

James 5:16

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Being on the worship team at church and writing worship songs, I love singing to the Lord. I think it would be safe to say that no matter how good or bad your voice may be, you also love singing to the Lord, because songs have a big impact on everyone's lives.

Think of when an old song from years ago, maybe even as far back as when we were young teenagers comes on, that one song brings back memories. Even now as a believer, when that one song is sung in church or it comes on, on our play list, it speaks volumes to our hearts. Yes, songs and music are a form of worship as the words of the songs speak of the deep things of our hearts.

But is that the only reason God gave us a voice, was to sing praises to Him? I would say no, because we can use that same voice to build up others, or even tear them down. Building up others with our voices is a form of worship, and tearing down others with that same voice is a form of sin. Same voice but used in different ways.

Even with songs, there are songs that we know and love that glorify the Lord, but there are songs we know and used to love, that glorify sin.

Or think of a piece of paper, you can take a piece of paper and use it to glorify the Lord or to commit sin. You can write beautiful words to the Lord on that piece of paper. But you can also write a mean and nasty letter to someone, using words to rip them to shreds. Same piece of paper, but if not used properly, it can be used to sin. But if used properly, it can bring glory to God. It reminds me of what James said:

† ***James 3:8-10 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.***

So, with our voices; yes, singing is one form of worship, but if that is all we use our voices for, then we are falling short, and not truly worshipping the Lord with our voices.

How so? We should be singing out praises to the Lord. But with that same voice, we should also be praying for, and ministering to others with it... including our enemies. Just as today's verse says to: ***"pray for one another."***

† ***Matthew 5:44-45 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute***

you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

If we are not using our voice to do those things as well, then we have fallen short in our worship to the Lord with the voice He has given us.

† **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (MSG)** *So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep on doing it.*

† **Jeremiah 33:10-11** *"Thus says the LORD: 'Again there shall be heard in this place--of which you say, "It is desolate, without man and without beast"--in the cities of Judah, in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man and without inhabitant and without beast, the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who will say:*

"Praise the LORD of hosts, For the LORD is good, For His mercy endures forever"—

and of those who will bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause the captives of the land to return as at the first,' says the LORD.

† **Romans 15:6 (NLT2)** *Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*