Ten Inspiration Situations

Songwriting Workshop

Series 1, Sessions 6-8

By Andy Park

1. **A scripture comes to mind.**
   The song-story of ***In The Secret.*** **Philippians 3** was one of my favorite chapters of the Bible. I thought it would be a great source for a new song. It was a simple idea that came to me and I took the initiative to sit down and start experimenting with ideas. Here are a few excerpts from that chapter:

   …everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord…I want to know you and the power of your resurrection...
   Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

2. **You get a picture in your mind's eye** that contains the song theme.
   The song story for ***The River is Here.*** In my mind's eye I saw an image of a mountain with a river running down it. I searched the Bible for these kinds of images and found many examples in the books of Ezekiel, Psalms and Revelation.

3. **You may just feel compelled to "Go Write A Song"**
   a. If this happens, I go to a room by myself and **ask God what to write about and wait** for ideas to come to me.
   b. Then, start **EXPERIMENTING!**
   c. You may have no idea if your IDEA is from God or not.
   That doesn't matter! It wll become clear in time whether the song is just for you or for you to share in public.

4. **During a practice time or a private worship time**, you get an idea for a **lyric** or **melody** or a **chord progression** that seems really good.
   a. Take the **next steps**
   b. **Do the brainstorming** / free writing & singing stage
   c. Keep track of your ideas…(recording is simple)

5. **A song comes to you spontaneously** while you're leading worship
   Song story for ***We Will Ride.*** While leading worship, the scene from Revelation 19 came strongly into my mind. I began singing a song from that chapter, making up each line as I sang, and telling the band which chords to play.

6. **While you're planning a worship set**
   Song story for ***Precious Child*** – God spoke powerfully to me about his unconditional love while I was writing this song that fit the sermon series that was to begin the next day. I experienced more of God's love.

7. **A current event in culture, your church, or your family triggers** an idea
   a. I wrote ***We Are Your Church*** when we moved into a new building.
   b. I got the idea for ***Family of Four*** while watching my grandchildren.
   c. I wrote a song about the power of the ocean after a visit to the beach.

8. **Difficult Experiences**
   a. **Just look at the Psalms!!** Filled with complaints about physical suffering, being rejected by friends, seeing the wicked flourish, being attacked by enemies. They **poured out their pain** to God in songs.
   b. **Possible reasons** in your life: financial stress, relational problems, lack of work, or problems at work, problems with your kids…
   c. Pain and difficulties force you to look to God. Express it in a song.

9. **A Special Occasion -** give a gift to someone by writing a song for:
   a. Funerals
   b. Weddings
   c. Sending out church plants or missionaries

10. **Hearing A Sermon / Reading A Book or Article**
    a. The tree planted by the river of living water will bear fruit in all seasons because it's roots soak up the river of life (Rev. 22). What are you soaking your roots into? What images and information are you reading, watching and thinking about? Store up good things to write good things. Fill your mind with healthy, truth-filled media and experiences.