

Music is a Spiritual Tool

Many years ago our Father gave us understanding that we were going to make our own instruments, because when instruments are used improperly or are not sanctified spirits come in and cause us to go into contortions. Those spirits are surrounding us in the airways right now. They are listening to us. Some people give into them more easily, those who are not vitally connected to the Vine and who lack proper discernment.

David was an example to us. We have to have his *heart* before we can have his harps. The music he played on musical instruments was able to soothe king Shaul and quiet the evil spirits that tormented him. Thus we know that *music is a spiritual tool*.

The song Amaz did at his wedding had the same beat that you might hear at the average rock concert. It possibly could be a hit in those realms. But it did not exalt our Master. He intended it as a love song for his bride but we don't always know what realm we're in.

Music is spirit. It vibrates the airways. It comes from somewhere — a spirit, a source. The vibration is for good or for evil. As every breath you take is spirit, so is the sound of music (Mt 12:33-37). Where music is concerned you communicate a spirit. Music played in purity, without drawing attention to yourself, drives away evil spirits.

We didn't hear Amaz's song before yesterday. Ha-emeq heard the words. I never heard it. He was probably trying to keep it a secret as a surprise for his bride. "You stitched my heart, it was torn apart..." — these are marvelous words. I'm sure it's talking about how when his mother died his heart was torn apart. Then his wife came and stitched it back. But it came across as a musical contortion that was not necessary. The musical instruments took away from the words. It's like what Yohannan said about Chetz Barur's *Three Eternal Destiny* song: "The words were wonderful, but something took away from the words."

Paul sang also at the wedding. I think he is a spiritual man and the girls who sang with him were spiritual women. There was nothing that brought attention to themselves or to the

sounds coming from the instruments or microphones. There were no contortions or blowing breath in the mike. But with Amaz something happened. It was embarrassing. Everyone applauded but I'm not sure it was with all their hearts. I wish I could have applauded. If I would have been able to hear the words purely, I could have applauded. In the world he would have been commended for his performance. Love songs like his would possibly have been a hit if the *Grateful Dead* had done it.

We have to make sure we're not led astray. Satan's chief job is to take us away from the community of the redeemed. If we ever start playing rock and roll and we can't even hear the words we might as well be competing with the *Resurrection Band*, or some other Christian group.

An evil spirit can come upon us and take us away. Later on when we have godly people making musical instruments it will be a good work. Amittai started it, but it seems that he was in the flesh the whole time. He may be one who shows up at the wedding feast with no garment.

Our Father wants us to make godly musical instruments to accompany godly men and women as they sing. The purpose of musical instruments is only to compliment and accompany, to back up and complete the voice. They are to only be a servant to the voices. They are the background, not the focus. When the focus is on the sound that comes forth from the instrument it can be a form of idolatry. You can see how demonic the whole rock and roll scene is as they make their screaming noises from the giant speakers. To the person who receives an evil spirit, it seems great. We can be this way in the Body of Messiah. Evil spirits come in subtle ways. They feel good. 2 Cor 11:15 — They masquerade as righteousness. It's a dangerous precarious place were walking in, in music. Those in the lead in music must have a strong gift of “discerning of spirits.”

Ethan and many have had caution. But our caution can be more detrimental than the music. We can be quick to just want to pronounce judgment, but more importantly, we have to save the person. 2 Tim 2:26 — We can be taken captive by Satan to do his will. Satan preys on ignorance. We have to be able to judge these things.

If we'd heard the song before, we would have said, "No, it wouldn't be edifying because of the beat and the electronic sound; it takes away from the words you are trying to communicate to your bride." Maybe Satan stole that beat and corrupted it. David played pure music long ago. We have to reclaim music from Satan who stole it in the first place. We've got to reclaim it till the end of days.

We've got people here who are full of zeal for music. Our children should be totally pure, never having given themselves to worldly music. When Amaz was falling away he listened to a lot of worldly music. Though this was only for a couple of weeks in his life, he must have taken it in. If we've come out of the world recently we've got the same stuff in us. It gets in our system and comes out in our music. We have to pray for Him to have mercy on us, for He knows our lacks. It's not our fault we grew up with it.

I'm not saying we can't take anything from the world. But what we do in music must at least be acceptable. We wrote all these things about different types of music — high and low brow. These are actually spirits. ***Before you can drive out a spirit you have to identify it and call it by name*** (rock & roll, high-brow, low-brow, pub, country, etc. — you can identify them with just two words). I know every song in the supermarkets from 40 and 50 ears ago. It's all you hear nowadays, to appeal to you through nostalgia — every record, every jitterbug, waltz, etc. That's why we have to judge with mercy and treat people with mercy so people can change. We can't just come down on them and condemn them. Last night at the end of the wedding I could have condemned Amaz. But I just said, "It's on the border." I didn't say it was completely out of line, because I knew Amaz's heart.

Chetz Barur could have kept it from coming across this way, but he was afraid to hurt Amaz, his brother (those family spirits).

Paul's music is good. But some people think he has a spirit of anxiety about making perfect recordings. That may be an accusation. You can't believe everything you hear. When you hear the other side, it's different. Paul may be at fault in this area. We must all know that our music is going to be judged. We all have to see that we can be wrong, led by another spirit,

seeking glory for ourselves. It can be so camouflaged that you can't see it no matter what you do. You need to see that you need the discernment of your brothers, your leaders. A voice always comes in to justify yourself or to reason. The battle is always going on. If you never receive any of those things it means you're not alive. The more gifted one is, the more he's going to be used by our Father, and the greater opposition there will.

Mevaser: When I came into the Body, I had given away my last guitar. I knew I couldn't please God with it. Six months later, Malachi encouraged me to sing. Then he said to me, "Why don't you sing with your own voice?" And again, "Stop bouncing your head like that," or "Stop wagging your leg." I'd watch Malachi and imitate him. I'd bob my head like him. I was taken down to nothing and had to start over again. When Malachi played it made me want to give my life to our Master and love Him and be happy and encouraged.

Ha-emeq: It is true that we *really* have to have the gift of discernment of spirits. It has to do with driving out spirits. It's a scary, hard thing. Musicians have the power to drive out the spirits of a raving maniac like Shaul. Songs like *Abiding in the Vine* or *If I could Have All the Riches of This World*, we sing them over and over again. There are many, many songs that come and go, but few remain. We need more songs like these. We need a new thing. Amaz's song wasn't new. Songs like that are a dime a dozen in every pub. There are lots of men singing rock & roll love songs like that. His heart of love for his bride did not come across, neither did his devotion for our Master. Where is the new seed? If we settle for that we won't find it. We really need to find that new song! We must strain every fiber of our being to find it, and not let it be defiled.

We had five weddings in Asher in the year we were there. People gave themselves to making songs. You could just hear the words of them singing. It made you cry because the pure heart of love was expressed. That song didn't make you cry.

Ha-emeq: I knew Amaz's heart or else I would have thought he was in total darkness. When he spoke his heart he spoke in a normal voice. But in the mike a transformation had taken place. I hate technology. Without it you wouldn't have heard all that breath. Amaz is not an evil person. I saw something else at work. He did not discern what was happening. Aharon said that for him grace disappears when he gets in front of the mike. But how will we be heard in front of big crowds without mikes? There was something spiritual we didn't judge. Even Nehemiah, Ne-eman's son, judged that something was not right in the emphasis put upon Amaz playing on the bass in a certain part of the song, and in

the beat that was being played. It had been said to me that, “People like Ethan probably won't like the beat of Amaz's song.” But I did not realize how strong the rock & roll beat was. I just told Amaz before the wedding, “If you look at the bride and the people and don't go into the instrument so much when you sing your song, you'll be okay.” He had said that his abba had heard the song before and liked it. But his abba had not heard the song in its electrified version. He could not adequately judge it without the mikes and the drums. It takes discernment because it was certainly subtle, not easily judged.

Several people had trouble with it.

Aharon: I liked the words but I was embarrassed.

Mevaser: I was embarrassed. A sensual spirit can come over a person...

It comes over you in rock concerts.

Ethan: It was sensual. Hilkiyah played a rock beat on the drums accenting the same places you would in rock music.

I didn't overreact last night. What could you do? Destroy the wedding? It would have been terrible to condemn him at that time.

Chetz Barur: I knew it was worldly. I told ha-emeq about it before the wedding. But I should have stressed to her that I thought she should hear it. I lacked discernment. I didn't want to make him feel bad because in the past I have belittled him.

It was just a simple love song. So why did it have to have that connotation? “If I could have all the riches of this world” is so beautiful. What does that beat have to do with a marriage covenant? He could have said, “I love you Qesheth, with all my heart,” the words of a beautiful poem, but adding that beat was out of order, misplaced.

Malachi: It was misdirected passion. I was embarrassed, but I knew that Amaz had a good heart and was trying...

You have to allow his temperament also.

Malachi: Usually wedding songs are sweet, but because of who he is, he felt like he had to be more passionate, but he did not know that what was coming across was worldly, sensual passion. Worldly rock & roll is to arouse your worldly passion. That's why we don't like it.

We have to save the twelve tribes. That is why we must learn to discern every spirit.

Malachi: I wondered why the guitar had a pick up on it. It makes it sound more like an electric guitar.

Chetz Barur: We were short on mikes. Someone suggested it. That's the only song we did with two guitars. I hoped that Eben's guitar would drown it out.

Mevaser: Why did he have to switch instruments? The only point seemed to be that it showed that he was good at both instruments. It took away from the song.

Chets Barur: He said he can't sing too well with the bass, but better with the guitar, but bass is "his instrument." He wanted to express his heart to her on the bass.

We have to learn from these things. They're actually stepping stones. It's a stony way we're going. We have to go through stony ways and we have to use them. Amaz can come through this. It troubled ha-emeq so much, she said that it almost disqualified him...

Ha-emeq: I just felt that this obvious lack of discernment in Amaz and the other boys, too, seemed to disqualify them from being a leading force in music. We need someone to be raised up who has discernment to lead us. Yoneq can say, that's good, but he doesn't know exactly why. He does not know the musical terminology and how to exactly diagnose what exactly was wrong. But after the wedding, when I pressed Chetz Barur about why his brother's song came out sounding like it did, he diagnosed and explained it easily. But he held back expressing this to his brother before the wedding when Amaz really needed him. So if he does not use discernment, he's disqualified too.

What would have happened if we had accepted that last night? It would have set a course. It would have directed all those who came after to go the same way. Then they would have gone on down to Washington on that course. That is not good.

Ha-emeq: Jeremiah was by me and he heard me saying, "Oh, Amaz." He said, "What's wrong, I liked it." He showed his own lack of discernment. I told him that if we went this way it would scare him to see what would happen five years down the line in Asaph and other young ones, in whom it would be magnified.

Someone brings correction, but we do not want to go to the other swing of the pendulum. What are we going to do? Be like the Church of Christ, with no music at all?

Mevaser: We can identify sensual spirits. Millions of kids pick up the spirit of good feelings and get lost in it. They're all one in that ugly, deadly spirit. We can expose it. We can identify it and name it. It comes to me too. We can be a

musicians in the Body and not give in to it, if we are filled with the true Holy Spirit, and not with any other spirit.

Till the end of the age we have to contend with those other spirits (Heb 10:13).

Mevaser: Our music is so much better.

Paul: Music from the 60's had songs where the words had depth. But the music from now has none at all. It's totally empty. More and more people want to hear the sounds of musical instruments. What's going to make the difference is people seeing that we care enough about the words that we say to make them want to hear it.

In the world they prophecy through music.

Chetz Barur: In the past I've gotten into zeal for music. I want my zeal to be for Yahshua. It hurt me to hear that I have "zeal for music." If He is the focus of our life, He'll give us music. It's not going to come from our creative genius. I want to have zeal for His music on earth and receive correction. If people get touchy about their music, it's because they're taking identity in it. I want Yahshua to be the goal of everything I do.

Ha-emeq: Recording music is an issue. Again technology comes in. We have to make our recordings as men filled with the Holy Spirit, not getting into the music, and all the electronic gimmicks we can use to enhance our "sound." Recordings really bring out the fleshly side of people if they do not discern spirits.

Asher: We wanted to do it for cafes so we won't have music from the world in them. What's the purpose of recording in any other way?

Recording is good to send certain songs from one tribe to another for the purpose of learning new songs. But it could also be misused.

Ha-emeq: We already taught that we don't have tape players and tapes in the Body for our personal entertainment. We had hoped that people would not have tape players for ANY reason except to learn new songs, sitting with instruments in hand to learn. We did not want it to be that people would say, "I'm drawing today or I'm cooking or sewing so I need to listen to music all day to encourage me on the tape player." T'shanu's songs got passed around like the "top ten" of the community in a way we had hoped would not happen.

T'shanu still sings many times in a voice that is "not his own." Perhaps Malachi would also tell him to sing with his own voice as he told Mevaser that time.

Ha-emeq: Once a tape starts circulating, it's so hard to stop it. Ishah made these marvelous songs before she was in the Body and put them on a tape for someone and then somehow all these copies got made... We cannot get them back now. And that is not even “our music.”

Haggai: Everyone gets tape players from their family as a gift. Tape players for aerobics, excuses, family nights, driving — we still have 20 in Reuben. They're around.

Ha-emeq: There needs to be some kind of control. We don't know how to keep it just for the purpose it is supposed to be used for.

Chetz Barur: Tapes could be distributed like teachings. The heads should learn and teach households the new songs. That way the tapes would be controlled more, but could serve a good purpose.

Malachi: David ben B'rith taught us at a festival personally and we took it back and taught it. But tapes of all of us singing — no one wants to hear them more than once. They're usually lousy recordings.

Ha-emeq: There is a place for good recording so we can learn the songs right.

Asher: We rule over computers; why can't we rule over tape players and tapes?

You can't rule over music because it's a spirit. You must be spiritual to rule.

Ha-emeq: David Zerubbabel has been a good head to keep us from immersing ourselves in computers. If there was a way to keep tapes for this purpose and not go overboard... Evangelistic songs sometimes are a little worldly. We pass them on by tapes so people can learn to sing them when they go out and play songs evangelistically, but we do not want to just be playing them around the house for entertainment.

You can't pass laws about this. People have to be trained to have self control. A lot of people travel and they like to have music while they drive. Can't they have Body songs? Songs to sing along with?

Aharon: I've spent a lot of time out in cars or in outposts. I find that it drives away evil spirits to listen to music from the Body. It is washing, at times.

Ha-emeq: But the songs can also get old, listening to them again and again on tapes. You come in the sewing shop and there's this beautiful song of praise and everyone is talking and laughing. It makes you dull.

I guess there's a place for it. You can't make a decree. We've never made a decree to not hear a tape. We rise or fall by what's in our conscience and how we are led by the Spirit (Rom 8:14-16).

Chetz Barur: From a musician's point of view, it's dangerous to record as far as listening to yourself. You have to be spiritual.

Asher: It's like taking pictures of yourself. You make sure every hair is in place but if someone else takes it and you don't know it, you'd be just who you were.

Paul, What's your motive for wanting to get tapes just right?

Paul: Sorry. It's nice to hear all the instruments as they really are. But I don't want to be too particular. I have wanted to make sure everyone is there and together.

Chetz Barur: It's good to practice first, but when I start getting snappy I know I'm not right.

Ethan: If you're in a gathering and someone says, "Play *History*," and it takes 20 minutes to gather everyone to do it, you lose your spontaneity.

A presentation has to take time to prepare for.

Paul: Sometimes I sense when someone's talking and I can get ready.

Aharon: Music, good or bad, is contagious. If there are people with good discernment, maybe they should perambulate and make sure the right spirit is being communicated and bad ones are being weeded out. Or else bad stuff gets out.

Chetz Barur: Nun suggested that new songs should be sent to Yoneq.

Please don't. The first thing I'd be wrong. If you feel led to do it, okay, but if everyone did that all I would do is sit in my big office and listen to tapes all day. We all have to have spiritual discernment on that.

Mevaser: We've got to have David's heart and be motivated by exalting Yahshua, giving thanks and encouraging each other.

This is a very sensitive thing. We must be careful. And with electronic mikes we must be careful not to have the sound of breath in the mike.

Ha-emeq: The only way to get that sound naturally would be to have someone speaking and breathing right into your ear. But the same effect can be created with microphones...

That's why the rock star is always "your lover" and it is as if you *know* him personally when he gets on stage. He seems so close, even blowing his breath in your ear.

Yet in all of this we don't want to be too stiff. Elionai in Shimon plays the bass very well, yet is innocent and his music is very expressive. Like Yotham (in Asher) — He's not self-conscious, but outward. (I kept trying to get people in other places to sing *Love Causes Peace to Flow* the way they sing it there, but they just can't get it. I guess we'll have to get Yotham over here.)

Haggai: Some musicians won't play with others. They'll only play by themselves, or with "certain people." If only the good ones play together it doesn't build up. It becomes a clique.

Ha-emeq: On the other side, when Paul has his same people and they've practiced over and over and over again, then the song sounds good because of his "clique." There's a place for it.

Chetz Barur: Sometimes people feel excluded because of worthlessness.

Asher: If you write a skit you have to have the lighting just right, the directing just right to communicate what you want to communicate.

Ha-emeq: But that is only for special performances. In our normal life everyone should be included.