

Spiritual Gifts: *Spiritual Gifts in Song – Part I*

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Thank you, Ruth, for your marvelous opening prayer and for the worship songs you have selected. They exemplify what I am going to speak about. They are sermons for our souls.

The Spiritual Gifts in Song

If you know me, you know that I love our worship music. You also know that I am *not* gifted with the spiritual gift of music. But I *can* make a joyful noise. My apologies to you of all for the “noise” part.

As I mentioned the other week, we’ll be putting together a CD of worship music which is representative of the spiritual gifts we’ve been covering. Here’s a sign-up sheet for those who are interested.

Why are we spending all this time selecting songs for each gift and preparing CDs for you?

When our fellowship entered the New Covenant, God changed our *hearts* as He gave us new worship *music*. Before Peter became our pastor, our worship music is what ministered to my heart and my soul.

The words and the music of the songs we sing all have deep meaning for me. They *resonate* within me. And God brings those words and meaning to remembrance at the right time on the right occasion.

The largest book in the Bible – Psalms – is a book of worship. There is a song for every circumstance, a psalm for every emotion. These words and this music heals our hearts and provides a depth to our relationship with God that cannot be achieved any other way.

In worship, we are lifted to the heavenly realm where all things are possible. And we experience an intensely deeper relationship with our Creator, our Father, our Friend.

A steady diet of worship music can fill our beings and prepare us for whatever is just around the corner.

It reminds us of God’s love and faithfulness, His power and sovereignty and His purpose in our lives.

Worship music, by definition, falls under the spiritual gift of music. But different songs draw from or elicit different spiritual gifts. Each song may speak to one particular gift or to a mixture of spiritual gifts.

The song we are about to sing is a song of prophecy, of faith, of hope, and of joy.

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

As much as I love the song “How Great Thou Art,” I have selected “A Mighty Fortress” as the song for the spiritual gift of prophecy.

I first heard the PromiseKeepers’ version of this song at Stand in the Gap. It is powerful and adds a depth and richness to its meaning for a number of reasons.

The first stanza is somber as it speaks about the craft and power of the mightiest created being on earth – Lucifer. Satan, the Prince of Darkness, has incredible power and we are utterly defenseless against him. He is the source of evil on this earth and he is the power behind the Holocaust and the World Trade Center attacks. We are helpless before him and there is no hope. Except ...

A Mighty Fortress (PromiseKeepers)

<http://www.geocities.com/praisehymns/hymn2.htm>

*And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us;
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.*

The remainder of this song is *alive* with passion and power, hope and victory. All because of that “one little Word.”

That Word – Jesus Christ – is *awesome*. That Word – by the power of His Word – *created* the heavens and the earth. He *upholds* the entire creation with His Word. And *He* loves *us*. He *lives* in us. And He *gives* us the victory.

That Word is a Word that I trust because He always keeps His Word. We can face Satan and storm the gates of hell because that Word has *already* defeated Satan. That Word – the power of the universe – is on *our* side.

“One little Word shall fell him.” – God! What an *incredible* truth! The craft and power of Satan – as *great* as it is – is *nothing* against “one little Word” from God Almighty. One Word. Just one Word. And Satan is defeated, destroyed.

May we forever revel in the glory and majesty and power of the risen Christ. And may we forever remember – as *we* enter the lion’s den, as *we* storm the gates of hell, as *we* walk through the valley of the shadow of death – that that *Word* goes before us. The Word who loves us and gives us victory.