

# **A Song-Filled Life**

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Psa. 100:1-2, *“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.”*

Singing is one of the greatest joys of life, bringing joy both to us, and our heavenly Father. In this article, let’s look at how we can fill our lives with song. Let’s study different times we can sing, reasons to sing, and blessings that songs give to our lives. Then we will close with a couple of other brief points that didn’t fit elsewhere.

Let’s begin with different times we can sing.

First of all, singing is a part of our worship service. In the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul answers many questions the Corinthians had about the worship service. In verse 26, he defines singing as part of that service, *“How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.”* And in Heb. 2:12, *“Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.”*

However, we aren’t limited to singing only during worship services. Communion and collection are defined by example and command to be done on the first day of the week. But we can sing any time we want. After all, Paul and Silas sang at midnight in jail. Acts 16:23-25, *“And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.”* So we can sing any time we wish.

Since this is the case, let us sing God’s praises every day. Heb. 13:15, *“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”* Psa. 145:2, *“Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever.”*

There are many reasons for us to sing. Let’s look at a few.

First, we sing to praise God. Psa. 147:1, *“Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.”* Psa. 98:4, *“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.”*

We sing God’s praise because we are thankful to him. Eph. 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;”*

We also sing as a method of teaching one another. Col. 3:16, *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”*

We can also use singing as a way to teach the world. Psalms 96:1-3, *“O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.”*

And we sing to approach the presence of God, as we read earlier in Psalms 100:2, *“Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.”*

Singing God’s praise blesses our lives in many ways.

Singing brings great joy to our lives. Psalms 33:1, *“Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.”* James 5:13, *“Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.”* I’ve been asked the question: Do we sing because we are happy, or are we happy because we sing? In reality, according to the scriptures, the answer is both.

Singing can bring comfort in hard times of life. Look at Matt. 26:30, when Jesus was facing death. This was just after He instituted the communion, but before He went to Gethsemane to pray. *“And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.”* We have to be careful, though. Such comfort through song cannot be forced on others, it has to come from within. Notice Proverbs 25:20, *“As he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre, so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart.”* One of the most anguished passages of scripture is Psalms 137:1-4, after the Israelites had been taken captive, *“By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?”* So we can’t force comfort through song. But if it comes from within, songs can be a source of comfort. Psalms 77:6, *“I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.”*

Singing is a great way of having fellowship with each other. Psalms 34:3, *“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.”* And, as we read before in Hebrews 2:12, *“Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.”*

Singing is also a great way of having fellowship with God. Psalms 100:4, *“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be*

*thankful unto him, and bless his name.” Psa. 22:3, “But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.”*

So, we can fill our lives with song by singing in worship services, singing anytime, and every day. We sing for many reasons, including to praise God, out of thankfulness to Him, to teach one another, to teach the world, and to approach God’s presence. Singing blesses our lives in many ways; with joy, and comfort in hard times, as long as comfort through song comes from within and is not forced. Singing is also a blessing in that it is a great way to fellowship with each other, and with God.

Let’s close with two quick points.

Firstly, we need to make sure that we sing scriptural songs. Psa. 47:7, *“For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.”* Col. 3:16, *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”* Psa. 119:54, *“Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.”*

Lastly, we need to make sure we build upon our Christian singing with Christian living. Don’t make our songs empty hypocrisy. Live the way we sing. Notice how the Israelites failed to do this after being delivered by God from slavery in Egypt. Psa. 106:11-14, *“And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left. Then believed they his words; they sang his praise. They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.”* Let’s not be like the Israelites. Instead let’s build on our singing with Christian living. Heb. 13:15-16, *“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate (share with others) forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”*

In Christian love,

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