



GOSPEL *for* LIFE

Sing Loud, Die Happy with Jim Thompson

Season 4, Episode 1 Transcript

[00:00:01.810] - Darryl Dash

Welcome to the Gospel for Life podcast. We help churches make disciples. And now here's your host, Darryl Dash.

Welcome back to the Gospel for Life podcast. Today we're kicking off our fourth season. I've got some great guests lined up, and I can't wait to talk to them.

I'm really happy to talk to our first guest this season. His name is Jim Thompson, and Jim is the teaching and equipping pastor at Fellowship Greenville in Greenville, South Carolina. And he lectures widely on biblical theology. He's an armchair musician and songwriter. I'd like to hear more about that. Actually, I don't know much about his songwriting.

He's also author of [A King in His Kingdom: A Narrative Theology of Grace and Truth](#). And Jim has written a book with one of the best titles I've ever heard. It is called [Sing Loud, Die Happy](#). I just love that. I've been quoting that all over the place: *Sing Loud, Die Happy*. And it's an explanation of how God's gift of song is meant to change us. One of the lines in the book, Jim writes, "Jesus died so that sinners would be singers". I love that.

So, Jim, welcome to the podcast.

[00:01:19.290] - Jim Thompson

Oh, man, it's an honor to be on here.

[00:01:21.930] - Darryl Dash

So you are a songwriter, actually. Where can somebody find your songs? Maybe you don't want them to!

[00:01:26.680] - Jim Thompson

Dude, why do you have to lead with that!

So two places. I get to help head up our summer internship program here at our church, which is usually about a dozen college students. And the first year we did it was 2013. And we just seeing him, so we don't have to do public domain stuff. But it's just like a couple of people in the guitar, a couple of guitars, or like a couple dozen people in a couple of guitars. But we started to record them and they sound so bad, but they also sound really fun. And so we called it the Saint Cecilia and the Melody Makers, which she's patron saint of Music in the Roman Catholic Church. So that's on Spotify.

I write my own music under just Jim T, period. But it's only on Bandcamp, which is like an artist streaming site. I need to put on Spotify, but I'm too lazy, and I just write dumb playful songs about my wife and my kids and my friends, and that's just for me. But it made my author bio on the back of my book have more free cred.

[00:02:26.440] - Darryl Dash

So that's amazing.

[00:02:28.470] - Jim Thompson

I don't want money to go listen to it.

[00:02:30.300] - Darryl Dash

Actually, let's talk about your book. You are writing about a subject that we take for granted. We do it as believers. I don't know a believer who doesn't sing. So how did you get interested in actually exploring the importance of singing to the Christian faith?

[00:02:45.850] - Jim Thompson

No, man, I think my first how did you get into it? Is what you just said.

Dude, if you're to ask the seasoned faithful followers of Jesus, hey, talk to me about the five most worshipful times in your life, and they're going to tell you some really great stories. I'm just going to go ahead and roll the dice. Singing is going to be all over that. And so I do think there's this visceral, spiritual, existential like thing deep in our gut that's entry level.

Besides that, my personal deal is my mom is just this sweet, happy, soulful, joyful woman, and she's been in Christian ministry her whole adult life and my whole life, and my mom would just sing all the time. She'd make up, like, songs, the Bible verses she was reading, which was fun. In the King James 30 years ago, she would sing about how my brother and I needed to chill out with each other. And so singing was just kind of like part of the air that I breathed in my childhood.

And then this is actually a fun fact. When I went off to college, I actually played in a black gospel band with Stephen Furtick from Elevation Church. And he told me he would go play in black churches. And before that, I was just like, punk rock rules the world. Four chords. Make it fast, make it go, make it loud. And I love that. And it was just like, put it in my veins. It was part of my formation and my spiritual formation because some of those are really great bands and godly people in them. And then I learned, like, black gospel, and I actually learned how music worked.

And so singing and song were just there for very formative parts of my life. And through that journey, I became a hopefully, Bible snob, Bible nerd Bible guy. And every morning I start my personal time of Scripture reading with reading the Psalms. And so just the replete welcome to hey, come sing is just almost omnipresent. It's terrifying. And so not only the biblical commands, but the lack of attention to the biblical commands and the lack of attention to why those things are commanded, basically, it was a self-indulgent project. I wrote the book that I wanted to read, and so as far as books on singing, I found a couple out there.

There's a Lutheran guy who wrote one of the mid 20th century, but there wasn't just a lot on the idea of singing. There's music and worship and liturgy. But as far as books that are seeking to understand the function of singing and what it does in our lives and why it does what it does under God's sovereign and sweet wisdom, I just didn't find those things. And so I was like, all right, I got to scribble some stuff down here.

[00:05:21.190] - Darryl Dash

I think the best books that are written are ones that authors want to read, so that's usually how we end up writing stuff like that.

[00:05:27.750] - Jim Thompson

Yeah, man. And I'm a part of a group that we have big hymns singalongs here in the south, American south, and the amount of people that show up for those things is bonkers. It's just so many people, so many different denominations, and we just have these big sing alongs and there's something so sweet about them, and we lower the bar of expectation. It's just fun and playful, and we don't make it hyper liturgical or tied to a local church. Of course, I'm pro local church to the grave, but it's just people love that part of it. Like the singing experience. There's something that we're drawn to there. And yeah, I just got to the point where I was like, oh.

And obviously the other thing is when the COVID stuff hit, it's like you felt the absence of it hard. And so I didn't start writing it, had some ideas scribbled down, like, oh, this will be a fun book. I didn't start writing it until Christmas 2020, because, man, I was in the year 2020. I was feeling the ache of, oh, where did it go? I miss it now.

[00:06:26.590] - Darryl Dash

So you were in a Biblical theology book. Really a good chunk of the book is actually looking at Scripture and singing in the different parts of Scripture. You go through the Hebrew Scriptures, you go through the Psalms in particular, and you spend some time in the New Testament, and it's really interesting to him.

In my own study, I'm going through Deuteronomy right now. And you're getting right to the climax where Moses is exiting the scene and right at the climatic point there you've

got Moses singing a song, which is really cool. I don't think I've read Deuteronomy a number of times and I've dismissed his life is really ending with a song. So it's everywhere in Scripture. It's amazing.

[00:07:06.910] - Jim Thompson

That dude around me song is hilarious because right before that, he sets up that today I set before you blessing and curses, life and death. Choose life that you might live. And then he gets to 32, and the prologue to the song is God going, Hey, Moses, I'm going to teach you a song so that you can teach everybody else. And they'll remember it when they choose curse over blessing and death over life. And so song was supposed to be a part of the fabric of things, even when things weren't going well. And yeah, it's more places than you think when you're actually pressing the Scripture.

[00:07:38.220] - Darryl Dash

Given that, why do you think it's reflecting on my own life and thinking how many sermons I've heard on song and how many have actually preached on singing? And I would have to say it's probably a handful. So given the fact that it's all over Scripture, one of the most repeated commands in Scripture, and it's on almost every page, why have we paid too little attention to the subject?

[00:07:58.690] - Jim Thompson

I think one reason why it's been a little neglected is because we do it and we can feel that it's good when we do it. Like we can feel, hey, we're singing truth about Jesus. We're singing truth about the Gospel. We're singing the truth about who we are as needy or who we are as our identity in Christ. We're singing these truths, and we know that these truths are right. And Melody, married to poetry, married to theology, enters our souls in such a way where we're like, doggone, this is good. This is right. This is real. This is true. And so I think some of the neglect of the exploration has been due to the fact that it really is a functional beauty.

But at the same time, when I think about that, to me that's go explore it more rather than just let it sit on the surface of it works. It's that line in the Psalms that's a sung line, his greatness is unsearchable, where you can see that and go, I don't have to

worry about continuing to search if it's never reach the end of it. But I think David's talking about an invitation there.

His greatness is unsearchable. So keep exploring, keep thinking, keep scratching at it. And so I do think there's a part of it where it is beautiful, it is wonderful, and it does work. So if that's the case, why do we need to limit the depth of why that's the case? So do you think that's one thing you're asking, why the neglect?

[00:09:12.260] - Darryl Dash

Yeah. Why do we assume it but not really even teach about its importance?

[00:09:16.780] - Jim Thompson

This might be wrong, but I think a lot of people trained in the teaching space aren't musically minded. If you want to do any grand stuff, Enneagram 3s and 8s who are like, achieve or challenge, or you have pastors and leaders who are like, okay, we've got to do community, or We've got to make sure the liturgy's right, or we got to do these things. And sometimes they don't have the artistic poetic patients to sit and do music stuff. Luther said we shouldn't ordain people to ministry unless they're musically trained. And I just wonder if there's a connection there. And love that exploration pushed me to the joy of that stuff.

But, yeah, I think that's a fun discussion. Why has it been perhaps so neglected?

[00:09:59.520] - Darryl Dash

So I know you're somebody who's committed to preaching. You and I are part of a study group that gets together every year and works through a book of the Bible and talks about how to preach it. So I know in your role as a preacher and a teacher within your church and talk to me about the fact I think a lot of preachers can think that what we need is more information. And almost like what every Christian needs is an intellectual download of truth.

[00:10:23.980] - Jim Thompson

Yeah.

[00:10:24.460] - Darryl Dash

And I don't know, good preachers know that actually preaching is a emotive too, that it doesn't just deal with truth. It actually calls people to respond with their whole being.

But yet there's something that music can do that's unique in the corporate gathering. I can think of last weekend, actually, as we gathered in a church, and a part of the ministry that happened in my life happened during the singing that took place during the service.

So what can singing do that maybe sometimes even preaching doesn't do consistently?

[00:10:54.400] - Jim Thompson

Yeah, that's great. That's great. Obviously, our Lord sums up the total way that we should relate to him with love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, strength, and love others yourself. And so, however you parse that out, heart, soul, mind, strength, I think it's an invitation for all of us to be engaged with all of who God is and all of what God is doing as it's revealed in the gospel.

And I do think, just like you have different genres of literature in the Bible, you have the poetic of psalms that you're supposed to feel deep in your gut. And you have the didactic, if you will, of Leviticus, Deuteronomy, the epistles, where it's more like you're following, therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God, like you're following a line of reasoning. So I think our teaching times in corporate worship are awesome. I love getting to teach the Bible at my church, but I do think there is something past our natural sensibilities, past our reasonability, that reaches deep into our gut that song can touch, can get to. I also think that's the nature of corporate melody. There's a book by a gal named Jeanette Bicknell called [A Philosophy of Singing](#) and she does great research on what is happening when we sing.

If you sing with other people, your breathing is the same and your heartbeat is actually synchronized, which makes you like a collective single drum, which is pretty awesome. And they found at the University of Berkeley 220% more disease fighting proteins in

the mouth when the choir sings. And the louder they sing, the more literally disease fighting proteins they find in the mouth.

But Bicknell is well aware of all these things and she talks about how one of the greatest activities that you can do as a human to create social bonds is sing with the same people regularly. And so we know at a level past the five senses that there's something happening when we sing together and there's a unifying bonding covenant or dare we say, sacramental holy sweet good thing that's happening when we sing together.

And it's not that it can't happen during the gospel being preached. It's not that it can't happen when, you know, you're exposing a passage of Scripture. It's that it seems as though those things were meant to be together, like the open word and the open mouth, to sing together and to then listen to the gospel wash over you from Scripture.

It's like they are supposed to be in tandem to encourage the saints. So, yeah, I do think there are things that singing can do to us that the preached word can't do. And recognizing that I think is a good thing. And it doesn't downplay preaching it uplifts.

[00:13:36.130] - Darryl Dash

Singing the gospel and how well the two go together. I love that. That's really good.

So, Zephaniah 3:17, you highlight this in the book. I love the image.

The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

And you write, here we meet God the singer. That blows my mind to think of he doesn't need to sing. He doesn't have to sing. He created music. It's meant to serve him. And yet he sings. He is this is Yahweh, the father of his covenant people. Israel bellowing

out a song. This is it is a mind blowing to think about what is the significance of God actually being a singer.

[00:14:14.940] - Jim Thompson

Yes, there's so much prophetic imagery in the back half of the Hebrew Bible that's just so rich and fun. And it's like Zephaniah knows he's saying something that is just out of rich, glorious, that here God sings and here it's that he's, like, quieting us with a soothing song of his love. He will quiet you with his love, but at the same verse, it's like he will rejoice over you with singing. There are multiple Hebrew words for singing in this passage right here. And so I think Zephaniah knows that he's tapping into something that's really huge when he talks about God the singer. And even the word right there for shout for joy or cry out is the Hebrew רָנָה, which is like a resonating song. He's both quieting you with his love song and he's singing big time there. And so there's something about that seems to be bigger than Zephaniah's metaphor, I think.

[00:15:11.810] - Darryl Dash

You know, what a CS. Lewis image of God singing the world or Aslan singing the universe into existence, if that was in Lewis's mind when he thought of that.

[00:15:21.310] - Jim Thompson

And I also think him and Tolkien probably got together and chatted about that because in *The Silmarillion* Ilúvatar does a similar thing as Aslan and sings creation or sings the world into being. So there has to be something there. And yes, it's a metaphor, but I think it's for Zephaniah. I don't want to psychoanalyze Zephaniah. I think it's a metaphor, but it's a metaphor born out of a reality that Zephaniah knows song is supposed to be a part of our life so much, but from whence has that come? Like, what if it's a part of God's own life? And so perhaps that's why he attributes to God singing like that. He is singing God the singer there.

[00:16:01.120] - Darryl Dash

I hate to cherry pick through your book. There's so much there. I love the whole section on tracing singing throughout the Bible, but I want to fast forward to act 16 and the story there.

I love Paul and Silas in prison in Philippi, and I've always read that story and focused on the miraculous release from prison, the reaction of the jailer, baptism, of course, so many things there. I don't think I've ever paid that much attention to the fact that they were singing hymns to God before they were released from prison. So why is that more than just a minor detail, but it's actually kind of a key part of the story there?

[00:16:38.510] - Jim Thompson

Yeah. Oh, I love it. Yes. I think a really fun study that helps the Acts 16 question is to notice the juxtaposition of prayers and earthquakes throughout the Bible, because when they're singing, they have the earthquake, and then that's how all the freedom happens. And it seems as though the prayers and the earthquakes and the rest of the Bible mean even all the way to Revelation, with the martyr praying under the throne of Revelation 6. Like the prayers that lead to divine earthquakes that cause some sort of rescuing activity from God. It seems as though those are sung prayers. And so what you have here is you have this little sub narrative through different pictures like earthquakes. It's hinted at a few times throughout the Bible.

And then so when that happens, in actuality, in Acts 16, that singing is almost like this hinge on which that story swings a little bit because they're praying and they're singing. And also the context of it is a big deal. It's like they're doing that in prison, which doesn't make any rational sense. Like, we have to have our lights right and all this stuff cued on Sunday mornings.

But actually, Luke says that they're in the back of deepest part of the jail. And so if what comes out of your mouth when you're in the hardest place in your life, when you're in the darkest place in your life, if what comes out of your mouth is singing, then that must mean that it has a grip on your heart as well.

And so their singing is more than just a functional external mechanism that gets God to do a thing. It seems as though it was a very deep part of their lives, Paul and Silas. And

I love that it sets the story in motion, if you will. Pushes the snowball down the hill right there. John Scott in that passage says, "It is wonderful that in such pain, with lacerated backs and aching limbs, Paul and Silas at about midnight were praying and singing hymns to God. Not groans but songs came from their mouths. Instead of cursing men, they blessed God. No wonder the other prisoners were listening to them."

[00:18:35.060] - Darryl Dash

It's so good.

[00:18:36.510] - Jim Thompson

It's so wonderful.

[00:18:37.860] - Darryl Dash

Yes. Jim, I want to lead you, maybe in dangerous territory into the local church and singing and ask you a couple of questions. So here's a dangerous question You can skirt it if you want.

Do you notice that there is a tendency sometimes for our corporate worship, depending on your tradition, to almost seem like a concert in a way, but you got the band on stage, you've got really well done produced music and yet you look around and maybe the congregational singing isn't there. It's more just like an appreciation of what's taking place on the stage. I'm sure there's a lot behind that, we could parse that.

But as we look at the singing within the local church, what advice would you give to pastors and music leaders on how to build a healthy singing culture in the church?

[00:19:25.540] - Jim Thompson

Oh, wow, bro. I'm not a worship leader at my church, so I know that there are different responsibilities that come along with that. And so I know that whether it's the cultural pressure or the pressure of that specific local congregation, I know there's a lot of layers to that. But yeah, it's a very fragile question.

I would say first and foremost that the language that we try to use is that we are about participatory rather than spectator worship. So I grew up as a Southern Baptist and my dad was a pastor and we would do what do they call responsive readings because we couldn't call it like the Roman Catholic liturgy stuff. But the responsive readings were in the back of the hymnal, and it would be like one print was in bold and the worship leader, the music minister back in the day would read that and then everybody else was supposed to read the other part and I remember reading those and it's feeling really dry. But now I see that there can be a beauty to that if we read a creed together and a couple of people on stage read it and then the congregation responds.

So that idea of participatory worship to say, hey, we're in this together, we're singing together, so explained liturgy is more helpful liturgy, so if you just do the thing and you don't explain it, it's less beautiful and it accomplishes the goal and not as a clear and healthy way. So that idea about saying, hey, we're called to sing together, this is participatory worship and not spectator worship. So just saying it I think is good.

I also think that making sure this is why I'm a fan of old hymns, so this is where I might get in trouble. Old hymns were written with the melody in mind, with the human voice in mind. And since recording music is a big deal in the past hundred years, only 100 years, like now, instrumentation is the thing that's in mind, like the groove and the hook and the bass, which again, dude, I'm all about because I'm like a kind of a ghetto musician. But it's written with the groove in mind and the melody can be more performative, it can go and swing and shrill and dance, which is cool and sounds really pretty, but that sometimes isn't as accessible for average singer Joe and the peer of the chair.

And so that idea of singing songs that are melodically accessible, that are theologically rich, telling people that we are called to sing to one another. Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Ephesians 5. Colossians 3. So explaining the liturgy of we are offering this to the Lord.

We are doing this. Even the Hebrew word hallelujah is both a vertical expression of praise and a horizontal command that means, "Hey, you! Praise him, praise the Lord."

And so saying things like that, hey, we're calling each other to sing and we're singing together.

So worship leaders having explained liturgy, whether in the call to worship or in between a song and obviously depending on your tradition, you can be more hymns heavy or more like pop worship heavy. I think that there's plenty of room for different kind of expressiveness given the generation research in the cultural context or whatever, but a Jesus centered attentiveness that realizes that we are all called to participate and respond to who Jesus is. And we're to do so with accessible, normal melodies and not with his performance like nobody wants to sing with Stephen Tyler song. And so just simple, practical things I think are really helpful to explain how valuable singing is in God's economy for his people.

[00:22:54.560] - Darryl Dash

Over the summer, we attended a church that is fairly well known and the entire service was really memorable. But one of the highlights of that was the congregational singing was just so strong and our son, who's 23, walked away and he said one of the things he really appreciated is guys his age were singing, not just a little bit, but they were belting it out. And as he walked away, I think it strengthened in his faith because he looked around and found people like him are actually belting it out. So it was cool, because the ministry of the word was strong there, but there was something that happened just by watching other people sing and evidently really mean it, that accomplished something in his life which was pretty cool.

[00:23:38.620] - Jim Thompson

Yeah. And you have to create a space where people want space to sing, where they feel like it's okay to let it rip, where they feel like it's normal to sing out. Now, that doesn't I don't know what that means about level of decibel, but I think if you're light show and your fog machines and all your stuff is so hyped that people are more allure to that and by that than the invitation to sing the gospel, to me that feels a little backwards. But if those things can accent and nudge people to lift up their voice, I think that's great. Yes, it's tough to be the space where the reverb is just right, the room is just right. Maybe it's bouncing off the stained glass windows or whatever. It's

tough to be the space where you just feel naturally invited to go, I'm going to jump in on this thing. That can be a really sweet space.

[00:24:28.010] - Darryl Dash

Yeah, that's so good challenge for us. So Jim, I love talking about habits. I've written a couple of books that talk about habits and I love in your book you write about the habit of singing and to quote you, "We might need to try some new habits of song so that we more fully receive and enjoy God's gift." So talk to us about what are some habits we can develop. I've never thought about habits of singing before or habits of song. What are some habits we can develop in our lives and churches?

[00:24:56.210] - Jim Thompson

Oh, man. I mean, from a musical standpoint, like just the rock beat is 4/4 and then the slow 6/8. So sing songs in different time signatures, sing songs in different keys. Sing songs in different genres. I love that the melody excuse me, that the lyric kind of betrays the melody. And that old tune of the Deep Love of Jesus, which is a minor song and like a 6/8. And so seeing minor songs and major songs, sing songs that are very repetitive.

I know some people would like to think that they have big theology brains. They don't like repetition. And I'm like, you can tell David to shut up in Psalm 136 and elsewhere. So sometimes you need to sing with repetition, but that's all you sing. Then that's a waste. You need to sing songs that are like going to stretch your mind with the poetry and the thinking. You need to sing songs with a lot of density. Jesus I My Cross Have Taken is an old hymn that's got more words than 1 and 2 Chronicles that seems eternal. You need to sing with people outside of your generation, outside of your race or ethnicity.

One of the fun things that I like to do is every once in a while I'll go up to our student ministry on Sunday night with high schoolers and I'll play bass and I like doing that because I like singing with people of a different generation than me. But also sometimes we sing songs there that we don't normally sing in, like big church Sunday morning at my church. And so just finding ways to experience songs distinctly and differently I think can be really helpful.

Another one is sing songs in a different size group. So when we do our thing with our summer interns, like, we go in a back stairwell where it's super echoey and there's just like a dozen of us and we'll thunder out some old hymns and maybe some newer songs. But that's a rich, sweet time with zero production and it's just a dozen-ish people. But I think that makes it sweeter when we do gather on a Sunday morning and it's everybody and it's a bigger invitation and a bigger deal, which makes the stairwell even sweeter. And so finding different spaces to sing in, I think that helps. Here's a great illustration for that answer.

That question. A song cannot be one song note that never stops. It has to have layers and melodies and harmonies and notes and breaks and time signature. In the same way, learn the beauty of singing with different people who are like you, outside of your generation, outside of your race and ethnicity, outside of your tradition. Sing in different spaces. That will give song the texture that it was meant to have, which I think will give it the value, the transformational value that God intended it to have. So just finding different spaces, different contexts. And if that means you got to change up your seat that you usually take on Sunday morning than do it. So yeah, there's a lot of fun options, there different habits.

[00:27:38.210] - Darryl Dash

And what do you hope will happen in somebody's life as a result of reading your book?

[00:27:42.730] - Jim Thompson

I do hope and pray that the Scriptures would be sweet to them and that Jesus would be just irresistibly wonderful to them to the point that they don't see singing as like an option at a buffet, but they just see it as this has to be part of the main course. There is a way that God's gift of song connects us to the divine life, connects us to each other, that other things can't do. And so in Jesus name, I pray that they would see singing as this tool that is irreplaceable in their walk of faith. I think in my preface I'm about just in front of me, I said, Jesus's earliest father's followers resolved. Hey, we can't help but speak about what we have seen and heard. And so I would be deeply honored, and I think God would be too, if we could similarly testify, hey, we can't help but sing about

what we have seen and heard when we're paying attention to Christ. So yeah, just that they would have a cattle prod to melody, to Jesus' melody, if they read it.

[00:28:44.470] - Darryl Dash

Amen. I say a big amen to that. I want to ask you a couple of personal questions as we wrap up here. What are you learning lately? It doesn't need to be from a book. Just what is God teaching you in your life and ministry these days?

[00:29:00.040] - Jim Thompson

I think patience is a really powerful thing. First, the way Paul talks about love in one Corinthians 13 and I think sometimes patience and the broad cultural idea of tolerance can get lumped together. But I think the biblical idea of patience offers us something that just generic cultural ideas of tolerance can't offer us, and that is the Greek word is μακροθυμία, long suffering. So there's something about patience where it's stay put. The thing you want to learn, the thing you think you need is not at the flip of a light switch. It's not at the end of a simple equation. The thing that you think you need, Jim, or you think you want happens overtime. And it happens in my time, says the Lord.

So whether it's parenting or some ministry context and shepherding context, I'm thinking about right now, I want to rush and fix things and I want to rush and go, "Hey, this is what's right, real and true and beautiful in the world, let's just be quiet and do it, can we?" I think that's prideful and I think that's presumptuous and not love is patient. And so I really sense that God is teaching me those things right now, both in my home with my wonderful wife and kids and here in God's home and God's family where I get to shepherd and pasture.

That just feels really forefront, especially then. On top of that you had the hurried nature of our worlds and makes it feel like everything has to be within reach at all times. All the good stuff has to be within reach and I think love is patient speaks a different word that my heart definitely needs to hear.

[00:30:39.810] - Darryl Dash

That's profound. And what is encouraging you lately?

[00:30:43.810] - Jim Thompson

Lots of books. Books are my friends. You can see behind me and I can see behind you. Just feel like I'm reading stuff lately that is terribly insightful and does things to both mind and heart that are really rich and fun and I love talking about the stuff I read and so that's been great to find some good books, whether Be Thou My Vision, a prayer Book released by Jonathan Gibson at Crossway, Dan Block's Covenant book. I'm reading a book called The Genesis of Gender by Abigail Favale. She's a Roman Catholic. She teaches at Notre Dame, which is excellent. Jeremy Treat's book Seek First: How the Kingdom of God Changes Everything. I have a book by called Death to Deconstruction: Reclaiming Faithfulness as an Act of Rebellion by a pastor in Portland named Josh Border that I'm really looking forward to.

So I just feel like God has put a bunch of good books across my path lately that have been to the mind and encouraging to the heart and hopefully that will yield a greater presence and grace and truth to people that have called love. So it's been encouraging. I think ideas are my gateway drug of encouragement.

Like, just the way God's wired me. And so that's felt good over the past few weeks, having some good stuff to chew on.

[00:31:55.330] - Darryl Dash

And you've just given me some more books from my book list, so thank you for that.

[00:32:00.120] - Jim Thompson

It's the worst because it's always like, hey, have you read? Have you heard? What about this? This is coming up. It's this unending task and I always want two extra hours every morning to postpone my responsibilities for the day and just feed my brain, heart and soul. Alas, sometimes that's not possible.

[00:32:16.840] - Darryl Dash

No, a lot of days it is it. But books are a blessing from God, that's for sure.

[00:32:21.000] - Jim Thompson

Amen.

[00:32:21.750] - Darryl Dash

Final question how can people find out more about you and your book.

[00:32:25.660] - Jim Thompson

Yeah, I am @jimthompson777 on most of the social media things. You can just Google the old *Sing Loud, Die Happy*, and if you want to attempt to stick it to Jeff Bezos, you can go to the publisher's website, which is wipfandstock.com. And I think you might be able to actually get it cheaper there. But, yeah, that's where you can find my most recent book and you can listen to sermons that I get to preach at [Fellowship Greenville](#). I'm grateful to minister God's word there on occasion. And so, yeah, those are places where my work and ministry is out there.

[00:33:02.080] - Darryl Dash

Thank you, Jim. It's a great book. I love the title and the content is just as good, so really appreciate being able to talk.

[00:33:25.840] - Jim Thompson

Thank you.