

“What is it about Singing?”

Psalm 100:1-5

1. Have you ever considered why God chose singing to be a part of His worship? So many passages have to do with singing praises, but why this particular creative act? Why do a number of Bible books spend time recording songs about the victorious Lord?
2. Note that there is not a specific passage about “why” God chose singing, however, here are some obvious benefits.

Singing is about:

- I. _____
- II. _____
- III. _____
- IV. _____
- V. _____
- VI. _____
- VII. _____

Application:

Singing is:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

“Profiles of the Kingdom: ‘I Love the Lord’”

Tommy Wheeler was born in the midst of the Great Depression and was brought up in the church. Tommy became a Christian in 1940, and he was encouraged to begin leading songs in his pre-teenage years. He came from a musical family; his father Palmer Wheeler (“*I Know the Lord Will Find a Way for Me*”) was a great composer of gospel hymns and an inspiration for Tommy. Tommy began writing songs in 1955 after he received a formal musical education and degree in music from Abilene Christian. He found he excelled in harmony and arranging of band music, and tried his hand at arranging gospel music for male quartets. In 1955, he wrote his first gospel song, “*I Met the Master Face to Face.*” Since that time he has written over 300 songs.

In the late 1960s, Tommy was going through a period of depression in his life due to the death of a loved one, and he found comfort in the Psalms. He came across Psalm 116, “I love the LORD, because He has heard My voice and my supplications...” Reading all the reasons why the Psalmist loved the Lord, and realizing that Tommy had his own reasons to love Him, He used that opening line and welded it together with John 3:16 to come up with the text:

*I Love the Lord, for He died my soul to save,
On Calvary His dear life He freely gave;
From realms above, Jesus freely came to die,
That I might live someday with Him on high.*

*I love the Lord, He has been so good to me.
He gave his life, from sin to set me free.
No greater love than His could ever be,
I love the Lord because He first loved me.*

The next year, Tommy submitted his song to Baxter Publishing who sent it back thinking it was not a good song. Tommy persevered and sent the song to Alton Howard who published it in his first book, and members of the church have been singing it ever since. “*I Love the Lord*” has been translated into Russian, Portugese, and German and has been used around the world to remind Christians of the love of Christ that should compel us (II Cor. 5:14-15).

Tommy passed away in 2015. Up to the time of his death, he was an active member of the church, regularly led singing at the congregation in East Texas where he lived, and was a pen-pal with this author, offering encouragement and criticism of this young composer’s songs. Yet, through his song, Tommy is, and has been, and will be a great encouragement to future generations of those in the church who still sing with all their hearts, “I love the Lord!”

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