

By Jim Langham

“And you are to them like a love song by one who has a beautiful voice.”

Those words, hidden deep in the book of Ezekiel (33:32) open the chorus books of heaven to a fact closest to the musical heart of God. Everyone has a song within, if they will allow it to flow and fill out the chords of the heart.

Oh, it may not come out in literal musical scores, but the lyrics may express themselves through a well-timed hug, an appropriate word of encouragement at just the right time, or a silent prayer known only to God.

It may reflect personal traits that are meaningful to others or an unsuspected talent just waiting to develop. It's what makes you “you” and it can often be heard more clearly by others than by self.

One beautiful expression of a song is the Song of Solomon, or “Solomon's song of love.” It is a heart-full of emotion directed at a woman whom Solomon dearly loves. Through metaphors, poetry, and actions, Solomon spills over with one of the most beautiful songs ever given to the human race.

“My beloved responded and said to me, Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come along. For behold, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone, the flowers have already appeared in the land.” (Song of Solomon 2:10-12a).

Our song may take stage as a smile, an expression of kindness, a flash of humor or the shedding of compassionate tears. It may come out as we reach out to a hurting or abused person, or as we seek to forgive one who has hurt us. Suddenly, there's that song within our

soul and we know that we just played a tune without realizing it.

Your song can be heard in your love for your family and your friends. It may come out in the way that you extend your hand in friendship at any given moment. People may recognize your song in the things that you treasure.

As you are faithful to God, it enriches your song, because He's the one that placed it there in the first place. As your song comes out, so does your soul, for music is the window to the soul. When the prophet Isaiah realized his potential before God, he said, "I will burst out into song before you." (Isaiah 55:12)

One of the amazing things about our song is that it can't be stilled by the outside circumstances of life. David wrote in the Psalms, "in the darkness of night His song is with me," (42:8). The beautiful thing is that hurts can dampen our spirits, maybe even dab with your self-esteem, but nothing or no one can ever rob of us or take away the song deep within our soul. It may temporarily be stilled by circumstances or emotion, but God's song still lives within us.

One evening I was sitting in the quiet breeze brushing across the fields and on to the rural home where we lived at the time. As I reflected across the events of the day, I had recalled a special, "We're praying for you," coming from the checkout lady at a grocery store.

I also remembered the laughter of our children and the special warmth shown by a woman whose life was battered and torn, who wouldn't have had to sing the song her heart insisted on radiating in spite of the pain.

As I listened to the words of the song moving in my soul at the time, these words came:

Through your smile, through your tears,

And the soft words you've spoken,

I hear your song,

'Tis the music of the cosmic,

'Tis the song of the soul,

'Tis a gift, oh so precious,

The gift of your song.

Your song is what brings out my song. Our songs are often quite difficult to hear, unless they come out in response to the song of others.

And therein lies the lyrics that touch the very heart of God the sounds of his children listening and appreciating each other's song in lyrics as sweet and rare as individualism itself.