



“Making Melody In Your Heart”

Ephesians 5:19, **“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;...”**

The Apostle Paul spent much time in the earlier part of Ephesians 5 telling the brethren at Ephesus to watch out for the evil they would confront each day and how they were to walk, **“...not as fools, but as wise,..”** (vs. 15). They needed instruction on how to accomplish the righteous walk in which he was teaching them. Ephesians 5:19 does just that.

The first part of verse 19 says, **“Speaking to yourselves...”** This indicates the benefit was for them personally as individuals as well as the needs of the church collectively. They were to speak to themselves first in psalms. David was blessed to write many psalms for our learning and admonition so we can learn from his mistakes and encounters in life. This speaks of the necessity to read the psalms on a regular basis in order to receive the benefits which God blessed David to share.

The second part is to speak to yourself in **“hymns”**. This again applies to the psalms of David and many of the proverbs and writings of Solomon which have been quoted in many of the hymns of praise and honor unto our Lord. We are to think of the hymns often as they lift up our souls from the pit of despair when nothing else will.

Then, finally, Paul mentions **“spiritual songs”**. What is a spiritual song? It is one which teaches the truths of God’s word as we sing His praises. Any song used in a church service should not lend itself to glorifying the one singing or to call undue attention to the song itself, but rather be a song which glorifies God and causes your mind to think of only Godly things and His righteousness.

Now, as we sing we are to sing in the Spirit and not to hear ourselves, or a certain group or individual, but to be able to feel the truths and promises of God’s word being expressed in the songs we are singing. To sing spiritually we must

pray, asking the Lord to be with us in our song service or as we sing at home, in the car, or just within our own thoughts when it isn't even audible.

By doing these three things, we are singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord. This cannot be done with any musical instrument other than our natural voices of which we have been given by the Lord. There is no New Testament instruction to use anything other than our voices. However, the examples of music in worship is shown in a number of places. Matthew 26:30, **“And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.”** In Romans 15:9, Paul said he would **“sing unto thy name...”** as he rejoiced in confessing the cause of Christ to the Gentiles as it glorified God.

I Corinthians 14:15 goes even further in clarifying what our approach should be in making melody in our hearts unto the Lord. Listen as he says, **“I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”** No mention made of instruments other than singing with our voices. Singing with the spirit and with understanding is making melody in our hearts. Then in Colossians 3:16 he says that we are to teach and admonish **“...one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”** Sounds like making melody in your heart!

Certainly we can sing and make melody in our hearts anywhere we may be, even to the point that others around us may be oblivious to what is going on. Paul told the brethren in Hebrews 2:12 that **“in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.”** Again, no mention of mechanical instruments of any kind.

James tells us what to do if any be merry? (joyful). **“...let him sing psalms.”** This is exactly what David did when he felt to be cast down with the weight of all that was upon him. If you feel you can't even carry a tune in a bucket, you can still make melody in your heart. So, make **“melody in your heart to the Lord”** often as you thank Him for all His wondrous blessings. **“Think About It!”**