



God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 4:24

## On Worship

with Pastor Steve

# The Power of Song

We live in a day when our world is inundated with song. Song is a common thread that runs through every global civilization. Here in America alone we have Rock-n-Roll, Rap, Country, Pop, Head Banger, Heavy Metal and probably others I haven't mentioned. Each of these song classifications carries with it a certain message and the power to drive that message into the hearts and minds of its listeners.

Song influences the soul in ways unrealized by spoken or written words. Song contains the power to not only change attitudes, but influence actions. The forces behind many of these songs are aware of their power and many listeners have succumbed to their bondage.

With demonic forces aware of the power of song is it any wonder that music and song has become a divisive element in many churches? However, many in the church have become wise to the tricks of the enemy, and as a result a new song is arising. This new song brings with it the power to set the hearts and minds of men free from the bondage of sin and death.

The power of song is clearly evidenced many times in scripture. King David wrote, *He has put a new song in my mouth--praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, and will trust in the Lord.* (Psalm 40:3) Here, we see that God put a song or singing into David's mouth. The result of that song of praise was that many would come to fear the Lord. We can conclude that song is a medium for turning the hearts of men to the Lord; a tool for evangelism.

In Acts 16:25-34, Luke records an event where song led to the salvation of a jailor and his family. Paul and Silas were in prison in Phillipi and at midnight they began to sing. Their worship reached the ears of the Lord who shook the prison. The earthquake freed Paul, Silas and the rest of the prisoners from their chains. It not only opened the doors of the prison it opened the door for the preaching of the gospel. The power of song carries with it not only an element of salvation but also of deliverance.

King Jehoshaphat witnessed the power of song while being confronted by a coalition of opposing armies.

*So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe his prophets, and you shall prosper. And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: Praise the Lord for his mercy endures forever. Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.*

2 Chronicles 20:20-22

David also understood the delivering power of worshipful song. Many times when he was being pursued by enemies he picked up his stringed instrument and sang to the Lord. In Psalm 32:7 he wrote, *You are my hiding place; you shall preserve me from trouble; you shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah*

There are other biblical examples of God's people tapping into the power of song. Asaph, one of the three worship leaders appointed by David, used song to intercede and petition before the Lord (Psalm 83:1). Prophets such as Isaiah and Habakkuk sang some their prophecies (Isaiah 5 & Habakkuk 3). In 1 Samuel 10 is a story of Saul meeting a group of prophets prophesying accompanied by a stringed

instrument, tambourine, flute and a harp. Though the passage doesn't explicitly say the prophets were singing it would not be a stretch to believe that some of their prophetic utterances were given in song.

As we have seen, the power of God anointed song can bring salvation to the lost; break the chains of those who are imprisoned in the dungeon of sin and death. Song can be used as a weapon of warfare to thwart the plans of the enemy and bring victory to God's people. It can also be use to intercede and petition the Father as well as pronounce God's prophetic word to his people.

Song can also be used to bring about the healing of physical and spiritual barrenness. In Isaiah 54:1 the prophet writes, *Sing, O barren, you who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, you who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman, says the Lord.*

Can you imagine the reaction of a barren woman in ancient Israel after being told to sing? There were few things more shameful in those days than for a woman not being able to bear children. Doubtless she would have been ridiculed by other women and may have even felt abandoned by God. Sometimes their husbands would set them aside for a woman who could bear them children. The Lord's remedy for barrenness was song.

There have been instances where God has opened the wombs of barren women who came before him with songs of supplication and praise. Songs of healing prayer have been a tool to bring about the healing of various physical illnesses. I have a friend who meets with a group each week to minister to the sick. They sing and pray over these people and have seen God move in miraculous ways. In addition this song of the barren reaches to areas of spiritual barrenness.

All of us have areas in our lives where we do not see fruit. It could be the fruit of salvation for a family member or the conquering of a sin that so easily besets us. Maybe there is a call of God for a particular ministry that has not yet been realized or a physical problem that continues to bring anguish. It could be that it is time to address that barrenness with the power of song. You might find that God will bring about a spiritual breakthrough in those areas of bondage in your life.

Jesus told us that those who believe in him would have rivers of living water that would flow from their hearts. (John 7:38) If you feel that your river has run dry and left your spiritual land barren I suggest you do as Moses and Israel did.

*From there they went to Beer, which is the well where the Lord said to Moses, Gather the people together, and I will give them water. Then Israel sang this song: Spring up, O well! All of you sing to it. . . .*  
(Beer means well)

Numbers 21:16-17

Tap in to the power of song. Begin to sing to your well. You may sing with the understanding or sing with the spirit (in tongues). Invade the heavenly places with songs of intercession and praise. God may just invade your barrenness and bring forth fruit.