

Sing and Make Melody in Your Heart

➤ = next PowerPoint Slide

➤ **Intro: tone: positive (assume doing, encourage) – negative (stimulate, admonish, warn)**

- chorus, song: Listen To Our Hearts

So listen to our hearts
Hear our spirits sing
A song of praise that flows
From those You have redeemed
We will use the words we know
To tell You what an awesome God You are
But words are not enough
To tell You of our love
So listen to our hearts

- God listens to our hearts when we sing, so we should talk about how we sing with our hearts

➤ **We're not commanded to be technical musicians**

- Eph. 5:19 we're commanded to sing and make melody with heart to the Lord

- God wants us to emphasize the heart over technical musicianship

- not commanded to sing technically correct by reading music

- illus.: hymnals in the Lord's church a hundred years ago or so just had words, not notes

- illus.: good thing, or we'd all be condemned (joke)

- fact: we don't sing rhythms correctly, in a technical sense

- fact: often times don't get the notes right

- application: we shouldn't try to be expert singers, because we're not

- should try to be Christians pouring our hearts out to God

- a little technique helps us sing with our hearts, but it's not what we should emphasize

- helps to have it pitched close so everyone can sing

- that way we have the physical ability to sing, and thus sing with our hearts

- helps to sing in a way the congregation knows

- illus.: Bible class, West Side congregation in Thomasville, sometimes have to lead singing, lead the way they sang there not the way we sang where I regularly preached, sometimes would start song and sing quietly because not know their way

- the best congregational singing is when Christians pour their hearts out to God

- heart is emphasized

- technique is secondary

- sing #4 (supplemental): The Battle Belongs To The Lord

- we had trouble with it until we learned it well enough to forget the notes on sheet music, and just sing

- don't worry about the notes so much, just engage your heart and sing

➤ **Sing with your spirit and with understanding**

- **Eph. 5:19b make melody in your heart**

- Greek *psallo* translated “make melody” means to play strings, pluck strings
- **God specifically commands the strings to be plucked**, the heart – **only authorized accompaniment to singing**

- **1 Cor. 15:14 sing with spirit and understanding**, just like we pray and worship

- **place emphasis on spirit**: having heart and mind engaged, not go through motions
- **place emphasis on understanding**: know and understand the words, think through meaning
- **note**: technical musicianship goes last

- **suggestions for song leaders:**

- **explain** the words and thoughts behind new or unfamiliar songs, especially if unusual

- **illus. song #162: Night, With Ebon Pinion**

- **vs. 1 ebon pinion:**

- “ebon” means black, “pinion” means wing feathers or wing
- the night of Jesus’ betrayal is pictured as a bird with a very black wing that broods over the earth
 - wings of darkness covering the earth

- **vs. 3 (end) Abba:**

- Aramaic word for “father,” especially used as a term of endearment by a small child, in our language we would say “daddy”

- **illus. song #16: A Mighty Fortress**

- **vs. 2 (end) Lord Sabaoth**

- **if you guessed** it’s Lord of the Sabbath you’re incorrect
- “**Sabaoth**” is the Hebrew word for hosts
 - it properly denotes armies or military hosts organized for war, including angels who are represented as marshalled or arranged into military orders (Barne’s on Rom. 9:29)
 - “**Lord Sabaoth**” denotes that God is Lord of all the heavenly hosts, and thus has supreme power

- **sing #162: Night, With Ebon Pinion**

- **remember meaning** of ebon pinion (darkness covering earth) and Abba
- **put yourself there** that night, with Jesus, observing the events, with Him as a friend, suffering with Him
- **pluck the strings of your heart** – sing with the spirit and understanding

➤ **Sing with your heart by being thankful**

- **Col. 3:16** sing with thankfulness in heart

- **attitude:** thankfulness motivates us to pluck the strings of our heart while singing to God

- **singing is one way of expressing our thanks to God**, for all He's done (Father, Jesus, HS)

- **illus.:** if someone did something incredible for you that could never repay, how far would you go out of your way to thank them – travel around the world? – sing them a song?

- **song #392: Count Your Blessings**

- **sing** to God, with your heart (spirit), count your blessings, and be thankful

- **let your thankfulness be reflected** by the *heart* you put into singing the song

➤ **Sing with your heart by singing to God, knowing He's listening, just like He'll do for eternity – imagine**

- **Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16** “to the Lord” / “to God”

- **sing to God (Lord), He is in our midst** every time we worship, together and individually

- **illus.:** imagine the singing if God were physically in our presence, or if Jesus had just come and we were worshiping Him, that's what our singing should be like all the time

➤ - **Rev. 15:1-4** we'll sing in heaven for eternity, as those victorious over Satan and his ministers

- we should sing that way today, because we are victorious today

- sing like you're in heaven

- **song #359: Victory In Jesus**

- **sing** to God, heart (spirit), understanding, **imagine being in heaven celebrating our victory**

➤ **When you sing and make melody in your heart. . . .**

- **you know God** is well pleased, no matter how it sounds to human ears

- **you'll be encouraged and uplifted**, with the word of Christ dwelling in our hearts

- **singing to God**, while admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs

- **SL:** probably why singing here is so good, and commented on by so many people

- **you'll be thankful**, and that thankfulness will be reflected in our singing

- **you'll sing like you're in heaven**, praising God and celebrating your victory

Inv.

- **God listens to our hearts when we sing**

- **What does God hear from your heart when you sing to Him?**

- **inv.:** if your heart isn't right with God, your singing can't be right, you can correct both. . . .