

The Gift of Song Colossians 3:12-17

Continuing this series on gifts ... Paul urges the new Christians in Colossae, to share their gifts. "Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience; bearing with one another; forgiving one another". And then he adds, "with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, sing hymns, sing spiritual songs to God ... [always] giving thanks to God."

Sometimes when we hear someone sing we get caught up thinking, "I wish I could sing like that." We might even quit singing because we can't like they do. Maybe someone once told us that we should just move our lips.

I wonder, if God really care how we "stack up" against others? Or is God simply waiting for us to offer what gift we do have, to the world God loves?

There are so many aspects to the gift of song. Through the creation of a song, we can express who we are, what we believe, what we feel, what we dream. In the expression of a song, we can move others to reflect, to create, to feel, to dream. By the offering of a song, we can honour and bless and praise and worship the Creator and Lover of humanity; and in the same act, introduce this tender, compassion God to someone who is searching, struggling, aching - someone who may be longing for a Power to whom to turn.

The gift of song can lift us into the presence of the Holy; it can lead us to discover the meaning and magnificence of our lives. The gift of song can be a comfort, a healing, a means of discovering the hope that persists even in deepest darkness.

Annie was dying of cancer. One day she made a request. "The Bible is nice," she said, "but could you bring your guitar and sing for me next time?" I asked what she would like to hear, and, at her request I went home to find and learn a hymn I had never heard.

"I do not ask, O Lord, that life may be A pleasant road;
I do not ask that Thou wouldst take from me Aught of its load.

I do not ask that flowers should always spring Beneath my feet;
I know too well the poison and the sting Of things too sweet.

For one thing only Lord, dear Lord, I plead: Lead me aright,
though strength should falter and though heart should bleed,
Through peace to light.

I do not ask my cross to understand, My way to see;
Better in darkness just to feel Thy hand, And follow Thee.

If we have the gift of song, we are to invest it in and for this world, in and for those with whom we share our years, in and for the generations yet unborn. We are to invest according to measure that has been given to us. Remember, if the eagerness to share the gift is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has - not according to what one does not have.

Don't just move your lips, let your whole being sing!

