

Worshipping God with My Voice

During the Christmas season we are surrounded with music. Why? Because human beings always express their strongest passions in music—whether their deepest sorrows or their highest joys. That’s one reason that the Christian faith is a musical faith. The gospel of Christ, the history of redemption, and the future hope have always inspired our poets and musicians—and every believer—to make a joyful noise.

We see the musical inclinations of God’s children especially in Mary’s Magnificat:

The Magnificat: Luke 1:46–56

My soul magnifies the Lord,
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 For he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
 For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
 For he who is might has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name.
 And his mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
 He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
 He has brought down the might from their thrones
 and exalted those of humble estate;
 He has filled the hungry with good things,
 and the rich he has sent away empty.
 He has helped his servant Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
 as he spoke to our fathers,
 to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

We need to note several things about singing in worship:

1. God’s great being and works demand it. We read in Exodus that after the exodus from Egypt, Moses sang; after David was forgiven his sin with Bathsheba, he sang (Psalm 51); after God saves us, even He sings! (Zechariah 3:17). If we believe He created the world and sustains everything in it; if we believe He sent His Son to die for our sins; if we believe His promises for eternal life, we too must sing.
2. Our song is primarily about Him rather than ourselves. Mary was highly favored to be the mother of our Lord, and her song reflects her personal joy and amazement at her privileges, but the primary theme is His mercy. Our songs, too, must be focused on the Lord, His character and His work.
3. Our song is carefully prepared. Look at how Mary carefully gleaned her thoughts and words from the song of Hannah in I Samuel 2 and how she thoughtfully recalls the biblical promises to Abraham. She was a very good young theologian, as well as poet. Our singing and our meditations must also be deeply reflective upon God’s Word.
4. Our song is an offering to the Lord. Singing in worship is a sacrificial gift to the Lord. Look at Hebrews 13:15. Singing to the Lord requires time, energy, and, most importantly, heart. “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.”

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What is the function of worshipful singing in scripture?
 - a. Colossians 3:16-17
 - b. Acts 16:25
 - c. Matthew 26:26-30
 - d. Psalm 95:1-2; 96:1-3; 98:1; 100:1,4,147,149,150
- 2) What elements of singing do we need to just “get over”?

Other Resources

[The Trinity Hymnal](#)

[The Trinity Hymnal Online](#)

[The RUF Hymnbook](#)