

If I wanted to simply answer the question “why do we sing?” for you, I would quote Psalm 150 and call it a day. The psalmist puts it very plainly when he writes, “Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!” (Psalm 150:3-6)

As beautiful as this call to worship is, it doesn’t satisfy a heart that longs to understand why song is such a crucial part of our ministry.

Singing is not an obligation to us; it is an overflow.

John tells us that God desires to be worshiped in Spirit and in truth. This verse has nothing to do with song. So why do we so deeply equate worship with being musical?

The root of worship begins in the heart. It begins when we accept Christ, and we begin to walk by His Spirit, and when we live based upon His truth.

Worship is the small daily deposits of apprenticeship to Christ. Scripture reading and memorizing, serving others, confession and accountability, choosing to be governed by the Spirit rather than the flesh, and aligning our lives with God’s will.

The promise we cling to is that if we abide in Christ, we have access to the abundant life. And how can we live in an abundantly present reality and not sing about it! Our God is a God of song.

The Psalms were written on His heart long before we read them on a page. He made us to enjoy music.

When you find yourself tapping along to a beat, screaming every word to your favorite Broadway track, dancing at a concert, or swaying in a church pew, it’s not just coincidental.

Music stirs emotion, emotion stirs affection, and affection poured out through song encourages our hearts and brings a sweet aroma to the throne of Christ.

So we don’t just sing because it’s what we do, or because it’s a command given in Psalm 150, or because we like to hear ourselves.

We sing because our daily rhythms with Jesus lead us to a beautiful place of beholding Him.

And worshiping through theologically rich music is a powerful way to remind us of our humanity; it longs for more than just this life.

We have an eternal hope to look forward to, where we will find ourselves face down, singing and worshiping with all tribes and tongues forever and ever.

---

This resource was entirely written and created by Ruthie Walker, a musician based in Birmingham, AL. She has led worship all over the world and, in many ways, represents the heartbeat of worship at Redeemer.

If you would like to interact with more articles and/or resources like this one, check out the rest of our Rhythm Resource Library [HERE](#)