

# STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP

By W. Timothy Bailey

This is Part 1 of a series based on the book *THE 7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CHOIR REHEARSALS*  
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**Music = communication.** Music accurately has been described as the universal language. A powerful medium, music reaches the very core of the listener's soul lifting, encouraging and edifying in a manner that no other means of communication can even dare to compare. That's what music is. That's what music does.

But why is it that some music blesses while some just sounds blah? Vocal Coach Chris Beatty poses it this way: "Have you ever heard two singers sing the same song only to have one sound like a musical robot, and the other a gifted communicator? What is the difference between the two performers? The novice simply sings words on assigned pitches. The mature communicator takes words and thoughts and integrates them into the music." Now isn't the latter what you truly long for? Music that matters. And the good news is you can communicate more effectively. It's all about your relationship.

You can only communicate what you know. Perhaps you know a lot of stories about Jesus but do you know him? I mean in an intimate way. If you want to communicate Jesus effectively through your music, you must have a vibrant, personal relationship with him. This involves more than just church membership and attendance. Don't get me wrong. Church membership and regular attendance are essential to any musician who wants to experience more than just a mediocre musical existence. However if you desire that "exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or even imagine" musical experience, you must passionately pursue a more vibrant, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It's not too difficult because he really wants to have that type of relationship with you!

Here are a couple of simple steps to start you on the road to strengthening your relationship:

## ♪ READ YOUR BIBLE EVERY DAY

As a child, we sang a song that said, "If you read your Bible and pray every day you will grow, grow, grow." The next verse said, "If you don't read your Bible and pray every day you will shrink, shrink, shrink." Wow! What big truth in such a simple little song. Do you want your music to grow and mature? Read your Bible and search for scriptures that illuminate the lyrics of each song you sing. Study those scriptures in various translations of the Bible. Meditate on them until you gain understanding. Through his word, God will breathe the breath of life into your lyrics.

## ♪ PRAY TO GOD EVERY DAY

Prayer connects you with God, the power source. "Much prayer, much power - little prayer, little power - no prayer, no power." If you want your music to possess power, maintain an effective, fervent prayer life. I'm not talking about reciting a cute little prayer just to "make it today." No, I'm talking about touching the heart of the omnipotent God! As you stay connected to God in prayer, you'll experience an infusion of his awesome power into your music. Your music will minister.

The meaningfulness of your music is directly proportionate to the meaningfulness of your relationship with Jesus Christ. So let's power up your relationship and see how much more effective your music ministry becomes.



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