SOOTHING MUSIC FOR A TROUBLED SOUL
The 18th Century Englishman William Congreve speaks pointedly when he writes: “Music has charms to soothe a savage breast, to soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak.”

Its ability to soothe us and soften our hearts, and draw us closer to God is nothing new. David, the king-elect, besides being a shepherd and a man of bravery, was also a skilled musician. God called him into Saul’s palace to not only help soothe Saul but to also teach him about how to be a king. Saul was utterly taken over by an evil spirit that literally possessed him. Can this happen to Christians in today’s world? What is the difference between being possessed and oppressed?

(Look at 1 Samuel 16:14-15) Notice the five scriptural guidelines when dealing with this subject:
1. God is not the “instigator” of evil . . . He “allowed” this evil spirit to possess Saul.
2. God can use an oppressive evil spirit as well as trials to lovingly discipline people.

In 1 Cor. 5:5 . . . The church was allowed to turn a grossly immoral member over to Satan “for the destruction of his flesh that his spirit maybe saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”
Two Extremes:

* Devil behind every Bush mentality.

* Totally oblivious to the Devil

3. God does not want us to be ignorant or obsessed with Satan/evil spirits today.
4. God’s word teaches that Christians can’t be possessed but they can be oppressed.
THREE LEVELS OF SPIRITUAL CONFLICT:

1. A steady barrage of sinful thoughts that Christians believe and occasionally act upon.

2. A steady stream of thoughts and strange, evil voices characterized by those who can may or may not distinguish between their own thoughts and these voices.

3. A person hears voices outside/inside almost all the time that tell them what to do.
What to do?

* Don’t believe lies – claim truths of God’s word.
* Don’t argue with the enemy.
* Do repent – and walk forward
* Do take every thought captive – you have God's armor
5. God can use anything from your past for ministry. Never discount anything – God uses it all.
16 Let our lord command his servants here to search for someone who can play the lyre. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes on you, and you will feel better.”

17 So Saul said to his attendants, “Find someone who plays well and bring him to me.”

18 One of the servants answered, “I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the LORD is with him.”