Lord you are my song.

Message 2: You are my anchor series.

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Introduction

It may or may not come as a surprise to you but I have a terrible voice. If I sang, I would probably break a mirror like that character called Madame Yamilla in the Tintin comic books and YET I sing virtually everyday!

You see when I am in my secret prayer place with God, I typically enter his court with praise, with worship why? Do you want to know the secret? When I open my mouth and praise:

- miracles start breaking out
- Giants start crashing down
- Swords come out of my mouth and destroy my enemies.

Don't believe me that enemies are destroyed from praise? Here is a bible verse to help you:

"After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever." As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated." 2 Chronicles 20:21-22 NIV

Just so you know, I didn't always believe things like this – that just praising God can bring miracles and over the years, the Lord has answered more than 100 of my prayers, simply by spending time with him, including in song.

I didn't however know this all until it all changed when I had a radical encounter with Jesus the Christ in 2017. This encounter caused me to become baptised a second time and after walking with him, I heard him call me to preach a series of 12 messages, "you are my anchor" of which this message is #2. If you want, you can see my testimony to understand why I declare that the Lord is my song. In addition, the full series is here:

https://www.shaweleroad.com/you-are-my-anchor

So, wouldn't you like to achieve such victories in the Lord?

Do you want to know the secret about singing songs to God?

Continue reading to find God's mysteries!

God's love language

So, let's say you want to win favour with someone, say to win their heart what do you do? Of course, you would do things that please them right? Say you loved nature and had been dying to walk with the lions of Hwange national park in Zimbabwe, but your spouse is terrified of lions. Yet for you the adrenaline is amazing. Now imagine it is their birthday and guess what, you surprise them with an amazing gift! A \$5,000 trip to go walk with lions. Your partner would love it right?

Of course, not you and I know that it's pretty obvious, if you want to win the favour of someone, you should do the things they love. So if you know your spouse loves flowers, give her the gift of more flowers, duh. If you know they love eating out, spend quality time with them, take them to a romantic restaurant, duh! In other words, you speak their love language, like that book which describes the <u>5 love languages</u> (words of affirmation, gifts, acts of service, quality time, physical touch).

So, one of God's love languages in case you didn't know is music or song the bible is really a "singing book" and Christianity is a "singing religion" Below are several examples to help you see this. Look up the verse references as your "home work."

- The entire heavens praise God. Psalm 89: 5
- God himself sings. He sings over us with joy. Zephaniah 3: 17
- When God created the world and in particular men, angels sang. Job 38: 7.
- When Jesus was born, angels celebrated his birth by singing praises to God. Luke 2: 8-14.
- When sinners come to repent, there is a celebration in heaven! Who ever heard of a celebration, a party without music? Impossible, duh! So there is singing even then. Luke 15:7
- When a king was being tormented by an evil spirit music played by a Spirit filled man calmed him down. 1 Samuel 16: 23.
- When a king went to war as soon as they praised, God destroyed the enemy as the earlier passage showed. 2 Chronicles 20:21-22 NIV
- When God's servants and apostles were put in prison because of the gospel, they started praising God. Guess what, there was an earthquake and prison doors were opened. *Acts* 16:25-26.
- When Jesus was about to die, after eating the Last Supper, he sang a hymn with his disciples. Matthew 26: 30.

The connection between prayer and singing

The final example to help you see the importance of singing is through many of the Psalms. If you read them, you will see that David was praying but he was basically singing for the psalms of David often say as follows in the introduction: "To the Chief Musician". Which this seems to show is that music as a means of worshiping God in prayer are so tightly intertwined as we see in the psalms for example Psalm 4, Psalm 5, Psalm 6, Psalm 8, Psalm 9 and Psalm 57.

Psalm 57 as an example written "For the director of music. To the tune of "Do Not Destroy"" says this:

My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast;

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I will sing and make music.
Awake, my soul!

Awake, harp and lyre!
I will awaken the dawn.

Psalm 57: 7-8 (NIV).

In fact, I know this connection between prayer and the psalms because in my early years, I received a direct revelation from God on the Psalms.

In those early years when the Lord started giving me his oracles, I realized I didn't really know how to pray, so I cried out to the Lord Most High and asked him to teach me how to pray. I heard the Lord respond with just one word: "Psalms!"

Once I started reading the psalms, the command to sing praises in prayer was just too frequent and that's how I started incorporating daily songs before I started praying and that is the inspiration for me saying: "Lord you are my song". In summary, what I am saying is this:

- 1. If you want to grow in intimacy with God, learn how to pray
- 2. if you want to learn how to pray, read the psalms
- 3. if you want to pray even better sing as part of your prayers for there is a secret to singing and worship and prayer.
- 4. As you start singing songs to the Lord, he will start ministering to your heart: perhaps teaching, perhaps comforting, perhaps causing you to repent, either way, as you sing you will eventually realise God is all you need hence you will declare Lord you are my song.

Now that you know that God loves singing – can I encourage you do it more? You see in all the scriptures I read about praise; God nowhere commands <u>only those with good voices</u> to praise but he calls to all. In fact he says:

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Psalm 150: 6.

Can you imagine, this command extends not just to humans if you think about it. It extends to cows, to goats, to ants, to fish, to birds, to everything!

In other places, God equates singing or thanksgiving to offering him a sacrifice. Psalms 50: 14-15. He then tells us to Rejoice always. Whether the times are good or bad. He says:

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 (NIV).

Did you know that if you want to demonstrate your love to God, it means obeying him. Jesus said:

If you love me, you will obey my commands! John 14: 15

So obey the command: sing sing sing!

Conclusion/personal testimony on singing

I have a personal testimony or lesson to help you apply this lesson to your life.

So, some days in a Christian's life it is easy to pray, say after listening to a particularly inspiring sermon BUT most times, it is not easy to pray, especially after a long and difficult day and yet the Lord expects us to pray all the time, basically daily, all the time.

It means that somehow you need to have a means of always entering God's courts, with thanksgiving – even when you don't feel like it. So, I have learnt over the years, to start by playing a worship song and singing along. If necessary, I look up the lyrics of the song as I am on my knees praising God. My wife for example doesn't understand how I would listen to the "boring" hyms but this is theology. As an example, "When I survey the wondrous cross" says:

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Straight away – this makes me humble before the Mighty God.

So, as I have sung songs to the Lord, I found that songs helped me as follows:

- To help me to clear my mind of the day's worries.
- Through the words or lyrics of the song, I start focussing on God not on me or my troubles.
- Songs teach me to fear God or hold him in awe. A lot of good worship songs help you see this for example: "when I survey the wondrous cross" "Holy Holy Holy" "Psalm 57," "Maranatha." These holy songs help you understand God's holiness.

Finally, songs helped me to calm down and find joy and peace in the midst of sorrow. When my father died in June 2021, many times I wept in the presence of God. I wept but while playing song. I played the music as my songs of lament - worshiping in my sorrow. These songs, the Lord used to heal me. For you too in sorrow, that is how you protect yourself from becoming bitter at God when life presses you. Music helps you remember that even in pain, there is one, IAM and he reigns forever and ever.

If you take up song, you will find that suddenly, in your prayers, your praise has become a weapon and like the Lord Jesus, out of your mouth, a sword will start coming out and slaying your enemies, this sword being the word of the Lord as given in his songs, like me, then you will be able to say:

Oh Lord, surely you are my song!

The Message Jesus wants me to pass on to you

If you are wondering, who is the Lord who loves song? Who is this Lord I speak about? IF you are seeking his favour and want to learn about him, I will tell you.

this Lord Jesus, the son of God became a man like us. He was born without sin - born of a virgin, on this earth, when he came as the "God- Man" - Immanuel, he went about doing good and preaching the gospel: "repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near (Matthew 4: 17)". This kingdom of heaven Jesus

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spoke of is the inheritance of those who wash their garments clean in his blood – the blood he shed when he died for our sins and then was raised from the dead – and is alive forever, seated at the right hand of God – the Majestic King of the Universe.

This good news of being saved from our sin is what causes people like me to be so full of joy, we will sing songs of him, until the day we are taken to be with him in heavens, but this gift is not just for me, it is for all - as many as God the father calls. He promises that anyone who repents of their sins, will be forgiven and they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

If you believe this and want to make the Lord your song in a new birth, then pray this prayer to become a Christian:

"God of heaven, I confess that I am a sinner and have been one since birth, but I have heard that you can make me new, and you sent your son Jesus to die for me. He rose again and it is he who can give me his Holy Spirit. Please forgive me and welcome me into your Kingdom, teach me how to follow you. In Jesus' name, Amen"

Oh Lord Jesus, come, Maranatha!