

David testifies in Psalm 40:3 that the LORD “put a new song” in his mouth, “a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.” This verse echoes so many others in Scripture that teach us why we, as believers, sing! The following is an outline of notes taken by Anthony Adona during the 2018 Sing Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. May this outline of what has been learned from the 2018 Sing Conference be passed on for the benefit of our homes and our local churches.

9/9/2018, 2pm Getty Music Children’s Leadership Forum

Session 1: Keith Getty - Welcome, Vision, Problem and need for kids singing songs of substance

Why do we sing:

- Created to Sing
- Commanded – Second most mentioned command in the Bible is to sing
- Compelled – By our love for God
- Responsibility to brothers and sisters to one another
- Songs we sing help to parent children
- Build deep root, deep believers in the next generation
- Build family homes and church families that grow in the Lord

Session 2: Joni Eareckson Tada – Singing with Children

Session 3: Paul David Trip – Filling Your Home with the Song of Salvation

- Learned theology of faith not in school, church. He learned first from voice of mom, singing deep theological truths
- The power of hymns to inculcate in a child a God oriented, grace driven view of life.
- Why is it important
 - In the beginning, God
 - God is the center of the universe. If you don’t show children that God is the center of the universe, children will make themselves the center
 - Children are interpreters – people live by interpreting what they are seeing, experiencing.
 - Every child who will try to make sense of life. Parenting is profoundly more than controlling behavior.
 - Children will create a worldview that is true or false
 - Children are worshippers
 - Worship is more than a Sunday morning
 - Worship is identity before an activity
 - Something will always rule their hearts and what rules their hearts will dictate their behavior
 - Child can be taught either self-righteous or human need for a gracious, merciful, loving Redeemer. Children cannot run from ourselves. Children need to know early, who they are, what they are created for, their purpose and meaning rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Children suffer from sin and spiritual blindness. Need to be surrounded by people who can make them see. Self-examination is a community project. Hard to get there by myself.
- Teach children to sing the rich gospel truths. Teach of divine justice, trouble, sovereignty, sin, God's presence, God's power, hearts that are prone to idolatry and autonomy, songs of confessions. Teach them to sing because the child is a philosopher, theologian, archaeologist.
- Rebellious attitude and behavior is rooted in autonomy and heresy of self-sufficiency.
- Teach to sing to desire what is true

Session 4: Ligon Duncan – The Family of God Singing Through Every Generation

Psalm 78:4 – We will tell the coming generation of the Lord.

Psalm 89

- Two expository statements
 - Sing with your children at home
 - Sing with you children at church
- Deliberate a plan through the church, in the church and sing with them interchangeably
- Singing helps us to do the following
 - Helps us to express joy in God
 - All of us will express joy in something
 - Singing the songs of God with the children of God in the church shows them where real joy is found and allows them to express that joy.
 - Lasting joy only comes from believers who rest and trust in Jesus
 - Singing helps us to commend and model joy in God to children
 - Singing is for real men
 - God must be really important for someone who may not be good at singing to want to sing about God.
 - Singing helps the truth of God's word to be more easily remembered
 - Singing helps us to pass on God's truth to others more easily
- Children learn commitment to God
- Singing with church is not an option

David Kim

Andrew Peterson

Monday, September 10: Day 1

Plenary 1: Ligon Duncan – Glory and Majesty of God in the Psalms

- Psalm 89 – “I will sing of the lovingkindness of the Lord forever...”
- Psalm 41:13
 - Doxology – You speaking praise and directed to God
 - Benediction – From God to you
 - End of the first part of Psalm
- Psalm 72:18-19

- End of second part of Psalm
- Psalm 89
 - End of third part of Psalm
- Psalm 106:48 – Blessed by the Lord
 - End of fourth part of Psalm
- Categories of Psalms
 - Penitential
 - Royal Psalms – Celebrate God as king
 - Messianic – Point forward to Jesus as fulfillment
- Five categories from Ligon
 - Many of the Psalms are lyric poems (a poem with one main theme / motif and comes in three parts)
 - Main theme is Announced
 - Main theme is Developed
 - Main theme is Concluded
 - Ie.: Psalm 23
 - Psalms of lament
 - Psalm 100
 - Lamenting own sin and raising up a prayer
 - Psalms of Praise
 - Praise-worthiness of God
 - Worship psalms
 - Specifically address the content and context of worship
 - Nature poems in the psalms
 - “As the deer panteth by the waters”
 - What does God’s creation illustrate how my God is or how I relate to Him
 - Rocks – sturdy
 - Psalm 19 – The heavens declare the glory of God
- Four resources
 - Phil Riken – Bible handbook (Tyndale house publishers)
 - Derek Kidner – Commentary on Psalms – Two volumes
 - Terry Johnson – Give Praise to God (P&R publishers)
 - David Robertson’s Article
- Five doctrines in Psalms
 - God
 - Who God is and what He is like and what He has done
 - The Bible is about God talking about God
 - Psalm 107
 - Man
 - Teaches about who we are
 - Created in the image of God
 - We are all sinners
 - “Who is man that [God] would be mindful of him?”
 - Deeply flawed and others times exemplary before God

- Creation
 - Creation is a testimony to God's glory
- Sin
 - The nature and the reality of sin
 - The bible reads me; knows my deceptive heart
- Worship
 - Teaches how we are to worship God
 - Acts, feelings, attitudes of worship
- Six themes of Psalms
 - There is hope
 - There is a reason to hope
 - Filled with the Lord's goodness
 - Teaches that our God hears us
 - Psalm 72:12
 - Our God is amazing
 - Psalm 111:2
 - You can and should call on God from anywhere
 - Psalm 130:1
 - Always time to worship
- Three applications
 - God is the center of everything
 - Not for our glory but for His glory
 - It is for the best of His people
 - Everything in life is meant to serve God's praise
 - Feelings must be reckoned with and expressed in our Lordship of God
 - Psalm 88

Plenary 2: Alistair Begg – Glory and Majesty of God and Psalms

- Psalm 8
 - You are majestic
- Word of God sets the agenda for our praise
- Gather in church to:
 - Hear and submit to God
 - Assembles us by His command
 - Assembles us to listen to His word
- Preaching provides the foundation for the praise
- Out of the fullness of the heart, the mouth sings
 - Look upon God and the fullness of God resulting in singing
- Psalm 8
 - V1: Majestic – infinite, unchangeable, perfect, goodness, glory, wisdom, justice, truth
 - King David who bows to the majesty of God
 - We come first on Sunday to bow down to our Lord God, in His majesty and kingship
 - Those who lead the worship don't need to cajole, and try harder
 - God speaks to us

- God ordained David to kill Goliath out of David's frailty
- V2: From the mouth of infants and babes, he has silenced the enemy
 - Every baby that is born stands as a testimony that Jesus Christ is Lord.
- V3: When I consider your heavens, the moon and the stars
 - Man is created for God. The rest of the world is created for us.
 - God created all of the fruits, flowers, creatures given to us for our good and benefit
- V4: He is marveling at the wonder that God cares for Him
 - God fashions everything. He made you, there is no one else like you.
- V5-8
 - Humanity's dignity and dominion
 - Man as the central character in all of creation. Distinguished among all of the other creatures
 - Man is given a place and appointed to rule it.
 - The Bible does not have a category for animal rights
 - V6: Commentary on Genesis 1 and later Genesis 3. The world in which we live now is defaced and dismantled by the rebellion of God. We are by nature ruined. We are glorious ruins.
 - Someone fits Psalm 8 perfectly – Jesus. Jesus is the second Adam, the perfect man, that fulfills all that is represented in Psalm 8. Jesus is the king and he must reign until the last enemy is under His feet.
- It is in the singing that people can see Jesus the King in churches and children's voices

Plenary 3: Ravi Zacharias – Creativity, The Psalms and The Human Mind

- Psalm 19 – Nature Psalm
- The heart is the law and truth of God
- We are in a post-truth society
 - We don't know where to turn for the truth and we don't know who is telling the truth
- There is an exclusivity to the truth
- We are to worship God within the parameters of God's truth
- The world for the fantasy has become truth.
- Four thoughts in Psalm 19
 - Creation
 - Beauty of light from dawn to dusk
 - Planetary moments tell a story how everything is ordered
 - Legislation
 - The law of God
 - Redemption / Transformation
 - Law does not change the heart
 - Consecration
 - May our words of our mouth and the meditation of my lips be acceptable
- Worship is the submission of all of our nature to God.

Tuesday, September 11: Day 2

Plenary 4: John Piper – Glory and Humanity from Celebration to Lament

- We are commanded to delight, rejoice, give thanks to God. We are commanded to give our emotions to God. Psalm 66:1-4
- Lots of prayers, testimonies in Psalms
- Emotions – delight in God, loving God, rejoice, exalt. They are all directed to God. We feel something towards God.
- Why is the Psalm, the songbook of the Bible, addressed by giving our emotions to God? Why are we commanded to delight in the Lord?
 - Psalm 1 – We will perish if we don't delight in God. His delight is in the Word
 - The wicked don't delight in God.
 - If we find more delight, more gladness, more joy in other people or other things besides God, we will perish / die.
 - 1 Cor 16:22 – If anyone does not love the Lord, let him be accursed.
- God can and does command our emotions
- Why would you perish if you don't delight in God above all things?
 - Because God is supremely valuable, precious, desirable, satisfying
 - When we taste God as precious, supremely valuable, satisfying, His intrinsic value becomes an experienced preciousness. The reason God created the universe and the reason He sent His son to redeem a people for Himself was to take God's intrinsic value, preciousness and go public with it and to be echoed in the experience with His people. He made the world to go public with His value and it finds an echo in His people delighting in Him.
- Not to delight in God is to dishonor and people who dishonor God perish.
- Psalm 73 - Asaph – there is nothing I desire more than you
- There are no words that glorify God more than to say that we delight in Him
- Desiring God glorifies God
- Hebrews 10:34 – Early Christians desired God more than anything, despite persecutions and the loss of all things
- God pursues His beauty and in satisfying our soul in His beauty
- No human being can be satisfied in God. It takes being born again by His Spirit through Christ to be able to be satisfied in God
- Our emotions are not optional when glorifying God
- The Psalms keep us from being naïve and helps us to navigate the seas of emotional battle.
- The Psalms are us – pain, guilt, shamed, moaning, weeping. We are in the world.
 - Paul - Unceasing anguish / sorrow and rejoice always. We can always rejoice in unceasing anguish through the power of the Holy Spirit
 - Romans 8:23 – We ourselves who have the first fruits groan while we wait
 - Joy is a battle; we fight for joy.
 - Life is battle when we delight in God above anything
 - To delight in God is what it means to be saved by Jesus as Jesus is embraced as our treasure and everything is war as things will be portrayed as being more desirable than God.

- While we fight, we wait and trust on what is to come.

Plenary 5: John MacArthur – The Psalms, The Gospel, and Eternity

- Psalm 103 – Praise Psalm
 - Matt Redman – “Bless the Lord, O My Soul”
- OT anticipation to Romans
- Yahweh – worship to Yahweh alone
- No mention of circumstance, no enemy
- Begins and ends with a personal call to worship
- Only for believers / saved / redeemed
 - Those who keep His command and remembers His precepts
- Yahweh is the one worthy of praise
- Three calls to worship
 - Internal call to worship (v1-5)
 - Command for the believer / worshipper to speak to his own soul and tells his own soul to bless the Lord
 - This cry is the soul of the believer crying to himself to bless the Lord. Intimate heart worship that reflects on the character of God
 - The song is heard in the heart before it is brought outside.
 - The heart can only go as high as the depth of one’s theology. Superficial theology = superficial worship
 - This needs to rise up in the believer – delight, gratitude to God that cannot be repressed. What causes the believer to worship – to forget none of His benefits (V2)
 - Unending recognition and cataloging in one’s own soul of all of God’s blessings and benefits. Fill your life of remembering the benefits of our salvation. Remember His benefits; God does not remember our sins
 - V3 – One of the benefits is the gospel of salvation – the forgiveness of sins from Christ on the cross. Heals our diseases – the diseases of the soul will be healed. Isaiah 1. We are a sick individual (soul). Healing is to transform our nature
 - V4 – Redeems your life from the pit – justification, redemption. Redeemed by the blood of Christ. Lovingkindness – committed love; determined acts of will to be crowned with love and compassion (sanctification).
 - V5 – Eternal benefits accompany forgiveness and is in the process of being sanctified.
 - The Lord has given us much to remember
 - External call to worship V6-18
 - Calls all the redeemed to join in corporate, congregational worship.
 - V6 – The Lord is always righteous
 - Reasons to worship God – Compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness, God will not render us guilty (V9 – not strive with us).
 - V11 - God’s committed love is as big as the vast, infinite universe
 - V13 – God is compassionate because we are His children

- V15 – Not only is His love infinite, He loved us from everlasting to everlasting. God loved us before the foundation of the earth. Gives us another reason to worship – He loved us before we existed and anyone existed. Chosen us as worthy to be a bride for His son. God has always loved His own and will always love His own.
- Universal call to worship (V19-22)
 - V21 – The hosts - The sun, moon, and everything are to praise the Lord. All creation to praise the Lord

Breakout A: John Piper – Christian Preaching as Worship

- Biblical preaching awakens and is worship
- Priorities of church should be about the preaching God’s word before missions, budgets, etc.
- Exposition – make the Bible plain and get to reality
- A preacher can fake the message on the pulpit, but only unspiritual people can be deceived. Believers cannot be deceived because they have the Holy Spirit
- Inner essence of worship (what has to happen internally for worship to be real)
 - Philippians 1:20-23
 - My guide will be magnifying, worshipping if in my dying I experience Christ as a treasure that is more satisfying than everything I leave behind.
 - Conclusion: Inner essence of all worship is experiencing Christ as a more satisfying treasure than everything we lose in death or have in life (to live is Christ and to die is gain)
 - Inner essence is not the totality of worship. Totality of worship (honoring with the lips, lifting hands) is nothing if the inner essence is not there. Those acts without the inner essence of worship smells in heaven
- Why use “Satisfaction” when relating to Christ
 - Christ is my greatest treasure (love Christ more than mother, father, wife, children, and everything).
 - The inner essence of worship must be the aim for all preaching and worship
- To awaken the inner essence of worship in the people being preached to, the preacher is first experiencing the inner essence of worship.
- As we preach the treasure, we are treasuring first.
- The devil can do exposition. The devil can explain the text up to a point accurately.
- Mindless emotional people can do exaltation over a text without knowing the text
- The devil and mindless emotional people cannot do expository exaltation who have not been illumined by the Holy Spirit
- Preaching is a gloriously peculiar kind of preaching. Bring glories of God to His people.
- Preaching is bringing the good news of the gospel salvation. The preacher is a “herald” who brings the good news on behalf of the King, the infinitely glorious authority.
- The preacher is dealing with a constellation of glories to be treasured
- The preacher’s aim is for people to experience these riches and draw them in.
- We sing from the inner essence of worship

Breakout B: The Role of Worship Leaders and Pastors in Congregational Worship – Jim Thomas, John Martin, Matt Merker, Tommy Bailey, Bob Kauflin

- Hymns by biblical themes that aligns with message
- Aligning songs with biblical text
- Complement text with hymns
- When choosing songs, possibility to provide biblical context as an explanation to why we sing a certain song
- Show people that because of who Jesus is and what He has done, these things that we are singing are true and real.
- Hymns can be a parallel commentary, a thought journey to what the pastor is preaching on that day
 - A “Danger” is to sacrifice artistry just to make the song fit with the message
- Building songs around the biblical song
- What does the song say, how does it fit?
- Growing a congregation in its musical worship experience
 - We need to remember that the best thing we have to offer is Christ. This overrides getting hung up on the format, order, lights, video, etc.
 - Psalm 95 – shouts, happy with, reminding who Jesus is and what He has done and this is why we are singing.
 - Psalm 103
 - What can we do to serve your congregation with excellence?
 - Start with the voice and songs that teach
 - Worship is not about conjuring something and asking God to come to us on a Sunday. Worship is praising God no matter how the week went
 - Need to emphasize that Sunday morning starts with preparing ourselves and encouraging the congregation that preparing themselves for Sunday starts on Saturday.
 - We don’t have to think of the music person as the only person leading music. Not in the Bible to have a dedicated “worship leader.” Music person can be an overseer and someone can pastor (ie., pastor, elder) to actually guide the congregation through the introduction of the songs and how the songs connect to the biblical text being studied

Breakout C: Sing! How Worship Transforms Your Life, Your family, and the Church – Keith and Kristyn Getty, Alistair Begg, John MacArthur, Bob Lepine, H.B. Charles

- Meditating vs singing lyric
 - John M: Singing out loud help to express praise to God. Meditating by internally and mentally running through lyrics of a hymn or Psalms also feeds the soul
- HB: Ephesians 5: Sing making melody to the heart of the Lord. It is not merely the sound but is also the heart’s desire and devotion to sing for the Lord. Singing seals truth in our minds. Singing by memorizing Scriptures
- Alistair – lyric needs to be biblically accurate and melody is sing-able
- John M: Christians are the only religion that sings. In Psalms, song and salvation go together. Christians have a reason to sing
- Kristyn: Teach children to sing

- Keith: Teach all congregation to sing. The gospel is for our family. We sing to one another, to bear witness to one another. Every time we sing, we encourage believers and encourage our kids. When teaching songs, mix songs with simple kids song along with modern and classical hymns
- John M: Musicians in church should give it everything they got.
- How to get people to sing more
 - Alistair: the word of Christ richly dwells (Colossians 3:16). Singing is a spiritual exercise. Where congregations are mumbling and not singing as fully, requires prayer not cajoling. Need to remind the foundational elements of why we sing, for praising the Lord. The lethargy of congregational singing reveals the spiritual condition of the church
 - HB: Singing is celebrating and responding and affirming to the truth that was preached.
 - Keith: Congregations that sing well is not denomination or types of music, but congregations who sing well are because of pastors who care, who teach their congregations why we sing and teach foundational biblical theology
- Missional nature of music
 - Keith: Singing is bearing testimony. When we sing, we are witness to those who go to church, who don't go to church
 - Alistair: Missional impacts of a church is in singing. The church visitor can observe as to why people they know are singing and can make them more curious as to why others are singing their hearts out. When a man's heart is full, they can't help but to sing.
 - Kristyn: Sing like we mean it, with conviction
 - John M: Singing about a transformed life is effective only when that person can see their life outside of church
 - Keith: When we sing about the gospel, sing about heaven and hell and the wrath of God so that what we sing is more effective.

Breakout D: Putting the congregation back into congregational singing: The Centrality of the Doctrine of the Church for Corporate Worship – Matt Merker

- What is a church
 - Acts 14:23
 - Body of the redeemed
 - Matt's definition: A local church is an assembly of blood bought, spirit filled worshippers who commit to affirm with one another as citizens of the kingdom with ordinances and to build one another up with the spirit of God
 - Since salvation is corporate, church is corporate
- Three themes of the church
 - A local church is an embassy of the kingdom of heaven. We are to be distinct. A church represents God
 - Matthew 18:15-20
 - 9marks.com – church definition
 - Corporate worship – not autonomous. Ambassadors of the King, representing the kingdom.
 - Worship is part of our ambassadorial witness
 - Church is declaring our pledge of allegiance

- Church worship should have the sweet aroma of what the heavenly kingdom
 - The church is God's holy temple.
 - God's special covenant is with his redeemed.
 - We are those who are already filled by God's spirit. Already gathered and united by Christ
 - We come together to seek God who already dwells within us and not to seek an experience. We come to church not with an expectation that we need to be filled but we come to church already filled by the Holy Spirit and giving our full praise to God and gratitude to God reflecting on the goodness and mercy of God.
 - The church is the body of Christ
 - Mutual edification leading to unity.
 - Each member of the body helps the whole body grow in strength
 - No Internet church – the church is a body of bodies.
 - Each member helps build up the whole. A body is physical, so the church body is physical
 - Corporate worship – not self-sufficient on our own. We meet as a body because we need it. I am too weak when I am not with God's people. Corporate worship is not a show. We minister the word together, encouraging and admonishing. Edification and worship are two sides of the same coin. Worship shapes and forms us to be mature within that body.
- 1 Cor 14 – Worship service focused on exaltation (vertical; the glory of God) and edification (horizontal; building up) and is also evangelistic
 - Someone who is not a citizen of the kingdom, not a member of the body, can't and won't worship God.
 - Contradiction to exalt and glorify God for the unbeliever
 - Exaltation and edification is a way though to reach the lost even though unbelievers are unable to exalt God and edify believers. God's word does not return void.
- Four brief suggestions
 - Practice meaningful church membership and discipline
 - Expect commitment and repentance
 - Fights consumerism and passivity
 - Membership is taking ownership for the life of the church
 - Members make the church happen
 - Practicing church discipline takes church seriously
 - Make a church visible – Highlight the ordinances
 - Baptism – church act. Sign of initiation of God's covenant people
 - Lord's supper – Family meal. Commune with God and one another
 - Use technology wisely
 - Technology should enhance worship not undermining or obscuring worship
 - I.e. Sound is a good use of technology but if too loud cannot hear one another. Projector is good but with lights turned down all the way.
 - Prioritize unity and diversity when fostering worship services
 - Generational, ethnic, socioeconomic status

- Convey that it is the whole church and not a specific subgroup
 - Let's sing our hearts out despite diverse groups and even diverse styles of music
- Rich corporate worship is not just for this life. This is a training ground for the life to come. Fix our eyes on the worship service of eternity that is to come. Worship service is congregational now because it will be congregational for all of eternity (Rev 7:9)

Plenary 6: The Psalms & The Glory of God in the Nations - David Platt

- Psalm 67
- Truth: God blesses His people so that others can be blessed

Wednesday, September 12: Day 3

Tim Keller – Impact of the Psalms

- Immersion
 - Psalms are texts, poems and songs
 - Meant to bathe and plunge ourselves in
 - When we get in trouble we are able to think of the messages of Psalms
- Teaches us how to pray in every condition and situation
 - Emotional conditional and life situation
 - Psalm 39 and Psalm 88
 - Just need to hold onto good and may take a long time to see any light
 - The presence of these prayers in the psalter shows thought and how understanding God is. He knows how we speak when we are desperate
 - When we are down, these psalms bring us up
- Joyful psalms
 - Default of the human heart is that when something goes well, we take the credit for it and it goes to our head
 - Praise psalms emphasizes God alone and breaks the desire to be self-righteous
 - When we are high, it brings us down
- How to digest the Psalms
 - Psalms were originally sung.
 - Singing the Psalms helps us to remember the Psalms.
 - Singing Psalms and hymns
- Families engaging more with Psalms
 - Family worship – start young
 - Sing 10-15 Psalms
- Church services – Psalms in worship
 - First part: Call to worship, Confessions of sin, assurance of pardon, Doxology – Psalms are perfect
 - Praising God while be aware of our sin and shortcoming and assured of God's grace
 - Second part: Pastoral prayers, scripture passages, preaching
 - Third part: Ordinance

- Psalm 95 –
 - Format: Praise, repentance, hearing God’s word, praise God
- By Immersing in Psalms, we learn how to speak to God, how to pray
 - Public prayers will not be very good if not immersed in Psalms
 - Immersed in confessions of sin, repentance, praise
- Singing the Psalms
 - Isaac Watts – Based on Psalms, though not directly Psalms put to music
 - Many hymns based on Psalms. Psalms can be used and preached
 - Christological psalms, metrical psalms
- Psalms as the bible songbook vs what is being sung in churches today
 - If we compose and choose music based on what we are interested in (grace, love, peace, etc), then our music is shaped by our therapeutic culture
 - When we choose and write music based on what the bible says, we get a God that can speak to every aspect of life, not just in bad times (the bigness of God, justice, grace, righteous, merciful, salvation)
 - Cannot select the “teddy bear” God. God is not just about love. Even in Psalms, God also judges.
 - Authentic music – getting to know God while God knows us
- Without the Psalms for music is like eating fast food – being full but not healthy
- Songs to creative people
 - Psalm 33 – Play skillfully – it is a command. Poorly executed music does not glorify God. Music glorifies God and draws people to God
- How important are Psalms for building deep, worldwide believers
 - Psalms will challenge the idols of various culture

Panel interview: Psalms Singing and the 21st Century – John MacArthur, Bob Kauflin, HB Charles, Matt Boswell, Ligon Duncan, Carlo Garcia

- John MacArthur – teaches children as young as 5 in sound doctrine. Preacher is worship leader.
- HB - Colossians 3:16 – Music and worship is an extension of the preaching of the word. Singing is for the purpose of discipling and both singing and preaching God’s word
- Ligon – Singing in addition to daily family worship (read scripture, pray, sing). Keep daily family worship short
- Matt B - Singing is hiding God’s word in our hearts. Word of Christ to dwell richly in our hearts is done many times through singing.
- Bob Kauflin – Child’s relationship is not ultimately based on how faithful we are as parents in worship, teaching, singing but on how faithful Jesus is.
- If children do not sing in our homes, we should not expect our children to sing in church. We are not fulfilling the great job and responsibility as parents if we are not modeling it first in the home and they only see singing and studying the bible on Sundays
- Ligon – look at the hymnal and be deliberate that there are many hymns that are based on Psalms (A Mighty Fortress, Joy to the World)
- Carlos Garcia – Many choices in life were made because he read the Psalms.
- Keith – fill out homes with songs of the Lord
- Inspiring congregations to worship

- HB – singing music around the truth of the word that they are learning. Sing with the congregation; Pastors to be an example to sing with the congregation. Be intentional – there are truths to these songs, there are reasons why we sing these songs
- Bob - Lead people from the word of God. Inform people music is not the great thing about the meeting; it is Jesus. Sing songs of substance so that we can know Jesus. We are to point people to Jesus. More songs that will enable the word of Christ to dwell within us richly
- Matt Boswell – preach on the practice of singing. Have a theological vision of singing. Take broad truths and make them singable
- HB: Playing skillfully honors the beauty and glory of His name
- If churches do not refresh, reinspire their congregations to sing to the Lord, what are the concerns
 - John - Symptom of superficiality and church trying to be like the world and not like the church. Do not buy into the world's music. Robbing the church of true music by not stopping the world's music from infiltrating the home

Plenary 7: JD Greear – The Psalms and the 21st Century

- Why is there so much suffering in the world?
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom - Proverbs 1:7
- Psalms have the same question that we do.
- Explore the questions behind the Psalms that every generation asks
- God is so big that that understanding is where our understanding of worship
- Job
 - Wisdom of the theologians has been exhausted and the mystery of sufferings remains (1-37)
 - No explanation to God's questions
- Four things from Job
 - God tells Job that my perspective is infinite
 - Because God's power is above mine (can create the universe), God's wisdom is above mine and so God's ways and perspective is above mine. There are some things beyond my abilities to understand and there are things that we don't know that God is working within us.
 - To understand infinite justice you need to have infinite perspective
 - God's purpose is guaranteed
 - Satan's attacks are used for God's purposes
 - God is using the same things in our struggles
 - My promises are everlasting – Job 19:25
 - Psalms are lifting our eyes to God's promises
 - My presence is pledged
 - Jesus came to redeem me.
 - I may not know what my suffering means, but it does not mean that God will forsake me.
 - God is always working in my life

- The Psalms show us that the end of Psalms is all about praising God, just like at the end we are to be eternally praising God
- We need a revelation from God to show that God is so big that He can take us through our sufferings
 - Role of worship is to show how big our God is.
 - We can rest in the arms of God feeling secure
- We need an exaltation of God's praise in this generation.

Summary

Why do we sing:

- Created to Sing
- Commanded – Second most mentioned command in the Bible is to sing
 - Psalm 66:1-4. We are commanded to delight, rejoice, give thanks to God. We are commanded to give our emotions to God
- Compelled – By our love for God
 - John Piper: Inner essence of all worship is experiencing Christ as a more satisfying treasure than everything we lose in death or have in life (to live is Christ and to die is gain)
 - Singing is expressing our hearts desire to praise our God for His love for us through His son
 - When we sing, we should sing with all our heart and mind.
- We should sing within our families. The gospel is for our family. We sing to one another, to bear witness to one another. Every time we sing, we encourage believers and encourage our children. Songs we sing help to parent children
 - Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning, God”. God is the God is the center of the universe. If you don't show children that God is the center of the universe, children will make themselves the center
 - Children are interpreters – people live by interpreting what they are seeing, experiencing.
 - Singing helps us to express joy in God
 - All of us will express joy in something
 - Singing the songs of God with the children of God in the church shows them where real joy is found and allows them to express that joy.
 - Lasting joy only comes from believers who rest and trust in Jesus
 - Singing helps us to commend and model joy in God to children
- We should sing together as a body of believers.
 - Psalm 66:1-2: Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; Sing the glory of His name; Make His praise glorious.
 - Rich corporate worship is not just for this life. This is a training ground for the life to come. Fix our eyes on the worship service of eternity that is to come. Worship service is congregational now because it will be congregational for all of eternity (Rev 7:9)
 - (Bob Kauflin) Music is not the great thing about the meeting; it is Jesus. Sing songs of substance so that we can know Jesus. The songs are to point people to Jesus. We need

psalms, hymns and spiritual songs that will enable the word of Christ to dwell within us richly (Colossians 3:16)

- (Matt Merker) We come together to seek God who already dwells within us and not to seek an experience. We come to church not with an expectation that we need to be filled but we come to church already filled by the Holy Spirit and giving our full praise to God and gratitude to God reflecting on the goodness and mercy of God.
- Singing helps the truth of God's word to be more easily remembered
- Singing helps us to pass on God's truth to others more easily
- Singing the Psalms is important as well because the Psalms teaches us about the following doctrines
 - God
 - Who God is and what He is like and what He has done
 - The Bible is about God talking about God
 - Psalm 107
 - Man
 - Teaches about who we are
 - Created in the image of God
 - We are all sinners
 - "Who is man that you would be mindful of him"
 - Deeply flawed and others times as exemplary before God
 - Creation
 - Creation is a testimony to God's glory
 - Sin
 - The nature and the reality of sin
 - The bible reads me; knows my deceptive heart
 - Worship
 - Teaches how we are to worship God
- Singing is also missional
 - The worship service is focused on exaltation (vertical; the glory of God) and edification (horizontal; building up) and is also evangelistic
 - Someone who is not a citizen of the kingdom, not a member of the body, can't and won't worship God. It is a contradiction for the unbeliever to exalt and glorify God
 - However, exaltation and edification is a way though for the believers to reach the lost even though unbelievers are unable to exalt God and edify believers. God's word does not return void.
 - When we sing our hearts out to the Lord in praise and exaltation, our singing is a testimony that shows why we sing to our great God