



BREAKING THE ICE

What's your favorite music playlist right now?

Is there a song you love because you associate it with a specific memory?

Or a song you don't like for the same reason?

MAIN CONTENT

This week our worship pastor, Dwan Hill, continued our Summer Fest series, and on Pentecost Sunday he talked about praising God even in the difficult moments. He taught about the story of Job, who in midst of watching his life crumble around him, still said "Blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21)

Dwan said that oftentimes our instinct isn't to praise God, but instead to ask questions like:

If God is good, why would He allow this happen to me?

Where is God when bad things happen?

When will God fix this situation?

1. Are you asking any of those questions right now, or have you in certain moments in your life? If so, you're in good company!

An interesting account is found in Acts 1, as Jesus has risen from the grave and the people are looking to him. It was a time of oppression and difficulty, and they were praying for freedom from their oppressors.

Read Acts 1:6-8

It may seem that Jesus didn't answer their question, but He didn't just give them relief, He gave them power. At Pentecost Jesus made good on His promise to His friends and followers that the Holy Spirit would come. The Holy Spirit is a part of the Trinity, the very presence of God, that is available to all of us at all times.

2. Did you grow up in church environments that taught about the Holy Spirit? What was your experience like?

Dwan pointed out a theme found throughout scripture. Job expressed worship in his darkest moment.

Jesus, on the evening He was betrayed, sang a hymn. And Paul wrote a letter to the church in Ephesus, and taught on the importance of public and private singing as a means of connecting to God.

Read Ephesians 5:18-20

It might sound crazy, but Paul is clear: one of the best ways to fill your heart and life with the Spirit, along with prayer and scripture reading, is to sing and make music! Music is a gift from God because it can combine prayer and scripture into one activity. It engages our mind, our spirit and our body all at once. It does something to our brain and to our emotions. It can change our focus, and it can free us.

3. Are you a good singer? Does that affect your willingness to engage in worship through singing?

No matter your talent or your experience, worship is an area where you can grow in your connection to God through the Holy Spirit. Dwan made three points about singing on hard days:

First, singing on a hard day is not about talent but truth and trust.

Second, singing on a hard day is not fake, it's faith. We don't worship God despite our feelings, we worship with our feelings, being honest with how we feel and still offering our full self to God.

Third, singing on a hard day is not magic, but it is supernatural. There is no formula that frees us from hard days. But the Holy Spirit can supernaturally empower us to endure and persevere.

4. Has there been a time in your life where you remember specifically encountering God through music? A unique worship experience or unique moment in your life? A time when you needed comfort and you found it in music?

5. What would it look like for you to take a step when it comes to worship and singing? To look to God in hard times and say, "Blessed be the name of the Lord"?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for sending your Spirit to guide us, comfort us, and help us draw near to you. Help me grow in my understanding of and my connection to the Holy Spirit. And thank you for creating music, for songs that match up with whatever moment we're having, and for it being a pathway in which we can connect with you directly.

ACTION STEP

Cross Point provided a playlist at the end of the service this week. Go to those songs (or find another worship playlist that you connect with) and find an opportunity this week to worship outside of a church service. Maybe share with the group where you went, what you did, what you listened, and how you experienced God.

WORSHIP PLAYLIST

Click [here](#) for the Worship Playlist