

Psalm 78:72

*So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart,
And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.*

We all have certain abilities and gifts of the Holy Spirit that are given to us. Before you can guide others by the “skillfulness of your hands” with those abilities or gifts, you must first have “the integrity of the heart”.

The Holy Spirit has blessed me with the ability to teach God’s word through devotionals and bible studies. He has also given me the ability to write, record and produce worship songs, along with the ability to write stories/novels. But with all the Lord has given me the ability to do, unless I do it with the integrity of my heart, it’s all being done of myself and for self glory.

With the gifts the Lord has given me, I can very easily fall into self seeking, “Look how great of a musician/song writer I am” Or “Look how much of the bible I know” which does not bring glory to God, but to myself, and God says that ***“I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to anyone else, nor share my praise with carved idols.”*** Isaiah 42:8 (NLT2)

A carved idol is a man-made image of whatever he or she wants to worship. We see that in the world with musicians/singers, where they dress and look and even talk a certain way to draw attention to themselves, and the world worships them, and they want to be like them.

But in the Christian worship (musically) world, it’s not like that. Other Christians should not want to be like their favorite Christian singer or band, because when you want that, you are actually worshipping that person, and not God. No, a true worshipper (musically) will always, I repeat ALWAYS want to point you to God and Jesus and never themselves. I know that it’s hard as a Christian musician, because we do have to advertise our music so others can know about it and listen to it, and we do it not to draw attention to ourselves or say that we are anything great or even to make money, but rather because our hearts are to worship the Lord, and to help you to worship the Lord in song, never us.

So God has given us ***“the skillfulness of his hands.”*** And I believe He has done so for Christian musician because of the ***“integrity of our heart”*** to bring glory to Him. And a lot of times, it’s that One on one between the Lord and the Christian musician. We truly don’t need an audience to worship the Lord, once again, we do what we do because the Lord has blessed us with that gift, to help draw others into His presence to worship HIM!!!

But not everyone is a musician or even a teacher of God’s word. Which is fine, for, ***“He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”***

Ephesians 4:11-12

Simply, the Lord through the Holy Spirit has given everyone certain gifts and abilities to do things for the Glory of the Lord., but before you can, you first must have ***“the integrity of heart.”*** And if you read it in the NLT it tells us that ***“He cared for them with a true heart and led them with skillful hands.”*** **Psalm 78:72 (NLT2)** The integrity of our heart is to have ***“a true heart”*** which means you cannot make it up or force it to happen. Just like I can not force worship to happen or fake it when I am at church doing worship, because people can see right through that. And by trying to force something, means that YOU want a certain result, instead of the Holy Spirit working in the hearts of people.

† **Isaiah 55:11** *So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

† **John 15:5** *I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*