

A New Song
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GFC 2/24/19

We are in a sermon series entitled All Things New.

Today I'm preaching a message entitled: A New Song. There are nine places in the Bible that mention the new song. For instance, Isaiah 42:10 says:

Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise from the end of the earth!

So – what is a new song? Is it a song that's been written recently – as opposed to a song written years ago? It's more than that.

In my sermon last week on the New Covenant, I taught about the two main words in the Greek New Testament that are translated “new.”

The word *neos* means new in respect to time.

The word *kainos* means new as in something that never existed before.

The new song is *kainos* – a song that did not exist before. Thayer's Greek Lexicon says it is recently made, previously unused, unprecedented, and never heard before.

That's why when speaking of the new song - other versions say things like:

Invent your own new song to Him...

Compose new songs of praise to Him...

Sing a new song of praise to Him...

The new song is something that is fresh and new.

Many times, the new song is Spirit-led and spontaneous. It's like when Israel came out of the Egypt and God parted the Red Sea to deliver them and to destroy their enemies. Exodus 15:20-21 says:

Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing. Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted. The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea."

That spontaneous new song shows us one of the purposes of the new song – to declare the victory of God. Psalm 98:1 says:

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

God's victory is celebrated in song – and sometimes with dancing! Psalm 149:1-3 says:

Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the

saints. Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King. Let them praise His name with dancing and make music to Him with tambourine and harp.

That's what Miriam and the women of Israel did after crossing the Red Sea. But guys – don't think this kind of praise is just for women! Young's Literal Translation says:

Sing to Jehovah a new song, His praise in an assembly of saints. Israel doth rejoice in his Maker, Sons of Zion do joy in their king. They praise His name in a dance, with timbrel and harp sing praise to Him.

Guys – you're in good company when you dance and shout and sing!
King David the giantkiller did it!
Jesus our example jumped for joy!

We see it here occasionally, but I'm believing for the day when the men unashamedly lead out in radical praise and worship on a regular basis! I know some guys don't like to sing. I even saw a blog of a Christian author who is quitting church because he doesn't like to sing. Really? That shows you how self-centered people are today! You don't go to church to sing for yourself! You sing in church to praise and worship the Lord your God! He is the one who said in Psalm 149:1

Sing unto the Lord a new song, and His praise in the congregation of saints.

In the congregation – we sing new songs of praise to God! But we don't just sing a new song in church! We sing new songs throughout our daily life. By the way – we will be singing the new song in heaven! Revelation 14:2-3 says:

I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders.

Here's another purpose of the new song. Psalm 40:3 says:

He has put a new song in my mouth, even praise to our God: many will see it, and fear (revere and worship) and put their trust in the Lord.

Praise is one of the ways we evangelize unbelievers!
When people see us praising God during trouble – it draws them to God.
When we praise God – it impacts other people!
When we praise God – it builds faith in us and other people!

People need to see us giving God the credit and the glory for the blessings in our lives!

I hate it when Christians say they received something good because they got lucky! That doesn't glorify God! Instead, we should say like the Psalmist in Psalm 40:16

Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, "The Lord be magnified!"

This verse is for everyone who loves God and His salvation. We should continually say, "The Lord be magnified!"

- When people say I'm lucky in life, I will refuse to give luck any credit – instead I'll magnify God for blessing me.
- When my doctor tries to take the credit for my healing, I will magnify God for being my Great Physician.
- When my financial planner tries to take credit for my financial increase, I will magnify Jehovah Jireh – my Provider!
- I don't even take any credit for myself – I will magnify the Lord my God at all times.

Now – if you have trouble praising God or worshipping God or giving to God – the place to start is with thanksgiving. Psalm 100:4 says:

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.

Thanksgiving gets us in the door. Then, praise gets us into His presence. Worship is our response to His presence.

That's why ungrateful people do not worship. Because thanksgiving gets us into God's presence. True worship starts with thanksgiving. Psalm 69:30 says:

I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

We will never magnify God until we become thankful for who God is and what God has done! That's why we must constantly remind ourselves of what God has done for us!

I'm sure most of us have had times we feel the goodness of God so intensely that we want to leap in the air and shout and say, "O God, how could I ever doubt you after this?" And then some short time later you find yourself doing just that—doubting, discouraged, and feeling no confidence in the goodness of God. Why? Because we tend to forget the goodness of God which we have experienced. Isn't that why David said to himself in Psalm 103:1-2

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

We are called to be telescopes who magnify the greatness of God.

But you can't magnify what you haven't seen. And you can't magnify what you quickly forget! That's why we should remind ourselves of the ways God has blessed us! And when we do see and do remember God's greatness – we should magnify Him with thanksgiving!

The new song can be a spontaneous song of thanksgiving and praise. It can also be a song of the Lord – or a prophetic song. This new song is a song we sing over our destiny and future or someone else's destiny and future. For example, Isaiah 54:1-3 says:

Sing, O childless woman, you who have never given birth! Break into loud and joyful song, O Jerusalem, you who have never been in labor. For the desolate woman now has more children than the woman who lives with her husband," says the Lord. "Enlarge your house; build an addition. Spread out your home and spare no expense! For you will soon be bursting at the seams. Your descendants will occupy other nations and resettle the ruined cities.

God instructed the barren to sing a prophetic song about the children they would have in the future. This kind of song requires hearing God, faith and the power of the Spirit. That's why Ephesians 5:18-19 tells us to:

Be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts.

Spirit-filled Christians sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Psalms are scripture songs. Hymns are songs which ascribe worship and praise directly to God. Spiritual songs are what the Bible also calls the new song, spontaneous songs to the Lord.

The New Testament Handbook says, "Spiritual songs" could be translated as "songs from God's Spirit" or "songs caused by the Spirit. Spiritual songs are spontaneous outbursts of inspired singing, prompted by the Spirit. This is a song that has never been sung before.

I love how Wuest's Word Studies of the Greek New Testament says it: It calls spiritual songs "spontaneous effusions of the moment." An effusion is something that overflows and gushes out.

The context of this passage is being filled with the Spirit and it's saying that Spirit-filled people sing all types of songs – including spontaneous new songs that flow out of them in joyful thanksgiving and prophetic declarations!

When's the last time you were so overcome with the goodness of God that spontaneous praise and new songs flowed out of you? If you can't remember, maybe you need to pray Psalm 85:6 which says:

Will you not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?

Evidently – when you are not revived – you are not rejoicing.
Likewise – when you are not rejoicing – you are not revived!

I looked up what this word rejoice means. It is the Hebrew word samach (saw-makh'); which means “to be glad and make merry.” Here’s how Vine’s Dictionary of Biblical Words describes it: Samach usually refers to a spontaneous emotion or extreme happiness which is expressed in some visible and or external manner. This emotion arises at festivals, weddings, harvest feasts, the overthrow of one's enemies, and other such events. This emotion expressed in the verb samach is an inner feeling which is visibly expressed through things like shouting, singing or dancing.

How powerful is that! Have you even been so moved by God that you had feeling so strong that you just had to shout or sing or dance?

No – some of us are too “holy” for that. We don’t mind when someone jumps or shouts when the Cowboys win a game or when someone wins a new car on The Price is Right – but jumping or shouting because you are rejoicing in the Lord? Now that’s another thing. Our pride or fear or our lack of freedom keeps us from visible expressions of praise.

God – revive us that we may rejoice in You! Give us freedom from our bondage. You see – it’s very difficult to rejoice in the Lord when you are in bondage to the enemy.

It’s hard to rejoice when you are bound up by a sin or addiction.
It’s hard to rejoice when you are living under guilt condemnation.
It’s hard to rejoice when you are blaming God or mad at God.

How can you praise and worship someone you are angry with or blaming for the conditions of your life? But let me remind you that God is not your problem – God has never been your problem – and God will never be your problem! In fact – God is the answer to your problems if you turn on Him you turn on the only One who can set you free! Our level of rejoicing is one of the measures of revival in our lives.

Christianity is a faith that is filled with singing. That’s something that carried over from our Jewish heritage. But there’s a difference between songs sung by free people and songs sung by captives.

Two main types of music originated with slaves in America: blues and gospel songs called Spirituals. But most of those Spirituals were not joyous – they were bluesy. They were songs that were looking forward to heaven – looking forward to when God would deliver them from slavery.

Songs like Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen, Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child and Swing Low Sweet Chariot. The point is that it’s hard for slaves to sing happy songs.

Psalm 137:1-4 talks about a time when Israel disobeyed God and was taken captive. It says-

*By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.
There on the poplars we hung our harps, for there our captors asked us for songs,
our tormentors demanded songs of joy; They said, "Sing us one of the songs of
Zion!" But how can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land?*

There are several things I see in this passage: First – when you are taken captive in life by a sin or an addiction or anything the enemy uses to draw you away from God – there will come a time when you will remember where you used to be with God. You will remember when you were in church serving God – learning the word – praising God in all things – hungry for the things of God! And you will weep when you realize how far away you are now. And the enemy who has taken you captive will begin to torment you. How does he do that? The Message version of Psalm 137:3 says

Our captors demanded songs, sarcastic and mocking: "Sing us a happy Zion song!"

And the enemy will torment us and mock us by saying things like:
“Go ahead and praise God now after all you’ve gone through.
You believed for your loved one to be healed and they died.
You believed for a raise and you lost your job.
You raised your child in church and now they’ve gone astray.
Let’s hear some praise and worship now!”

You see – when you are free and full of faith you will praise God no matter what!
But when you’ve been taken captive – you hang up your harp!
When you lose your freedom - You stop singing.
When you are addicted – you lose your joy!
That’s how you know you’re someplace spiritually you should not be!
There’s no joy in your heart – and when there’s no joy in your heart – there’s no
song of rejoicing on your lips!
And when there’s no rejoicing – there’s no revival!

Beware the time you lose your song!
Be wary when you hang up your harp!
Be concerned when you can’t enter into praise and worship.
That could be an indication that something’s taken you captive.

That’s what happened to Israel - but the prophet Isaiah prophesied about the time when God would redeem Israel from their captivity. He told how they would return in Isaiah 51:11

*Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion;
and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy;
and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.*

Psalm 126:1-3 tells us what happened when God delivered Israel from their enemy who had enslaved them.

When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

You see – when God sets you free He restores your joy.

When God sets you free – your eyes are opened to the great things He has done for you.

When God sets you free – you stop blaming Him for every bad thing in your life.

When God sets you free – you take the harp down from wherever you've hung it up and you start singing new songs again! Psalm 107:20-22 says:

He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing.

Notice that God's word results in healing and deliverance and rejoicing! So, if you've been held captive by someone or something – I encourage you with this word today – go ahead and sing by faith!

Pick up your harp by faith.

Put on a garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

Sing your way out of your bad situation.

Praise your way through your problem.

Worship your way out of the wilderness!

Rejoice your way into revival!

Then begin to sing a new song unto the Lord! Psalm 96:1-4 says:

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.

The world has heard all kinds of songs – but they need to hear the new song – the song of the Lord – the song of praise!

So, when the world is being shaken, we must sing a new song of hope!

When the world is hurting, we must sing a new song of healing!

When the world grieves, we sing new songs of resurrection!

When the world grows more unfair, we sing a new song of justice!

When the world grows more unloving, we sing a new song of love!

When the world is divided, we sing a new song of reconciliation and unity!

When the world is in conflict – we sing the new song of peace!

To those who are enslaved, we sing new songs of freedom!
To those who are afraid, we sing a new song of courage!
To those who are dragged down by sin, we sing of God's forgiveness!
To those who are confused, we sing God's clear new song of truth!
To those who are lost, we sing the new song of salvation!
To those who are depressed, we sing a new song of joy!

We put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness!
Even when things look dark or hopeless or barren – we sing a new song of the
Lord prophesying the hope and destiny we have in Jesus Christ!
In all things we will give thanks and sing new songs to the Lord!