

My Loved Ones:

Ps 40:3 says, “He has put a new song in my mouth - / Praise to our God; / Many will see it and fear, / And will trust in the LORD.”

Ps 40:2 says that the LORD brought David out of the miry clay, and now David has a song. God brought him out of the mire and into the choir! God can do the exact same thing with us, if we turn our focus upon Him.

Notice that David speaks about the LORD and his bad condition in Ps 40:1, 2, but he makes sure to get his eyes off of himself and onto the LORD. Naval-gazing will always take us in bad directions. We won't be able to see where we are going clearly, nor will we have a clear purpose and definiteness in our steps. Our eyes were meant to be up and out, not on ourselves.

What is this “new song.” Many of the younger generation wants to bring new music into the church, and like to use this verse as a proof text for them (as well as Psalm 96:1; 98:1; 149:1; etc.). And it could refer to brand-spanking-new music, yes. Remember: the old hymns that we sing today at one time were brand new. But this word in Hebrew is not mostly used this way. It is used in the sense of “renew; repair; fresh.” It is the same one used in Ecclesiastes that there is nothing new under the sun; of course, there are brand new things, but down at the core, they are all the same old pleasures, possession and pride. It is used of God's mercies in Lam 3:23 that they are new every morning. It's not that God has brand new mercies that He never created, but they are new in that they are fresh and renewed for our renewed day. Job says in Job 29:20 that he longs for a time in which his rejoicing will be “fresh” or renewed within him. What's the point? Just this: Yes, we can learn brand new music, but God is more concerned that our hearts and minds are renewed, repaired, and fresh as the words of what we sing come fresh from us. The younger generation would be right that we need brand new things if all they see from us is the same old stuff coming out of our mouths without one little bit of inspiration or real joy. Down on that kind of Christianity! Our praise to the Lord must be fresh, enthusiastic and invigorating, even if we sing older stuff (or newer stuff).

But David wants to be contagious to others. He doesn't just want to be a display to others and attract attention, but he wants others to take God seriously. He's not one of these “so heavenly minded that he is no earthly good.” He wants other people to be benefitted by them seeing him and then they are to put their trust in the LORD. Our confidence, commitment, dependence and reliance on the LORD should be so contagious, that others want to have what we have. Want to have a growing church? We must start with ourselves and what is going on inside us. Are you contagious?

Praying for you today, my loved ones.