

Learning the Family Song

When Israel crossed the Red Sea they sang a song of triumph (Exodus 15:2 The Lord is my strength and song and salvation). Yet Psalm 106:12 says having sung of his promises, they forgot what he had done.

Singing brings to remembrance what God has done.

The command to sing is re-iterated in the new covenant:

Colossians 3:16

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Singing isn't a preference- it's part of discipleship.

Why?

- God is a Singing God. Zephaniah 3:17 says he sings over us with delight! As his image bearers we reflect and reciprocate his delight when we sing.
- We are changed in the place of worship
 - Psalm 96:1-2
 - Psalm 47:6
 - Psalm 103:1-2

When we sing in worship:

- We are aligned to truth (mind)
- We connect with God at the deepest level (heart)
- We are united in heart and voice with other believers
- We meditate on future hope.
- We make choices: We say "I will" even when our feelings say "I don't feel like it".

Questions

1. **Singing is a necessary part of discipleship.** Read Col 3:16. Do you agree that singing is vital to discipleship? How would you rate your own discipleship in this area the last 6 months?
2. **Singing God.** Read Zephaniah 3:17: How does the statement "He rejoices over you with singing" make you feel? Awkward, happy, loved? What challenge does it give us?
3. **My response.** Do you find most resonance with songs of truth or songs of emotional response? Why?

4. **Unity of song.** How can we reflect this important value when we're not singing together?
5. **Do it anyway.** How does Dara's resolve inspire you?
6. **Get active.** Read Psalms - how many expressions of worship beyond singing can you find?