SINGING IN THE SPIRIT

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Singing in the Spirit in the OT

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William Branham Quotes

- ***Heavenly music and angelic singing in the early Church.***
- ***Our singing, like everything else, must be in the Spirit.***
- ***Singing in the Spirit is not artificial or acted.***
- ***The effect of singing in the Spirit, bringing the Spirit on the listeners.***

BIBLE STUDY

Singing in the Spirit in the NT

Heaven Brought Down by Singing in the Spirit

The theme of this study, singing in the Spirit, is a beautiful subject in itself. But, as we shall see, when looked at in depth, there is something even more beautiful.

- Heb 6.4-5 and have ***tasted of the heavenly gift*** *(i.e., the Holy Ghost which is sent down from heaven (1 P 1.12) and also heaven sent down)*, and were ***made partakers of the Holy Ghost***, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come.

So, when we taste the Spirit, we taste heaven on earth.

Singing in the Spirit in the NT Church

The Bible says we are not to be ignorant concerning the things of the Spirit (1 Cor 12.1). (The KJV word “gifts” is not in the original.)

This includes singing in the Spirit.

- We may sing with the understanding/mind and we may sing with the spirit (1 Cor 14.15).
- This does not refer to singing with or without the Anointing, but whether we sing in our native language or in an unknown tongue.

A common effect of being filled with the Spirit in Corinth was for all to have some spiritual (i.e., Spirit-given) impartation, including a psalm, when they met together (1 Cor 14.26).

- The context does not suggest they simply ***read*** an already existing OT psalm.
- Rather, the same Anointing which inspired the OT psalmists was upon the Corinthian believers, giving birth to new ***songs/psalms*** having the same character and Spirit.

And not only in Corinth. Paul encouraged it elsewhere.

- Eph 5.18–19 be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves ***in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,*** singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord.

(Note well, "spiritual" songs does not simply mean "religious" songs. It means songs given by the Spirit and which are sung in the Spirit. Clearly, such singing will be strongly imbued with the same Spirit that gave rise to it in the first place.)

The Spirit-Inspired Word Has the Same Effect as the Spirit

In an exhortation to another NT church, Paul very significantly states that ***the Word of Christ dwelling in our hearts*** produces exactly the same effect as ***the indwelling Spirit***.

- Col 3.16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly…teaching and admonishing one another ***in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs***…

Compare this with the passage quoted earlier in Hebrews 6 which says that tasting the powers of the world to come is not only effected by tasting ***the Holy Ghost,*** the heavenly gift, but also by tasting ***the good word of God***.

In other words, when ***the Word*** is heard or read in the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, it will have the same effect as ***the various ministrations of the Spirit***.

How is this? Because the Spirit and the Word are one (Jn 6.63; Eph 6.17). The Word comes by the breath/Spirit of God (2 Tim 3.15).

The Result? The Music of Heaven Brought Down to Earth

But there is something even more beautiful. Such spiritual singing brings not only the ***words*** of heaven to earth, but also the ***music***.

- Ephesians 5.18-19 speaks of not only of ***singing*** but of ***making melody*** in the heart.
- In other words, when filled with the Spirit, He not only inspires the ***words*** of the spiritual songs but also their instrumental ***music/tune***.

It is another example of how to taste the Holy Spirit, the heavenly gift, is both to experience a foretaste of heaven itself, and also to be a means of bringing heaven down to earth.

Such music is, quite literally, out of this world.

The music and songs of heaven have been heard, both in Scripture and in Church history. Here are some examples.

1) In Scripture

- Lk 2.13-14 A multitude of the heavenly host at the birth of Christ.
- Rev 5.9-10 The 4 beasts, 24 elders, millions of angels and every creature in heaven and earth, when the Lamb takes the seven-sealed book.
- Rev 14.2-3 The song of the 144,000.
- Rev 19.1-6 The great voice of much people after the judgement of the great whore.

2) In Church history

- ***During the 1801 2nd Great Awakening,*** celestial singing was frequently reported hovering over the crowds In camp meetings in Kentucky, independent of the congregational singing.
- ***The 1904/05 Welsh Revival*** was famous for its lack of instruments and formal choirs, but participants reported angelic harmonies, transforming the atmosphere.
- ***In the 1906/08 Azusa St Revival,*** people would spontaneously suddenly sing together in perfect 4-part harmony without practice, song books or human direction.
- ***In the 1949/53 Hebrides Revival,*** where there were no choirs or musical instruments in churches, there were multiple reports of angels singing outside or above homes at times of intense communal prayer, and above the desolate moors by bus passengers.
- ***In the 1947/56 Healing Revival,*** multiple eyewitnesses detail occurrences of supernatural and heavenly music during the services of William Branham. Similar to Azusa St, there were frequent spontaneous outbursts when 1000s from different churches, without rehearsing, would suddenly blend their voices in a perfect, intricate, multi-part harmony without any human direction. Also on several occasions, unearthly, faint musical chords were heard when he stepped onto the platform, or his gift of discernment was in operation, even though no musicians were playing.

Such things are indescribable. Just as Paul heard words in heaven that were unspeakable (2 Cor 12.4), so John heard songs in heaven that were "un-learnable" (Rev 14.3),

- But how unspeakably more glorious not only to ***hear*** the songs and music of heaven but also, when filled with the Spirit, to ***utter*** them.
- Since we may partake of the heavenly gift (Heb 6.4), the Holy Ghost, and speak in angelic tongues (1 Cor 13.1), why should it seem strange for both heavenly ***music*** as well as ***words*** to be played by, or fill the mouths of, men on earth?

Singing in the Spirit in the OT

The Link Between Prophecy/Prophets and Music & Song in the OT Temple Choir

David was Spiritually and musically endowed. It was noted by others (1 Sam 16.18). In fact, the Spirit of the Lord upon him when playing the harp was so strong it could drive away evil spirits (1 Sam 16.23).

By the leading of the Spirit, David instituted a choir for the forthcoming temple (1 Chr 28.12-13), although there had been none in the tabernacle of Moses.

Significant details about it are found in 1 Chronicles 25.

David separated Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman and their sons, to the ministry of song, who prophesied on their instruments (1 Chr 25.1-7). As well as all three themselves being seers (i.e., prophets, 1 Sam 9.9), 10 of their 24 sons also prophesied.

- ***Asaph*** was a seer (2 Chr 29.30); Psalms 50, 73, & 83, part of God-inspired Scripture, are attributed to him.
    - His sons prophesied (1 Chr 25.2).
    - At least one of his later descendants also prophesied, manifesting the same Spirit as his ancestors (2 Chr 20.14).
- ***Heman*** was a seer (1 Chr 25.5); Psalm 88 is attributed to him.
    - His grandfather was Samuel the prophet (1 Chr 6.33); Heman inherited his Spirit.
    - Samuel was head of a group of prophets which met at his home (1S 19.18-20). At times this company made music whilst prophesying (1 S 10.5–6). So, the

same Spirit which anointed Samuel and those he influenced was also in the newly formed temple choir (as well as on David himself).

- ***Jeduthun*** was a seer (2 Chr 35.15); Psalms 39, 62 & 77 were for his sons to sing.

Not just the composers/singers/ musicians, but all else about this choir was supernaturally inspired: the words of the songs, the music/melody/tunes; even the very musical instruments.

- ***The words:*** David was himself a prophet. He composed the actual words of many songs (Acts 2.30; 2 Sam 23.1-2).
  In addition to David, individual choir members also, as well as singing songs previously given to others by inspiration, were themselves inspired to compose and sing such songs. For example, Chenaniah was said to be “for song” in 1 Chronicles 15.22, 27. The word translated "song" here is commonly translated elsewhere "burden", i.e., a ***prophetic*** utterance (e.g., Isa 13.1; 14.28; 15.1; 17.1; 19.1;21.1,11,13; 22.). In other words, the songs of the temple choir were prophetic and Spirit-given.
- ***The music/melody/tunes*** of the songs was also imparted prophetically (cp "prophesy with harps", 1 Chr 25.1).
- Even ***the instruments*** used by the choir were both designed and introduced by David (1 Chr 23.5; Neh 12.36; Amos 6.5).

How inspiring!

The OT Choir as a Shadow of the Heavenly Antitype

And just as ***the earthly tabernacle and temple*** foreshadowed the already existing heavenly substance and reality;

- Rev 15.5 the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven

And just as ***the earthly Shiloah stream*** (Isa 8.6) flowing from beneath the earthly temple on the mount in Jerusalem shadowed the heavenly river of God flowing from the throne, the Holy of Holies, on the heavenly mountain of God;

- Rev 22.1 water of life… proceeding out of the throne of God

Even so ***the worship and music of the earthly temple*** was a foreshadow of the worship of the heavenly temple. It was not only inspired by and initiated by heaven. It was from heaven.

Other OT Links Between Prophecy/Prophets and Music & Song

There are numerous other examples of directly inspired songs composed by prophets or by those under the inspiration of the Spirit. For example,

- ***Moses***: (e.g., Ex 15.1-19; Dt 31.30 + 32.44).
- ***Miriam***: Only one verse says she was a prophetess. It must be significant therefore that the context is the prophetic song of triumph on the Red Sea shore (Ex 15.20-21).
- ***Deborah***: She was a prophetess (Ju 4.4). The prophetic victory song sung by her and Barak (5.1-31) was composed by her (5.7).

The OT Effects of Spirit-inspired Music

The effects of Spirit-inspired music can be very powerful and edifying.

- As already seen, David’s playing ***drove away an evil spirit*** from Saul (1 Sam 16.23).
- When a group of prophets prophesying with stringed instruments, tambourines, flutes and harps met the newly-anointed king Saul, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him and he too began to prophesy with them, and ***was turned into another man*** (1 Sam 10.5-6).

- When a minstrel played for Elisha, it ***brought the hand of the Lord upon him*** bringing the anointing to prophesy (2 K 3.15).
- The music of the temple singers is ***linked with*** several ***incidents of triumphant joy***:
    - Military victory and triumphant worship after heeding the prophecy of a member of the temple choir (2 Chr 20.19, 21-22, 26-28).
    - Great joy at Hezekiah's feast of unleavened bread (2 Chr 30.21).
    - The great shout of praise at the foundation of the second temple (Ez 3.10-13).
    - At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, as the singers sang aloud, the people rejoiced with a great joy heard afar off (Neh 12.27-43).

The Greatest Effect of All, at the Inauguration of the Temple of Solomon

The most beautiful example of the effect of spiritual music is at the inauguration of the Temple of Solomon. It brought down the very fulness of the Presence of the Lord.

> *And it came to pass when the priests were come out of the Holy place: (... the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:) It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, ... that* ***<u>then</u> the house was filled with a cloud****, even the house of the LORD; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for* ***the glory of the LORD had filled the house*** *of God.* (2 Chr 5.11-14)

Notice how this echoes the day of Pentecost.

> *when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost* (Acts 2.1-4).

Note the comparisons with the inauguration of the temple. In the upper room,

- There were ***about 120*** praying (Acts 1.15) cp 2 Chr 5.12.
- They were ***all of one accord*** (Acts 2.1) cp 2 Chr 5.13.
- ***The Spirit filled the house*** (Acts 2.2) cp 2 Chr 5.13.

But there was one glorious additional feature in the upper room. The Spirit of glory not only filled ***the physical building***, it also filled ***the spiritual buildings***, i.e., those praying in the physical building (cp 1 Cor 6.19).

May we also be so filled with the Spirit of glory that our singing and music bring the Cloud of Glory down from heaven to earth.

Amen! So may it be.

WILLIAM BRANHAM QUOTES

Heavenly music and angelic singing in the early Church.

- And when Saint John was trying to take all the sacred Epistles, anointed with the Holy Ghost, and put them together and make the Bible, the Roman empire caught him and put him on the isle of Patmos. He was out there on the isle of Patmos for the Word of God's sake. Polycarp was helping him translate It… Polycarp was fed to the lions, you know. No, he was burned. It—it was too late for them to turn a lion loose in the arena, and so they tore down a bathroom, an old bathhouse there, and put him in the… arena and—and burned him. And on his road, coming down, he was walking with his head down. The Roman centurion said, "You're an old man, and well-respected. Why don't you denounce that thing?" He just kept looking towards Heaven. And a Voice spoke from somewhere. They couldn't understand where. Said, "Polycarp, don't fear. I'm with you." Uh-huh. Why? He was standing with that Word. ***And when they began to pile the boards on him, to burn him, there was a Heavenly music come down. And—and the anthems from some Angelic somewhere sang the song.*** He never even one time batted an eye to the scoffer. ***63-0322 - The Fifth Seal, par 30-138***

Our singing, like everything else, must be in the Spirit.

- Now, ***you can't do any good until first you get in the Spirit;*** God can't use you… ***All your efforts are—are in vain until first you do it in the Spirit.*** "If I will sing, I will sing in the Spirit. If I'll pray," said Paul, "I'll pray in the Spirit." And then if there is anything that comes to me that's any good, it has to be revealed to me by the Spirit and confirmed by the Word (made manifest by the results it bears). ***60-1204E - The Patmos Vision, par 85***
- I don't believe I was ever in any sweeter worship and fellowship, as these songs and things, that I set there and bite my lips and shake my feet, and try to hold myself back from screaming out, ***when I heard those old songs sang in the way I think they ought to be sung, and that's sung in the Spirit***. Now, that's what we—we…Paul said, "If I sing, I'll sing in the Spirit." Now, I can't imagine the Spirit as being screaming to the top of our voice. I—I think the Spirit of Christ is love, and gentleness, and peace, that—that brings something to our souls, that feed us. I think, there, that's the way them songs should be sang. ***64-0531 - The Oddball, par 6***
- Paul said, "If I sing, I'll sing in the Spirit." Uh-huh. "If I preach, I'll preach in the Spirit. If I walk, I'll walk in the Spirit. If I talk, I'll talk in the Spirit." ***Let everything be done by the Word and the Spirit.*** (Cp Eph 5.18-19; Col 3.16) Yes, sir. Amen! It's all God's Truth. ***64-0614M - The Unveiling Of God, par 378***

Singing in the Spirit is not artificial or acted.

- ***I love good old fashion Pentecostal singing*** (That's right.): where you forget the piano and the organ, ***where you don't have to get into some kind of ritualistic, put on*** program. Where you raise up your hands with the tears running down from your cheeks, whether you could sing do-ra-me-fa-so-la-te-do, or not, and just sing in the Spirit. From the heart you give praise to God. All out of the program, ***you have to get out of man's program to get in God's program*** (See?), ***get out of it.*** Oh, my, ***deliver me from being a actor.*** Be what you are; God will bless you. You even down see sometimes ministers will do that. They will get in the pulpit, and make their voice very big. "I have now received my degree…" like it'd run shivers over you. I feel sorry for them. People don't appreciate that. Just be yourself, people will appreciate you

more. Don't you believe that. Just be old plain sassafras, hickory smoked ham, sorghum molasses. It'll do you good; ***you won't put on***. ***55-0807A – Pride, par 24***

- If anything, I love is good, old-fashioned, Pentecostal singing, where if a man hasn't got voice even to call hogs, he will use it for the glory of God and sing in the Spirit. I do hate an overtrained voice that holds up there some kind of a note till they turn blue in the face, "Ahhh!" They don't even know what they're saying themselves. How in the world can the Holy Spirit get into anything like that? I don't like that. I like ***genuine***, Holy Ghost singing, where they sing and clap their hands and praise God. ***60-0717 - Be Not Afraid, par 182***

The effect of singing in the Spirit, bringing the Spirit on the listeners.

- *(Altar Call)* ***Let us sing in the Spirit*** now ***till we get the Holy Spirit on these people***. ***59-0415A - God's Provided Way, par 164***
- In our country down in the south, we have a lot of colored people that—that's very spiritual. And they come to my meeting sometime, and they used to sing a little song for me, I remember, used to be a old colored sister, ***if she couldn't sing that and just bring the Spirit of God into the midst of the people!*** "All day, all night the Angels are watching over me." Oh, if she couldn't sing that! And so I always just almost had to tie my hands to keep from ruining the meeting, just jumping up and down, and screaming, and running all over the place. ***59-1123 - Speak To This Mountain, par 13***