

A Six-Month Introspective on Pursuing the Will of God for Music at Harmony Baptist Church

In these initial weeks of having the privilege of serving as director of music at HBC, the Lord has prompted me to research and devise this six-part series, aimed at individual and collective alignment with God's will for music at Harmony Baptist Church.

In each of the six submissions, we are invited to prayerfully examine our attitudes and efforts in the music ministry against, not against our norms and attitudes, but rather against the teachings of Scripture. The goal is to encourage continual growth, humility, and excellence in serving Christ through music. Each part will truthfully address a key area where we need an attitude shift. *"Speaking the truth in love"* is my aim (Ephesians 4:15), so that our service becomes ever more pleasing to the Lord. Please receive each installment with an open heart and a prayerful spirit.

Part 1: Called to Continual Growth in Christian Life and Ministry

Every Christian is called to **lifelong growth**. There is no retirement from learning in God's kingdom – and this is **especially true for those in ministry**. The Bible urges us to never become complacent or think we have "arrived" spiritually or skill-wise. Peter commands believers to *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"*. In fact, he teaches that if we cultivate Christlike qualities **"in increasing measure,"** it will keep us from being **ineffective or unfruitful** in service. The clear implication is that **stagnation leads to ineffectiveness** – a sobering warning for anyone serving in worship ministry.

Even the **wise and mature** must keep growing. Proverbs says, *"Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning"*. In other words, a truly wise person never stops learning. If we ever catch ourselves thinking *"I'm too old to learn"* or *"I already know enough,"* Scripture corrects us: *"let the wise listen and add to their learning"*. A servant of God should remain teachable at every age, **"still bearing fruit in old age"** and staying fresh and productive. There is no biblical age at which we can excuse ourselves from growing or improving the gifts God gave us.

This continuous improvement applies to **ministry skills as well as character**. Paul urged Timothy, a young minister, *"Do not neglect your gift... be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress"*. Even a pastor like Timothy, who was already serving, needed to show visible progress week by week. How much more should church musicians – who hold a ministerial role leading others in worship – strive to improve continually. God has **entrusted us with musical gifts and a calling**, and He expects us to steward them diligently (cf. 1 Peter 4:10). *"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who... correctly handles the word of truth"*, Paul wrote to Timothy. By analogy, a church

musician should **do their best** to handle God's praises skillfully and faithfully. We should never be ashamed of honest effort to improve for God's glory.

In summary, **Scripture leaves no room for complacency**. Our spiritual life and ministry should be on an upward trajectory, *"shining ever brighter till the full light of day"*. We have not "arrived" – even Paul said he had not yet attained perfection but kept **"pressing on"** toward his high calling (Philippians 3:12–14). Likewise, we must press on in honing our musical abilities and deepening our hearts of worship. This honors Christ and sets an example to the congregation of what a growing disciple looks like. Let us embrace the mindset that **growth is a lifelong calling**, and ask God to *"fan into flame"* (2 Timothy 1:6) the gifts within us for His service.

Coming next week...

Part 2: New Wine, New Expectations – Rising to the Challenge