



# JULES RIDING

This is a tough question, as there seems to be no definitive answer in The Word about the connection between music and spirituality. The Psalms contain a huge depth and breadth of emotion and "*spirituality*", but we have no real insight as to how these songs were sung or played. Our Western ears may even balk at the Middle Eastern influence they probably had. My initial reaction is to think, there is no spiritual significance to music; it is simply a tool in the hands of a singer or musician, to be used for good or evil. Let's face it, the most pagan Rock band can use music for the Devil's end. The most spiritual of music ministers may use anointed music to empower a congregation to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Both use music for very different ends. In this scenario, a pagan band versus an anointed worship team, it seems to me that music is simply a tool, a vehicle for the "*spirituality*" of the musician. Here is my conclusion: it's the heart spirituality of the singer or musician that decides whether or not the music has any spiritual significance at all. One final point, music may move our emotions and we sometimes confuse this with "*anointing*" or "*spirituality*". As God looks at our whole lives, he is more honoured by a lifestyle of praise and thanksgiving, by hearts that hunger and thirst for righteousness, rather than one off worship events where everyone feels great on the weekend, but forgets God on the Monday in the context of daily living. God's idea of "*spirituality*" is far deeper than ours, and goes way beyond an anointed song, service, concert, meeting or event. Most of us fall way short, so let's be wary of exalting music to a place of honour that it does not deserve. Yes, music is a tool, but music is no substitute for a broken, contrite heart, and a whole life that is totally submitted to God.



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