

## Sanctifying Jehovah in Worship (4) Congregational Singing

Congregational singing is an important element in worship. Besides the hearing of God's Word that takes up most of the time in the worship, is the singing of praises to God. Singing to the praise of God is worship!

### Why do we sing?

We sing praises to God in response to the command of God and the example of the saints recorded in the Scriptures. In II Chr. 30.21, when Israel celebrated the feast of unleavened bread, the Levites and priests praised the Lord daily with singing and loud instruments. In Nehemiah 7.67, when Nehemiah reinstated temple worship after a very long captivity, he appointed singing men and women to worship and praise God. In Psalm 100.2, we are called to come into the presence of the Lord with singing. In Psalm 126 is a song of praise to God as a result of the Lord's goodness in delivering His people from the Babylonian captivity. Their mouth was filled with laughter and their tongue singing, "the Lord has done great things". And in the New Testament, God wills that the singing of praise to God ought to continue amongst the people of God when the apostle Paul instructs the congregations of Ephesus and Colosse to sing psalm, hymns and spiritual songs unto the Lord (Eph. 5.19, Col. 3.16).

We sing praises to God because this is the earnest desire of our hearts. We sing in gratitude and thanksgiving to the Lord for saving us with a great salvation. He redeemed us from our great sins and given us a new heart to worship and praise Him. In truth, we can't help but burst out in song in praise to God. We sing in praise to God because the words of the songs echo our own experience in the Lord, the Lord hearing our prayers and saving us.

### What do we sing?

We sing the words of God and the truth that He has given us in the Scriptures. We sing the psalms because in it is the experiences of the people of God. The psalms are experiential in nature and reflect the varied experiences of the people of God.

Eph 5.19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ".

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"

The book of Psalm is the inspired song book given to the people of God to worship in the worship service of God. And when the Lord hears His own words sung back to Him, it is sweet to Him and melodious to Him. In addition to the singing of Psalms, there is a place in the Christian church for Scriptural songs to be sung. The entire Scriptures is given to God's people for instruction and songs are a means in which God's people are taught of God's truth and put in a tune and in a memorable way.

### How do we sing?

We sing with joy, gladness and gratitude in our hearts. And we sing not so much being carried away by the tunes of the song but by the very words. This means that we may not sing as a matter of course, but we sing meditating upon the words of the song. We sing with understanding. Its important that we sing as a congregation of the Lord, each one of us, whether young or old singing praises to God.

May we sanctify Jehovah in our congregational singing. Amen.

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