

One year, I travelled with North Central University's concert band, playing a baritone. It was a typical night. It was an AG church in a sleepy small town - Defiance, Ohio. It was the furthest point on the tour from college and the next day we would start towards Minneapolis, having concerts all the way. We had many concerts that week. The music was well rehearsed and we were enjoying the short tour away from college.



At some point during the concert, God showed up. There were no words, after all, it was a band concert. But God anointed us to play the instruments and to function almost as if we were one piece instead of twenty. The anointing made the music even more beautiful as our human spirits moved at the impulse of God's Spirit. When the concert ended, all we could talk about on the bus was that anointing, that unity, that beauty that the Holy Spirit created through us.

Pastor Justin was scheduled to speak today, but I sensed that God wanted to continue what began last Sunday. The Holy Spirit was here in such a sweet way that we just could not pick up exactly where we were before the conference.

Today we will bridge last week's delightful HS encounter and our current sermon series by looking at David and the Holy Spirit.

David
Holy Spirit & Music



Surprisingly, we will discover that there is a strong connection between David, the Holy Spirit and music. We will make time at the end of the message to spend time at the altar.

Let me set the stage for what God wants to reveal today. 'These are the last words of David ... David, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, David, the sweet psalmist of Israel. ²'The Spirit of the Lord speaks through me; his words are upon my tongue (2Sa 23:1-2 NLT).''

- Isn't that great? The sweet psalmist of Israel. One translation says, 'Israel's most popular singer.'¹
- 'David represents himself as a prophet ... rather than simply as a poet.'² His words are on my tongue; he is a musical prophet.
- Even Jesus pointed out that David's songs were prophetic anointed: 'Jesus responded, "Then why does David, speaking *under the inspiration of the Spirit*, call the Messiah 'my Lord'? For David said, ⁴⁴'*The Lord said to my Lord, Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies beneath your feet [Ps 110:1] (Mt 22:43-44 NLT)?*'" (Ray, please keep italics)

Music often helps to facilitate things of the Spirit by touching our emotions. The Holy Spirit can speak to us directly, but many times music is involved directly or in the background.

Unfortunately, Saul and David's experiences with the Holy Spirit and music are intertwined, with Saul becoming a negative example.

Let's look back at Saul to start with.

1. Prophetic Saul.

Saul is chosen and anointed as Israel's first king. Saul is given three signs that God is with him ...

Saul's three signs

1. Two men will tell you the donkeys have been found.
2. Three men will offer you two loaves of bread.
3. You will meet musical prophets. (Ray, you can put the 3 up as a block, then add the following verse on a click) I bet you never noticed this before: 'At Gibeah of God ... you will meet a band of prophets coming down from the place of worship. They will be playing a harp, a tambourine, a flute, and a lyre, and they will be prophesying. ⁶At that time the Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them. You will be changed into a different person (1Sa 10:5-6 NLT).'

These prophets are playing a tambourine, a flue, and a lyre – meaning there is rhythm, a melody, and probably harmony. We are **not told how** they prophesy and play their

¹ *The Message*.

² David Toshio Tsumura, *NICOT The Second Book of Samuel* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2019), p. 325.

instruments,³ perhaps there were musicians and then prophets, we don't know for sure. This connection to music is interesting.

'As Saul turned and started to leave, God gave him a new heart, and all Samuel's signs were fulfilled that day.

¹⁰When Saul and his servant arrived at Gibeah, they saw a group of (musical, v. 5) prophets coming toward them. Then the Spirit of God came powerfully upon Saul, and he, too, began to prophesy. ¹¹When those who knew Saul heard about it, they exclaimed, "What? Is even Saul a prophet? How did the son of Kish become a prophet (1Sa 10: 9-11 NLT)?"'

We do learn a lot about the Holy Spirit from this encounter with the musical prophets.

Takeaways from Saul's Holy Spirit encounter. (Ray, typical one at a time here).

1. The Holy Spirit cannot be manipulated. The Holy Spirit came upon Saul at the Spirit's pleasure. The pagan Canaanite prophets would whip themselves into a frenzy to provoke their god into action – think of the prophets of Baal and Elijah (1Ki 18:28). The Holy Spirit does the Lord's will not ours.
2. There is always a sign of the Spirit's anointing. The Biblical sign of the Holy Spirit's fullness is anointed speech.
 - OT – 'you will prophesy (1Sa 10:6).' As a prototype, here, Saul is anointed and begins to prophesy.
 - NT – 'they will speak in new tongues (Mk 16:17).' We should keep signs in their proper place. Amiee Semple McPherson noted that a sign outside a restaurant is not the same thing as the food that is served inside. The important point of Spirit baptism is not speaking in tongues, it is to know how the Holy Spirit uses people and to be equipped.
3. The Holy Spirit equips for vocation.
 - OT – to judge, protect, guide, or rule Israel. Saul became a new man 'transformed into one who would deliver Israel from enemies like the judges before him.'⁴
 - NT – 'to equip his people for works of service (Ep 4:12).'

³ David Toshio Tsumura, *NICOT The First Book of Samuel* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007), p. 288.

⁴ Rick Wadholm, *A Theology of the Spirit in the Former Prophets: A Pentecostal Perspective* (Cleveland, TN: CPT Press, 2018), p. 196.

4. God speaks through people. I can imagine that Saul joined this musical prophesying. Music will provide relief for Saul, but it will also reveal what is in his heart – it stirs up a troubling spirit of ‘destruction.’

Saul disobeyed and even rebelled against God, so Samuel anoints David to replace Saul. Saul would lead Israel 42 years, so God gave him plenty of time to reform.

2. David the Rock Star.

‘Now the Spirit of the Lord had left Saul, and the Lord sent a tormenting spirit that filled him with depression and fear (1Sa 16:14 NLT).’

- Scholars feel that the ancient Hebrew is insufficient to carry an accurate meaning here. The best translations are a ‘spirit of destruction,’ or ‘spirit of disaster.’⁵
- Look at the effects: depression and fear. Where the Spirit of God is there is hope, peace, and joy. In this case depression and fear arise from within Saul himself.
- **The same sun that hardens clay softens butter, and Saul’s heart is not softened but hardened.**
- God has withdrawn His special anointing and all that is left is Saul.
- The Holy Spirit was taken from Saul, but ‘The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on (1Sa 16:13 NLT).’ There is a transference of the Spirit from Saul to David, **just like when God took the Spirit that was on Moses and put it on the 70 elders.**

We experience the Holy Spirit a little differently than those who lived before the Day of Pentecost. Then, it was largely limited to the judges, kings, and prophets. Today, the anointing of the Holy Spirit is for all believers.

‘Some of Saul’s servants said to him, “A tormenting spirit from God is troubling you. ¹⁶ Let us find a good musician to play the harp whenever the tormenting spirit troubles you. He will play soothing music, and you will soon be well again.” ¹⁷ “All right,” Saul said. “Find me someone who plays well, and bring him here.” ¹⁸ One of the servants said to Saul, “One of Jesse’s sons from Bethlehem is a talented harp player. Not only that—he is a brave warrior, a man of war, and has good judgment. He is also a fine-looking young man, and the Lord is with him.” ¹⁹ So Saul sent messengers to Jesse to say, “Send me your son David, the shepherd” ... ²¹ So David went to Saul and began serving him. Saul loved David very much, and David became his armor bearer ... ²³ And whenever the tormenting spirit from God troubled Saul, David would play the harp. Then Saul would feel better, and the tormenting spirit would go away (1Sa 16:15-19, 21, 23 NLT).’

There is something about David’s music that refocuses Saul and ‘the tormenting spirit would go away.’ His depression and fear would leave.

⁵ Tsumura, *Second Samuel*, p. 426-27 (Excursus); the NIV footnotes an ‘injurious’ spirit.

- David's prophetic songs are a prototype of the new songs we can sing.
- 'Music hath charms to soothe a savage breast. To soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak.'⁶ Saul's heart is getting harder, not softer even with Israel's rock star – the sweet psalmist of Israel - playing the harp.
- David was a front row witness to Saul's demise. When he prayed, 'Do not ... take your Holy Spirit from me (Ps 51:11 NIV), he knew exactly what he was praying for.

After David killed Goliath Saul's heart towards him begins to change.

3. A Destructive spirit.

'The very next day a tormenting spirit from God overwhelmed Saul, and he began to rave in his house like a madman. David was playing the harp, as he did each day. But Saul had a spear in his hand, ¹¹ and he suddenly hurled it at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But David escaped him twice. ¹² Saul was then afraid of David, for the Lord was with David and had turned away from Saul (1Sa 18:10-12 NLT).'

- Music touches our emotions. Emotions are the seat of the heart; it connects us with God, and it judges our reason.
- Be careful what kind of music you listen to; some will lift you up and some will bring you down.
- Here, David's uplifting music stirred up the darkest emotions and thoughts within Saul. When we are not serving God as we ought to, we could be opposing God (Jdg 2:15; Acts 5:39). 'God opposes the proud but show favor to the humble (Ja 4:6 NIV).'

But it happens again: 'But one day when Saul was sitting at home, with spear in hand, the tormenting spirit from the Lord suddenly came upon him again. As David played his harp, ¹⁰ Saul hurled his spear at David. But David dodged out of the way, and leaving the spear stuck in the wall, he fled and escaped into the night (1Sa 19:9-10 NLT).'

This time David leaves for good.

- God's Spirit moves us 'in the direction in which we find ourselves oriented: whether to trouble or to life.'⁷

⁶ Original quote is breast not beast. William Congreve's play, *The Mourning Bride* (1697).

⁷ "'Saul ... knows ... God not only through divine absence, but also, paradoxically, through YHWH's persecuting presence in the form of an evil spirit" The Spirit of Yahweh would thus not be safe, but always moving in the direction for which one finds themselves oriented: whether to trouble or to life,' Wadholm, *Spirit in the Former Prophets*, p. 148.

- I am not saying if you are not filled with the Holy Spirit you are filled with an evil spirit. No, there are three spirits in the world: our own human spirit, evil spirits, and the Holy Spirit.

Three s/Spirits in the world

- Human spirit
- Evil spirits
- Holy Spirit (and the host of angels)

If our heart is oriented towards God, His Spirit will come alongside us and encourage us into the deeper things of God, to greater works of service. But if our heart is selfish, God will let our human spirit have its own way which leads to destruction.

Remember, even David did not write any songs when he and his men were among the Philistines? His heart was in the wrong direction.⁸

This is why Paul says to 'Keep on being filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit (Ep 5:18).'

- This command has both active and passive parts.
- We are commanded to 'be filled,' but the filling is passive. In English, 'keep on being called by your mother.'
- Like the baritone I played in Defiance, Oh. I had to put my lips to the mouthpiece, blow air and buzz my lips, and then the Holy Spirit took over my emotions and allowed me to play more beautifully and in sync with my fellow musicians than I ever could have on my own.
- The Holy Spirit wants to blow through you today to make beautiful music and help you harmonize with God's plans.

There is a connection between being filled with the Holy Spirit and music.

4. Musical Prophecy.

To be honest, I think there is a **bit of mystery** here. The Holy Spirit is like the wind, it 'blows wherever it pleases (Jn 3:8 NIV),' in line with God's will. But I am fascinated that music plays such a big part in being filled with the Holy Spirit and with prophecy.

⁸ Charles R. Swindoll, *David: A Story of Passion & Destiny* (Nashville, TN: W Publishing, 1997), p. 113.

Let me just summarize a few of David's musical prophecies.

David's prophetic music

- Jesus – David's song was inspired by the Spirit, Mt 22:43-45 (Ps 110:1).
- Peter – David's song gave prophetic direction, Acts 1:17 (Ps 69:25, 109:8).
- Peter – David's song prophesies nations are in opposition to God's kingdom, Acts 4:25-26 (Ps 2:1-2). These are songs! They are not addresses in a formal setting.
- Peter – David's song prophesies the joy of Jesus' resurrection.

This quote from David's prophetic music is Peter's only explanation of the speaking in tongues on the Day of Pentecost.

'Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, ²⁷because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. ²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, Acts 2:26-28 NIV (Ps 16:8-11).'

- This Psalm is a song that David sang prophetically about the joy of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus' resurrection is a prototype of our resurrection. Just like ...
- **David's prophetic songs are a prototype of the new songs we can sing.**
- The Holy Spirit will give us a glad tongue and fill us with a new song, words of prophecy, or even Spirit-inspired words to lead a neighbor to Christ.

Paul told us how he interacted with the Holy Spirit: 'I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also (1Co 14:15 NASB).' The Spirit gives us a new song to worship and connect with Him.

We are going to do that now.

Conclusion.

Last Sunday, Tim Enloe led us into God's presence so gently. Many nearly 20 people were filled with the Holy Spirit and **their tongues rejoiced in God's presence.**

I want to give opportunity again this week for people to seek God, to spend time around the altar. At some point, you will have to move your lips and speak, just **like I had to actually play the baritone** – and God will honor that step of faith.

Spirit baptism is learning how the Spirit flows through us. The handoff of self to the Holy Spirit and learning how to interact at a deep level.

Prayer & Altar.