

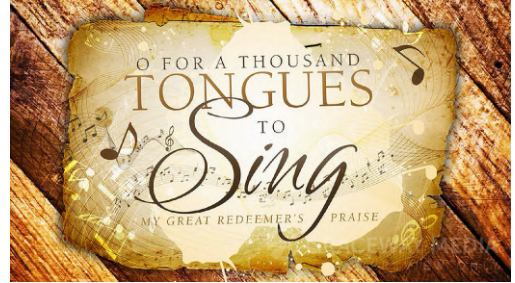


20 June 2025

O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing?

Charles Wesley's hymn sings,

*Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great
Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and
King, the triumphs of His grace!*



After Wesley placed his faith in Christ he is said to have shared the joy of his experience with a friend. He also told his friend, "I suppose I had better keep silent about it." His friend replied, "If you had a thousand tongues you should go and use them all for Jesus!"

This hymn was Wesley's celebration of his faith in Christ. He wrote the hymn with 18 verses. Four are in our hymnal, with the first and title verse originally being the seventh verse.

You may, as I do, recall some special times when a large group of believers joyfully and loudly sang their praises to God. I also recall special times of people singing in their native tongue from their hearts which greatly moved them, and even me although I did not know their language.

God is our great Redeemer!

God is our glorious King!

God leads us in, showers us with the triumphs of His grace!

God calms our fears and bids our sorrows cease!

God breaks the power of cancelled sin, makes us clean and sets us free!

Can you say "Amen!" to that?

Whatever you are facing, however you are feeling, whether you can carry a tune or not, if Christ is your Savior you can raise your voice to sing the praise of our great God.

God instructs us in the Psalms to sing to Him. Note just three examples.

Psalm 5, "rejoice, all who take refuge in You, sing for joy forever!" (11)

Psalm 30, "Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones, and praise the mention of His holiness" (4).

Psalm 47, “Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises” (6).

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul instructs us in Ephesians chapter 5 that we are to be, “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with [our] hearts to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father” (19-20).

God wants us, directs us to sing His praises.

But there is more. I have directed many choirs and other choral groups over the years. One thing they all had in common was practice. In singing, and everything else we do, practice, preparation is important. Singing God’s praises now helps prepare us to do that in heaven.

The Revelation chapter 5 tells us saints will be singing in heaven.

“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You [Christ] to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slaughtered, and You purchased people for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation. You have made them into a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth.’”

Chapter 15 tells us those who overcome in heaven “sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb.”

So, get ready!

Yes, as those who have been redeemed, changed forever, we could wish to have a thousand tongues to sing our great Redeemer’s praise.

Pastor Lyle