

## **A TIME FOR SINGING**

**December 14**

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I am not one for remembering exactly what people write on birthday or Christmas cards. Usually I am the type of person who wants to open up the card and see if there is anything else in the envelope!

But I remember on the occasion of my 17th birthday what my Mom and Dad wrote to me in a card. There were the usual loving regards that most people write in the cards of a loved one. But, at the end, my Mom wrote in her beautiful writing "you have a song in your heart, do not be afraid to sing it."

When it comes to Christmas, there is no time during the year that I love to sing more. I love Christmas music. I love the messages they bring and the feeling you get in your heart when you sing them. From the time I was a teenager I have been involved with bringing these songs to the many congregations I have been a part of. This is such an honor.

It is interesting to me that in every season of our lives, songs hit differently. When I sing Silent Night for example, I think back to being a child and having my grandpa sing that song to me as I went to bed. I also remember my mother singing it in church while we lit our candles on Christmas Eve. When I hear the song Away in a Manger, my mind goes back to my little cousin singing it on Christmas eve for special music at her church when we were visiting them.

In this season of my life, these songs bring me back but they also speak truth to my heart. One of the realities in the last few years is the fact that my parents divorced. Gone are the days where my family would meet together and spend Christmas at our childhood home. This brings me a great deal of sorrow, and over the past couple Christmas seasons in the background of my heart there has been a bit of brokenness in my singing.

With that said, I also feel the incredible hope that this season brings despite my circumstances and the message of hope has been even sweeter for me and my family. Even though our world may seem deeply broken, the peace of Christ rules in our hearts and our hearts still sing a song of love and hope and peace. I am thankful for the life I have, and hold on to the promises that God gives, and those promises are there for you as well.

**Please read Colossians 3:12-17**

During this season remember that your heart longs to sing a song of hope. Don't be afraid to sing it.