

THE TESTIMONY OF SONG

Did you ever think what a sad, dull world this would be without any music or song? How tasteless and flat life would become if we never could hear the blending of voices or instruments in harmonious melodies. Many of us who here find our voices discordant await the glad day when with our new vocal organs we shall be able to join in the song of the redeemed around the white throne with the saints of all ages.

Song is a means of uplift to the soul. It has the miraculous power to lift the soul from the slough of despondency to the heights of ecstasy. A professor used to exercise his class in singing whenever they became moody and sullen. Some people turn to the piano or organ and sing themselves back into good spirits whenever they become overburdened with the cares of life. Other people turn to song in moments when patience seems at the breaking point. Many a spirit has been calmed and smoothed by the gentle lull of a beautiful song.

But however great a place song may hold in this area there is another area in which music plays a major role: it is in the area of testimony. Too many times people seem not to recognize that there is a testimony in song. May I re-emphasize this statement by repeating that there not only may be but that there definitely is a testimony in song.

The song of Miriam and Moses at the crossing of the Red Sea was a testimony of the greatness and power of God. The Psalms of David are songs expressive of praise to God.

The songs of Mary, Zacharias, Simeon and the angels at the birth of Christ are testimonies of praise and adoration to God. When Paul and Silas were imprisoned at Philippi they sang praises unto God and the witness which they bore brought the jailor in fear and trembling at their feet.

Yes, there is definitely a witness in song. Whenever we sing we bear witness—for someone.

It is true that God looketh on the heart and because of that you may feel that it matters little about the expression of your lips. But did you ever recognize that there are certain earmarks attached to both the believer and the unbeliever. For instance, what would be your impression of a person if you were to note that when he sang he always sang a hymn or gospel song? Would you not immediately say "That person must be a Christian?" And taking the opposite view would you ever guess that a person were a Christian if he always sang the songs of the world and you had no other means of knowing him except through his singing? If you were out in public who would people think you were witnessing for as you express yourself in song?

Singing is also a means of testifying. A good way to witness to your friends and to those whom you work with is to sing or hum some gospel song and never be heard singing any of the cheap compositions of the world that are so prevalent today. Often it is difficult to open a conversation on salvation but through your song of praise you may arouse the curiosity of another which will prompt him to open the conversation.

There is yet a deeper witness of song. It is the witness to your own spirit. There is no spiritual food in the jazz and flesh-appealing music of the world. A Christian could never sing such stuff from his heart; his spirit could

never respond to the message he proclaims with his lips. But to sing the songs of Zion is to ring a response from the Christian's soul that renews the Spirit's witness and produces a mutual feeling of agreement between the singer and the song. We are exhorted in the Scriptures to "speak to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord." There is no mention of worldly singing there.

Would I be going too far if I were to state that the present great flood of so-called popular songs is one of the many subtle means of the devil to disarm the Christian Church from within? Beloved, the spirit of anti-Christ is strong today and unless we are careful to follow the command of Jesus to "watch and pray" we will be caught up in the spirit of the age.

And may I be frank enough to suggest that radio, while being a great servant of Christianity in many respects, is one of the greatest influences toward worldly singing in the Christian Church. Scarcely can one listen to the radio without being caught up in the whirl of jazz and ten-cent cowboy rhythm which feeds the flesh and starves the spirit.

Keep your song! When you have lost that your case is sad indeed. Keep your song but keep it consecrated. Make it contribute to Christianity and to the glory of God. Don't testify for the devil.

WILLIAM MORGAN

FLASHES FROM MANY LIGHTS

By J. O. House, Observer

What is a smile? Just home-made sunshine. A Christ-like heart is compassionate, not cold or critical.

When there is no confidence in God, there is no continuance with God.

The human mind should be like a good hotel, "Open the year 'round."

When happiness gets into the system it always breaks out in the face.

To avoid old age keep taking on new thoughts and throwing away old habits.

Three things to give: Alms to the needy, comfort to the sad, and appreciation to the worthy.

I destroy, crush, and give nothing, but take all. I am your worst enemy, avoid me.—Neglect.

You'll always find a welcome, and your friends wish you nigh. If you strive in conversation not to overwork the "I."

You can't keep trouble from coming to see you, but you don't need to give it a chair to sit on.

Happiness is not merely pleasure: it is mostly victory that comes from a sense of achievement of triumph of turning our lemons to lemonade.

No interests are so vital as those of Bible Salvation and none should move us so deeply.

I shall think no fearful thought, speak no fearful word, give way to no fearful act. They do not belong to FAITH.

The only thing the devil can't get into is the love of Christ, for if he did get into it he wouldn't be the devil.

You can have peace or revenge but you can not have both. They are incompatibles and all human history is a comment upon that.—Sel.

A PLEA TO PARENTS

Dr. W. Leon Tucker told this amazing incident: Dr. Percival, a busy surgeon, was a

Christian. He had one daughter, Kitty, whom he loved devotedly. One day she came to her father and told him she was going as a missionary to China. He said, "Kitty, I forbid you ever to go out of my sight." As last she gave up plans for going, and married. She had two darling children. I lived next door to Doctor Percival. One day he told me that he had to give up his surgeon's license because of the condition of his eyes. Later he had to have an operation on his eyes. When the bandages were taken from them, his doctor said, "In two weeks you will be totally blind."

Dr. Percival sent for Kitty and the babies to come. He carefully felt their faces and seemed to get a mental picture of them in his finger-tips. He took me out into the light and "looked at his pastor. It was a sad day in our block, and everyone was weeping.

Months later I went out to lunch with Dr. Percival. I had to help feed him. As he walked home I could see that he wanted to say something. "Say it, Doctor," I said. "Dr. Tucker," said he, "do you think that God is retributive?" I told him I did not believe it. He said, "Tucker, I told Kitty that she could never go out of my sight, but God has taken her from my sight. Wherever you go, plead with parents to keep out of the way when God calls their children into His service."

God has a plan and purpose for each life. Do not stand in the way when He calls!—Sel.

FAN TO FLAME

Take heed to the fire of your heart, for the tendency of fire is to go out. Fire will go out unless I do three things: (1) Keep drafts open; (2) Keep ashes and clinkers shaken out; (3) Put on more fuel. I am not to run around and kindle the fire at the altar of someone else. I have a fire of my own. I am to keep the drafts open—keep testifying, keep the windows open toward Heaven. I am to keep the ashes out—I cannot depend on past experiences; I must seek God afresh. Then I must add fuel—pile on new truth, search the Scriptures, feed my soul. The blasts of hell will blow the flame out if I don't guard the fire in my own heart.—Samuel Brengle.

A PROPHET OF GOD

Give me a man of God—one man whose faith is master of his mind, and I will right ten thousand wrongs, and bless the name of all mankind.

Give me a man of God — one man whose tongue is touched with Heaven's fire, and I will flame the darkest hearts with high resolve and clear desire.

Give me a man of God—one man, one mighty prophet of the Lord, and I will give you peace on earth, bought with a prayer—not a sword.

Give me a man of God—one man true to the vision that he sees, and I will build your broken shrines, and bring the nations to their knees.—George T. Liddell.

It seems to me that there are three conditions for Christ's return: the going back of the Jews to Palestine in unbelief: world-wide evangelization: and a world-wide outpouring of the Spirit. The first two are being completed before our eyes, and there are signs of the last. May we be instruments of the Spirit in these His last great preparations for the return of the King.—Norman Grubb.