

August 20, 2017
Power of Music
Read 2 Corinthians 4: 6

There are several studies that suggest that working out with music produces better results than just simply working out. I for one believe it, because when I get to the gym and find that I have forgotten my headphones my workout is less focused and not nearly as productive. My strength seems to suffer, my workout lasts longer (in a negative way), and I don't feel as good doing it. On the other hand, when I show up to workout with my headphones, things seem to go much better.

Now with that in mind, think about your favorite hymn or praise song. When it comes on at church do you not feel invigorated? When it begins to play, do you not start paying more attention? When that song is played, doesn't your heart feel right at home? There is a power to music, and certainly a power in our favorite songs. They can do many things, embolden and calm, enliven and relax and any number of other things. But, why?

In general, I think that this is at least in part due to the story the song tells, either in words or rhythm. The work of the composer and performer comes together to tell us something. What that is depends on the song. Now speaking of hymns and praise songs, we know that there is power behind them, because they wield the word of God in their lyrics. These hymns and songs tell us in part the story that God wants to tell us. Not only that but they teach us to tell the same story.

Think of your favorite hymn. Rattle off a few lines (in your head if you're in church). What story is it telling? God's love? God's mercy? God's Son? Our response to God's gracious actions?

Roots

Let me share with you my favorite hymn. You probably guessed this, but it is *LSB 578 Thy Strong Word*. I love this hymn so much that it is part of

the girls' bedtime routine. I am not sure why this one is my favorite there are so many good hymns and praise songs alike, but for some reason this one speaks to me. What story does it tell? The whole thing. It begins with creation moves into the fall. From there it moves to salvation and then our response to salvation then ends with praise to the Holy Trinity as pictured so often at the end in books like Revelation.

This hymn encapsulates the whole of God's story, but in verse five it incorporates us into this story in a unique way. There in verse 5 we are no longer bystanders watching as God unfolds his plan in history. In that little verse we become players in God's story, not only that but we become narrators, key figures, the very instruments by which God will continue to tell his story.

Now consider the scripture verse that I had you read. God has given us knowledge about himself through the face of Jesus Christ. By Jesus actions, which we know through the true stories collected in scripture, we know the Father. Jesus himself tells the disciples (and us through them) that if they knew him (Jesus) they knew the Father. Our hymns and spiritual music amp us up in so many ways, and they help us to share the light of the story written within us through faith. Maybe that's why Paul tells us to address each other by them. So cherish those hymns and songs and when they come, sing like no one is listening.

Pastor 

