

Music

“Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.”~ Plato

Music has been a part of my life since before I was even born. I am sure my mother listened to music on the radio, in church, and at other places before I was born. She played the piano for me to sing before I learned how to play the guitar. We changed people’s lives through music as we shared with them. “Song Sung Blue”, “Down in the Valley”, and “Make the World Go Away” were some of the secular titles. “Amazing Grace”, “The Birthday of A King”, and “Silent Night” were some of the church tunes.

I remember the 8-track tapes of the 70’s, continuous loops of music which played in my car. Tapes of glorious songs that would never stop unless the tape broke. “Patches I’m Depending on You Son”, “My Sweet Lord”, and “You’re the nearest thing to heaven that I’ve seen” are words that rolled round and round.

Don’t know about you, but if it were not for music I would be hard put to be happy. The gift of music is such a joy to people, and God gave it to us for that purpose. Whether it’s the pop tunes of the day, the country music of the ages, the old or new hymns, or classical music from centuries ago music has changed the world for the better.

Martin Luther, the great reformation preacher, said that “Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.” Music lifts the heart, inspires the soul, heals the wounded in a way no other thing can.

Even the scriptures are filled with song. The psalmists list song after song about the wonders that God has done. Here is one of the greatest.

“Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn— shout for joy before the LORD, the King. Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” ~Psalm 98:1-7

Take time to sing the songs about what God has done. Dance a little, celebrate the wonder that music can awake in your heart. Enjoy the genre of music you love, and look outside it to find inspiration you did not know even was possible.

Let God use music as one of the things which grows you to be who you were created to be. Find the beauty and inspiration that only sacred music can work.

Sing the hymns or other worship songs in church, and let God give you some of the things you sing about. "Peace in the Valley", "Joy to the world", "the joy none other has known", "How great thou art", "Silent night, holy night".

When you sing the songs of worship, God connects in a way not possible in other settings. The feeling, the inspiration, the change which comes as you sing or hear his music is unparalleled.

Even if you can't carry a tune in a bucket, the songs will transform. That's what they do. They come from sacred hearts and are powered by the Holy Spirit.

Do not let life pass you by without music. Johann Von Goethe, who lived in the 1700's, said, "A man should hear a little music, read a little poetry, and see a fine picture every day of his life, in order that worldly cares may not obliterate the sense of the beautiful which God has implanted in the human soul."

Let the surprises of life hit you square between the eyes. Hear a joke, and let the music of laughter fill your heart. Henry Youngman used this one many times. "Some people ask the secret of our long marriage. We take time to go to a restaurant two times a week. A little candlelight, dinner, soft music and dancing; she goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays."

Dear Reader, do not miss the spiritual impact God can have on your life through music. Whether it is the harp of David, the shepherd boy who became king, or the entire Philharmonic Orchestra, the hymn you sing on Sunday morning, or the clip on Youtube, music is the stuff of God.

"If I should ever die, God forbid, let this be my epitaph:

THE ONLY PROOF HE NEEDED
FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD
WAS MUSIC"

— Kurt Vonnegut Jr.