Barnett on Songwriting

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in conversation with

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Sessions 4 – 6

Session 4 Become a Student of Music

- If you want to improve as a songwriter, listen to a lot of music to figure out why hit songs are so well loved. For example, study these things:
  - Melodic hooks
  - Lyrical hooks
  - Instrumental turnarounds
  - How to transition out of a hook into the rest of the song

- While there are no pat techniques or formulas for writing a great song, you can learn a lot from hit songs of the past.

Session 5 Giving Attention to Melody

- Find the right balance between *familiarity* and *surprise* in your melody.

- There has to be repetition of melodic motifs for people to remember the song. Make it catch enough for people to keep singing the song after they've listened to it.

- Adding an unexpected phrase of melody and lyrics sets a song apart and makes it stand out in the crowd.

Session 6 Addressing the "Jesus is my Boyfriend" Criticisms of Contemporary Worship Songs

- Within a musical set of 15 to 30 minutes, include strong basic theology on subjects like the cross of Christ, and the attributes and great works of God in history. Put simpler "I love You, Lord" songs in the mix of the theologically deeper songs to give people a context of the "who and why" of the love songs you're singing to God.