

## **There Is Nothing Like Singing Praises to God** **By Kent Heaton**

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the Lord! Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face evermore! Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth” (1Chron. 16:8-12).

One of the greatest gifts given to man is the ability to communicate. With the tongue man is able to share knowledge, express love in a deeper way, recount stories of courage and talk of the wonderful blessings of his Creator. Speech is the central character of man as it expresses the meanings of the heart. The power of the tongue is evident by the manner the Lord dispersed man across the earth when He confused their language at Babel. Throughout the generations of worship the voice is lifted to God in praise. He wants us to talk to him. His desire is to hear the words of His children. Singing is the magnificent tool of God’s creation that makes the heart fill with the grace of the Lord.

What a joy singing is. Much is made about the way we sing with timing, tempo, and tune. While these elements are important we should never leave the impression the Lord is impressed by grandiose voices of operatic proficiency. It may be that many people do not sing because they “do not have a good voice” and so become timid in their worship. This is sad. The Lord’s ear wants to hear hearts singing praise - not mouths singing in perfect pitch. Joy is found in singing praises to God from lives that are moved with the bounty of God’s grace in hymns, His love in the psalms of praise and voices that fill the air with spiritual songs. Blending voices together with fellow saints is a most exhilarating experience.

Songs are written to move the heart. The book of Psalms is a wonderful example of how much the people of God loved to praise Him. Modern day hymn writers place words and music together bringing harmony with the word of God in a joyful expression of praise. When we gather and sing together it is a true foretaste of the eternal joy of singing around the throne of the Almighty. We should all sing no matter how we sound. Our Lord wants to hear us. He wants to know what is in our hearts. We need to desire spending time with one another in song. How beautiful the voices of the saved blending together in wonderful praise to our God who loves us. What a joy it is to sing.

“Music is a tonic for the saddened soul, a roaring meg (cannon) against melancholy, to rear and revive the languishing soul.” (Robert Burton, *The Anatomy of Melancholy*, 1621)

### **Give Me the Truth** **By Bill Crews**

If you are my friend, if you are concerned for my soul, give me the truth. Do not flatter me. Do not praise my virtues while remaining silent about my vices. Do not fear the truth will offend me. Do not treasure our friendly relations above my salvation. Do not think that by ignoring my sins, you can help me. Do not think that being blind to my sins will prove you charitable. However I may react to it, whatever may be my attitude toward you after you have done it, GIVE ME THE TRUTH!

For the truth, and only the truth, can make me free from the shackles of sin, strengthen me in the pathway of righteousness, and lead me to the joys of heaven. If I am wavering, weak, lukewarm, indifferent, neglectful; if I have been overtaken in a trespass; if I have been drawn into the pleasures of the world; if I have left my first love; if I have been led astray by error, or, if I have done none of these things, but simply need to grow in knowledge and to be edified, GIVE ME THE TRUTH!

### **Grandmas Glasses**

Two small boys were discussing eye glasses. "Wouldn't you hate to wear glasses?" one asked. "No," answered the other, "not if I could have the kind my Grandma wears! My Mother says she can always see when folks are tired or discouraged or sad. She sees when somebody is in need and she can always recognize when you have something on your mind that you need to talk over. But best of all she can always see something good in everybody!" The little fellow continued: "I asked my Grandma one day how it was that she could see that way. She said it was because of the way she's learned to look at things since she's gotten older. So I'm sure it must be those glasses of hers!" Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of us could see others through Grandma's glasses? (Author Unknown)

### **I Am Thankful For...**

I am thankful for the wife who says, "It's hot dogs for supper tonight," because she is here at home with me, and not with anyone else.

For the teenager who is complaining about doing dishes, because that means she is at home and not on the streets.

For the taxes that I pay, because that means I am employed.

For the mess to clean up after the party, because that means I have been surrounded by friends.

For the clothes that fit a little too snug, because that means I have enough to eat.

For my shadow that watches me work, because that means I am out in the sunshine.

For a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing, because that means I have a home.

For all of the complaining I hear about the government, because that means we have freedom of speech.

For the parking space at the far end of the parking lot, because it means I am capable of walking and that I have been blessed with transportation.

For my large heating bill, because it means I have been warm this winter.

For the person behind me in church that sings off key, because that means I can hear.

For the pile of laundry and ironing, because it means that I have clothes to wear.

For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day, because it means I was capable of working hard.

For the alarm that goes off early in the morning, because that means I am alive. --Contributed

### **A Moments Wisdom**

--Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for power equal to your tasks. (Phillips Brooks, Perennials, 1898)

--While we inherit our temperament, we must build our character. (William L. Sullivan, Worry! Fear! Loneliness! 1950)

--God never draws anyone to Himself by force and violence. He wishes all men to be saved, but forces no one. (John Chrysostom, Sermon, c388)

--We do not usually learn that Christ is all we need until we reach that place where He is all we have. (Vance Havner; 1901-1986)

Do the best that you can. The people who count will know that about you. prb (2Tim. 4:16-17)

--Truth is seldom at the extremes of human opinion. prb (Prov. 16:25)

--If you want something done right, give the task to someone who is already busy. prb (Matt. 25:28)

--When arguing with a fool, be certain he is not similarly engaged. G. Dehoff (Prov. 26:4)

--Money and power do not change a man. They merely amplify what was already there. (Prov. 23:7)

--Some days you get the bear. Other days the bear gets you. C. V. Isinghood (Prov. 27:1)

--The farther back you can look, the farther forward you can see. Winston Churchill (Rom. 15:4)

--You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him. (Rom. 5:6-8)

--A man can't go anywhere while he's straddling a fence. (Matt. 12:30)

--All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen. Emerson (Psalm 19:1)