

## **"Do you sing new songs to the Lord?"**

### **Psalm 98 NIV**

"Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

(2) The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.(3) He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

(4) Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; (5) make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, (6) with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

(7) Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it (8)Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy;(9) let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. "He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity."

You could call Psalm 98 a 2500 to 3000 year old Call to Worship.

**V-4: "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song.**

**Some hesitate:**



**"Bob, I don't sing to anyone. My voice is like Gravel Gertie's."**

**Or "You don't want to hear me sing. I sound like a sick alligator!"**

**The Psalm doesn't say: "Only those gifted with voices like Taylor Swift, Pavarotti, or Jim Thomson should sing."**

**All who appreciate God's salvation should sing.**

**"Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

**Not just sing; sing enthusiastically. To use the words of Nicholas Proffitt, "Excited as a puppy at a picnic."**

**We don't see or hear much razzmatazz at church:**

**Church services sometimes excite us as much as:**

**"A quart of lukewarm Metamucil;"**

**"Electrifying as dead doorbell;"**

**"Stimulating as a squeezed avocado."**

**Not that we’re incapable of singing excitedly.**  
A few seasons ago, Norma and I watched a Kansas-Texas Tech basketball game together. She was born not far from Lubbock, TX, where the game was played.



A lot of shouting and singing went on in Lubbock that night.

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Many of us feel that there’s an acceptable level of emotion.

TV cameras panned guys who’d painted their upper bodies **Red Raider red** (not quite the same shade as Iowa State crimson) shouting and singing. If sports teams don’t play with emotion, and their fans don’t wildly support them, something’s wrong.

**Go beyond that point and it seems sacrilegious.**  
The acceptable level varies from person to person. **Some folks at the Hollywood church sang with more gusto than others thought appropriate.**

**Some people act in services as though they were paying respects to a neighbor they only half-liked. They sing with little passion.**

**They reacted with such fury you’d thought that someone had rung hell’s bells**

**The minister reads and recites lackluster prayers.**

**Do you ever listen to radio broadcasts of church services?**

**At prayer time, do you wish that the minister would hurry just a little?**

**We often sang the hymn, “Sing the Wondrous Love of Jesus.”**

“When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be. When we all see Jesus, we’ll sing and shout the victory.”

Nearly everyone at worship sang those words.

**Yet, some thought it OK to shout when you get to heaven, but don’t do it now.**

Some ministers pray as if they’re look up every word in Webster’s before they pronounce it.

It’s OK put all of your emotion into a ball game—but it’s inappropriate to sing and shout to God.

I talked with a lady at a Sioux Falls hospital, who bragged on her minister.

**Yet that’s what this Psalm urges us to do.**

**Scriptures give another side of the story.**

First, as *Habakkuk* 2:20 advises:

**“The Lord is in His holy Temple. Let all the earth be silent before him.”**

Elijah heard God speak in “a gentle whisper.”<sup>1</sup>

**Second, passion and enthusiasm don’t always indicate genuine praise for God.**

**It’s easy to get swept into fervor and emotion.**

In order to increase attendance and popularity, some church leaders design lively services.

**The Corinthian church folks got excited.**

They worked themselves into a different state of mind; so Paul cautioned:

**“So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.”<sup>2</sup>**

**In other words,**

**It’s fine to express emotion in worship, but don’t disengage your brain in the process.**

Paul warned: **Get carried away, and if an outsider comes in, he’ll think you’re out of your minds.**

**Yet many folks sing and pray with no passion.**

**Look at it this way:**

Suppose you talked with and kissed your spouse with the same passion you sing and pray to God.

**Would your mate think there was someone else?**

**We tend to take our eyes off of God.**

**That’s why a similar song psalm (95) challenges us to consider who God is and what He’s done.**

“For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, (the molten core) and the mountain peaks belong to him.”

(That includes the Himalayas, the Alps, Andes, Rockies, and Great Smoky Mints.)



“The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.”<sup>3</sup>

**If we have trouble showing emotion when we worship God, chances are, we haven’t thought lately about, who He is and what He’s done.**

**During my short life, numerous medical specialists have helped me.**

**You’ve probably been blessed, too.**

**We benefit greatly from specialized medicine:**

- 1. Allergists;**
- 2. Anesthesiology;**

<sup>1</sup> | Kings 19:12

<sup>2</sup> | 1 Corinthians 14:15 NIV

<sup>3</sup> Psalms 95:3-7

3. **Bariatrics;**
4. **Cardiology;**
5. **Clinical Chemistry;**
6. **Colorectal Surgery;**
7. **Dermatology;**
8. **Endocrinology;**
9. **Gastroenterology;**
10. **Gerontology;**
11. **Hematology;**
12. **Immunology;**
13. **Internal medicine;**
14. **Medical Genetics;**
15. **Neonatology;**
16. **Nephrology;**
17. **Neurology,**
18. **Obstetrics and Gynecology;**
19. **Oncology;**
20. **Ophthalmology;**
21. **Oral and Maxilla Surgery;**
22. **Orthopedic Surgery;**
23. **Osteopathy;**
24. **Otolaryngology;**
25. **Otorhinolaryngology;**
26. **Pediatrics;**
27. **Plastic Surgery;**
28. **Podiatry;**
29. **Psychiatry;**



30. **Pulmonology;**
31. **Radiology;**
32. **Rheumatology;**
33. **Urology;**
34. **Vascular Surgery.**

**Many of these specialists train years beyond a typical medical degree.**

**These professionals state that they are treating you using the latest in medical research.**

**They also would say that there's still much to learn—experts are still researching.**

**This leads me to conclude that intelligence of infinitely greater capacity than all specialists combined designed life—human and otherwise.**

**God does things beyond all human ability.**

God's Word, gives us the simplest and most logical explanation of how life came to be in its complexity.

**No need to explore space for our origins:**

**Genesis 1:1 succinctly says: “In the beginning, God created the heavens “and the earth.”**

The second word in Hebrew *bara* means to create from nothingness.

No scientist can duplicate that feat.

Neither can any lab technician or doctor create life.

**As we ready for Thanksgiving, we should begin and end each day that God grants us remembering that He created all life.**

Because life came from Him, we should be thinking,

**"What an awesome, merciful God!"**

Gratitude should overwhelm us.

- **If we remember some of the rotten things we've done and consider that God's son died to forgive all of that, we'll sing tears of joy.**
- **If we recall that Jesus' death on the cross paid our lifelong deficit, we'll also shed tears of gratitude.**

A young man at the Hollywood Church of Christ organized a program of singing at a nursing home. Every first Sunday at 2 PM we sang hymns to the residents.

Church members contributed money so each resident at the home could get a carnation.

One Sunday we sang the old hymn, "In the Garden." **The chorus lyrics:** "And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own."

I noticed a man three or four rows back singing exuberantly.

His animated body and facial expressions showed that he sang with all his heart, soul, and mind.

**Who was this fellow who sang with such enthusiasm and passion? When we finished, I hurried to meet the man who so fervently sang,**

**"And He walks with me."**

**He was sitting in a wheel chair; one of his legs was missing.**

He sang gratefully in the hope of strolling heaven's streets with the Lord; I think he will.

**All who honor God in Christ now will join the angels singing as *Revelation 5:13* tells:**

**"Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:**

**'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!'"**

**"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song."**

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Norma (she's hidden behind Bob) with church group singing at Fairfax Ave. nursing home, L.A.