

Types of Church Music

Eph. 5:19, Co. 3:16

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1985 (Rev. 05)

1	Psalms (authored by the Holy Spirit In Scripture)	<p>1. Definition: The Hebrew word “Psalm” (Hb. “mizmor”) literally means, “song.” Hebrews called the book of Psalms the “TEHILLIM” which literally means, “songs of praise.” The Greek word for “psalm” (Gr. “psalmos”) means, “to pull, twitch, and play upon a stringed instrument. This implies musical accompaniment.</p> <p>2. Usage: Unit psalms which are those set in poetic form having both rhyme and measure; fragment psalms which are phrases used in hymns and choruses "thy Word have I hid in my heart".</p> <p>3. Purpose: they deal with life in relation to God. They express many subjects of life: prayer (Ps.34:6), praise (Ps. 146:1), and testimony (Ps. 34:6).</p>
2	Hymns (human authorship directed to God)	<p>1. Definition: the Greek word “hymn” (Gk. “hymnos”) literally means song of praise. Some music authorities feel Paul, James and John under the direction of the Holy Spirit used parts of early Christian hymns in their writings (1 Cor. 13; Eph. 5:14; 1 Tim. 3:16; 2 Tim. 2:11-14; James 1:7; Rev. 1:5-6; and 15:3).</p> <p>2. Purpose: to express to the Lord prayer, praise, thanksgiving, worship, adoration, humility, and submission. They are intended to give unto God. Self-gratification is not the purpose of a hymn.</p>
3	Spiritual Songs (believer's new nature expresses itself)	<p>1. Definition: the word “song” (Gk. “ode”) is a generic term for song or hymn. The adjective “spiritual” (Gk. “pneuma”) means, “wind, breath or life principle.” Spiritual was added to make a distinction from all other types of music.</p> <p>2. Usage: this type of spiritual song may be a Psalm, a hymn or a type of song of the spirit. They would express songs of testimony (gospel songs) songs about God (attributes) and songs about our new life.</p> <p>3. Purpose: this type is in direct contrast to the world's music. This type expresses the new nature which should be a marked difference from the old nature. Jazz, Rock, Contemporary Christian, Country/Western, Gospel Rock seems to emphasize old nature songs.</p>

