, but a song of testimony. Yes, David sang his new song aloud for others to hear it, but David did more than just sing his new song. David made his New Song visible for everyone to see it.

Now the question is, *“How do you make a song visible for everyone to see it? Do you have to show everyone the notes and the lyrics of the song so the people can see the song?”* The answer is No. What David meant by “many shall see” his new song was that his ‘new song’ would be an echo in his heart that would sound off and cause the new song to be visible to others. In other words, David would become the new song that God gave him. His life would be a living symphony (testimony) of how good God is.

And that is God’s purpose for your life also. God wants not only to give you a ‘new song’ to sing, but he wants to make you a new song to be seen. Quite simply, God wants all of us to live our lives as a ‘new song’ to others in such a way that they will see Christ shining through. It’s surprising how many times in the Bible it says, **“Sing a new song unto the Lord.”** The Hebrew word for new is “fresh.”

Is the song in your heart fresh? Maybe you’ve lost your enthusiasm for singing? Have you lost your joy for living? There are too many believers who have simply lost their song!

A regional newspaper once carried a story about a housewife who had a pet parakeet named Chippie. The woman, however, made some terrible mistakes with Chippie. There are some things that you just don’t do with parakeets! While vacuuming the carpet one day, she decided to clean out of the bottom of Chippie’s cage with her vacuum. Mistake number ONE. When the phone rang she turned to answer it, while trying to turn off her vacuum cleaner at the same time. Yes, you guest it! Chippie got sucked through the tube and into the dirt bag. Mistake number TWO.

Immediately, she dropped the phone, shut off the vacuum cleaner, and opened the canister. There was Chippie – feathers ruffled and dirt all over his little body. He was stunned but still alive, so she rushed into the bathroom (parakeet in hand). Mistake number THREE. She held Chippie under the tap and accidentally turned it on full blast. Then, she spotted the hair dryer. Mistake number FOUR. The woman proceeded to turn it to “hot” and “high.” Well, the blast of hot air did the trick, but it nearly finished off poor Chippie. The next day a kind neighbour

called around to check on the bird. "How's your poor parakeet?" he asked. The housewife said, "Well, Chippie doesn't sing any more. He just sort of sits there and stares!"

Is that you? Can you relate to Chippie? Perhaps you feel as though you've had your cage vacuumed. Or, like you've been sucked into the dirt bag of life; stuck under the tap; and then hit with a blast of hot air. And now you don't sing much anymore. You just sort sit there and stare!

As we all know, life isn't always a bed of roses. In fact, there are times when it's downright dreadful. Still, we must learn to **sing**. We can sing in spite of the negative circumstances. **Acts 16:25**, "*About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.*" Get the picture. Paul and Silas were thrown into jail because of their faith in Christ Jesus. They were battered and bruised, in a dark and dirty dungeon, but they were singing! They hadn't lost their song like so many of you.

God wants us to sing! God wants us to experience life to its fullest! **John 10:10**, "*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*" **Philippians 4:4** says, "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice!*" No doubt about it. God wants us to sing! God wants us to experience greater joy and fullness of life!

Have you ever considered what causes you to lose your "song," and how you can get it back. In other words, what are the Song-Stealers; and what are the Song-Makers.

SONG STEALERS

(a) Complaining. **Philippians 2:14-15** "*Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.*" The only way you can shine like the stars is by not being a chronic complainer! Complaining does not draw people to Christ.

It pushes them away. Chronic complainers do little good in this world. God never meant for His people to be a bunch of chronic complainers and grippers. Such people are song stealers. They steal the joy right out of others. Samuel Johnson said. "*To hear complaints is wearisome to the wretched and the happy alike.*" Can you not see anything but the negative in most situations in your life? If so, you're a thief! You're stealing the song out of people's lives! It's also been said that some people brighten up a room just by leaving it!

Someone once said that if you want to stay positive in life and on top of things you must stay away from psychotics and neurotics. And there is a difference between the two. The psychotic believes that 2 and 2 equals 5. The neurotic believes that 2 and 2 equals 4, but it worries him a whole lot. Friends, you have to stay away from some people, because they will steal your song!

1 Corinthians 15:33, "*Bad company corrupts good character.*" **Proverbs 13:20**, "*He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.*"

(b) Negativity. Chronic complainers are song stealers, but negative attitudes are also song-stealers. This person is

similar to the complainer. In fact, there's not much difference between the two. Do you remember those who scouted out the promised land? Here's what most of them said when they returned. **Numbers 13:31**, "*But the men who had gone up with him said, 'We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are.' And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored...*" The majority of those men were negative thinkers. Whether they realised it or not they were stealing the joy out of others.

Those who always see the bad stuff (the negative) and spread a bad report to others are nothing but song-stealers. It's been said that those who darken the world of others, also darken their own world.

Proverbs 11:17, "*A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself.*" If you go around spreading bad reports about everything and everyone you'll do no good for Christ. You will steal the joy right out of people's lives and also your own.

(c) Self-pity. I like what J John said, "If you're sitting on your pity-potty, then get up and pull the chain!" Self-pity stinks! It's unbecoming of any Christian. Why? Because there is no need for it. Our God has provided everything necessary for us to stay on top - to live a victorious life. To feel sorry for yourself is one of the most disintegrating things you can do to yourself. In Judges 6 we find Gideon hiding in the winepress having a pity-party. Then the Angel of the Lord appears to him and declares, "Oh mighty man of valour!" This is Gideon's reply, "*But if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian*" (verse 13).

A great philosopher once said, "*Self-pity is our worst enemy and if we yield to it, we can never do anything wise in this world.*" If you are wallowing in self-pity you have lost your song, and have probably stolen the song of those around you.

As I'm sure you will agree, there are probably many things that steal our "life song," but we need to zero in on how to get our song back. So what are our Song-Makers - those things that produce great joy in the heart, so that we can be a living symphony to God's goodness?

SONG-MAKERS

(a) Proverbs 23:7 says, "***For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.***" It starts with your thought life! How you think will determine what song you sing!

Your thoughts can create a symphony of joy or a discord of disaster! You are what you think. If you think positive thoughts, you will be a positive person. If you think negatively, you will live that kind of life. Therefore, if you make up your mind to sing, you will sing. Abraham Lincoln once said, "*Most people are about as happy as they choose to be.*" When someone once said to a lady television host, "Well, this just isn't my day," she immediately came back with these words: "Well, whose day is it then?" Essentially, we all choose what kind of day we're going to have. And the same goes for our lives. "***As a man thinks, so is he.***" And the same principle applies to singing. If you want to sing bad enough, you will. If you want to find joy in life, you will!

(b) Another way to produce a song in your heart (and in your life) is by listening. We need to take singing lessons if we are going to learn to sing. Correct? Many of you need to take listening lessons if you are going to *really* listen. Listening intently to the right “voice” will cause your heart to sing. This can be music, a speaker, or the Spirit of God! But I know for a fact, listening to someone with a joyous spirit is uplifting, contagious, encouraging, helpful, loving. We have to run with singers, or look to singers, in order to sing or get our song back.

To end, I'd like you to consider this... Suppose you walked into an ice cream parlour and began reading all those delicious flavours, all 35 of them: Chocolate, Peanut Butter and chocolate, Chocolate fudge, Cookies 'n Cream, Chocolate chip, Chocolate almond, Banoffee Pie, etc.

Considering all those delicious flavours of ice cream can you imagine anyone ordering just plain vanilla? Why get plain vanilla when you could get one of those exciting flavours? And so it is with life. Life is full of fascination and excitement, but most people settle for the plain old ‘vanilla kind of life!’ *“Lord, give me a dip of bland; or a dip of mediocre! Or a boring scoop of blah-blah....!”*

In **John 10:10** the Lord says, *“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.”* Jesus wants you to have a life full of song. He wants you to experience the exciting, rich and full life, that’s only possible through Him. Have you lost your song? He’s just the person to can get it back for you! Turn to Jesus the author and finisher of your faith - who for the JOY set before Him went to the cross. Jesus knows all about **joy**; about having a song in your heart! Of all the examples we could point to for encouragement not to stop singing our song, I believe the supreme example is our Lord Jesus Himself. Did you know that Jesus sang?

Matthew tells us in chapter 26 about the disciples and Jesus singing a hymn together as they went to the Mount of Olives. *“And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives”* (verse 30). I would have loved to have heard Jesus sing a hymn, wouldn't you? It must have been beautiful! Jesus would have sung with all His heart! I am sure Jesus sung the words with such depth and meaning, truly worshipping God as He sung out aloud. And I believe that Jesus never stopped singing. Notice, in the garden, in the shadow of the cross He sang a hymn! I can imagine the Lord saying, *“Devil you can't steal My song! And on top of that I'm going to give My song to My followers. That way, you can't stand against them. And by the way devil, you can't steal their song either”*.

Don't let the devil steal your song! Keep on singing; keep on praising; keep on worshipping. Let the world know that God has put a 'new song' in your heart. In fact, let the Lord put a 'new song' in your heart right now! Remember, what is “new” is totally fresh!

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me with JOY” (Acts 20:24). Paul wanted to finish his race with joy. I'm sure he wanted to finish his race “fresh” - singing a new song! So let us purpose to do the same.....