

Devotional: Day 23: The Song

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Have you ever found yourself in the presence of God... you know those moments when you have been praying or worshiping and suddenly, you feel a weighty presence... a stillness... a calming peace.. not wanting to say anything... not wanting to move... not even wanting to breath in case you disturb the presence of God... just still.

Wow!

Zephaniah 3:17: “The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”

The Lord our God is in our midst – a lot more than we realise. There are times when He seems to be speaking a lot to us, there are times when He seems to be saying nothing at all... but, let me offer you an alternative to the “silence of heaven”, if I may.

Of course, there are times when God is silent – usually because we are not listening, or we are not silent enough to hear what God is speaking to us, but I believe there are times when we need to tune our ear just that little bit more, because what we are hearing is a voice... but, God is not speaking!

Sometimes when I listen to the radio... Maybe, after a tough day, I may choose a ‘calmer’ station like “*Classic FM*” or “*Smooth Radio*” (not that I do a lot... but hear me out for the purposes of this explanation!!). The sound of someone speaking often is something my ears become accustomed to, as I am driving – you know those ones, where most of what the presenter is saying is lost in the subconscious, but occasionally I hear the odd word which will cause me to tune in just a little bit more... maybe even to argue with the radio – and I know I’m not alone in that!

Then after a while, you realise the radio has gone quiet – tcha! I paid good money to have a radio working! What’s wrong with it!!!! When I turn the dial to turn up the volume, I realise that because my ears had become tuned into the voice of speech, I missed what was actually being played... music! The sound of singing replaced the speaking and now filled my car.

Singing has a different tone, a different emphasis, a different sound altogether, which can sometimes be lost in a busy day, in an angry moment, in a sorrowful season. But if we were to re-tune our ears we would begin to hear a different sound from heaven...

The bible tells us that God, yep, that’s right - The Creator of the Universe – is singing over YOU!

What songs you may wonder?

Psalms 32:7: “You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with **songs of deliverance**. Selah”

A song of deliverance:

If we were to look at what a song of deliverance is, we would find that deliverance means:

1. The act of delivering, or the condition of being delivered.
2. Rescue from bondage or danger.

God is singing over you the song which will release you from the situations you face, from the fears, the apprehensions, the anxiety, the sadness, the limitations, the frustrations, the hold-up’s, the hold-backs, the difficulties, the bondages, the torments, the negativities, the can’t-do-it, the anger, the grievances... I could go on, but you catch my drift!

When we are able to stop fighting ourselves, and realise that God is in our midst, then we can sense His presence (as described at the beginning), in His presence we find ourselves being restored, almost like the Spirit of God is washing over us, removing those things from us... almost as though if we were to move, or speak, we would disturb the process God is lovingly doing over us!

What was it the verse said at the end... "SELAH" pause for a moment and reflect on this... what songs of deliverance would you love to hear God singing over you? God is a place of refuge for us, He is our hiding place... in those tough moments, we can hide in Him... and in those great moments, we can hide in Him and listen to a different song being sung over us.

Psalm 42:8: "The LORD will command His loving-kindness in the daytime, and in the night **His song shall be with me— A prayer** to the God of my life."

Have you ever woken up on a morning with a random song in your head / heart / on your lips... tune in... If you don't remember all the words of the song – what words are being repeated within you – I have found that sometimes just one line is "on repeat" and there is a reason for it. Sometimes I may need to catch the moment and find the song to listen to it all. It may just be that God has something to say in the song!

In Zephaniah 3:17, we saw that God rejoices over us with singing, so He not only uses song to deliver us, He uses song to lift our spirits, to demonstrate His loving-kindness, mercy and ultimately His love.

Sing over me
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Holy one
I come again
And run into the shelter of Your wing

On my knees
Before You now
You gently lift the burden of my heart
And You sing over me
Yes You sing over me

Breathe on me, Holy one
I linger in the presence of Your love
Heavens song, sung to me
Lifts me up again to bring You praise

And You sing over me
Yes You sing over me
Heavens song, surrounding me
Yes, You sing over me