

SING TO GOD!



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LifeInJesus.net

'Sing to God!'
by
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SING TO GOD!

Music is attractive. Most people enjoy some sort of music. It can comfort you, make you feel happy or sad, motivate you or give you courage. It can enforce the mood you're in or it can change that mood. It can bring people together. It can antagonise people. It can create a good atmosphere; it can create a bad atmosphere. It can enhance an atmosphere and it can change an atmosphere. Music is powerful. There is a whole music industry that plays on the back of all this. Why do people love music so much? Because God made them that way. Music is part of His plan.

Good and Bad

But it's important to realise that there is good music, bad music and a lot in between. By bad, I'm not talking about badly written music; I mean music that is bad for you. Music is powerful and it can be good or bad for you. The words of some songs are obviously evil and will do nothing to help you. Tunes and harmonies can often feel good or evil too. If you want to live a happy life, then avoid the bad and choose the good.

Peace

God also created peace and the beauty of silence. The Bible says in Psalm 46:10 – '*Be still, and know that I am God.*' People are bombarded with music today. Most people now have the opportunity of continuous music through technology. And by living that way some have lost the ability to enjoy quiet and maybe can't even cope with it any more. God created music and He created quiet. He wants you to enjoy both.

Made to Sing

God made music. He made it to be good and He made people able to sing. Now you may be thinking, “Well I’m tone deaf,” or “My voice is awful.” Your body was designed to function perfectly and that included singing in tune with a lovely voice. But people aren’t always born with everything functioning perfectly. If you’ve made Jesus your Lord and Saviour, that is you’ve been born-again, then you’re going to heaven and your voice will be perfect and beautiful for eternity. Wow! (To read about being born-again, go to the end of this booklet.) And in the meantime, do as it says in Psalm 98:4 – *‘Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Burst out and sing for joy, yes, sing praises!’* Make your joyful noise to God – He will love it!

God made people to live in an atmosphere of praise and worship to Him. Don’t get hung up on what the difference is. I’ve heard it described as – “In praise we sing to Almighty God; in worship we sing to our Father.” Praise tends to be bigger and louder, and worship tends to be more intimate. But they both focus on God and/or Jesus, thanking Him for His amazing love and for all He has done and proclaiming how wonderful He is. Singing praise and worship will also help you to express your love for Him.

It’s wonderful and powerful to talk to God and tell Him how much you love Him and thank Him for all He has done. But praise and worship seems to take on a different dimension when it’s sung. God made us to sing to Him. It’s something the Bible says Christians will be doing for ever in heaven. The more you love God, the more you will want to praise and worship Him. And the more you praise and worship Him the more you will love Him. It’s a beautiful upward spiral created by God to bless both Him and you.

Why Praise and Worship God?

You don't praise and worship God to get Him to do something for you or to win brownie points. Nor do you have to worship Him so He will hear your prayers. When Jesus died, He took the punishment and also God's anger for everything everyone has done, is doing and will do wrong. So God's not angry with you and it's possible for you to live in a close love relationship with Him. When you're born-again God comes to live on the inside of you. So worship doesn't get God to come closer to you. If you're born-again, He's on the inside – He can't get any closer!

But singing praise and worship will help you to become more aware of God's presence with you. As you sing of all He has done for you, your heart will be drawn towards Him – your love for Him will increase. His love for you can never increase as it is already limitless and totally unconditional. He has put inside everyone a desire to have a relationship with Him, and once you're born-again, singing to Him really helps you to experience that.

Creation Sings and God Sings!

Here's something amazing – the world which God has made sings praise to Him! Psalm 98:8 says – '*Let the rivers clap their hands. Let the mountains sing for joy together.*' And another wonderful thing - God himself sings over His people, those who are born-again! Zephaniah 3:17 says God – '*will rejoice over you with joy. He will calm you in his love. He will rejoice over you with singing.*'

Do you want to know that God is singing over you, expressing His love for you and His joy in you? There's only one way – make Jesus your Lord and Saviour.

What a Difference a Song Makes

If you're feeling down and you listen to songs with downbeat words or a melancholy tune, it won't help you. In fact I can't think of a situation where singing a song about depression would ever help. Of course you can wallow in low spirits and 'enjoy' the feeling. But looking at it rationally, wouldn't it be better to bring yourself out of it? Listen to music that will lift you.

Just because a song is Christian, doesn't necessarily mean it's good. Some of them don't line up properly with all that Jesus won on the Cross. Some of them focus on being in a mess and have you begging God to do something about it. He already has! He loves you so much that He sent Jesus to die in your place so you could be free. Don't wallow in self-pity; sing songs and hymns about God and how He loves you and about all He has done for you through Jesus. Your mood will soon start to lift. If there are things going on in your life which are getting you down, start praising God and see what a difference a song can make.

True Worshipers

It doesn't matter whether you sing traditional hymns or modern songs as long as they honour God. However, God is a creative God and over the last 50 or so years He has been inspiring hundreds of new songs. Many times in the Bible, such as in Psalm 96:1, it says – *'Sing to the LORD a new song!'* But what God looks for isn't how old or new the song is, what style it is, or how well the person is singing, but how they are worshipping in their heart. Jesus said in John 4:23 – *'the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such to be his worshipers.'* This means

it's possible to worship God in a way that isn't pleasing to Him, such as just singing the words without any thought. This isn't being a true worshiper.

Worshiping in spirit means worshiping sincerely from your heart; not superficially. Psalm 103:1 says – *'Praise the LORD, my soul! All that is within me, praise his holy name!'* God wants your total involvement. He made you to feel, react, and relate. He doesn't want you to leave any part of yourself out of your praise to Him. He delights in seeing and hearing you express your feelings of love and gratitude to Him. He wants you to experience Him as you worship Him.

If you have children, you would not want them to show their love for you in a subdued way, with a formal manner and avoiding your eyes. You want them to run to you with arms wide, love in their eyes, a smile on their face, and full conviction of love in their words and tone of voice. That's the way God wants you to worship Him and He has made it possible through Jesus. I don't mean being out of control or whipping up emotion; I mean being willing to express the true love you have for God and Jesus without formality. Praising God freely, as He intends His followers to do, is far from disorderly.

Singing words without thought is not worshiping in truth. Worshiping in truth is singing songs that express God's truths in the light of all He did on the Cross, and consciously understanding and believing those truths as you sing.

1 Corinthians 14:15 says – *'I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.'* You can't actually be a true worshiper unless you're born-again, but if you are, make a decision to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Praise is Power

God works miracles through praise. The Bible says God inhabits the praises of His people. God is in every born-again Christian, but when they worship Him, He is present amongst them in power. Read what happened to Paul and Silas in Acts 16:22-26 – *‘The multitude rose up together against them and the magistrates tore their clothes from them, then commanded them to be beaten with rods. When they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely, who, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison, and secured their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bonds were loosened.’*

I know of someone who, while praising, was healed of a serious condition which had kept her in a wheelchair for years. As she made the decision to praise God with all her ‘inmost being’, healing came to her body and victory into her life.

Freedom

Here are some ways you can physically praise and worship God which are in the Bible: singing (Psalm 100:2); playing musical instruments (Psalm 150:3-5); lifting your eyes up to God (Psalm 123:1); lifting your hands up (Psalm 134:2); clapping (Psalm 47:1); shouting (Psalm 100:1); dancing (Psalm 149:3); standing (2 Chronicles 20:19); lifting your head up (Psalm 3:3); kneeling down (Psalm 95:6); bowing down (Psalm 95:6); bowing your head (2 Chronicles 29:30); lying flat (1 Chronicles 29:20); bowing

your face to the ground or falling to the ground before the Lord (2 Chronicles 20:18). I've included this list so that if you're doing any of these things and are feeling silly or wondering if you should, then you can be assured it's OK. But don't make rules for yourself – simply worship God freely.

A Sacrifice of Praise

Hebrews 13:15 says – *'Through him, then, let's offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually.'* Sacrifice involves something being killed for a purpose. In praise you need to sacrifice the fear of anything new, an inferiority complex which keeps you aware of what others may be thinking of you, or a superiority complex with a tendency to judge the way others are worshipping. Sacrifice yourself and focus totally on God.

Blessings

When you praise and worship God, privately or with other Christians, don't think, "What am I going to get out of it?" The wonderful truth is that as you worship with your mind and your heart focused on giving to Him, God then blesses you and you end up receiving from Him. Praise brings blessings into your life personally and also into a church that is truly worshipping God in spirit and in truth.

In Isaiah 61:1&3 Jesus said - *'He has sent me to ... give to them ... the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.'* This is so wonderful. God has made it so that when you praise and worship Him in spirit and in truth the weight of living in this world lifts off you and is replaced with hope, joy and peace.

Sing to God!

Find some good Christian praise and worship and play it and sing. Sing praises to God in spirit and in truth and see what a difference it makes in your life. You'll enjoy it and God will love it and blessings will come. Psalm 146:2 says – *'While I live, I will praise the LORD. I will sing praises to my God as long as I exist.'*

Being Born-Again

When you acknowledge Jesus as God and decide to follow Him, you make Him your Lord. When you accept His sacrifice on the Cross for yourself personally, you make Him your Saviour. You are then born-again and have a new perfect spirit. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy your personal love relationship with Him. Romans 10:9 says – *'If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.'* Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you do, say and think. Choose to believe that Jesus is Lord, that He died for you and is now alive. Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. Say it with your voice and believe it in your heart. If you've done that sincerely, you are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. Everything you've ever done wrong or ever will do wrong is forgiven, and after this life is over, you'll live in peace and joy with your loving Father God for ever. As a child of God, you now have a whole new family of brothers and sisters. Tell a trusted Christian that you are now born-again so they can help you in your new life in Jesus. And you have the Bible to help you understand and experience more of God's love for you and all Jesus has done and won for you. It will help you to live your life in the best possible way – His way.

Life in Jesus

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and all He has done and won for us
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Music is so powerful
and we love to listen to it and sing along.
We know that singing can make us feel better.
God made it that way
and He loves to hear us sing too.

Find out what singing is all about
and how you can become a true worshiper
as you sing songs of praise to God and to Jesus.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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