

Mid-week Devotional with Pastor John
Thoughts and Prayer to help us in our walk with God

Wednesday February 1, 2012

Ever wonder about the songs you sing at church? Why do some appeal to you more than others? Certainly familiarity, nostalgia and ease of singing all come into play when we decide what songs we like best. Often we like a song because it means something to us. Maybe it reminds us of a time in our youth, a person we were close with or a big event in our lives. But what about the words in the song? How do the lyrics influence if you like a song or not?

There is a lot of theology expressed by the lyrics. What we sing expresses what we believe about God, Jesus and how faith can work. We recently sang a hymn titled, *Trust and*

Mark 1:32-35 ³²*That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.* ³³*And the whole city was gathered around the door.* ³⁴*And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.* ³⁵*In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.*

Obey, some of the lyrics are, “while we do his good will, he abides with us still, and “for the favor he shows, for the joy he bestows;” and the chorus is “trust and obey for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.” A question for us is, while we are singing, do we believe what we are singing? Do we take to heart and are we willing to put into practice that which we sing? Because we are not singing to each other since there is only an audience of one – and that is Jesus. Another song sang was “*God is Able*” and the lyrics include, “God is with us, God is for us,” and “he

will never fail us, he will never leave us.” One set of lyrics is from a hymn and the other from a contemporary praise song, yet each proclaim theology and each are grounded in scripture.

Part of the beauty of singing is that sometimes it is the only way for someone to express what is hurting in their heart. Some feel so lost or so down that words just don’t seem to form from their lips into prayer. But in singing we are also praying. Sure we are praising, but it is also a form of prayer. The songs help us pray the words until the walls in our hearts and the defenses of our minds begin to break down and our spirit senses freedom. Our spirit senses union with God’s spirit and soon the transforming power of God’s love is felt within us.

In the past there have been times when I didn’t want to sing because I didn’t like the song, I was in a bad mood that Sunday morning or I was slightly perturbed with my current life situation and I was taking it out on God. I may have been in church, but that doesn’t mean I had to joyfully praise God! Perhaps you have felt that way too. Thankfully I now eagerly anticipate Sunday’s so I can worship and sing with my fellow believers! I love to hear the songs lifted up and feel Jesus’ sweet, sweet spirit moving throughout. And when we sing The Lord’s Prayer – WOW! The feeling is hard to put into words. For me it is a brief glimpse of heaven. Thank you for being part of our church family and singing loudly, quietly or singing with your hands – for I believe the God that knows our hearts knows the praise and prayers you offer during our time of singing!

In Christ’s love, John