



Songs in the Night: Music, Hardship, and the Nearness of God
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A Personal Story: The convergence of music, hardship, and God's nearness

Three Reflections

1. Faith does not need to look like emotional fortitude.
2. Our corporate singing should enable us to fulfill the command of rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep.

"I would like to make just one observation: the psalms, the Bible's own hymnbook, have almost entirely dropped from view in the contemporary Western evangelical scene. I am not certain about why this should be, but I have an instinctive feel that it has more than a little to do with the fact that a high proportion of the psalter is taken up with lamentation, with feeling sad, unhappy, tormented, and broken. In modern Western culture, these are simply not emotions which have much credibility: sure, people still feel these things, but to admit that they are a normal part of one's everyday life is tantamount to admitting that one has failed in today's health, wealth, and happiness society.... Few Christians in areas where the church has been strongest over recent decades – China, Africa, Eastern Europe – would regard uninterrupted emotional highs as normal Christian experience." -Carl Trueman, *The Wages of Spin*, p.158-59

3. The Psalms offer us an expansive vocabulary for relating to a gracious and sovereign God while living in a messed up world.