



Midweek Meditation



"And whenever the harmful spirit...was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it...and the harmful spirit departed from him." 1 Samuel 16:23

*We know that music is hateful and intolerable to devils. I firmly believe, nor am I ashamed to assert, that next to theology no art is equal to music; for it is the only one, except theology, which is able to give a quiet and happy mind. This is manifestly proved by the fact that the devil, the author of depressing care and distressing disturbances, almost flees from the sound of music as he does from the word of theology. This is the reason why the prophets practiced music more than any other art and did not put their theology into geometry, into arithmetic, or into astronomy, but into music, intimately uniting theology and music, telling the truth in psalms and songs... My love for music, which has often refreshed me and set me free from great worries, abounds and bubbles over. **Martin Luther***

I recall suggesting to one of my members at a former congregation that he take a church hymnal home with him and sing from it out loud every day. I made this suggestion because he greatly feared that an evil spirit, a demon, had taken up residence within his body. Not only would this practice be good for him in singing the words of the Gospel; it would do much to drive the devils away (even if he had a poor singing voice). Music by itself cheers the heart. When the sweet words of our Lord are put to music, this is using both barrels of the shotgun against the devils. But for us, music which carries the Gospel, is a two-fold blessing from God.

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul praise Him, for
He is your health and salvation! Let all who hear now to His temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration! Amen.*