

Can Your Soul Sing?

Psalm 71:23

My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee; and my soul, which thou hast redeemed.

A study was done in an endeavor to learn about the natural song a bird sings. Scientists took the egg of a red bird and separated it from the mother. They incubated the egg and then hatched it and nurtured the young bird. They began to introduce new birds to this red bird and expose it to the different songs of various species. The red bird would not sing the song of the blue bird or any others it was exposed to. Then the scientists brought in the mother red bird and she began to sing. At the moment the mother bird sang, the young red bird that had been separated from her began to sing that same song. Something deep in the young red bird recognized the song and nature constrained it to join in the course.

There was a time when churches regardless of denomination had a lot of common ground. Morals, standards, and methods were pretty much mainstream. Another thing that the religious world shared was its music. However, diversity seems to have pervaded religion in every aspect imaginable and with this diversity many different forms of music have been introduced to the church world.

It seems that the songs of old had a deep meaningful tone to them. Their words and melody were often born out of troubling times or deep appreciation for God. In the days that the great hymns were written, the music industry was not a thriving force in the market place. Thus, the temptation to write for the sake of making it on a chart was not there. People seemed to write out of devotion to God and a desire to exalt Him and express their love for Him. Today the story is altogether different. Men and women are no longer writing with the cause of devotion but in the hope of promotion. If they are to survive they must make it on the charts and sell. The slow meaningful melodies do not satisfy the masses. So our writers of today have turned to the world to borrow beats and rhythms that work. In doing this, much of our modern Christian music is missing something. What they lack in substance they make up in syncopation. And where they fail to appeal to the soul, they make up in appeal to the flesh. As long as something is felt they are happy. But what is it we are feeling? Is it merely the spirit within us being moved because our flesh is being excited by the style of music it is being exposed to? Or are our souls being touched?

David in the verse above said his lips would sing and his soul. In his worship the physical response was enjoined with the soul's response. Let me ask you this: when you are worshipping to a certain style of music, can your soul sing? Does something reach down into your being and constrain worship? Or are you merely responding to a beat that moves your flesh to action? To praise God with our physical faculties is one thing, but when the soul is touched and its chorus joins our physical praise it is altogether another.

Just as the red bird would not sing to the sounds of other birds because the songs did not strike a chord in its being, so I feel when exposed to certain types of Christian music. Some things that have been introduced into modern Pentecost just don't appeal to the soul. They get response and get people to act in worship, but God is not in it. Often we feel pressured to worship because of where we are and who we are with. However, if our soul can't sing to the music then we need not force our flesh to participate. I just can't worship to this world's style and melody; it doesn't evoke the song that was born in me at an old fashioned altar. Go ahead and sing your song modern church world, it doesn't chime with the Holy Ghost in my soul. And I shall not join you until you sing the songs of Zion that bring down the presence of God. Then and only then will that song burst forth from my heart and then my soul also shall sing unto the Lord!