

An Ordinary Rhythm with Extraordinary Power | Ephesians 5:19

Acts shows us ordinary rhythms of the church through which God works his extraordinary power

Examples:

- *On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate by the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and spoke to the women gathered there. Acts 16:13*
- *Once, as we were on our way to prayer, a slave girl met us... Acts 16:16*
- *After they had severely flogged them, they threw them in jail, ordering the jailer to guard them carefully. Receiving such an order, he put them into the inner prison and secured their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Acts 16:23-25*

- *Paul stayed two whole years in his own rented house. And he welcomed all who visited him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance. Acts 28:30-31*
- *Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should. Ephesians 6:19-20*

Singing is integral to the life of the church.

The Lord your God is among you, a warrior who saves. He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will be quiet in his love. He will delight in you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17

He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. 1 Timothy 3:16

“speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music with your heart to the Lord,” Ephesians 5:19

In context Ephesians 5 encourages us to pursue practices that aid and demonstrate a life of fullness. Singing together we are entering into God’s singing, into Jesus’ singing, full of the Spirit.

This passage shows two aspects to describe how we sing.

Singing is like teaching. We edify, instruct, encourage one another through song. There is a horizontal/corporate aspect to singing to singing that involves all of us.

“And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.” Colossians 3:15-16

Singing is like praying. We sing and make music with our hearts to God with honesty and authenticity and integrity. There is a vertical and individual aspect that involves our whole hearts.

Practices

1. Listen to Second Mile’s Spotify playlist weekly.
2. Read the passages on screen before the gathering.
3. Incorporate the Psalms into your life through artists like Poor Bishop Hooper.
4. Sing the Doxology.
5. Participate in Band Camp.

They sang the song of God’s servant Moses and the song of the Lamb: Great and awe-inspiring are your works, Lord God, the Almighty; just and true are your ways, King of the nations... Revelation 15:3