

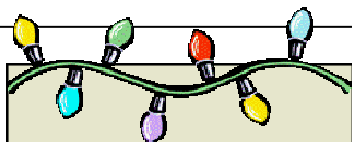


NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Sing! 1 - 3

Born from Above 2

Closing Thoughts 4

Dear Friends...



.... Where were you... while the morning stars sang together....
Job 38:7

To him who overcomes... I will give him the morning star...
Revelation 2:28

.... I am the bright Morning Star... *Revelation 22:16*



Our kids finally got Mary and me to watch some of *American Idol* when it was at its heyday. It was impressive to see the level of sheer talent that was on the screen. But it didn't take very long before we were painfully aware of the level of abject desperation in many of the contestants. To some of them, this was their only chance to make it, and their only hope for the success of their future life. For some contestants who didn't win, there are agonizing stories of mental breakdowns and even suicides. For some who did make it, the story goes on, but in many cases it is a sad unfolding tale.

Is it only the young immature contestants of a pop music program that suffer this way? Or is that only a portion of a greater malady eating out the soul of the West? And is it only found in this present culture or was it present in earlier times also? At the time of the national conflict that led to the Civil War, Henry David Thoreau wrote: "The mass of men live lives of quiet desperation, and go to their graves with their song still in them." It is noteworthy that in both these examples separated by over a hundred years, it is the song in them that is desperate to be expressed. And the desperation is rooted in the fear that the song will never get out.



If you can't sing good, sing loud! There is something in our humanity which is a manifestation of the image of God that can only be fully expressed when we sing. If we don't understand our need to give voice to that inner treasure in the right way - that is, in worshipful joyful celebration of and to God, then the song descends rather than ascends, and seeks out far lesser avenues. Some who find those lower levels sink down into the nether worlds into the very abyss. There are too many examples of this supposed success which ended in horror and total loss. Then there are the vast majority of people who never succeed in the fields or at the levels they long for, and so they just don't sing at all. As Thoreau said, they go to their graves with the song still in them.

I am not writing the song as a metaphor for any particular achievement per se, though it may be ok to think of it that way. I'm actually talking about a real song coming out of your mouth. Not only should we think that if we can't sing good we should sing loud, we should also think when we can't do anything else we can always sing. (Unless you have some malady that hinders your vocal apparatus, at which point then you can still **sing and make melody in your heart to the Lord (Ephesians 5:19)**).

As we will point out in your coming Nightlight recording next month, singing is a spiritual power. It has within it forces that can break yokes (**Psalm 47**), bind demons (**Psalm 149**), bring revelation (**I Corinthians 14:15**), overthrow depression (**I Samuel 16:23**), and cause barren wombs to become fruitful (**Isaiah 54**). Singing can herald the coming Presence of God, and is the appropriate response to it when it arrives (**Psalm 97**). Researchers have estimated that most of us are only in touch with about 3% of what is going on in our minds. Think of an ice cap in the sea. What is seen is only a tiny portion of what is hidden below the water level. That is your mind. And most people's inner conversation, the part below the surface, is highly negative. Different levels of fear, resentment, lust, disappointment, anger, and/or depression are waiting for a chance to surface in full force. Singing the Word of God up to God is a powerful antidote to inner poison (**Psalm 32:7; Psalm 77:6**). This is also one of the purposes of praying in another tongue, and Paul specifies that when he used his prayer language, he both spoke and sang with it (**I Corinthians 14:14-15**).

Continued on page 3

Finally, it is the easiest way in the world to memorize Scripture. When you sing, your right brain engages in such a way as to help memory attach emotionally to the words. So when the melody comes, the words come, too. We all have had the experience of an unwanted silly song from a commercial coming to our minds unbidden. Think what it can do for your deep inner cleansing to put the Word in you with songs you do like and do want to recall?

This is very practical. It is a means of maintaining your mind's stability in such times as we are living in. One more thing. If singing alone with just you and God is that hard for you to do, then it is a great time to deal with the childhood shame and self rejection that is probably hindering you at some level in your present life. So....you get a bonus!



Born from Above



by
*Oswald
Chambers*

Jesus Christ was born into this world, not from it. He came into history from the outside of history; He did not evolve out of history.

Our Lord's birth was an advent; He did not come from the human race, He came into it from above. Jesus Christ is not the best human being, He is a Being who cannot be accounted for by the human race at all. He is God Incarnate, not man becoming God, but God coming into human flesh, coming into it from the outside. His Life is the Highest and the Holiest entering in at the lowliest door. Our Lord entered history by the Virgin Mary.

Just as our Lord came into human history from the outside, so He must come into us from the outside. Have we allowed our personal human lives to become a "Bethlehem" for the Son of God?



Closing Thoughts...

Mary and I wish to express our heartfelt thanksgiving for each one of you who are part of our Nightlight family. We are continually overwhelmed by your support, financial gifts, and prayers on our behalf. It is so encouraging to hear from many of you as well. So...THANK YOU! Thank you for the gifts you are to us, as we celebrate the greatest Gift ever given this holy Christmas season.



Merry Christmas!
Clay & Mary



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