

WHAT'S IN A SONG?

By Sally Campbell



Heart of Worship

Matt Redman

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The evolution of music throughout the years has developed into a medium that shares stories and ideas. Songwriters and musicians of each era shared the stories of a time and place, writing into the pages of history a narrative of cultural values for that time.

Music in the church is quite a different story. It is not a reflection of cultural norms and values, but rather a medium by which we draw closer to God and gain understanding of his story, our story.

The songs we sing help us to hide God's word in our heart¹, guide us through storms, strengthen our faith and hopefully result in our reflecting the face of God in our day-to-day engagements with the world we live in. The songs we sing are aligned with the scripture we read.

When Christians sing praises to God, we understand creation and our place in it². We learn of compassion and why it is important to show it to others. We hear of grace and begin to understand mercy. We learn we are forgiven and, in turn, learn to forgive³. We learn the story from our creation, the loss of paradise and all the way to the promised redemption offered to all who would choose to remember God and accept this gift.

A well-developed song will draw your attention to God, bringing you into his presence. The beauty of such a song is that it can be intrinsically personal. This means that each hearer can experience the song in a slightly different way. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, drawing us closer to God and allowing God to teach us what it is we need to know at that time.

It is interesting to note that if we approach worship with a hidden agenda, or with no thought at all, it is likely that the message will be missed because we are distracted. This is because the entry point to worship is humility; understanding that we bring nothing, and God has everything we need. He invites us to come, because ultimately this is what we need. Our lives are bound to Him, and through this lens we see life as it was meant to be seen; larger than ourselves.

If you feel your worship becoming stale these days, take a page from Matt Redman's song **Heart of Worship**. When we purposely focus our worship on God and the great things he has done, we will begin to learn things we didn't think we needed to know.

*"I'll bring you more than a song for a song in itself is not what you have required.
You search much deeper within, through the way things appear: You're looking into my heart."⁴*

<https://youtu.be/P-Zp586pvZg?si=v5-SbQZwfcl4UPDp>