

Because (1) we're taught from very early on that comfort is our goal and security...and (2) that we should always seek for a lot of people to like us. Who lives more comfortably and has more "fans" than the latest bright and shining gospel star? Who has lived less comfortably and has had less friends and supporters than the selfless people who have died untimely, premature deaths trying to conquer souls and whole nations for the whole glory of God as missionaries and soul winners?

Do you really believe we're living in the very last times? Then why do you spend more money on gospel records and concerts than you give to organizations that feed the poor, or to the missionaries your church is supporting?

There are ministries all over the world where people who have nothing to "tithe" on are being saved and transformed. Broken people with nothing to hold them back except not having anyone to hold their hand during the times when it all looks completely hopeless.

I repent of ever having recorded one single song, and ever having played even one concert, if my music and (more importantly) my life has not provoked you in godly jealousy (*Romans 11:11*) to sell out completely to Jesus!

Quit trying to make gods out of music ministers, and quit desiring to become like those gods. The Lord commands you, "*Deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Me.*" (*Luke 9:23*) My piano is

not my cross, it is my tool. I'd never play the thing again if God would show me a more effective tool for proclaiming His Gospel.

## CONCLUSION

To finish, let me say that the only music ministers to whom the Lord will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," are the ones whose lives prove what their lyrics are saying, and the ones to whom music is the least important part of their life—glorifying the only worthy One has to be the most important!

Let's all repent of idolatry, and seeking a comfortable, rewarding life while we are passing through like strangers and pilgrims in this world. (*Hebrews 11:13*) For our reward is in heaven...and our due service to the Lord is "*not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.*" (*Phil. 1:29*)

Amen...Let us die graciously together and endure to the end like brave soldiers who give their lives, without a thought, for our noble and glorious King of Light.



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# MUSIC OR MISSIONS ?



by  
**Keith  
Green**

**T**oday, so many people ask me if I can tell them how they can start or enter into a music ministry. At concerts I get countless questions about this, and I get lots of letters and even some long-distance phone calls from so many people who feel they are just "called" into the music ministry. One day, I began to ask myself why so few have ever asked me how to become a missionary, or even a local street preacher, or how to disciple a new believer. Everyone, it seems, would prefer the "bright lights" of what they think a music ministry would be, rather than the mud and obscurity of the mission field or the streets of the ghetto, or even the true spiritual sweetness of just being a nobody whom the Lord uses mightily.

## ARE YOU WILLING?

My answer to their question is almost always the same. "Are you willing to never play music again? Are you willing to be a nothing? Are you willing to go anywhere, and do anything for Christ? Are you willing to stay right where you are and let the Lord do great things through you, though nobody seems to care or notice at all?" They all seem to always answer each of these questions with a quick "yes!" But I really doubt if they know what their answer entails.



## STAR STRUCK

My dearest family in Jesus... Why are we so star struck? Why do we idolize Christian singers and speakers? We go from glorifying musicians in the world, to glorifying Christian musicians. It's all idolatry! Can't you see that? It's true that there are many men and women of God who are so anointed to call down the Spirit of God on His people and on the unsaved. But Satan is getting a great victory as we seem to worship these ministers on tapes and records, and clamor to get their autographs in churches and concert halls from coast to coast.

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**"So of course, what we idolize, we ourselves desire to become, sometimes with our whole hearts."**

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Can't you see that you are hurting these ministers? They try desperately to tell you that they don't deserve to be praised, and because of this you squeal with delight and praise them all the more. You're smothering them, making it almost impossible for them to see that it's really Jesus. They keep telling themselves that, but you keep telling them that it's really them, crushing their humility and grieving the Spirit that is trying to keep their eyes on Jesus.

So of course, what we idolize, we ourselves desire to become, sometimes with our whole heart. So a lot of people want to be just like their favorite gospel singer and performer, and they seek after it with the same fervor that the Lord demands we seek after Him! And again, we insult the Spirit of grace and try to make a place for ourselves, rather than a place for Jesus.

## A THANKLESS JOB

How come no one idolizes or praises the missionaries who give up everything and live in poverty, endangering their lives and their families with every possible danger that the American dream has almost completely eliminated? How come no one lifts up and exalts the ghetto and prison ministers and preachers who never can take up an offering, for if they did they would either laugh (or cry) for what they'd receive? How come?