

On one of my visits to the woodcarver, I found him working with the singer making a ten-string lyre. They let me in on their discussion of the quality of instrument's sound in terms of resonance and the process of proper preparation of the materials used. The latter involved choosing a suitable block of wood and drying it out. Then the core had to be hollowed out, thinning the shell, so that it allowed resonance of the sound that was generated by the tightened strings that crossed the opening. The singer was looking forward with great anticipation to using this new lyre in his own worship and the development of songs for it.

It will be critical that the instrument, after being finished with decorations and varnish, be diligently taken care of. It cannot be left out in the sun, or the rain, or put in a closet where rodents can make a nest in it. It doesn't matter how well the strings are tuned if the resonance of the body is not effective. It must be used regularly and I must say, lovingly, to allow it to produce the beautiful worship music that it is made for.

After I left them, it struck me that there was a similarity between what we had been discussing and the parable of the sower¹ that Jesus presented to us. I thought of the soils as something that had levels of resonance, as only the best soil is capable of life, growth, and production. In order to have a good crop yield, the soil must be prepared by removing stones and briars just as the body of the lyre must be kept clear of debris or dirt².

Sometimes we feel the emptiness in our own soul, and we are not able to resonate with the Spirit of God. We try to fill the "empty" space with worldly things³ – and our spiritual voice becomes suppressed and diluted. But we need to fill it with the presence of God⁴, for He made us and our heart is truly silent until it resonates with Him⁵.

1. Matthew 13, Mark 4, Luke 8.
2. See Hebrews 12:1-2.
3. "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself." Blaise Pascal, *Pensées* VII(425).
4. As C.S. Lewis explained, "The soul is but a hollow which God fills." In place of hollow (a resonance volume like an acoustic guitar) I like the word vessel, something beautiful and artistic. Our souls are exquisite vessels created by God for him to saturate. I picture the round, curved basin at the top of an elegant fountain, with water spilling down all sides, running over with unceasing life. Wasn't that the promise? "As Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them" (John 7:38). *Get Your Life Back*, John Eldredge, p. xvi.
5. The slight word change was made to the famous passage from St. Augustine's *Confessions*, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."