

SP:R:ITUAL WARFARE

When I was converted, I made this mistake: I thought the battle was already mine, the victory already won, the crown already in my grasp. I thought the old things had passed away, that all things had become new, and that my old, corrupt nature, the old life was gone. But I found out, after serving Christ for a few months, that conversion was only like enlisting in the army—that there was a battle on hand. —**D.L. Moody**

We take the tough things in Christian life personally. When we are attacked or tired or depressed we are in a spiritual battle. It all goes with the territory. When a soldier gets shot at, he isn't shocked. His feelings aren't hurt, he doesn't peer over his foxhole at his adversary and shout, "Was it something I said?" He expects it, he plans on it. —**Ben Patterson [Deepening Your Conversation with God pg. 19]**

What if we really believed we were in the midst of a raging spiritual battle in which the stakes, the territory being fought over, is none other than ourselves and our people? —**Ben Patterson [DYCWG pg.33]**

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12 (English Standard Version)

Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out. --Ephesians 6:13-18 (The Message)

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints --Ephesians 6:13-18 (English Standard Version)

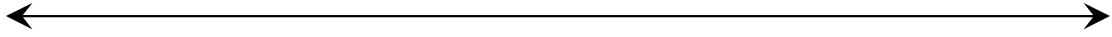
If you really want to be happy...nobody can stop you. --*Sister Mary Tricky*

How you are going to feel today is a decision you make. --*Robert H. Schuller*

Do not wish to be anything but what you are, and try to be that perfectly. --*Saint Francis de Sales*



PRAYER



WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear;
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in Prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in Prayer.
Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the lord in Prayer.
In His arms he'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find solace there.

By Joseph Scriven & Charles C. Converse

Answers to prayer do not depend on our feelings, but upon the trustworthiness of the Promiser.

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. -- John 14:12-13 [ESV]

Why don't we believe God?
Why don't we take God at His Word?

Does it strike you as strange that we believe the word of our fellowman more easily than we trust God's word.

*"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
-- Matthew 19:26 [ESV]*

We wouldn't dare say that our Lord's words are not true. Yet somehow or other few Christians really seem to believe them. What holds us back? What seals our lips? What keeps us from taking advantage of prayer? Do we doubt His love? Never! He gave His life for us and to us. Do we doubt the Father's love? No. "The Father Himself loves you," Christ said when urging His disciples to pray.

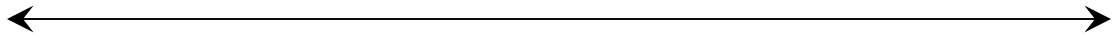
Do we doubt His power? Not for a moment. Hasn't He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore...and behold, I am with you always"? (**Matthew 28:18-20**). Do we doubt His wisdom? Do we mistrust His choice for us? Not for a moment. And yet so very few of His followers consider prayer really worth while. Of course, they would deny this--but actions speak louder than words. Whenever God makes a promise, let us boldly say, as Paul did, I believe God (Acts 27:25), and trust Him to keep His word. --Anonymous [*The Kneeling Christian*]

Unless we pray right,
We cannot live right,
And we cannot serve right.

Pastor Ben Patterson in his book "Deepening Your Conversation with God: Learning to Love to Pray" recounts a time when he had two ruptured discs and his doctor prescribed six weeks of total rest. His first thought was "OK, I Guess I'll get a lot of reading done". But due to the pain, the pain-killers, the muscle relaxants, and laying on his back he only got one book read in six weeks. Because the bed was too soft he had to lie on the floor. He says he thought he was of no use to the church. He couldn't preach, he couldn't lead meetings, he couldn't make calls. He couldn't do anything but pray. He asked his wife to bring him the new church directory and he decided to pray for every member everyday he was on the floor. It took him nearly two hours to do this. He said it wasn't great piety that led him to this but boredom and frustration. He says that quickly these times of prayer became sweet. Toward the end of his convalescence, he had taken a walk and was

back on the floor resting and thinking about going back to work. He said to the Lord, “You know, these times of prayer have been sweet. It’s too bad I don’t have time to do this when I’m at work.” Then the Lord spoke. He addressed him: “Stupid.” That was his word. He said it in a pleasant tone of voice, though. He said, “Stupid, you have the same twenty-four hours each day when you’re sick as when you’re well. The trouble with you Ben, is when you’re well, you think you’re in charge; when you’re sick, you know you’re not.”

SANCTIFICATION



Sanctification saŋk-ti-fi-kā´shun: *The act of making a thing pure and holy.*

See HOLINESS, REGENERATION, REDEMPTION [Webster’s Dictionary 1828]

1. *The act of making holy. In an evangelical sense, the act of God’s grace by which the affections of men are purified or alienated from sin and the world, and exalted to a supreme love to God.*

2. *The act of consecrating or of setting apart for a sacred purpose; consecration.*

Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on... but presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of—throwing out a new wing here, putting on a extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.

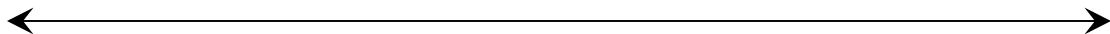
—C.S. Lewis [Mere Christianity]

If GOD doesn't build the house, the builders only build shacks.

--Psalm 127:1 (The Message)

“God doesn’t make junk” –Margaret Becker

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. --Genesis 1:31 [ESV]



I am only one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
What I can do, I should do, and with the help of God, I will do!
--Everett Hale

We are saved by faith alone. However, faith that saves is never alone...it is always accompanied by works. --Martin Luther

BLESSED BE THE NAME

written by Matt Redman

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name
And blessed be Your name
when I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
And when the darkness closes in,
Lord, still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining
down on me
When the world's "all as it should be"
Blessed be Your name
And blessed be Your name on the road marked
with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

You give and take away, You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be Your name

Supposing We Really Found Him?

It is always shocking to meet life where we thought we were alone. "Look out!" we cry, "It's alive". And therefore this is the very point at which so many draw back—I would have done so myself if I could—and proceed no further with Christianity. An "impersonal God"—well and good. A subjective God of beauty, truth and goodness, inside our own heads—better still. A formless life-force surging through us, a vast power we can tap—best of all. But God Himself, alive, pulling at the other end of the cord, perhaps approaching at an infinite speed, the hunter, king, husband—that is quite a different matter. There comes a moment when the children who have been playing at burglars hush suddenly: was that a *real* footstep in the hall? There comes a moment when people who have been dabbling in religion ("Man's search for God!") suddenly draw back. Supposing we really found Him? We never meant it to come to *that!* Worse still, supposing He had found us? --C.S. Lewis from *Miracles*

I like pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals.
--Sir Winston Churchill

A man would do nothing if he waited until he could do it so well that no one would find fault with what he has done. --John Henry Cardinal Newman

Go into all the world and preach the gospel, and if necessary, use words. --St. Francis of Assisi

God's answers are wiser than our prayers. --Unknown

God's work done God's way will never lack God's supplies. --Unknown

Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them? --Abraham Lincoln

Your reputation is what people say about you. Your character is what God and your wife know about you. --Billy Sunday

Repeat Performance

O' God of second chances
And new beginnings,
Here I am Again.
--Nancy Spiegelberg

Dear Father who hast all things made,
 And carest for them all.
 There's none too great for your great love,
 Nor anything too small.
 If you can spend such tender care
 on things that grow wild,
 How wonderful your love must be for me,
 your little child --G.W. Briggs

...do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

--*Matthew 6:25-34 [ESV]*

What is man, that you make so much of him, and that you set your heart on him--*Job 7:17 [ESV]*

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! --*Psalms 8:3-9 [ESV]*

Consider the earth! Our globe's weight has been estimated at six sextillion tons (a six with twenty-one zeroes.) Yet it is precisely tilted at twenty-three degrees; any more or any less and our seasons would be lost in a melted polar flood. Though our globe revolves at the rate of one thousand miles per hour or twenty five thousand miles per day or nine million miles per year none of us tumble into orbit... As you stand...observing God's workshop, let me pose a few questions. If He is able to place the stars in their sockets and suspend the sky like a curtain, do you think it is remotely possible that God is able to guide your life? If God is mighty enough to ignite the sun, could it be that He is mighty enough to light your path? If He cares enough about the planet Saturn to give it rings or Venus to make it sparkle, is there an outside chance that He cares enough about you to meet your needs. --*Max Lucado [Great House of God]*

LOVE ME LIKE YOU DO (SO AMAZING)
written by Scott Keller

God of glory You have made all things, all things

Who am I that You would think of me, of me
 For You made the earth, You made the stars
 Yet You know my name; You know my heart
 You're always there; You're never far away

*So amazing as You paint the sky
 So amazing, makes me wonder why
 You love me like You do
 You love me like You do
 That You love me like You do
 So amazing, so amazing*

I see the birds ride on the winds, they fly so high
 Mountain peaks so tall they seem to touch the sky
 Creation calls Your name above
 Yet in Your mercy and Your love
 You came to give Your life that I might live

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway. If you are successful you will win some false friends and true enemies; Succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; Be honest and frank anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; Be happy anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you've got anyway You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; It was never between you and them anyway. --**Mother Teresa**

Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you.
--**Mother Teresa**

I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world. --**Mother Teresa**

Why we are here is important, but to know where we are going is imperative. It's not what you've got, it's what you use, that makes a difference in how your life turns out.
--**Zig Ziglar**

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Phi 4:13
--**Philippians 4:13 [ESV]**

Who, being loved, is poor?
--**Oscar Wilde**

Keep praying, but be thankful that God's answers are wiser than your prayers! --**William Culbertson**

If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading.
--**Lao Tzu**

If you don't ask, you don't get.
--**Mahatma Gandhi**

You do not have, because you do not ask. --**James 4:2 [ESV]**
And when you ask, you do not receive it, because your motives are bad; you ask for things to use for your own pleasures.. --**James 4:3 [Good News Bible]**

MISTAKEN

written by Warren Barfield

I shouldn't have to tell you who I am
Cause who I am should be speaking for itself
Cause if I am who I want to be
Then who you see won't even be me
Oh the more and more I disappear
The more and more He becomes clear

'Til everyone I talk to hears His voice
And everything I touch feels the warmth of His hand
'Til everyone I meet
Sees Jesus in me
This is all I wanna be
I wanna be mistaken
For Jesus

Do they only see who we are
But who we are should be pointing them to Christ
Cause we are who He chose to use
To spread the news
Of the way the truth and the life
Oh I want all I am to die
So all He is can come alive
'Til everyone I talk to hears His voice
And everything I touch feels the warmth of His hand
'Til everyone I meet
Sees Jesus in me

This is all I wanna be
I wanna be mistaken for Jesus
Oh I wanna be
Oh I need to be mistaken
For you

May He touch with my hands
See through my eyes
May He speak through my lips
Live through my life
I want Him to
I want Him to live

LIVE BY FAITH

written by Chris Rice

I can't feel You movin' inside
I don't hear Your voice whisperin' in the night
And I've never seen You with these eyes
Am I a fool, am I just a fool?
They ask how I follow what I can't see
Why I trust in a love that my arms won't reach
I don't need You, don't need You, to prove it to me
I'll be a fool, yes I'll be a fool
'Cause blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe
And blessed are the hands that keep givin' but never receive
Blessed is the heart that gets broken but keeps holdin' on
Holdin' on for another day
'Cause that's what it means to live by faith
So I cry for Your help while the world looks on
And they laugh at my hope when all hope is gone
But I'll just keep prayin' when answers won't come
Am I the fool, am I just a fool
For standing alone while they mock Your name
"Well if your God is so good, tell us why all the pain?"
I'm not sure, not so sure that God is to blame
So don't be a fool, please don't be a fool
'Cause blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe
And blessed are the hands that keep givin' but never receive
Blessed is the heart that gets broken but keeps holdin' on
Holdin' on for another day
'Cause that's what it means to live by faith
In a world where our questions are haunted
'Cause life's not as fair as we all wanted
Where the innocent die, we ask why
And still we await the reply...
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe
And blessed are the hands that keep givin' but never receive
Blessed is the heart that gets broken but keeps holdin' on
Holdin' on for another day
'Cause that's what it means...it means holdin' on for another day
'Cause that's what it means to live by faith
Yes that's what it means to live by faith
That's what it means to live by faith, to live by faith

Faith is living as though the Bible is true, even when I do not feel it is true. The reason I can live as though it is true is because it is true. The reason it is true is because God says it is true. --*Manley Beasley.*

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Faith vs. Belief

Belief provides answers to people's questions, so as to find assurance and provide a solution; so as to fashion for themselves a system of beliefs. Faith is not to supply us with explanation, but to get us to listen to God's questions. Belief talks and talks, it wallows in words, it takes the initiative to explain. Faith listens patiently. Belief brings people together, joined in the same institutional current, oriented toward the same object of belief, sharing the same ideas, following the same rituals, enrolled in the same organization, speaking the same language. It has the social benefit of consensus and identification. Faith individualizes. It has to do with a personal relationship with God in which God confers each with unique identity. Faith separates people and makes them unique, set apart for what God wants to do. Belief is antithetical to doubt. It is the basis of fundamentalism; people unbending in their convictions, intolerant of any deviation. In their articulation of belief they press rigor and absolutism to their limits. Belief is rapidly transformed into passwords, rites, orthodoxy. Faith recognizes doubt. Faith puts to the test every element of my life and society. It leads me to question all my certitudes, all my moralities, beliefs, and policies. It forbids me to attach ultimate significance to any expression of human activity." --*Taken from Living Faith by Jacques Ellul*

Have you forgotten the encouraging words which God speaks to you as his children? "My child, pay attention when the Lord corrects you, and do not be discouraged when he rebukes you. Because the Lord corrects everyone he loves, and punishes everyone he accepts as a child." Endure what you suffer as being a father's punishment; your suffering shows that God is treating you as his children. Was there ever a child who was not punished by his father? If you are not punished, as all his children are, it means you are not real children, but bastards. In the case of our human fathers, they punished us and we respected them. How much more, then, should we submit to our spiritual Father and live! Our human fathers punished us for a short time, as it seemed right to them; but God does it for our own good, so that we may share his holiness. When we are punished, it seems to us at the time something to make us sad, not glad. Later, however, those who have been disciplined by such punishment reap the peaceful reward of a righteous life.

--Hebrews 12:5-11 (Good News Bible)

I am the wretch the song refers to.

IF...

If you can start the day without caffeine...
 If you can get going without pep pills...
 If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains...

If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles...
 If you can eat the same food everyday & be grateful for it...
 If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time...
 If you can overlook it when those you love take it out on you when, through no fault of yours, something goes wrong...
 If you can take criticism and blame without resentment...
 If you can ignore a friend's limited education and never correct him...
 If you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend...
 If you can face the world without lies and deceit...
 If you can conquer tension without medical help...
 If you can sleep without the aid of drugs...
 If you can say honestly that deep in your heart you have no prejudice against, creed, color, religion or politics...

... then, my friend, you are almost as good as your dog.

GOD IS GOOD. HE LOVES ME. HE IS WITH ME. HE KNOWS WHAT I AM GOING THROUGH. HE CARES AND HE HAS A GOOD PLAN FOR MY LIFE.

My child, I love you.
 I love you unconditionally.
 I love you, good or bad, with no strings attached.
 I love you like this because I know all about you.
 I have known you ever since you were a child.
 I know what I can do for you.
 I know what I want to do for you.

My child, I accept you.
 I accept you just as you are.
 You don't need to change yourself.
 I'll do the changing when you are ready.
 I love you just as you are.
 Believe this—for I assure you it is true.

My child, I care about you.
 I care about every big or little thing which happens to you. Believe this.
 I care enough to do something about it.
 Remember this.
 I will help you when you need Me. Ask Me.
 I love you.
 I accept you.
 I care about you.

My child, I forgive you.
 I forgive you, and My forgiveness is complete.
 It is not like that of humans who forgive but cannot forget.
 I love you. My arms are open with love.
 Please come here! Come here to me!
 I forgive you.
 I carried it all for you on the cross.
 Believe this. It is true.
 REJOICE...AND BE GLAD.

from Communicating Love Through Prayer

**EVERY
 MOMENT IS AN
 OPPORTUNITY
 TO OBEY OR
 DISOBEY.**

VOICE OF TRUTH

Lyrics by Mark Hall and Steven Curtis Chapman

Oh what I would do to have
The kind of faith it takes
To climb out of this boat I'm in
Onto the crashing waves

To step out of my comfort zone
Into the realm of the unknown where Jesus is
And He's holding out His hand

But the waves are calling out my name
And they laugh at me
Reminding me of all the times
I've tried before and failed
The waves they keep on telling me
Time and time again. "Boy, you'll never win!"
"You'll never win!"

But the voice of truth tells me a different story
The voice of truth says, "Do not be afraid!"
The voice of truth says, "This is for My glory"
Out of all the voices calling out to me
I will choose to listen and believe the voice of truth

Oh what I would do to have
The kind of strength it takes to stand before a giant
With just a sling and a stone
Surrounded by the sound of a thousand warriors
Shaking in their armor
Wishing they'd have had the strength to stand

But the giant's calling out my name
And he laughs at me
Reminding me of all the times
I've tried before and failed
The giant keeps on telling me
Time and time again. "Boy you'll never win!"
"You'll never win!"

But the stone was just the right size
To put the giant on the ground
And the waves they don't seem so high
From on top of them lookin' down
I will soar with the wings of eagles
When I stop and listen to the sound of Jesus
Singing over me

I will choose to listen and believe the voice of truth

POUR OUT MY HEART

written by Craig Musseau

Here I am, once again
I pour out my heart
For I know that you hear
Every cry
You are listening
No matter what state my heart is in

You are faithful to answer
With words that are true
And a hope that is real
As I feel your touch
You bring a freedom
To all that's within
In the safety of this place
I'm longing to ...

Pour out my heart
To say that I love you
Pour out my heart
To say that I need you
Pour out my heart
To say that I'm thankful
Pour out my heart
To say that you're wonderful

Working Man Hands

Jonah33

I guess silence is not an option at this stage
I've been comfortable too long now, turn the page
I see shadows all around me
But to me it's proof of Your light

Show yourself to me, so I can show you to them
Give me what it takes to let me go...
There's a world out there that's dyin'

Father please forgive them
For they know not what they do
Father won't You show me how
To have working man hands...

You said if you love me you'll obey me, I've
wondered why
You gave Your life for those around me, so should I
God forbid that I should stand before You
On that day, with unblemished hands

Show yourself to me, so I can show you to them
Give me what it takes to let me go...
There's a world out there that's dyin'

YOU JESUS ME



A cord of three strands is not easily broken

WHAT A FRIEND I'VE FOUND

What a friend I've found
Closer than a brother
I have felt your touch
More intimate than lovers

Jesus, Jesus
Jesus, friend forever

What a hope I've found
More faithful than a mother
It would break my heart
To ever lose each other

Jesus, Jesus
Jesus, friend forever

You will never be asked to forgive someone else more than GOD has already forgiven you.

SHOW YOU LOVE

Jars Of Clay

Speak
and say the words that no one else will ever say
love
love like the world we know is over in a day

i'm gonna show you love in every language
i'm gonna speak with words that need no form
i'm gonna give you what you never had before

and you're beautiful
and i am weakened by the force of your eyes
so shine bright
to separate the truth from the lies
i'm gonna show you love

what you never had before
had before

so tie me to a tree and let the smoke and ash collect
no, i won't regret to let love do what love will let
and you can drown in mixed emotions
and walk across an angry sea
this is the cost of being free

i'm gonna show you love, love in every language
i'm gonna show you love you never had before
i'm gonna show you love, love in every language
i'm gonna show you love you never had before
i'm gonna show you love

FAITH LIKE THAT

Jonah33

I Have Heard about the Days of old
About the men who followed You
And how they saw the Supernatural
And became the chosen few

So I come before You now
Tearing off my earthly crowns
for this one thing I have Found

I want Faith Like That
To see the dead rise
or to see You pass by
Oh I, I want Faith Like That
Whatever the cost
I'll suffer the loss, Oh I
I want Faith Like That

I'm not Looking for a miracle
Signs and Wonders are things thereof
I caught a glimpse of what You want from me
and what I have is not enough

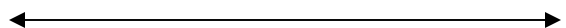
I read the story one more time
of Those who gave to You Their lives
With no fear or compromise

I want Faith Like That
To see the dead rise
or to see You pass by
Oh I, I want Faith Like That
Whatever the cost
I'll suffer the loss, Oh I
I want the Faith That can move any mountain
and send them to the sea
I want the Faith that can break every stronghold
That keeps you, keeps you from me

I want Faith Like That
To see the dead rise
or to see You pass by
Oh I, I want Faith Like That

I want Faith Like That
To see the dead rise
or to see You pass by
Oh I, I want Faith Like That
Whatever the cost
I'll suffer the loss, Oh I
I want Faith Like That, a Faith like that

BE OTHER FOCUSED.
IT'S, REALLY NOT ABOUT YOU.



YOU ARE IN CONTROL

(Scott Underwood)

You are my shepherd, I have no needs
You lead me by peaceful streams
And You refresh my life

You hold my hand and You guide my steps
I could walk through the valley of death
And I won't be afraid

Because You are in control
You are in control
You are in control
You are in control

You cause everything to work together
You truly have a sovereign plan
And You know who I am
And You made who I am
And You love who I am

GOD, investigate my life; get all the facts firsthand. I'm an open book to you; even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking. You know when I leave and when I get back; I'm never out of your sight. You know everything I'm going to say before I start the first sentence. I look behind me and you're there, then up ahead and you're there, too—your reassuring presence, coming and going. This is too much, too wonderful-- I can't take it all in! Is there anyplace I can go to avoid your Spirit? to be out of your sight? If I climb to the sky, you're there! If I go underground, you're there! If I flew on morning's wings to the far western horizon, You'd find me in a minute-- you're already there waiting! Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark! At night I'm immersed in the light!" It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you; night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you. Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration--what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, The days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day. Your thoughts--how rare, how beautiful! God, I'll never comprehend them! I couldn't even begin to count them-- any more than I could count the sand of the sea. Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you! And please, God, do away with wickedness for good! And you murderers--out of here!--all the men and women who belittle you, God, infatuated with cheap god imitations. See how I hate those who hate you, GOD, see how I loathe all this godless arrogance; I hate it with pure, unadulterated hatred. Your enemies are my enemies! Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me; Cross-examine and test me, get a clear picture of what I'm about; See for yourself whether I've done anything wrong-- then guide me on the road to eternal life. --Psalm 139 MSG

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

--Psalm 23 ESV

WHO AM I

Lyrics by Mark Hall

Song Based on Psalm 52, 139 and Ephesians 2

Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth
Would care to know my name
Would care to feel my hurt
Who am I, that the Bright and Morning Star
Would choose to light the way
For my ever wandering heart

Not because of who I am
But because of what You've done
Not because of what I've done
But because of who You're

Chorus:

I am a flower quickly fading
Here today and gone tomorrow
A wave tossed in the ocean
A vapor in the wind
Still You hear me when I'm calling
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling
And You've told me who I am
I am Yours, I am Yours

Who Am I, that the eyes that see my sin
Would look on me with love and watch me rise again
Who Am I, that the voice that calmed the sea
Would call out through the rain
And calm the storm in me

I am Yours
Whom shall I fear
Whom shall I fear
'Cause I am Yours

LEAD ME TO THE FATHER

(Craig Musseau)

My heart waits with expectation
A longing for love, insatiable desire
Jesus lead me to the Father's arms
His comforting words
Build hope to carry on

How can I live
Without Your gentle soothing voice
Where can I go
To know the fruits of love and joy

Lead me to the Father
Lead me to the Father

Bring my heart
To the point of least resistance
A place of simple trust
And one of simple faith
Only You can take me to His home
Where we will be united
His promises fulfilled

God uses His Word, people and circumstances to mold us. All three are indispensable for character development. God's Word provides the truth we need to grow. God's people provide the support we need to grow, and circumstances provide the environment we need to practice Christlikeness. If you study and apply His Word, connect regularly with other believers, and learn to trust God in difficult circumstances you will become more like Jesus
--Rick Warren [Purpose Driven Life]

NOTHING THAT DOES NOT
OCCUR DAILY WILL EVER
DOMINATE YOUR LIFE.

--Perspectives pg. 444

Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed--that exhilarating finish in and with God--he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls! In this all-out match against sin, others have suffered far worse than you, to say nothing of what Jesus went through--all that bloodshed! So don't feel sorry

for yourselves. Or have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as his children? My dear child, don't shrug off God's discipline, but don't be crushed by it either. It's the child he loves that he disciplines; the child he embraces, he also corrects. God is educating you; that's why you must never drop out. He's treating you as dear children. This trouble you're in isn't punishment; it's training, the normal experience of children. Only irresponsible parents leave children to fend for themselves. Would you prefer an irresponsible God? We respect our own parents for training and not spoiling us, so why not embrace God's training so we can truly live? While we were children, our parents did what seemed best to them. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God's holy best. At the time, discipline isn't much fun. It always feels like it's going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for it's the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God. **Hebrews 12:2-11 Message**

**DON'T EVER DO SOMETHING THAT OTHERS CAN
DO OR WILL DO IF THERE ARE THINGS TO BE
DONE THAT OTHERS CAN'T DO OR WON'T DO.**

--Dawson Trotman the Navigators

If God is on our side, can anyone be against us? **Romans 8:31 CEV**

Jesus modeled what man can be when fully empowered by God.



**I'M AFRAID...
I DON'T WANT TO...
I CAN'T...
BUT YES LORD!**

Now the LORD said to Abram, "**Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.** And I will make of you a great nation, and will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." **So Abram went,** as the LORD had told him --*Genesis 12:1-4 ESV*

It is characteristic of the Christian life that God asks us to go without telling us where.

God called Abram to go to a land that "I will show you". We wonder why God didn't just tell Abram where he wanted him to go, give him what he needed to get there and be done with it then and there. Why all of this "I will show you business"?!? The reason is because God knows us too well. He knows that if we knew the plan and the place, we'd try to get there without Him. *-Ben Patterson [DYCWG pg.53]*

When I really asked, I was really answered.
-David Wilkerson [The Cross and the Switchblade]

**J-JESUS
O-OTHERS
Y-SELF**

We don't know what God wants us to do because we are too busy doing what we think he might want done. It really wouldn't be a bad idea to ask Him what He wants, would it? And then listen?
-Ben Patterson [DYCWG pg.53]

**G-GOD'S
R-RICHES
A-AT
C-CHRIST'S
E-EXPENSE**

**EVERYONE COMPLAINS ABOUT THE WEATHER
BUT NOBODY IS WILLING TO DO ANYTHING
ABOUT IT -MARK TWAIN**

"Is-is he a man?" asked Lucy.

"Aslan a man!" said Mr Beaver sternly. "Certainly not. I tell you he is the King of the wood and the son of the great Emperor-beyond-the-Sea. Don't you know who is the King of Beasts? Aslan is a lion - the Lion, the great Lion."

"Ooh!" said Susan, "I'd thought he was a man. Is he - quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion."

"That you will, dearie, and no mistake," said Mrs Beaver; "if there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly."

"Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy.

"Safe?" said Mr Beaver; "don't you hear what Mrs Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you. -C.S. Lewis *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*

GOD NEVER GIVES UP

How do I know God is with me? What if this is all a hoax? How do you know that is God who is speaking?

The thick and dreadful darkness of doubt. The same darkness you feel when you sit on a polished pew in a funeral chapel and listen to the obituary of the one you love more than life.

The same darkness that you feel when you hear the words, "The tumor is malignant. We have to operate."

The same darkness that falls upon you when you realize you just lost your temper... again.

The same darkness you feel when you realize that the divorce you never wanted is final.

The same darkness into which Jesus screamed, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Appropriate words. For when we doubt, God seems very far away. Which is exactly why he chose to draw so near.

Throughout time, though God's people often forgot their God, God didn't forget them. He kept his word.

God didn't give up. He never gives up. When Joseph was dropped into a pit by his own brothers, God didn't give up.

When Moses said, "Here I am, send Aaron," God didn't give up.

When the delivered Israelites wanted Egyptian slavery instead of milk and honey, God didn't give up.

When Aaron was making a false god at the very moment Moses was with the true God, God didn't give up.

When only two of the ten spies thought the Creator was powerful enough to deliver the created, God didn't give up.

When Samson whispered to Delilah, when Saul roared after David, when David schemed against Uriah, God didn't give up.

When God's word lay forgotten and man's idols stood glistening, God didn't give up.

When the children of Israel were taken into captivity God didn't give up.

He could have given up. He could have turned his back. He could have walked away from the wretched mess, but he didn't.

He didn't give up.

When he became flesh and was the victim of an assassination attempt before he was two years old, he didn't give up.

When the people from his own home town tried to push him over a cliff; he didn't give up.

When his brothers ridiculed him, he didn't give up.

When he was accused of blaspheming God by people who didn't fear God, he didn't give up.

When Peter worshiped him at the supper and cursed him at the fire, he didn't give up.

When people spat in his face, he didn't spit back. When the bystanders slapped him, he didn't slap them. When a whip ripped his sides, he didn't turn and command the awaiting angels to stuff that whip down that soldier's throat.

And when human hands fastened the divine hands to a cross with spikes, it wasn't the soldiers who held the hands of Jesus steady. It was God who held them steady. For those wounded hands were the same invisible hands that had carried the firepot and the torch two thousand years earlier. They were the same hands that had brought light into Abram's thick and dreadful darkness. They had come to do it again.

So, the next time doubt walks in, escort him out. Out to the hill. Out to Calvary. Out to the cross where, with holy blood, the hand that carried the flame wrote the promise, "God would give up his only son before he'd give up on you." --**Max Lucado [Six Hours One Friday]**

Men try to fix problems with duct tape. God did it with nails. –Anonymous

Here With Me

mercyme

I long for your embrace
Every single day
To meet you in this place
And see you face to face

Will you show me?
Reveal yourself to me
Because of your mercy
I fall down on my knees

And I can feel your presence here with me
Suddenly I'm lost within your beauty
Caught up in the wonder of your touch
Here in this moment I surrender to your love

You're everywhere I go
I am not alone
You call me as your own
To know you and be known

You are holy
And I fall down on my knees

I can feel your presence here with me
Suddenly I'm lost within your beauty
Caught up in the wonder of your touch
Here in this moment I surrender to your love

I surrender to your grace
I surrender to the one who took my place

I can feel your presence here with me
Suddenly I'm lost within your beauty
Caught up in the wonder of your touch
Here in this moment I surrender:

I can feel your presence here with me
Suddenly I'm lost within your beauty
Caught up in the wonder of your touch
Here in this moment I surrender to your love

In these uncertain times, there is one certainty:
we have a good God.

When much of the news is bad, there is one good report:
we have a loving God.

When the future is unpredictable, there is one assurance:
we have a sovereign God. **—Max Lucado**

HOW GREAT

David Crowder

I'm so bored of little gods
While standing on the edge of
something large
While standing here, so close to You
We could be consumed
What a glorious day

I give up, I lay down
Rest my face upon this ground
Lift my eyes to Your sky
Rid my heart of all I hide

So sweet this surrender

How great Your love for us
How great our love for You
That grace could cover us
How great Your love

How marvelous, how brilliantly
Luminous, You shine on me
And who can fail to give You awe
To fear You, God, so sovereign and strong

What a glorious day
What a wonderful day, today
What a glorious day
What a wonderful day, today
Glorious day

God's thoughts are not our thoughts, nor are they even like ours. We aren't even in the same neighborhood. We're thinking, "Preserve the body;" he's thinking, "Save the soul." We dream of a pay raise. He dreams of raising the dead. We avoid pain and seek peace. God uses pain to bring peace. "I'm going to live before I die," we resolve. "Die so you can live," he instructs. We love what rusts. He loves what endures. We rejoice at our successes. He rejoices at our confessions. We show our children the Nike star with the million-dollar smile and say, "Be like Mike." God points to the crucified carpenter with bloody lips and a torn side and says, "Be like Christ." **—Max Lucado**

←—————→
If we could understand everything God does, then he'd have to be a small god--small enough to fit in our little minds. --Randy Alcorn