

Friday, June 6, 2008

Psalm 6 "What Will God Do For Me?"

I love to read the Psalms and then paraphrase them in my own words. This helps me understand a little better what the Psalmist may have been experiencing and it helps me to see how he related to God. Today I read Psalm 6. Here's my paraphrase.

Psalm 6

O Lord, let Your anger cool down before dealing with me.
I've already brought physical agony upon myself.
Show me Your mercy and healing instead of Your wrath.
Even my soul cries out to you,
"Hurry God! Hurry! Save me!"
If for no other reason than this -
Because Your love for me is unfailing!
If I die, there will be one less set of lips to give you praise.

I am physically worn out from crying -
All night and all day I wrestle with these agonizing thoughts.
I can't see beyond my own pain and sorrow
Because my enemies and their accusations are in my face.

I will say to them, "Get away from me, you who do not fear God -
For the Lord hears the weeping of my repentant heart,
He hears my cry for mercy, and He accepts my request."
And all my enemies and accusers will be put to shame -
Running away with their tails between their legs -
To see such great love of God Himself for me.

Paraphrased by Dave Hill

David was experiencing something in his life that made him petition God to correct him with mercy and healing rather than in anger and wrath. It appears that David felt God's judgment on him was just and imminent and he is in agony over it both physically and emotionally. David's weeping and crying in sorrow most likely displays a heart of repentance in this Psalm and not just regret for being "caught" or found out. His remorse is evident.

David's enemies are of interest to me in this Psalm. Are these "foes" simply enemies of David that are by-standers observing how God corrects His children or are they perhaps what David is referring to as God's discipline on him with wrath? Perhaps it's not either/or but both/and. In either case, David's appeal to God's unfailing love is successful and God hears and responds to David's request to show mercy on him. Neither God's wrath nor David's enemies overtake him but rather David is overcome by God's unfailing love and the enemies are overcome with dismay.

Have you ever wondered what God would do for you when you don't deserve any favor - but you only deserve His wrath and anger? Have you ever wondered if all the bad stuff in your life is just coincidence or if it's God's way of disciplining you? I have. And yet this Psalm declares that if we cry to Him for mercy that He will give it to us. Why? For no other reason than His unfailing love for us. Cry out to the Lord for mercy and experience His unfailing love.

Posted by Dave Hill in General at 11:28

Sunday, July 22, 2007

Here With You

It was a rainy day and I was spending some quality time at home - alone. I'd recently received a wonderful gift from a friend - a Taylor classical guitar and I just couldn't resist the urge to take it out of its case and do some finger picking. I sat down with it at the dining room table looking out the window as the rain was mostly recognized by the drops trickling in the street. I had detuned the guitar to an open 'D' or Drop 'D' tuning and began playing some chord progressions eventually stumbling onto this one. Soon I was humming a few bars of what was to become the melody.

It seems that there's something about a rainy day that just makes you want to evaluate life. Maybe it has something to do with the washing or refreshing of the earth I'm not sure. I began singing "I wanna live like I've never lived before; I wanna feel like I've never felt before." And this song was starting to take shape.

As we grow in our walk with Christ, one thing we eventually learn is that all of life should be viewed through the grid of our relationship with Him and the ever increasing knowledge of what we are learning through the Word and the Spirit. And so it was with this song. It couldn't just be a song about wanting to freshen life up because the grid I was looking through required something more, something deeper. The addition of the simple words "Here with You" satisfied the need. I want to live here with You, Lord, like I've never lived before; and I want to feel like I've never felt before, here with You, Lord. The second verse demanded an even more obvious statement to express the desire to see and know the Lord like I never have before while the rain itself became my muse for the chorus.

The song was completed in a few hours and this recording was made on that cold rainy day. Whether you just listen or sing along maybe the feelings of a rainy day will be brought back to you forcing you to evaluate life once again and even more make you desire a deeper relationship with our Lord who brings us the warmth of the sun even on cold rainy days.

I wanna live like I've never lived before
I wanna live like I've never lived before
Here with You, here with You

I wanna feel like I've never felt before
I wanna feel like I've never felt before
Here with You, here with You

Chorus

And when the days are cold and rainy
And there's nothing that I care to do
I just want the rain to come
And wash away my troubles too
But when I look to You,
You're like the sun that's shining on my face
You warm the through and through
And all because of You're amazing grace
And I wanna stay here with You.

I wanna see You like I've never seen You before
I wanna see You like I've never seen You before
Here with You, here with You

I wanna know You like I've never know You, Lord
I wanna know You like I've never know You, Lord
Here with You, here with You

Posted by Dave Hill in Song Blog at 13:14

Monday, May 14, 2007

Without You

I originally wrote "Without You" in 1993. I remember picking up my guitar and sitting back in a wingback chair. As I began to play I picked out the notes to the introduction then the melody. Being somewhat melancholy, the melody, more or less, dictated the words to me, "I don't want to live my life, Lord, without You".

It's not really any new revelation and there really aren't too many ways to say it. It's simple and to the point. It doesn't mean that I want to take my own life when I feel like the Lord's not with me or when I feel at my lowest; but it means that I don't want to do anything in my life without including the Lord in it.

He is my hope and He is my strength. Why would I ever want to pursue anything without the Lord? I hope this song encourages you to walk with the Lord and include Him in everything you do.

I don't want to live my life, Lord, without You
I don't want to dream my dreams, Lord, without You
'Cause when my hope is gone
And I don't want to go on
When my strength is gone
Lord, it's You that makes me strong

I don't want to live my life
I don't want to live my life
I don't want to live my life without You

Words and Music by Dave Hill
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This newer rendition of "Without You" is simply a result of wanting to freshen up a song. As a songwriter there's always that desire to write something new. That's what makes me keep writing - wanting a new, fresh way to say something to the Lord. In this case most of the lyrics remain the same and the newness is simply in updating the melody a little bit. I've also added a new simple chorus that restates the truth of where my hope and my strength come from - from the Lord.

The song remains accoustic in nature. I hope you like it and that it will continue to encourage those who hear it to encounter the Lord in their everyday living.

I don't wanna live my life, Lord, without You
I don't wanna dream my dreams, Lord, without You
'Cause when my hope is gone
I don't wanna go on
And when my strength is gone
Lord, it's You that makes me strong

You are my hope
You are my strength
You are the One who makes me strong
You are my hope
You are my strength
You are the One who makes me strong

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Posted by Dave Hill in Song Blog at 09:48

Monday, April 9, 2007

Everyday Everywhere

Everyday Everywhere is a song that calls for God's people to sing His praise right now, right here, wherever we are.

Psalm 33:3 says, " Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. For the word of the LORD is right and true; He is faithful in all he does. The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love."

We always have a reason to praise the Lord. Whether we see Him doing something in our life right now or not, His word is right and true and He is always faithful. He is righteous and He is just, pouring out His unfailing love over all the earth.

David praised the Lord seven times a day according to Psalm 119:164. I like the way Eugene Peterson puts it in The Message, "Seven times each day I stop and shout praises for the way you keep everything running right." Let's practice giving the Lord praise everyday and everywhere. He alone deserves our praise. "Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live." Psalm 116:2

Nothing else compares to how You love me
I'm gonna love You, I'm gonna love You
No one else can do the things You do for me
I'm gonna praise You, I'm gonna praise You
My life could never be the same without You
I never really lived a day 'til I found You.

Everyday, Everywhere
I'm gonna love You
Anytime, Anywhere
I'll praise Your Name
Everyday, Everywhere
Lord, I love You
Anytime, Anywhere

Right here, I love You, Jesus.
Right here, I praise Your Name.
Right now, I love You, Jesus
Right now, I praise Your Name.
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Posted by Dave Hill in Song Blog at 14:15

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Worshipping God For Who He Is and What He Does

God has been teaching me lately that He delights in making things opposite, that is, when it's for the better. God's nature is total goodness and He must truly enjoy turning things that are bad into things that are good. He must like things that oppose Him because through these things He's able to reveal to us His character and His power, and as He turns things around, usually for our benefit, we should not forget to turn ourselves around and worship Him and give Him praise for what He's done.

Consider the following truths found in God's Word: When we give away our lives for God's purposes we find life that is truly life in Him. When we give away our money for His purposes we receive blessings from heaven that we can't contain. When we're poor He makes us rich. When we're weak He makes us strong. When we're sick He wants to heal us. When we're discouraged He wants to encourage us. We are sinners but He makes us holy. We deserve death but He has provided eternal life for us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Our God is a God of oxymorons. We are holy sinners. We are living sacrifices. If we make ourselves last He makes us first. If we humble ourselves He lifts us up.

How much more exciting the Christian life would be if we could learn to live and think this way all the time. Not by tearing ourselves down but understanding that we are His delight and that He wants to and will bless us and lift us up as we build others up and put them first. What an impact it would have on our prayer life too, as we understand that God is waiting for us to pray in faith believing in Him to turn the bad to good and turn around all things for His glory and as we look forward to praising Him for the things that He does.

I have a good friend who's been diagnosed with cancer. As I pray for God's healing touch on him I keep having one recurring thought and that is this. that I will praise Him when my friend is pronounced cancer-free and even lead a praise service to give God the glory. I'll always worship the Lord for who He is, but I want to give God an opportunity to be praised for what He does too. I'm looking forward to the day when I will worship the Lord for this one specific act that I'm requesting.

I must try living this way more often; always looking for opportunities to praise the Lord as He answers my petitions to help others and myself. My worship takes on a whole new meaning as I bring needs before the Lord in prayer and anticipate His answering them and giving Him praise for what He's done!

Posted by Dave Hill in Thoughts on Worship at 12:58

Sunday, March 4, 2007

Tell You About Jesus

This is an interesting song from a lyrical perspective. As I wrote this song the lyrics that came to mind were "I just want to be the one to tell you about Jesus". The song art, show above, really communicates what I was thinking and feeling as I wrote this song. It's an evangelistic song that expresses the joy that we have in telling others about Jesus. While this song doesn't really fall into the worship song category or the spiritual formation category, it is a song of a spiritual nature.

All worship music has an evangelistic element as described in Psalm 40:3, "He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord". This song, however, is direct in it's evangelistic approach as the lyrics are directed directly to those who have not yet put their trust in Jesus as their personal Savior.

As you listen to and sing this song you'll also find that it does encourage us as believers to share the message of Christ with others. It could be especially effective sung by a children's choir or youth group.

I just want to be your friend
I just want to hold your hand
I just want to be the one to
Tell you about Jesus

I call you friend
Even though we're strangers
But there's nothing
Stranger than the love of God
So take my hand
And I will lead you closer
I wanna lead you
Closer to the face of God

I want to see you smile
To know that you're God's child
I want to be the one
To tell you about Jesus

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Posted by Dave Hill in Song Blog at 23:34

Friday, February 2, 2007

He Talks With Me

Every morning I step into the shower and begin a conversation with God. I'm not planning my day at this point or even asking for a revelation of what He wants me to do today. Instead, I just talk to Him about whatever comes to mind. Like my pastor, David Daniels, said in a sermon a few weeks ago, when you're praying and your mind starts to wander, go ahead and chase that rabbit! If something's heavy on your mind then talk to God about it, whatever it is.

Have you ever had one of those awkward moments when you're alone with someone and you don't know what to talk about? You start out by asking some simple questions to get the conversation going before you know it you've found something of common interest and you're talking up a storm. That's the kind of conversation I have with God in the mornings. Sometimes it's slow getting started but once the conversation gets going it's hard to stop.

This morning, for some reason, my mind wandered and I began to think of that mind-boggling thought that God has been around forever! I know you've thought of it before too. You can only think about it for a short time before your brain starts hurting. What was God doing before Genesis 1:1? What was the universe like with nothing in it except God? Every question I think of leads to two more questions and soon the questions alone start seeming like an eternal list.

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon wrote that God "has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end." Because God has set eternity in my heart, something within me knows that eternity exists. And if eternity exists then I'm even smaller than I thought I was and God is even bigger than I thought He was.

David must have felt this way when he wrote "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him?" In relation to the vastness of the universe I am so very small and all I really know is what I can touch and smell and taste and see. Maybe that's what David was thinking when he wrote Psalm 8, "taste and see that the Lord is good". In other words, "Look here! I know that God is real because I can taste Him and I can see Him!â€•

The scriptures teach that by believing through faith in God and in Jesus Christ as my Lord that I have been reconnected with my creator. I am His child. I have a secure future in Him. I have a relationship with Him. Whether I believe in anything else, I believe in God, and in Jesus, and in His Word. As I talk with God, I know that He's real because I can taste and see and smell and feel Him with my spiritual being.

This is the God I worship. The one true and living God. A personal God who is mindful of me and cares about me. So I'm content about not understanding eternity past because when this life ends I have all of eternity future to sit and talk with God.

Posted by Dave Hill in Thoughts on Worship at 11:04

Monday, December 11, 2006

My Christmas Tree

"My Christmas Tree" has always been a favorite song among those who have heard it, from people in the church I grew up in, through my college years, and still today. This is one of the earliest songs I've written. My high school band director and good friend, Jim Par-Due, suggested the title for this song and I took him up on the challenge to write something. The bridge was added several years later.

This song questions the significance of the Christmas tree as we know it today and proclaims that the cross or "tree" on Mount Calvary, where Christ was crucified, is the real tree that should be revered at Christmas time. As I wrote this song I discovered many similarities between the Christmas tree and the cross.

The star or angel on the top of the tree symbolizes the proclamation of the star and the angels that the Savior has come. The cross also proclaimed with a sign nailed to the top of the cross that Jesus was the Savior of the Jews.

The fir tree is said to have been used by a monk in Germany, because it was an evergreen and because of its triangular shape, to teach people about the Trinity and of God's salvation. The cross reminds us of the death of Christ for our salvation, which was the Father's plan, fulfilled by Christ, and sealed in us by the Holy Spirit for all eternity.

Ornaments on Christmas trees were originally fruit, nuts, and berries that symbolized the return of life in the spring. Jesus claimed to be "the way, the truth, and the life" and his place on the cross was imperative to fulfill His claim. The cross is our symbol of hope for life eternal in Jesus Christ.

In addition to ornaments, presents were often put in or on the Christmas tree. Jesus was put on the cross as God's gift to man, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." Christmas trees are often decorated with ornaments of wreaths or may even be wrapped with grapevine wreaths. Jesus hung on the cross with a wreath of thorns placed on His head as a crown.

Martin Luther is credited with being the first to decorate a Christmas tree with candles as symbols of the stars in the heavens. On the cross hung the Light of the World and the One who spoke into existence heaven and earth and all the stars in the sky.

Underneath the Christmas tree is where we place our gifts for our loved ones. At the foot of the cross is where the blood of Jesus flowed, the greatest gift to all the world.

While we may not all start putting up crosses instead of Christmas trees at Christmas time, may we always be reminded that as incredible as the birth of Christ was, it was not His birth that saved the world but His death. He didn't come into this world as a king to set up His kingdom, as many expected, because He first had to come to complete the plan of salvation, to redeem mankind by becoming a sacrifice acceptable to God for the forgiveness of all mankind. So when you see a Christmas tree remember the tree of Calvary where God's great gift to man was given.

It's time we settle down
And take a look around
Let's take a little time
And watch the snow fall to the ground
It's time that we look up
To the starry sky and pray
And thank the Lord for sending us
His Son on Christmas day

It's time for Christmas carols
And a warm lit fireplace
The Christmas tree's reflecting
All the smiles on each face
Yet it really has no meaning

After Christmas it is lost
But the tree that stands for Christmas
Is the rough old rugged cross

So come with me to Calvary
And see my Christmas tree
Standing high in majesty
For all the world to see
Come with me to Calvary
And you will plainly see
That God's undying love has made
The Cross my Christmas tree.

It's a thrill to get a present
Underneath the Christmas tree
But the greatest gift
Is the blood that was shed
At the foot of Calvary

Posted by Dave Hill in Song Blog at 22:14

Saturday, November 25, 2006

Everything I Need

"Everything I Need" is one of those songs I just sat down and started playing. It came at one of those moments when you realize "it's all good" and that God is in control. There was nothing spectacular that happened that day. There were no particular blessings or circumstances that put me in the mood to write this song. It was just a simple moment of recognizing Who God is and what He meant to me, in my life, at that particular moment. It was a recognition that everything good in my life is a result of Him.

This song isn't teaching the "Prosperity Gospel" when it says, "You give me everything I love". But rather this phrase is the final thought in a progression of thoughts. God gives us everything we need, He has provided us with everything we have, and everything that He gives us, and only what He gives us are the things we love! The song then goes on to state that everything we need, everything we have, and everything we love is found in Him, when it says "I need You, have You, love You." And the bridge makes it's perfectly clear, as we declare that "You! Are everything I need. You! Are everything I have. You! Are everything I love".

The apostle James says in his book, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created (James 1:16-17). God is the Father of light, who gives us good and perfect gifts from above. James makes it perfectly clear that God is not the author of temptation, or sin, or death; but God is in stark contrast to these things.

Ron Blue, in the Bible Knowledge Commentary, says that the phrase "every good and perfect gift is from above" is actually a Greek poetic cadence that is literally translated "every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above." This is interesting in light of the context of James' passage being about temptation and the process of evil desires giving birth to sin and sin giving birth to death. In contrast to the process of death, God gives birth to us through the word of truth and He gives us good and perfect gifts so that we in turn will give birth to more "perfect gifts" through "every good act of giving" as God's gift of life is passed on to all who will receive it.

So what better reason could we possibly have to shout to the Lord, "You! You're everything I need Lord!" He has provided us life through His son, Jesus, and this good and perfect gift has been passed on to us through the ages. God alone is the source of everything we have and everything we need.

Posted by Dave Hill in Song Blog at 17:18

Friday, November 24, 2006

Fly With Me

Listen to "Fly With Me"!

I'm often surprised at how many people have only a partial understanding of the basic teachings of the Bible. Things like where we will spend eternity, what the role of the Holy Spirit is, and where Jesus is, right now, and what He's doing? God's Word teaches us that Jesus is physically sitting at the right hand of God the Father interceding for us and acting as our mediator to the Father. In I Timothy 2:5-6 the apostle Paul wrote, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men." And in Romans 8:34 Paul wrote "Christ Jesus, who died"more than that, who was raised to life" is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."

"Fly With Me" came about out of this understanding of where Jesus is, and having a desire to physically enter into His presence to worship Him. And more than that, it is an invitation for others to come and worship Him with me. There's just something about worshiping the Lord together with others who share the same adoration for our Savior.

The lyrics of this song vividly portray what our eyes of faith see as we fly and soar in spirit into the throne room; Jesus, himself, sitting at the right hand of God the Father. There we kneel together as we worship our Savior and our Father.

While this is a song about bringing others with us into the holy of holies to worship, it's also about the intimacy that we have with Jesus and our Father God. This song doesn't just leave us on our knees in worship but it takes us directly onto the lap of God and face-to-face with Jesus as we caress his face and adore him who's love for us is unmeasurable.

I'm often surprised at how many people have only a partial understanding of the basic teachings of the Bible. Things like where we will spend eternity, what the role of the Holy Spirit is, and where Jesus is, right now, and what He's doing? God's Word teaches us that Jesus is physically sitting at the right hand of God the Father interceding for us and acting as our mediator to the Father. In I Timothy 2:5-6 the apostle Paul wrote, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men." And in Romans 8:34 Paul wrote "Christ Jesus, who died"more than that, who was raised to life" is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us." So close your eyes, humble yourself, and freely experience the intimacy of God in your personal quiet times and even when you worship him together with others. With certainty we will one day see Jesus face to face and perhaps even now we can begin to consider how we will respond when we see him. Will you only kneel before him in worship because you are unworthy to touch even his sandals, or will you in your new found righteousness embrace him and touch his face and kiss his scars? Many will be watching when you do and they won't be thinking how strange you are; instead they will be eagerly anticipating their moment with Jesus.

As we worship in community, let's not look at how others worship for any reason except to be in awe and wonder at how in love they are with Jesus. Today we enter by faith into his presence to worship him but soon we will be standing before him in a real physical place and we will be able to worship Him face to face for all eternity. Jesus we love you!

Close your eyes and come into His presence
Enter through His gates with eyes of faith
See our Savior sitting by our Father
There they wait for us to enter in

So fly with me
Into the courts of heaven
Kneel with me in worship at His throne
Soar with me into the holy places
And touch the face of the One who loves us so

Words and music by Dave Hill.
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Posted by Dave Hill in Song Blog at 17:53

Tuesday, October 17, 2006

About Me

When I was about nine years old, my brother and I got some little portable AM/FM radios for Christmas; mine was red and his was white. Those little radios opened up a whole new world to us - the world of music. We were constantly changing the channels listening to all different kinds of music. We lived in the Chicago area at the time and somehow as we scanned the stations we almost always landed on WLS or WCFL.

My interest in music sky-rocketed and my dad brought home an acoustic guitar for both my brother and I one summer day. I imagine he was hoping those guitars would keep us entertained for the summer, but little did he know they would entertain us for the rest of our lives.

I remember learning my first chords and learning some songs from a songbook. I learned three or four songs and performed them for my mom and dad. "Red River Valley", "God Didn't Make Little Green Apples", and "The Witchita Lineman" were a few of the first songs I played and sang. My guitar playing excelled when I started learning to play songs that I liked on the radio. Every week I looked forward to getting my allowance and walking to the music store to buy a new 45. Okay, so now I'm dating myself. For those who don't know, a 45 was a small record (played at a speed of 45 rpms) and it was generally a "single" of a current top 40's song that was being played on the radio. On side B, there was another song by the same artist usually from the same LP (a long-play album played at 33 rpms). Buying a 45, back then, would be much like downloading an mp3 today of a hit song being played on the radio.

My first 45 was by a group called "Bread" and the song was called "Everything I Own". Some of my other favorite artists were the Beatles, The Guess Who, Simon & Garfunkle, James Taylor, Gordon Lightfoot, America, Chicago, Neil Young, Carol King, Carly Simon, and Jackson Browne - to name a few. Wow, what a great period of singer-songwriters. As a nine year old, I was in heaven between my 45's and my baseball cards.

My brother and I are like night and day. He liked songs with heavy electric guitars and loud bass and drums while I was drawn to the acoustic sounds of the guitar and vocal harmonies. There was just something about that sound and I wanted to learn how to play and sing that way. Occasionally I would even buy a songbook or sheet music to learn to play certain songs and eventually I learned to figure out the guitar chords to songs by listening to my records.

When I was about eleven we moved to Florida and it was there our family got seriously plugged into church. Church was a great outlet to me for music and I started playing in the church orchestra and singing in the choir. At about 14 I started to play around with the piano and became highly motivated to learn to play and sing. I was able to speed up the learning curve by learning to play chords on the piano, just like I'd been doing for years on the guitar.

I started to write music about that same time and while I think I wrote some partial songs with the guitar, my songwriting really took off as I was learning to play the piano. Within a year I was playing and singing songs I had written in church, and was regularly helping lead the singing in our youth group, in children's church, at youth camps, for the "Jolly Sixties" and in nursing homes.

Staying involved in church was a great blessing for me during my high school days. I clearly remember one of our church services where the pastor gave a charge the youth to commit their lives to the Lord to serve Him and I felt the call of God on my life and committed to serve Him in vocational ministry. When I graduated from high school there was no doubt that I should pursue something that involved music and ministry.

I enrolled at a Bible College in Springfield, Missouri where I majored in music composition and Biblical studies. It was there that I met some wonderful life-long friends including my wonderful wife, Sherri. After graduating, Sherri and I were married in her home town of Mishawaka, Indiana and we moved to Dallas where furthered my education in Theology at Seminary.

While attending Dallas Theological Seminary I was blessed to be able to lead worship part-time for several churches in the area. Whenever I wasn't employed part-time by a church I was involved with the worship ministry in our home church, Pantego Bible Church.

When we started to have children, Sherri and I were committed to her staying home as a full-time mom and that meant that I needed a full-time income. God miraculously opened a door for me to work in engineering in the aircraft industry. I

remember perfectly the day that I started training and I remember learning that our insurance began that very day too. And yes! They covered pre-existing maternity. My son, David, was born that night. What an incredible sense of timing God has!

If you know anything about the aircraft industry you know that the work comes and goes in waves along with government contracts. In the aircraft industry you're often either working over-time or getting layed-off. After several lay-offs and re-hires I decided that I was cut out for something with a little more stability.

A friend at church hired me to help him with his roofing business, then another friend hired me to help him track capital expenses for an amusement park which eventually opened the door to work full-time in the point-of-sale department. It was during this time that I was once again voluntarily leading worship for a start-up church in South Arlington when God reminded me of His call and of the desires and strengths He had placed in me to serve Him in ministry leading worship. All these years had passed but the desire to serve the Lord in full-time vocational ministry never subsided.

The timing was right with my job and I put my resume together to start looking for a church where I could serve full-time. God didn't initially open that door but He was gracious to allow me to keep working at my current job while being employed part-time by our home church as an assistant to our worship pastor. When we built a new building I was invited to a full-time position and the timing couldn't have been better.

God is amazing in all He does and in the ways He directs our paths. As I look back I can clearly see that there is order in everything that happens, even in the chaos. God's timing is impeccable. His direction is intentional. And His blessings are overwhelming. Today, I serve as Worship Pastor at Pantego Bible Church and I thank the Lord daily for what He's done in my life and I look forward with great anticipation, to what He's going to do today, tomorrow, and everyday!

Posted by Dave Hill in My Story at 12:07