

A New Song

Every year millions decide they are going to make New Year resolutions. Each New Year presents the opportunity and challenge to make changes to better ourselves. There is something about a new year that somehow nudges us to try to do something new and accomplish more of the goals we have set for ourselves. The New Year is a great time to take inventory of what we have (or haven't) done the past year and get our game plan together of how we will proceed in the New Year.

It is also good to reflect on our relationship with God and look forward to the New Year as an opportunity to make a new fresh start and sing a "new song" to the Lord! In the book of Psalms the psalmist encourages us to, **"Sing to the Lord a new song"** to exhort the people of God to sing new songs! Or how about this one, **"He put a new song in my mouth"**! The Lord can give you a new song to sing! There are many other examples as well in Scripture. In the book of Revelations it states that there will be new songs sung in heaven (Revelations 5:9.) New songs will go on forever. God says he will create a new heaven and new earth, a new covenant, a new heart, but strangely missing in scripture is anything about Him moving backwards in time!!

What does it mean to "sing to the Lord a new song?" Simply put, it means describing through words and music a new and fresh experience you have personally had with the Lord. Maybe describing a new joy or peace that has come into your life. Or singing about the gift of life itself and your gratitude to the Creator for all His marvelous gifts! Clearly a new song is not about past experiences or old songs. (Of course there is a time and place for those songs as well!)

God is the God of the present moment. Therefore we shouldn't primarily live off our past experiences in the Lord. Many get confused about this. They receive the Lord and then consider that the "transaction" is done and that there is nothing more to do but wait to go to heaven! It is easy to become prisoners of our past experiences (good or bad) and lock the living God into an "historical box"!

Many religious people during Jesus' day were living their lives through the past experiences that Abraham, Moses, and Elijah had with God. They were obsessed with what God had done in the past. So much so that they couldn't see the face of God in Jesus Christ! They kept their

focus on what God had done in the past instead of looking for what God was doing in the present moment and time.

Remember in the Old Testament when Moses asked God "what is your name?" God responded (with a Hebrew phrase) that has been commonly translated into English as, "I Am who I Am"! But Martin Buber, (the best known Jewish religious scholar of this century), argues persuasively that the phrase suggests that God is the presence, **"who is present in every now and every here!"** Not just somewhere else. II Cor.4:6 states these incredible words, **"For it is God who said, "let light shine out of darkness", who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ!!!"** According to the Bible, the presence of God is experienced in this world right here and now through the good news and presence of Jesus Christ and His Spirit.

The Apostle Paul points out in II Cor.3 that the ministry of the New covenant is more glorious than that of the Old! The ministry of the Spirit is far better than the Old covenant, according to Paul! There is such a thing as progressive revelation because God is the Eternal Now! He has over history dealt with people in different ways. And now that we are "in Christ," old things have passed away and all things have become new! New wine, new songs, fresh experiences of grace and encounter with the Holy! Everyday and every moment is holy...new and fresh..." they are new every morning "!

The Spirit of God inspires and produces fresh new songs, fresh fillings, and fresh experiences of His Spirit. And when God touches you by his Spirit, it is the same Eternal Spirit but it always seems like something new and refreshing... there is nothing stale about tasting living water. No matter how many times you drink of the living water it is always new and refreshing experience!

In Romans 12:1 urges all believers to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. The word "transform" is a powerful word. Being renewed implies a fresh start or refreshing - something different from the old. We can either conform to the mentality of the world...or be renewed by the Spirit of God. We can fall into old ways of living and thinking or let the Spirit energize and transform our lives and patterns of thought. Every year, indeed every day is an opportunity for us to be renewed, transformed, and sing a new song to the Lord!

My hope and prayer for everyone for this New Year is that people will find and experience God in an infinite variety of ways. May you taste of

living water again and again, and as you do sing a new song to the God of new beginnings. He is ready to do a new thing... the question is, ... ***are you ready?***

Written by David Arivett

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