

A Capella Music in Worship (Devotional)

Worship in song is a holy and wonderful thing in which to partake with God's people. Singing is good for one's soul, and it makes one feel closer to our Lord. It has been a part of the worship that God's people have employed in offer and service to Him within their gatherings for at least since the time of Moses. As Moses and the children of Israel sang in Exodus 15:1, ***"I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea."***

Singing is a very important aspect of Christian music and worship today, and it will be part of our service to the Lord in the great age to come: ***"and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders"*** (Revelation 14:3).

So why do we sing *a capella* when we gather together in our assemblies? The answer is really quite simple: It is what we have been told to do, and we honestly seek to do all in the name of our Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:17). When God gives a specific command, we are not free to add or take away from it, or to go beyond His word to do less or to do more (Numbers 22:18; 1 Corinthians 4:6). And those of us under the New Covenant founded by Christ Jesus are commanded to sing and make melody in our hearts: ***"I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also."*** (1 Corinthians 14:15) Part of the purpose of our singing is to teach, and that can only be done through vocalization: ***"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God."*** Paul admonishes the congregation at Ephesus to have their hearts filled with the Spirit, and the instrument to use, says the Apostle, is the heart, and not some mechanical instrument: ***"be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart,"*** (Ephesians 5:18-19).

It should matter to all Christians that they do whatever is in their power to worship their Creator as He has chosen, and to do so as Jesus said in John 4:24, ***"in spirit and truth."*** It is presumptuous to do otherwise. And Jesus Christ promised to give the Apostles the Holy Spirit to guide them in all knowledge pertaining to life and godliness: ***"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you"*** (John 14:26). So shouldn't we do no less than that instructed to the congregation at Thessalonica by the Apostle Paul? ***"Finally, brethren, we beseech and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God, just as you are doing, you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus."*** The instructions given are for us to sing. Is that too hard to follow and understand?