

Tell Out, My Soul



“Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord
and delight in his salvation” (Psalm 35:9, NIV).

The biblical book of Psalms contains numerous examples of songwriters using the concept of “soul” as the seat of emotions, the sense of identity, the essence of being. It is within our souls that we discover who we truly are, and from which we express our emotions and desires. Thus it is natural for us—as followers of Christ—to want to convey our gratitude and praise to God from the center of our souls. Our lips voice the worship we sense welling up within us; our tongues tell of the joy we feel inside.

We sing of the greatness of God, of his generous blessings and faithful promises, of his Word that guides our steps. We sing of his mercy, which he extends to all without reservation. Our gratefulness bubbles over into joyful song; what is inside us spreads to what we do and say and sing. The opening lines of this hymn call to mind a similar song of praise voiced by Mary, upon receiving the news that she would be the mother of Jesus: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,” (Luke 1:46–47, NIV).

Our praises to God tell of the many ways God has proved faithful in the past. As Christians, as bearers of the gospel, we announce the greatness of God by sharing what he has done in and through us, what God has accomplished throughout history, and what he is doing today. This proclamation of God’s worthiness comes not only in words, but also in our actions and attitudes. Even when we find ourselves in difficult situations—in times and places where there is, seemingly, no reason to give thanks—we can yet look at the past. God has been faithful. God will be faithful. (Psalm 77.)

We sing of the power and authority of God, how he rules nations and worlds, elements of creation and the will of people. The might of God demonstrated itself in such situations as Jesus calming the stormy seas with a single command. This same power, however, manifests itself through the workings of the heart. God can control a chaotic squall on the water; yet he gently takes care of our deepest needs. He commands legions of angels, but also comforts the needy and humble.

Our song of gratefulness and praise continues, from one generation to the next. We proclaim the greatness of God to those around us, so that our children, and our children’s children will know him. “Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen” (Psalm 72:19, NIV).

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