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S O U L

PSALM 100

SP I R I T

MUSIC IS THE BRIDGE FROM SOUL TO SP I R I T

MUSIC IS THE BRIDGE

Music is the bridge from SOUL to SPIRIT. When we think with our SOULS (MINDS) we receive input from what we can see, hear, smell, taste, feel.

In the material world we make our decisions from those inputs to our brain. In the SPIRITUAL world we need to ignore those inputs and receive eternal truth from the SPIRIT (HEART) (not our natural senses). A SPIRITUAL person makes decisions based on eternal truth, not on natural perception.

E L I S H A

II KINGS 3:15

For example, "And Elisha prayed and said, Lord I pray thee, open his (SPIRITUAL) eyes, that he may see. (He could see quite well with his natural eyes). And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha" (II Kings 6:17). While it is true that we Sense (SOUL-MIND) realm for the preservation of our material lives, it is also true that those perceptions will not always cause us to make GOD favoring or eternally wise decisions. That is why JESUS often said that some people have eyes that do see and ears that do hear while other people do not (even though the same people could see and hear in the natural realm). He was referring to SPIRITUAL eyes and ears.

BRING A MINSTREL

Elisha did not always operate in the SPIRIT even though he was a true prophet of GOD and even though a double portion of the SPIRIT of Elijah rested upon him. The story is in II Kings 3:15.

Elisha did not want to give a prophecy to Jehoram because of his history of evil. Elisha told Jehoram that he would not even look upon him, except that Jehoram brought along his friend Jehoshaphat, king of Judah (the southern 2 tribes - not the northern 10). Who Elisha honored. So Elisha yielded to Jehoram's request for a prophecy-though he did not want to do it. Elisha was surely operating in the SOUL realm. He knew that he had to get into the SPIRIT in order to bring a true prophecy from GOD. He said, "Bring me a

minstrel." A minstrel is a musician. The Bible says, "When the minstrel played, the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha" (II Kings 3:15). May I say that Elisha crossed over from SOUL (MIND) thinking to SPIRITUAL (HEART) knowledge on the bridge named MUSIC?

DAVID SAUL I SAMUEL 16:14-23

DAVID PLAYED ON HIS HARP

Another Bible example of moving out of the problems of the SOUL (MIND) is given in the account of Saul and David. We find that the SPIRIT of the Lord departed from Saul and that an evil SPIRIT troubled him (I Samuel 16:14). When David stood before Saul and played on his harp, then Saul was refreshed, which implies the return of the SPIRIT of the Lord because the evil SPIRIT departed. In other words, when Saul was troubled in his SOUL (MIND) he sent for David to play on his harp. This brought refreshing peace and a return to his senses. Someone said that music calms the savage beast, and that saying could apply to this story of Saul and David. May I say then that Saul crossed over from a troubled SOUL (MIND) to a peaceful SPIRIT (HEART) on the bridge named MUSIC?

MATTHEW 26:30

JESUS SANG

Even though our Lord and Savior JESUS CHRIST knew everything, HE, like us, also went through SOUL (MIND) trouble. He said, "Now is my SOUL troubled." (John 12:27). Since GOD Himself had SOUL (MIND) trouble while He was clothed in flesh, it is no wonder that we do too. In the garden of Gethsemane JESUS said, "My SOUL is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death!" (Matt. 26:28). I think that there was no coincidence about the fact that JESUS prepared for His "dark night of the SOUL" in Gethsemane by first singing a hymn (psalm) (Matt. 26:30) and then going to the Mount of Olives where He prophesied about the offense coming that night. Then He went to Gethsemane. In other words, there are strong indications that JESUS received some strength to go through the worst night in the world by first singing a hymn with His disciples. May I say then that JESUS CHRIST Himself crossed over from His troubled SOUL (MIND) to a peaceful SPIRIT (HEART) on the bridge named MUSIC?

KNOW THE WILL OF GOD

Most Christians want to know the WILL of GOD for their lives. Many choices would be a lot easier if the WILL of GOD was known. "Have discernment as to what is the WILL of the LORD" (Rotherham, Ephesian 5:17). Now that is what we all want! We want discernment to know the WILL of the Lord. The next verses in the passage connect the thought of knowing the WILL of the Lord with the other thought of singing hymns. "Be filled with the SPIRIT, Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your HEART to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:18-19).

UNDERSTAND THE WILL OF THE LORD EPHESIANS 5 : 1 7- 19

That is the exact Bible formula for discerning or knowing the WILL of the Lord. First, be filled with the SPIRIT. How? By speaking to yourselves in PSALMS and HYMNS and SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING and making MELODY in your HEART to the Lord. Every one of those words is a form of MUSIC. May I say that the way to know the WILL of the Lord is to be filled with the SPIRIT? May I also say that the way to be filled with the SPIRIT is to cross from the realm of being overwhelmed with problems of the SOUL (MIND), to the realm of discerning and knowing for sure what is the WILL of the LORD, on the bridge named MUSIC? Also, notice that the imperative command to "Be filled with the SPIRIT" implies that the hearer is in the realm of the SOUL (MIND) at the time the command is given. After the person follows the command by crossing on the bridge named MUSIC then notice that the last part of the passage indicates that making melody will be in the HEART (SPIRIT). The person started with thinking in the HEAD (SOUL) and crossed over the bridge named MUSIC to knowing the WILL of GOD in the HEART (SPIRIT).

My own practical experience has proven that it is true. When things are not going too well at our house (bet that you never suspected that) then my wife Betty turns on our Magnavox Hi fi record player and puts good Christian music on it, like the singing of the psalms or sometimes she puts on soothing Christian instrumental music. It always works. That is similar to the way that Elisha got into the SPIRIT so he could prophesy. It is also similar to the way that Saul got his head screwed on straight after going around half-cocked. That is also similar to the way JESUS got his battery charged for the most exhausting experience that the world has ever seen. Would you agree that all those stories provide us with pretty good patterns to follow?

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine HEART (SPIRIT); and lean not unto thine understanding (SOUL-MIND), In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Without doing any violence to the above scripture we could say in summary that it says -GET OUT OF YOUR HEAD AND INTO YOUR HEART.

This ministry does not exist apart from your gifts.

PSALM 100

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

2 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

3 Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him# and bless his name.

5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting: and his truth endureth to all generations.

PSALM 150

Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise his in the firmament of his power.

2 Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness.

3 Praise him with the sound of the trumpets praise him with the psaltery and harp.

4 Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and Organs 0

5 Praise him upon the loud cymbals praise his upon the high sounding cymbals.

6 Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.