

Elder Bobby Willis



God Instructed Singing

Ephesians 5:19-20; **“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;**

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;”

There are times, when singing during a church service, that the Spirit is high, and sadly, there are those times when it is not. In verse 18 of Ephesians 5, we find the Apostle Paul saying we are to **“*be filled with the Spirit.*”** Singing is a viable, intricate part of our worship service and helps us to be in the right frame of mind as we worship the Lord. To understand what Paul is saying here, we need to examine the words he uses in these verses.

Part of our worship involves **“*speaking to yourselves.*”** The word **“*speaking*”** is the Greek word **“*laleo*”**. The word refers to **“*a sound made by a movement of the tongue.*”** So, it means **“*to speak, to use your words.*”** If we are going to fulfill the command in this verse, we must open our mouths, move our tongues and allow sounds to come out. Nothing is said about how well we may sing, but rather we are to make the effort.

Since Paul speaks about **“*psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,*”** he is talking about singing which implies that we must open our mouths and let sounds issue forth. When joy in the Lord is given a voice, it expresses itself in songs of praise to the glory of God.

Paul now mentions three types of verbal expressions of worship we are to use.

1 - Psalms - The word means “*Scripture set to music.*” This is referring to the Psalms of the Old Testament as the early church did not have hymnals. They took the Psalms and set them to music, singing them as part of the worship service. The song leader would “*Line A Song*”, meaning he would sing out the words first, then the congregation would sing what he had spoken. Every song we sing in church should be biblical in content. Every song should be Biblically accurate and doctrinally true which will help us learn the Word of God.

2 - Hymns - In the Greek language, Hymns means “*a song uttered in praise of a God.*” To us it means “*a song uttered to the one true and living God*”. A hymn, filled with God honoring content, declares His glory, gives us peace and comfort, speaks of the wonders of Heaven, and surely lifts our spirits. When Bibles were not readily available, those who were given the gift of writing hymns, filled them with Biblical Truths which even now helps increase our knowledge. That’s why it is so important we sing Hymns filled with Biblical Truths. Songs like “Amazing Grace”, “There Is A Fountain”, “How Great Thou Art”, “All Hail The Power of Jesus Name”, just to name a few. While many of the “Newer” Hymns are good, we need not let the old Hymns of Truth fade away.

3 - Spiritual Songs - A Spiritual Song is one which reaches to the Soul. Songs like “There Is Coming A Day”, “Farther Along”, “In The Sweet By And By”, “I’ll Fly Away” come to my mind. These Songs lift our spirits while filling our hearts with joy. The age of a Song or Hymn, should not be the reason we sing it, but rather its content of Biblical Truths.

So, let us sing Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs to the glory of God. As we thank the Lord for all His Benefits (verse 20), our worship services will be much warmer in the Spirit and pleasing to our Lord. **“Think About It!”**