

One with God

**Nourishment for Minds & Hearts that
Hunger for Him**

in Word & Song

Ken Bible

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You want to know God better.
You want to trust Him more simply and constantly.
You want to love Him more deeply and
 to live His love for those around you.
You want to walk in His Spirit step by step.

ONE WITH GOD is designed to help you,
 to both inform and inspire you,
 to nurture your hunger for God.
It interweaves readings and contemporary hymns to stimulate your
 mind,
 heart, and
 imagination.

The lyrics for the hymns are included in the text. To hear or see the music, just click the links (or if prompted, control + click). They connect to LNWhymns.com, a web site that contains this book, these hymns, and much more—all completely free.

May God use these words and these hymns to draw you closer to Himself.

--Ken Bible

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In Christ*

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One with Christ; The Gift of God's Spirit

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Our All-encompassing God

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Look to Your Father; The Good Shepherd*; Children of the King; One by One

from *IMAGES OF CHRIST in Word & Song, January-May, 2010* (© 2010 Ken Bible)
The Immensity of God; See Your Heavenly Father; One with Your Creator; Your Kingdom Come, Father!;
Praise

from *IMAGES OF CHRIST in Word & Song, June-August, 2010* (© 2010 Ken Bible)
Know Your Creator*; The Good Samaritan; God's Seeds Bear Fruit

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Wisdom in Our Ignorance; Consider This Gift; How Can We Describe It?; Come, Our Lord!

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Truth; Live His Love; Ambassadors of His Love; Perfect Peace

from *Father, Son, Spirit, & Us Devotional Companion* (© 2010 Ken Bible)
Unthinkable!; Christ the Light; Constantly, Completely Dependent*; Only Your Will; Rejoice in Jesus
Christ!; Follow Jesus; Wind, Breath, and Spirit; Knowing the Unknowable*; Never Be Thirsty Again; The
Spirit of Jesus; Pray as Christ Prayed; Tuned to the Father; Love Is Fruit*; When the Time Comes;
Speaking for the Father; Set Apart; Eternal Day; See the Future

from *Facebook Devotionals 2010* (© 2010 Ken Bible)
We fail to grasp...; If we realized...; The prize held out before us...; Father, You know our desire...

from *Facebook Devotionals 2011* (© 2011 Ken Bible)
Today God is drawing...; Father, we try to bind You...; In this vast universe...; Father, I leave myself...;
Our Father is the center...; Realize who you are...; We fear coming to Jesus...; Do not reject your
cross...; Father, when we seek...; We have glimpsed...; Don't squander your life...; We reach for so
much...; Genuine, active love...; Love is the mark...; Father, when we live...; Father, may my daily life...;
Our Father's work...; Do you want to please...; Jesus didn't ask...; As we go to make disciples...; Calmly,
quietly attend...; Jesus Christ has radically...; God never wants...; When redemption is complete...; One
day the reality...; Right now creation groans...; Human history seems...; God's enemies rage...; We
pursue so many...; Picture a vast...; Imagine Jesus Christ...

*Revised

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Section 1

Know Your Creator

*In the past God spoke...at many times and in various ways,
but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,
whom he appointed heir of all things, and
through whom he made the universe.
The Son is the radiance of God's glory and
the exact representation of his being,
sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:1-3, NIV)*

Know Your Creator

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*
(Psalm 19:1, NIV)

God is an all-powerful Spirit Being. He created us as physical beings. How could He reveal Himself to us in a way we could understand? How could He show Himself to each of us in a way that is unlimited by language and culture and that is undiminished by all the changes that swirl around us?

He reveals Himself by the physical world of which we are a part.

What may be known about God is plain...For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. (Romans 1:19-20, NIV)

Any open-minded view of our physical world tells us about God. But we observe and experience His creation without knowing Him, even though He has made Himself plain. How does this happen?

We intentionally suppress the truth (Romans 1:18). We refuse to accept Him as Creator. We work to write Him out of our story. We insist on making this physical world our ultimate reality, though actually it is but a small part of a much greater reality. We crown ourselves as the gods of our own lives and destinies, even though our smallness and weakness is inescapably obvious.

Meanwhile, God's glorious revelations of Himself go on speaking to all who will hear.

*Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.
There is no speech or language
where their voice is not heard.
Their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.*
(Psalm 19:2-4, NIV)

Observe our world and experience it with an open mind. See and feel the order, the pleasure, the beauty, the mystery, the power, and the infinite wisdom that connects it all. All this is only the faintest whisper of the magnificent Being that He is (Job 26:14). He wants you to know Him, to trust Him more completely, and to experience life more fully in Him.

Our Lord I AM

Recording
Printed Music

Hear the worlds all whispering His name.
Mountains flee before Him.
All who know Him tremble at His voice.
All who fear adore Him.
Pure, complete, and evermore the same,
None can speak all His splendor in a name.
I AM. I AM.
Bow down.
He is I AM.

Who can stop the torrent of His love?
Who can test its measure?
Who can feel the fire of His heart?
Who conceive its treasure?
Veiled in glory, near and yet so far,
Life and love are the light of who You are.
I AM. I AM.
You are the Lord
I AM. I AM.
Our life, our Lord I AM.

Pure, complete, and evermore the same,
None can speak all Your splendor in a name.
I AM. I AM.
You are the Lord
I AM. I AM.
Our life, our Lord I AM.

Unthinkable!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1, 14, NIV)

Unthinkable!

How could a human being claim to be divine?

Compare us even to this tiny world of ours,
this grain-of-sand in the universe, and
we are so small,
so incredibly brief.

A snap of the fingers,
a puff of air, and
we are gone.

And like a child who invests his few pennies on candy,
we waste our meager moments on “riches”
even more shallow and futile than we are.

Blind...arrogant...self-centered...and corrupt.
DIVINE?

Unthinkable!

The Sovereign Being that overflows this sprawling universe
like an ocean overflows a tea cup—

“God” is too small a word for Him—

this Being would pour Himself undiminished and undiluted into our flesh and bone?

All of HIM poured into US?

He would come here and share

our helplessness...our grief...our abuse of each other?

He would come and live His life beside us
here in the shadow of death?

Unthinkable!

[Beyond All Thought](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Beyond all thought--God;
Above all words--Wisdom.
Height and depth and simple wonder--
Come and know.

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He is Father and Creator,
Flesh and blood, our Brother,
Bread of Heaven here within us:
Only Holy God.

Beyond all thought--Love;
Above all words--Goodness.
Life and light and tender mercy--
Come and know.

He is Father and Creator,
Flesh and blood, our Brother,
Bread of Heaven here within us:
Only Holy God.

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We fail to grasp the wonderful reality of God because
in our small and self-centered hearts,
we cannot conceive any Being so much greater than ourselves.

The Immensity of God

*O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
When I consider 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,
the son of man that you care for him?
(Psalm 8:1, 3-4, NIV)*

Have you ever had the experience that the psalmist describes above? Have you been out under the clear night sky and looked up at the stars and the vastness of the heavens? Have you marveled that the Creator of all this has any interest in *you*? Here are some facts that may stimulate your imagination.

Light travels so fast that a beam of light can circle the earth more than 7 times in a second. The moon is a quarter of a million miles away, and its light reaches the earth in less than a second and a half. The sun is approximately 93 million miles away, and its light arrives in approximately 8 minutes.

Our own galaxy or group of stars is called the Milky Way. How long do you think it would take light to travel just across our own galaxy? 100,000 years! Light travels around the earth 7 times in a second and 93 million miles from the sun in only 8 minutes. But our galaxy is so vast that even light takes 100,000 years to cross it.

Galaxies are vast beyond our imagination. But ours is only one galaxy. How many galaxies do you think there are in the universe? Estimates vary, but in 1999, data from the Hubble space telescope led scientists to estimate that there are 125 billion galaxies in the universe. Some estimates run much higher. Try to imagine that: 93 million miles in 8 minutes; 100,000 years to cross our galaxy; 125 billion galaxies.

We are so very small. Reality dwarfs us. It dwarfs the human race. It dwarfs the entire earth.

But here's something else to consider: this vast universe is only the smallest taste of the Living God. He overflows the physical universe. Job 26 talks about God's mighty works in creation, then in v.14 says that in all these we see only the fringes of His robe. We hear only a faint whisper of Him.

What's more, the gap between God and us is far greater than the size of the universe. The real gap between God and us is in the essence of who we are.

- He is all-powerful and all-wise, unbounded by matter and time. We are weak and blind, living momentary lives, consumed with the here and now.

- He is holy and pure. Without Him, we are corrupt and sinful.
- He is unlimited love. We are proud, small-minded, and selfish, wrapped up in our own comfort and narrow interests.

But now for the most amazing truth: God's love has bridged this gap between us. This immense chasm of time, space, and character has been closed by God's all-encompassing love. All the immensity of God, all the eternity of God, all His glory and power and holiness have been embodied in a human being: Jesus Christ. We are united with this immense God in Christ (Colossians 2:9-10).

[The Fullness of God's Glory](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

The heavens sing a somber hymn
Of greatness dark and deep,
Of endless realms of time and space,
Of mysteries they keep.
But all that is and yet shall be
And all that mind can know
Are only whispers of a God
Far greater than the whole.

Yet all the fullness of this God
And all that He has done
Now shine in all their majesty
In Jesus Christ His Son.
This boundless God is flesh and blood,
And we have seen His face-
The glory of our Living Lord,
The fountain of His grace.

The fullness of our Father God
Resplendent in the Son
Reveals the holy majesty
Of all we will become.
His Spirit glows within our hearts,
A glimpse of what will be:
His glory blazing out through us
For all eternity.

Today God is drawing me toward Himself.

Father, we try to bind You with the ropes of our own ignorance and weakness.
But You are beyond our limitations, beyond our control,
beyond our understanding and imagination.

Wisdom in Our Ignorance

*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!* (Romans 11:33, NIV)

We human beings are inherently ignorant. Physically we live a fraction of a second on a grain of sand in a universe that is ancient and vast beyond all imagining. Our perspective and objectivity are minuscule. Our view of truth is highly tainted by our personal prejudices and selfish desires. To claim that we understand reality, or that our minds and limited senses are an accurate gauge of reality, is laughable. Ignorance is common to each and every one of us.

God in His greatness has chosen to reveal Himself to us. And by degree He graciously helps us understand reality as we understand Him. He has given us His own Spirit to enlighten and guide us.

But *we have this treasure in jars of clay* (2 Corinthians 4:7, NIV). As we trust His revealed Truth and faithfully speak the Truth and live the Truth, we need to remember our limitations and the weakness of the vessel in which we hold His treasure. Our understanding of our great and boundless God is always only partial.

Yet God's promise to us is this:

- God, who through the millennia has spoken to us in many different ways, has spoken fully and finally in Jesus Christ, His own Son (Hebrews 1:1-2).
- *In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ* (Colossians 2:9-10a, NIV).

All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ (Colossians 2:3). If you desire wisdom, if you want understanding, seek Him.

The Truth of God Is Greater Far

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

The truth of God is greater far
Than our poor human mind,
Than any doctrine, creed, or sect,
All partial and confined.
His treasures hold uncounted wealth
That hearts have never heard.
Our boundless God has yet more light
To shine out from His Word.

Who dares to limit God Himself
To what we understand,
To shrink His sprawling mystery
And hold it in our hand?
Immensity of purest love!
An ocean unexplored!
Our boundless God has yet more light
To shine out from His Word.

O Lord, Your Word is Jesus Christ,
Your truth in us begun,
But O the depths of all He is
And all that He has done!
Let faith and love each day increase
The hunger You have stirred:
May more and more of Christ our Light
Shine brightly from Your Word!

Christ the Light

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12, NIV)

We walk every day through the darkness of this world,
in the shadow of our weakness and mortality.

But Jesus Christ is the Light.
As we walk in Him,
our steps are certain,
our strength is sufficient, and
our life is full and forever.
In Him we are bathed in God's presence,
we are guided by His wisdom,
we are supported by His power, and
we are cradled by His love.

You Are the Light

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

You are the Light--we see.
You are the Truth--we know.
You are the Life--we live.
You are the Hope,
You are the Joy,
You are the Song we sing.

Within our hearts--Your light.
Within our minds--Your truth.
Within our lives--Your love.
Living Your hope,
Spreading Your joy,
Singing Your beautiful song.

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Jesus, Light of the World,
I want to know God my Father.
Reveal Him to me.

See Your Heavenly Father

We can learn so much about our Heavenly Father through creation. We look into the night sky and glimpse His immensity. We taste His power in the storm. The days and nights and seasons remind us of His faithfulness.

But knowing *about* Him is not the same as knowing *Him* personally.

Jesus is the image of the invisible God.
(Colossians 1:15, adapted)

Jesus came and made the eternal, holy Father seeable and touchable. He was part of a family as human as yours and mine. He experienced daily life in a body, just like we do. He faced our temptations, felt our pain, endured our fatigue and hunger, and died as we die.

Yet in this human being we saw our Father, pure and at full strength, live and in person, not some watered-down imitation. We heard His timeless wisdom and saw it lived out. We witnessed the miracles of the Creator, but now up-close and personal. No stage, no curtains, no fancy lighting. Nothing between Him and us. He let us stand right in front of Him as, on a small scale, He did what our Creator does every day:

He turned water into wine.

He produced a lot of food from a very little.

He stilled storms.

He healed diseases.

We were gripped by God's unconquerable love, reaching out to forgive us even as we tortured and murdered Him.

Our God is awe-inspiring and holy, all-powerful and all-wise, unbound by matter and time, infinitely above us. Yet He is also with us. God has come to us. He is one of us. We can be as comfortable with Him as a child sleeping close to his mother.

[See the Father Walk Among Us](#)

[Recording](#)

[Printed Music](#)

See the Father walk among us.
See Him smile and touch and heal.
Watch Him feed the hungry thousands,
Then enjoy their simple meal.
Come and meet Him! Come and know Him!
Find the love His life reveals.

See the Great Creator's power
Flowing through these human hands.
Demons bow, and winds obey Him.
Breath returns at His command.
Come and hear Him! Watch and wonder--
Sovereign God and yet a man!

See this treasure bound and beaten,
Pouring out His breath and blood.
See Him wrapped in deepest suffering,
Yet His heart is only love.
See Him buried! See Him risen,
Leading us to joys above.

Earth and heaven bow before Him,
Radiant at the Father's right,
Glorious beings all around Him
With His saints now robed in white.
Come and crown Him! Come and crown Him
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

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In this vast universe, we humans are significant for one reason only:
the Creator loves us.
We are important because we are important to Him.

Section 2

Live in Jesus Christ

*Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me."
(John 14:6, NIV adapted)*

Guaranteed!

Whenever you receive a guarantee, remember that it is only as reliable as the one offering it.

Consider Isaiah 9:1-7, one of my favorite passages about the coming Messiah. What magnificent promises it gives about Him! It says He will be:

- light in our deepest darkness;
- joy greater, richer, and wilder than anything we can imagine;
- complete freedom from everything that binds us;
- an eternal ruler who is Himself
 - wisdom (“Wonderful Counselor”)
 - unlimited power (“Mighty God”)
 - unfailing love (“Everlasting Father”)
 - complete peace and well-being (“Prince of Peace”)

God then closes all His magnificent promises about His Messiah with this guarantee: “The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this” (v.7b). Look carefully at that guarantee.

Zeal is a strong emotion, sometimes translated “love”, sometimes “jealousy”. It is that deep, burning, unquenchable fire of love that burns in the heart of God toward us, His children. Realize that love is as weak or as strong as its source. Despite our passionate promises, human love is at times selfish, shallow, and wavering. It is as weak as we are. Since we are flawed and inconsistent, so is our love. But God’s love is as intense, powerful, and unchanging as He is. Who can imagine the eternal, unquenchable fire of love burning in the heart of Almighty God!

The next term in the guarantee is the word **LORD**; in the original Hebrew, “Yahweh”. The scriptures give us many “names” for God, many descriptions of Who He is and what He is like. “Yahweh” is God’s name for Himself. It’s related to the name He uses in Exodus 3, in the story of the burning bush. He has just called Moses to an awesome task. He is sending him to the Israelites to promise that their God is about to free them from the most powerful ruler on earth. Moses is apprehensive about the assignment, so he says, “The people will ask who sent me. How should I answer them?” God responds to Moses with a form of the name “Yahweh”. He tells Moses, “If they want a name for me, if they want to summarize me with a label, give them this one: ‘I AM WHO I AM’” (v.14).

The next word, **Almighty**, is actually the Hebrew word “sabaoth”. It sounds similar to the word “sabbath”, but there’s no relation. We hear the word in verse 2 of Martin Luther’s stirring hymn, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”:

*Lord Sabaoth, His name;
From age to age the same;
And He must win the battle.*

“Sabaoth” means “hosts” or “armies”. So “Lord Sabaoth” is “Lord of hosts”, or “Lord of all the heavenly armies”. Imagine that. Picture the mightiest army on earth, spread out in vast array, complete with all its weaponry. Then try to picture “the Lord of all the heavenly armies”. See Him standing there, with all the unimaginable powers of heaven behind Him, waiting at His command!

So our guarantee can be read this way: “The deep, burning, unquenchable, unchangeable love of I AM WHO I AM, Lord of all the heavenly armies *will* accomplish this.” Now that’s a guarantee!

Remember, guarantees are as reliable as the one offering them. Regarding human beings, Isaiah 2:22 says,

*Stop trusting in man,
who has but a breath in his nostrils.
Of what account is he?*

Psalms 146:3-4 says,

*Do not trust...in mortal men, who cannot save.
When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.*

Don’t rely on human beings for anything permanent. We and all our plans and best intentions are always just one breath from extinction.

But with God, His mightiest works show us only the fringes of His robe. The vastness of the universe gives us but a faint whisper of Him (Job 26:14). Who can fathom the rock-solid certainty of a guarantee signed by the unchanging love of Yahweh, I AM WHO I AM, Lord of all the heavenly armies!

God has promised you that Jesus will be light, joy, and freedom beyond your wildest dreams. You can trust Him!

He says that Jesus will bring you all the wisdom, power, love, and peace of God. You can trust Him!

He calls you to seek only Jesus Christ and make His love your only treasure. You can trust Him!

He assures you that Jesus is the pearl of great price and urges you to eagerly turn loose of everything else to gain Him. You can trust Him!

You can grasp the promises of Almighty God and know that they will always be absolutely true. You can hold to them and live by them in the face of everything that life and death brings.

“All God’s promises are *YES!* in Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 1:20, para.).

Image of the Unseen God

Recording
Printed Music

Image of the unseen God--
Jesus! Jesus!
Truth and Love and Living Word--
Jesus! Jesus!
Fullness of unbounded glory!
Hope and song and timeless story
Shine their light on You alone,
Jesus! Jesus!

From and through and unto You,
Jesus! Jesus!
Life is flowing ever new,
Jesus! Jesus!
Source and goal of all creation!
Here we join the grand ovation
Swelling, rising up to You,
Jesus! Jesus!

King of Kings and Lord of Lords,
Jesus! Jesus!
Death and sin and pain no more,
Jesus! Jesus!
What a mighty resurrection!
We Your Bride in Your perfection
One with You forevermore,
Jesus! Jesus!

Consider This Gift

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV)

This Gift is a treasure, but more than a treasure.
This Gift is a man, but more than a man.
He is a shepherd, but more than a shepherd.
He is a mighty warrior come to deliver His people, but more than a warrior.
He is a healer come to take away all our diseases, but more than a healer.
He is a priest come to bring His people to God, but more than a priest.

He is the heir of all worlds, the Lord of all Lords.
He is the Second Adam, the first of an entirely new human race.
He is the God-Man, uniting earth and heaven.
He is the perfect sacrifice, purchasing eternal life for all who trust Him.
He is the fullness of God, and God's fullness in us.
He is God's own Son, come from God's own heart.
He is the love of God, lavishly, freely, tenderly given
to each and every one of us.
He is Jesus Christ.

[All We Need](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

The work is done, His gift complete,
For Jesus Christ is all we need.
He lives the life we long to lead,
And He is ours and all we need.
His holy heart now beats within.
We live and move and love in Him.
His life is everlasting seed,
And faith in Christ is all we need.

When weakness seems our sure defeat,
Lord Jesus Christ is all we need.
His sovereign will is power indeed.
We come to Him for all we need.
His promise stands forever sure.
Our Rock is firm, our Hope secure.
His death and life have guaranteed
That faith in Christ is all we need.

ONE WITH GOD, p.24

This world began, its end will be
In Him whose Word is all we need.
He calls His own to just believe
That Jesus Christ is all we need.
This world will soon go up in flame.
Our confidence will be the same,
For God Himself will be our creed,
And He is all, and all we need.

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If we realized the tremendous treasures that come to us
in Jesus Christ,
we would let nothing distract us from Him.

Constantly, Completely Dependent

When I read about Jesus in the gospels, it seems that He always knew everything and could do absolutely anything. But then I listen to what He said about Himself:

“I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does...By myself I can do nothing.” (John 5:19, 30, NIV)

“These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.” (John 14:24, NIV)

Jesus' wisdom and power, His words and His actions, were not His own. He had emptied Himself (Philippians 2:5-7). He was completely, constantly dependent on You, Father, for everything He said and everything He did. He listened. He obeyed. His total dependence on You was His great strength and constant sufficiency. His power was made perfect in His weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Jesus was what He was by faith. His strength was not in His own abilities but in His relationship with You, Father. He trusted You. You were His only light, His only source of life, wisdom, power, peace, love, and holiness. Because He was empty of all else, You flowed through Him unhindered. He was constantly full of You.

Father, I cannot be capable, holy, wise or loving any other way. You were the only source for Jesus. You are the only source for me. Jesus wants to share with me His relationship with You. Father, that is what I want as well.

[Each Moment by Faith](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

From glory descending,
Completely depending,
You trusted Your Father
And lived to obey.
In speaking and doing,
His pleasure pursuing,
You joyfully listened
And followed by faith.
Through weakness came power,
A strength every hour.

ONE WITH GOD, p.26

Though empty, You gave with
A heart unafraid,
Secure in the knowing
And full in the flowing
Of God in His fullness
Each moment by faith.

Lord Jesus, You lead us
To faith that can free us,
So trusting and humble,
We bow and obey.
In speaking and doing,
Your pleasure pursuing,
We joyfully listen
And follow by faith.
Through weakness comes power,
A strength every hour.
Though empty, we give with
A heart unafraid,
Secure in the knowing
And full in the flowing
Of Your mighty Spirit
Each moment by faith.

Only Your Will

Father, I want so many things. I am always hungry and thirsty.

I need so many things. I feel weak and vulnerable and am constantly grasping for security.

But no human being was ever weaker than Your Son, and He wanted only You.

“By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.” (John 5:30, NIV)

He needed only You. Your glory, Your Kingdom, Your will—that is all He wanted. That’s what made Him so different from everyone else. He thought, talked, and acted differently from the rest of us because of His relationship with You. Instead of focusing on Himself, He single-mindedly focused on You and Your concerns. He didn’t care about money or career or reputation or social pressure. He kept His mind and heart always tuned to Your voice.

As a result, He was always sufficient, always speaking Your words, always doing Your works, always able, always at peace.

Father, Father, give me His Spirit! Help me to look only to You and want only You.

[Father, Father](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Father, Father,
Here in Your presence
Praising, trusting
Through all that will come,
Asking, wanting
Only Your glory,
My Father,
Your will be done.

Father, Father,
Here in this moment
Help me know You

ONE WITH GOD, p.28

For all that You are,
Always, only
Living to please You.
My Father,
Your will be done.

Father, Father,
Here in Your keeping
Wealthy, resting
Secure in Your care,
Seeking, building
Only Your Kingdom,
My Father,
Your will be done.

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Father, I leave myself open to You.
Examine,
speak,
forgive,
refine.
Form Christ in me.

Look to Your Father

We long for consistency in our lives, especially in our relationship with our Father. We sense moments of oneness with Him, but soon our thoughts are pulled and pushed this way and that.

We long for Jesus' relationship with the Father. No matter how busy or pressured His life became, He always seemed one with His Father, constantly looking to Him, depending on Him, remaining open to Him. Most of us fall far short of that relationship with the Father.

But as we look to Him more and more, as simple prayer weaves itself into the fabric of our moments, we grow into Him. The prayer Jesus taught us becomes more and more the constant cry of our hearts:

*Our Father in heaven,
may **Your** name be glorified,
may **Your** Kingdom come,
may **Your** will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
(Matthew 6:9-10, paraphrase)*

Even when our conscious thoughts wander and we seem to forget Him for a time, our hearts remain focused on Him. Increasingly we want only what He wants. We love Him, depend on Him, and crave unbroken fellowship with Him. This is the gracious Spirit of Christ, putting down deeper roots in us, growing and spreading in the garden of our hearts.

[The Father's Face](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Father, Father, as I trust You,
As I turn my thoughts to pray,
You are with me, deeply with me;
We are breathing face to face.
May I live and die before You,
Never turned or drawn away,
All my thinking, all my doing,
Ever only face to face.

ONE WITH GOD, p.30

When our Lord was here among us,
Walking, working through the day,
You were with Him, always with Him;
You were living face to face.
In temptation, in the garden,
Still He never turned away.
As He died, His work completed,
He was focused on Your face.

Father, Father, in His Spirit,
As I walk from day to day,
As I pray and simply trust You,
We are always face to face.
May I live and die before You,
Never turned or drawn away,
All my thinking, all my doing,
Ever only face to face.

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Truth

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32, NIV)

The Truth—
deep, unchanging, absolute reality.
We long to know it,
to see it,
to grasp and embrace it.
We long to live in this Truth,
to move and breathe in harmony with it,
to stand on it and rest in it
completely, constantly, forever.

As the Son of the Father,
as the Creator and Source of all,
Jesus speaks the Truth,
lives the Truth, and
is the Truth.
His Spirit within us is the Spirit of Truth.
As we live in Him and He in us,
we are wrapped forever in the full reality of all He is.
In Him life is right and good and complete, and
we are free!

[I Have the Truth](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

I have the truth, so clear and lovely,
Lighting my heart and mind and soul.
I have the truth, so clear and lovely.
This truth, this light is Jesus.
This truth, this light is Jesus.

I have a joy and hope unfailing
Warming my heart and mind and soul.
I have a joy and hope unfailing.
This hope, this joy is Jesus.
This hope, this joy is Jesus.

ONE WITH GOD, p.32

Simple, natural, personal,
Rich and real and every day!
All I've ever wanted or wished for
Has a face and the touch of a Friend!

I have a life and love unending
Filling my heart and mind and soul.
I have a life and love unending.
This love, this life is Jesus.
This truth, this joy is Jesus.

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Our Father is the center and source of all reality.
Freedom is an unhindered relationship with Him.
Jesus enjoys that freedom, that unhindered relationship, and
is eager to share it with us.

Rejoice in Jesus Christ!

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:5, 11, NIV)

Jesus paints a beautiful picture of our life in Him. We are like a branch connected to the Vine. We are fruitful as we remain in Him. Our prayers are answered as we remain in Him.

Why has He told us all this? What does He want for us?

Jesus longs for us to share the joy He finds in His Father, in loving, trusting, and obeying His Father. He wants us to know His joy, and He wants our joy to be *full!*

How is joy different than happiness? Normally we connect happiness with temporary circumstances. We are happy because we are on vacation, or our relationships are going smoothly, or our health is good, or we feel financially comfortable.

We are joyful because of what doesn't change:

Who Jesus is,
our daily relationship with Him,
our future in Him.

Jesus wants us to rejoice because of what is always ours in Him.

[Joy in Christ](#)

[Recording](#)

[Printed Music](#)

We chase so much we don't possess
To quench a thirst we can't express.
All is empty restlessness
Till life and joy are found in Christ.
Come, O my Lord, O my Lord, my Lord!
The joy we crave is all in Christ.

Our Lord is God. Our Lord is here.
His heart is kind. His Word is clear:

ONE WITH GOD, p.34

Faith will chase away all fear
Till joy is full in Jesus Christ.
I turn to You, O my Lord, my Lord!
Today is joy in Jesus Christ.

Though life is filled with weary pain
And nagging problems all remain,
He is every day the same.
Rejoice, rejoice in Jesus Christ!
I sing, my Lord, O my Lord, my Lord!
Rejoice, rejoice in Jesus Christ!

Our Lord, our God, we find in You
A light, a joy for all we do.
Glad in what is always we true,
We worship You, Lord Jesus Christ!
Forevermore, O my Lord, my Lord,
All praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!

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Realize who you are.
You are not your occupation or your abilities.
You are not your gender, race, or social status.
You are not your past.
You trusted Christ, and now you are becoming like Him.
Look to Him—He is your present and your future.
With Him, you are a beloved child of Almighty God, your Papa, your Father.
You are His heir and His treasure.

The Good Shepherd

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father...My sheep listen to my voice...and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." (John 10:14-15, 27-28, NIV)

Good Shepherd, when you speak, I recognize Your voice. I recognize the Father's love, the Father's power, the Father's wisdom, and the Father's tender care for me.

Good Shepherd, lead me out. Always go with me and before me. Lead me to Your provision for today: Your bread, Your work, Your rest.

Good Shepherd, You are the door. Through You I enter into life. You are always standing in front of me, protecting me from the Evil One.

Good Shepherd, You lay down Your life for me. I am Your own. The same knowing that binds You to Your Father now binds me to You.

You are love. Speak, Lord. My heart is listening.

[Good Shepherd](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Good Shepherd, speak. My heart is listening.
Your voice is love. You call my name.
Lord Jesus, lead, for I can only follow.
I am a lamb, and You, the Living Way.
Good Shepherd, speak. My heart is listening.
Your love alone can call my name.

O Savior God, You walk before me.
Your way is life. I gladly go.
I cannot see, but I will simply follow.
We walk a path that only You can know.
O Savior God, You walk before me.
Your way is love. I gladly go.

We fear coming to Jesus Christ and giving Him control of ourselves.

We fear for our comfort. We fear what He will ask.

But He asks us to rest.

We find not a tyrant but One who is gentle and lowly,
who is eager only for our best.

We find the simplicity and freedom of following
one voice and
one shepherd.

Follow Jesus

We hear no smooth-talking persuasion from Jesus. He describes the path ahead of us clearly and plainly:

“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Mark 8:34, NIV)

Who would want to follow Jesus straight into His storm of suffering?

But look at Him. See the person He is and the way He lives. He has experienced all that we have, and so much more. Yet see His peace, His patience, His sufficiency in every situation. See His deep, constant relationship with the Father. See His love, never fearful and never strained.

I want to follow Him. I want to finally lay down this perpetual burden of petty self-concern. I want to pick up my cross and go with Him wherever He goes. I am held captive by the magnificence of Jesus Christ.

“I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him...I want to know Christ...and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”
(Philippians 3:8-9, 10, NIV)

[Come See Our God](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Come see our God with a warm and human face.
He is like us.
He has walked our weary ways.

So who will hear His Word,
And who will trust His love,
And who will follow as He leads us day by day?
We will hear.
We will trust.
We will follow.

ONE WITH GOD, p.38

Come see our God with compassion in His eyes.
He forgives us
As He bows His head and dies.

So who will hear His Word,
And who will trust His love,
And who will follow as He leads us day by day?
We will hear.
We will trust.
We will follow.

Come see our God with all power in His hand.
He is with us!
Mountains move at His command.

So who will hear His Word,
And who will trust His love,
And who will follow as He leads us day by day?
We will hear.
We will trust.
We will follow.

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“Do not reject your cross.
Crosses carried with patient endurance, lowliness, and self-sacrifice
unite us with Jesus Christ crucified.” (paraphrased from Francois Fenelon)

Section 3

Breathe His Spirit

“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” (John 14:15-18, NIV)

Our All-encompassing God

No matter how we stretch, we cannot wrap our imaginations around Almighty God.

He is God our Father and Creator. The physical world is a picture of His generosity, His wisdom, and His unbounded power. The seasons and centuries sing His faithfulness. The heavens are a tiny window to the mystery and infinity of His being. Every moment, from birth to death, He wraps us in the light and texture of His love.

He is God the Son. He is all of God become completely human...just like us but without sin. He emptied Himself to become our Brother, our Savior, our Sacrifice, our Healer. He is the new Adam, inviting us to be born again into a whole new race of holy, glorified beings filled with His endless life.

He is God the Spirit. He is the breath of God within us. He is love, wisdom, and power uniting with who we are, giving us *everything we need for life and godliness* (2 Peter 1:3, NIV).

Our imaginations cannot encompass the Almighty Triune God. But He encompasses us, body and soul, imagination and spirit, every breath and throughout eternity. Praise to our magnificent Lord!

[You Are Almighty God](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Look up and see His holy power.
Listen and hear Him in the thunder.
Bow down and find Him in the darkness.
He is Almighty God.
Father, O Father,
We are Your children.
We bow in worship.
You are Almighty God.

Look up and see His body broken.
Listen and hear His Spirit groaning.
Bow down and wonder in the silence.
He is the Son of God.
Jesus, O Jesus,
Shepherd and Savior,
We bow in worship.
You are the Son of God.

Wake up and see the Spirit moving.
Hear Him and follow as He whispers.
Step out, depending on His power.
He is the Breath of God.
Spirit, O Spirit,
Speak to Your people.
Come, Holy Power.
You are the Breath of God.

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The prize held out before us is not material blessings—
not in this world and not in the next.
The prize God offers is Himself, with all the life and love that are in Him.

One with Christ*

God's goal and desire is to make us one with Himself. Each of us. All of us. That has always been His amazing purpose.

But for many believers, Jesus is like an unnoticed guest, shut up in some little-visited closet in a corner of their house. He has been there since they believed in Him and received Him. He longs to make Himself known to them, to be one with them in their daily lives and share in all their interests. But He will not force Himself on anyone. They walk through their lives unaware of their Guest, ignorant of their marvelous privileges. They come and go, lay their plans, make their decisions, pursue their joys here and there, long for peace, stumble through relationships, and inwardly mourn their unsatisfying lives, all with little reference to Him.

Believer, hear this beautiful, life-changing truth: the Lord is with you! The Lord is in you! Throw open every door to Him. Make Him the center of every part of your life. Talk to Him. Thank Him. Consult Him. Trust Him. Lean on Him. Get to know Him.

But this picture of Jesus as a guest doesn't fully express the reality. He longs to join His innermost life—His very breath—to our innermost life, to the essence of who we are. Through a living relationship, built on trust, He will come more and more into real union with us. His will becomes our will. His actions become our actions. His love, His passion, His holiness become increasingly ours—not in theory, not in ecstatic emotion, not someday and far away—but now, in living, daily reality.

Like every part of salvation, this happens by God's love, through simple faith. It comes by turning to Him and trusting Him, one step at a time.

**"One with Christ" was inspired by chapter 17 of "The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life", by Hannah Whitall Smith, 1875.*

One in Purpose, One in Passion

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

One in purpose, one in passion,
One in heart with Jesus Christ;
Blessed in Him beyond all measure,
Filled with His abundant life;
One in Spirit, one in power,
One in faith and sacrifice,
One in suffering, one in glory,
We are one with Jesus Christ.

One in heart when needs are crying,
Doing all His love demands,
Praying, trusting, giving boldly
All He placed here in our hands.
His compassion, His provision-
Giving is our Lord's delight!
As we share His endless treasure,
We are one with Jesus Christ.

One in Christ with all God's children,
One in hope and heart and voice,
Lifting high our Father's glory,
Living love with holy joy.
One in purpose, one in passion,
One in death, and one in life,
Earth and heaven, now, forever,
We are one with Jesus Christ.

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How Can We Describe It?

How can we describe the life of Christ within us?
The Bible says it is
like breathing the breath of God,
like a river of life constantly flowing within us,
like a deep, inexpressible joy.

We know this:
as we trust Him,
His life grows within us.
His Spirit joins with our spirit, and
we become more and more like Him.
He lives in us constantly and forever, and
we in Him.

[Living Christ](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Lord, throughout my busy life
Our deeper life goes on;
Rising through this daily noise
Your rich immortal song.
Life in You,
Now in You!
Sing in me, O Living Christ!

Anytime I turn to You,
I breathe Your perfect peace.
More and more I find You there
As faith and prayer increase.
More in You,
All in You!
Flow in me, O Living Christ!

Seeing You, my Lord, my King,
With joy I take Your cross.
All I hold I leave behind.
My gains I count as loss.
Rich in You,
Loved in You,
One with You, O Living Christ!

ONE WITH GOD, p.45

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Father, when we seek Your best gifts,
You gladly give them.

In Christ

To me, to live is Christ. (Philippians 1:21, NIV)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:1-3, NIV)

Salvation is not so much what Christ *does* as what He *is*. All the blessings that come to us through Christ--love, peace, joy, and more--are His own personal characteristics. They do not come to us as a "something", wrapped up and handed to us. They come as He comes to us and unites His Spirit with ours. They come ***in Him***.

There is a living union with Christ that can best be described as being ***in Him***. It is a union that began in the heart of our Father before the foundation of the world.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us ***in Christ*** with every spiritual blessing.*

*He chose us ***in Christ*** before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before Him.*

****In Him*** we have redemption through his blood.*

****In Christ*** we have also obtained an inheritance.*

****In him*** you...were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.*

(Ephesians 1:3, 4, 7, 11, 13 NRSV)

*In Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness ***in him***.* (Colossians 2:9-10, NRSV)

Like all the blessings of salvation, living ***in Christ*** comes to us by grace, through faith (Ephesians 2:8). Our union with Him is a living, ongoing relationship of trust. We are one with Him as we trust Him. It's that simple.

Brother or sister in Christ, share with me this one deep longing and constant goal: to live every moment ***in Christ***, trusting Him, now and forever.

[I'm in You](#)

[Recording](#)

[Printed Music](#)

Here and now, there forever,

Holy God, I'm in You.

Day by day, in this moment,

Holy God, I'm in You.

ONE WITH GOD, p.47

Jesus, Lord and Life and Brother,
Jesus, Savior, Friend, and Sacrifice,
Jesus, Comforter and Keeper,
Holy God, I'm in You.

In Your death, in Your rising,
Holy God, I'm in You.
When my time is completed,
Holy God, I'm in You.

Jesus, Lord and Life and Brother,
Jesus, Savior, Friend, and Sacrifice,
Jesus, Comforter and Keeper,
Holy God, I'm in You.

In Your triumph, in Your glory,
In the joy of all that soon will be,
At the right hand of the Father,
Holy God, I'm in You.

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The Gift of God's Spirit

Jesus spent many of His precious final hours here on earth teaching His disciples about the coming of His Holy Spirit. And looking at the early Church through the book of Acts, one can understand why. The gift of God's indwelling Spirit changed the Church from timid, self-centered individuals to a bold and loving body of disciples. They left their fearful hiding and became effective witnesses to the Living Christ.

As we trust Him, God's Spirit becomes one with our spirit, planting within us His life, His love, His power, His holiness, and the inexpressible loveliness of His presence.

Look at the difference this Gift has made in our world, in the Church, and in our lives. Then ask yourself what untapped potential is still there. How could God's Spirit glorify the Living Christ through us if we trusted Him more simply and constantly? How would He transform us if we focused our desires on hearing and following Him? Where would He lead us? How would He use us?

What beautiful oneness would we enjoy if each of us only wanted what He wants?

[In Your Spirit](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

In Your Spirit we have tasted
More than mind can understand:
All the depths of every promise,
All the garden once began,
All Your riches, all Your wisdom,
All Your love and all its wealth,
All the fullness of Your giving
In this giving of Yourself.

All our sin and all its bondage,
All the fear and curse of death
Now are conquered in Christ Jesus.
Now we share His holy breath.
Daily walking in His Spirit,
Step by step in love's pure light,
We are heirs with Christ our brother,
Breathing here His risen life.

ONE WITH GOD, p.49

In Christ Jesus what can harm us,
What divide us from Your love?
Any suffering? Any power
Deep below or high above?
Nothing present, nothing future--
You secure us by Your Word.
Father, none can separate us
From Your love in Christ our Lord!

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We have glimpsed truths that we have not yet fully grasped.
We have grasped truths that we do not yet fully live.
But God's Spirit is faithful to teach us and
form Christ in us.

Wind, Breath, and Spirit

In the Bible's original languages,
"wind," "breath," and "spirit" are all the same word.

God's Spirit is the wind of His power and
the breath of His love.

God's Spirit is His life in motion.

The Spirit that brooded over the waters at creation (Genesis 1:2),
the Breath that brought to life the valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37:1-10), and
the rushing, mighty Wind on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)
are the same mysterious, creative, all-powerful Spirit of God.

Jesus came to immerse us in this Spirit.

This Spirit works around us,
through us,
in us, and
among us
as we trust in Christ.

Ezekiel's Vision

[Recording](#)

[Printed Music](#)

Breath of God, unbounded Spirit,
Sovereign power and mystery,
Holy fire, now recreating,
Cleansing, shaping what will be.
O Wind of God, great Breath of God,
Your life fills eternity!

Death consumes the world around us.
Bones now mock what might have been.
Hope is gone, and all is barren.
Can our people live again?
O Wind of God, great Breath of God,
Your power none can comprehend!

Breath of God, unbounded Spirit-
Hear the wind of heaven blow!
See them rise, a mighty army!
Watch His promise overflow!
The Lord is life! The Lord is God!
And soon all the earth will know!

Knowing the Unknowable

“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--the Spirit of truth.

“I am in the Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” (John 14:15-17a, 20, 23, NIV)

Who completely understands the Trinity, how Three Persons can be One Being and One Being can be Three Persons?

Yet all who receive God’s Spirit experience the Trinity. We share in their love and unity. We taste their oneness and their individuality.

The Father showed His heart, His mind, and His deep love for us beautifully and completely in Christ. The Holy Spirit speaks this revelation to individuals all over the world. He makes the truth in Christ universal, constant, and personal.

The Father made Himself human in Jesus. He became small, earthly, and touchable. The Holy Spirit takes Jesus beyond the limits of a physical body and breathes Him all around us and within us.

God has wrapped us in Himself—
Father Creator,
Human Son,
Universal Spirit.

The life of God the Father is breathing through us. The Word that spoke all worlds into existence is recreating us. The Spirit that brooded over the waters is reshaping us. We share the love and unity of the Father, Son, and Spirit, becoming one with them and, in the process, one with each other. We are becoming more like Christ yet more truly ourselves, more individuals yet more one.

[One with God](#)

[Recording](#)

[Printed Music](#)

Father in heaven,
Jesus our brother,
Spirit now breathing around and within,
Sharing Your union,
Sharing Your being,
Sharing the life that forever has been.

ONE WITH GOD, p.52

One in Your power,
One in Your purpose,
One in the glory Your children all share,

One in Your speaking,
One in Your doing,
One in Your love, You have made us Your home,
Sharing Your present,
Sharing Your future,
Sharing each moment, forever Your own.

One in Your power,
One in Your purpose,
One in the glory Your children all share,

One as we love You,
One as we follow,
Walking in light that is leading above,
One with You, Father,
One in Christ Jesus,
One in Your Spirit in unbroken love.

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Never Be Thirsty Again

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit. (John 7:37-39a, NIV)

As our bodies thirst for water,
our spirits thirst for God.
We drink from other streams,
other wells,
other cisterns
but always go away unsatisfied.

God satisfies our spirit
with Himself.
We need never be thirsty again.
He becomes a spring of Living Water
always within us,
always fresh, and
always flowing.

God gives Himself freely to anyone who will
come,
ask and
trust.

Breath of Life

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Joy is not a bubble,
Not a passing dream.
It's deeper than all trouble,
Flowing on unseen.

Refrain:

Breath of life, Living God now within;
Evermore here in me, me in Him.

ONE WITH GOD, p.54

Life is like a fountain,
Not a stormy sea.
It's springing up forever,
Rising full and free!

He is holy Jesus,
Holy in my heart.
He's speaking love and mercy,
Calling me apart.

As I trust His goodness,
Life and joy begin.
I'm walking in His presence,
Growing more like Him.

My Lord! My Lord! My Lord!

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Don't squander your life on shallow and temporary stimulations.
It is not enough to FEEL better.
You can BE better.
You can breathe the life and love of God.

The Spirit of Jesus

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.

“The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:16, 26, NIV)

The Holy Spirit is to us what the physical presence of Jesus was to His disciples.

He is

teacher,
comforter,
encourager,
companion,
advocate,
intercessor, and
friend.

The Spirit is to us what Jesus was to His disciples,
but more.

Jesus was limited by a physical body.

The Spirit is Jesus unbound from any limitations.

He is Jesus with us, among us, and within us
every moment, always and forever.

The Spirit is our teacher.

We understand so little and remember even less,
but the Spirit patiently instructs us.

He reminds us of what is important.

He takes us by the hand and leads us into all truth.

The Spirit helps us know Jesus—not just know about Him, but know *Him* personally,
face to face and heart to heart.

This knowing, this sharing
is closer than any human friendship.

Spirit of Christ

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Spirit of Christ, lead me into all truth.

Spirit of Christ, lead me into all truth.

In Your love,

In Your time,
Share Your thoughts,
Make them mine.
Spirit of Christ, lead me into all truth.

Spirit of Truth, speak to me of my Lord.
Spirit of Truth, speak to me of my Lord.
Speak His love,
All divine.
Speak His heart;
Speak His mind.
Spirit of Truth, speak to me of my Lord.

Spirit of Christ, bathe my soul in Your peace.
Spirit of Christ, bathe my soul in Your peace--
All of You
All the time,
Just a branch
In the Vine.
Spirit of Christ, bathe my soul in Your peace.

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We reach for so much that we cannot attain,
things temporary and unworthy of our wanting.
But what is best, what is deep, lasting, and satisfying is
God, His presence, and His blessing.

Pray as Christ Prayed

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." (John 15:7, NIV)

Jesus Christ prayed
humbly,
unselfishly,
confidently,
obediently.

Pray as He prayed.

Pray as a branch in the Vine.

You share Jesus' relationship with His Father,
so as you pray in Jesus' name,
the Father will answer you as He would answer Jesus.

You stand in the Father's presence now.

Talk to Him

humbly,
unselfishly,
confidently,
obediently.

Only seek His glory and His will, not your own.

Ever Standing in Your Presence

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Ever standing in Your presence,
Ever living face to face,
Ever sharing, ever listening,
Ever open to Your grace.

Refrain:

It's so good to just be near You,
Free to bring You each request,
Simply trusting You as Father,
Free to serve and free to rest.

Ever drawing us to know You,
Ever teaching to depend,
Ever loving, ever giving,
Ever God and ever Friend!

ONE WITH GOD, p.58

Ever wonderful within us,
Ever dearer every day,
Ever worthy of our worship,
Ever lovely! Ever praised!

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Section 4

Love Others in Him

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. (1 John 4:7-12, 16b, NIV)

Tuned to the Father

“My prayer is not for [these disciples] alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you...that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (John 17:20-23, NIV)

Jesus prays that we may be one—
but one with whom?
And how?

An orchestra tunes, not by all attempting to tune to each other,
but by each individual tuning to a common pitch.
In the same way, our unity starts with the unity between Father and Son.
Their unity is born of deep love and unbroken sharing.
As we trust that Jesus is one with the Father,
the Holy Spirit makes us part of their sharing.
The Spirit tunes each of us to the Father and Son.
Our unity with each other is a bi-product of
their union with each other and
our union with them.

The Father loves us as completely as He loves His own Son.
All the blessings of eternal life and eternal oneness flow from
the Father’s love.

Father, As You Love Your Son

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Father, as You love Your Son,
Sharing all Your heart,
Sharing every thought and word,
Sharing all You are,
Now in Christ, all in Christ,
You have loved us too!
How You long to share Yourself,
Drawing us to You.

ONE WITH GOD, p.61

Father, in Your holy Son
Share Your holy heart.
As we trust You, Lord, You come,
Giving all You are.
Father God, stay in us,
Breathe eternal life.
Make us wholly one with You,
One in Jesus Christ.

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Genuine, active love is the
light of God's presence in us.
Let it shine!

Love Is Fruit

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. Love each other as I have loved you." (John 15:5, 9, 12, NIV)

How can we love each other as Christ loves us?

Abide in the Vine.

Stay connected to Him.

Stay connected throughout the day,
turning to Him and talking to Him often.

His presence, His Spirit, His perspective
will start to permeate our hearts, minds, and lives.

His love will be the fruit of our remaining in Him.

I Look to You, and You Are Love

[Recording](#)

[Printed Music](#)

I look to You, and You are love,
And Father, You are here.
While close to You, my heart is love,
And praise replaces fear.

Refrain:

My Lord, my God, You're with me now;
I love, and I am free.
Stay near and breathe just one desire:
To love as You love me.

I pray, and Lord, I see Your face
In family and friends.
The love that binds my heart to You
Now binds my heart to them.

I face You, Lord, and know Your love
And know it has no bounds.
I long to bring that love to life
And spread it all around.

Love is the mark of our connection with the unseen God.
If we love other people,
we are born of Him, and
we are His.

Children of the King

Jesus said that when we believe in Him, we become citizens of the Kingdom of God. He taught us about living in that Kingdom, and many of His teachings seem strange, difficult, or even backward to us: “Do not worry about your life...” (Matthew 6:25); “Love your enemies...” (Matthew 5:44); “If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also” (Matthew 5:39). According to the Beatitudes, those who are blessed in God’s Kingdom are not the rich, powerful, and popular, but the poor, meek, and persecuted (Matthew 5:3-12).

As citizens of God’s Kingdom who live in this world as well, we feel that tension. We’re called to simply trust God when fear and worry feel more natural. We’re commanded to love some very unlovely and unkind people. We’re told to be lowly servants when our ego craves gold and glory.

But here’s the key. As citizens of God’s Kingdom, we live in the court of the King. This King is our Father, and we are His royal children. He is loving. He is wise. He is infinitely powerful. And this King is always, always, always with us, constantly looking out for our good, eager to provide for our every need.

Jesus teaches us that we should think and live as such royal children, in the immediate presence of our Father. When we do, everything changes! God is love, so we want to love everyone He loves. His resources are unlimited, so generosity is natural and affordable. Jesus’ upside-down teachings suddenly start to make perfect sense! When we trust ourselves to our Father’s care, we are free to live and love and give as Christ taught.

Remember: you are living in the presence of the King!

[What a Strange and Wonderful Kingdom!](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

What a strange and wonderful kingdom,
The Kingdom of God!
The poor are rich,
The rich are poor,
And those who give all have plenty more
In the strange and wonderful Kingdom,
The Kingdom of God.

What a strange and wonderful kingdom,
The Kingdom of God!
All those who mourn
Will sing and laugh.
The suffering are filled with happiness
In the strange and wonderful Kingdom,
The Kingdom of God.

There everyone is welcome,
And all may come to stay,
But only children enter--
All the proud are turned away.

This Kingdom is a party.
This Kingdom is a feast.
A Servant is the Ruler,
And the greatest are the least.

What a strange and wonderful kingdom,
The Kingdom of God!
His Kingdom comes--
I don't know when,
But day after day I walk with Him
In the strange and wonderful Kingdom,
The Kingdom of God.

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Father, when we live as Your children,
Your presence in us brings light, blessing, and flavor
to the people around us.

Live His Love

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”
(Matthew 5:44-48, NIV)

God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8, NIV)

Our Father has freed us to be
as loving and generous as He is.
He has promised to provide everything we need
to care and to give as He does.
Will we trust Him for it?
Will we dare to live like Jesus?

Live in Love

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Refrain:

We are children of our Father--
We will live in love.
We are free to live like Jesus--
We will live in love.
Living from the inside out
Lives that don't leave any doubt
Love is what we're all about--
We will live in love.

Spreading kindness, seeking peace,
Faithfulness and honesty,
Glad to act unselfishly,
We will live in love.
We will live in love.

ONE WITH GOD, p.67

We'll forgive and not condemn,
Treating enemies like friends,
Speak each word as unto Him.
We will live in love.
We will live in love.

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What Matters Most

John the Baptist is an intriguing character. Jesus said of him, "Among those born of women, there is no one greater than John" (Luke 7:28). What a recommendation!

As his ministry seemed to be diminishing, John said of himself, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' He must become greater; I must become less" (John 3:27-28, 30). That statement alone says a lot about John to me.

But listen to what the common people said of him. To me, this is the highest compliment paid to him: "Though John never performed a miraculous sign, all that he said about Jesus was true" (John 10:41, adapted). The account goes on to add, "And in that place many believed in Jesus" (John 10:42).

Now that's a recommendation! Wouldn't you like to have people remember you that way after you're gone?

Most of us dream of doing great things. But whether we accomplish them or not, often we eventually realize that our dreams aren't as grand and noble as they once seemed. We come to see them as small and self-centered. Often our dreams matter less than we thought.

But our personal testimony about Jesus Christ matters! How we present Him through our lives and through our words matters a lot! It matters to the people we care about. It matters to many around us we're not even aware of. It matters to people we'll never know, at least not in this life. It matters now, and it will matter forever, in realms we can't imagine. Your testimony about Christ matters!

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God calls people to be His witnesses--to tell others what they personally know and have experienced about God. That's our task. It's our divine calling.

But I like the way Paul phrases it. In Ephesians 1, he says that God adopted us sinners as His children and redeemed us and filled with His Spirit so that we might be for "the praise of His glorious grace" (Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14). In other words, our whole purpose, both in this world and beyond it, is to show others just how good and how loving God really is. That is the Church's purpose. That is your purpose.

Your level of talent doesn't matter so much. Your life testimony matters a lot. Your glory doesn't matter. God's glory means everything. Human beings are changed forever as they see how good God is and learn to trust Him.

Consider making this your personal challenge and your whole reason for being: to find your own unique way of showing other people that God is love.

Kindle a Flame

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Kindle a flame of love
Here in my heart, O Lord.
Set all my soul ablaze
With love and joy.
Reaching to all in need,
Pour out Your love through me.
Kindle a life that burns for You.

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Father, may my daily life show people that You are
kind, compassionate, caring, patient,
gentle, and forgiving.

The Good Samaritan

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

But the expert in the law wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

In reply Jesus said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

“But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return I will reimburse you for any extra expense you have.’

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” (Luke 10:27, 29-37, NIV)

I see myself in this story. But I am not always the Samaritan.

Sometimes I am the expert in the law. God’s wisdom for us is clear and simple: treat your neighbor the way you want to be treated. But when I fail, when the golden rule isn’t comfortable, I try to “justify” myself with questions and reasoning: “But who *is* my neighbor? How far does my responsibility *really* go?”

Sometimes I am the priest. Though a neighbor’s need is obvious, I have something more pressing to do, and more convenient. I pretend not to see.

But the closer I grow to God, the more His love grips my heart. The more I love Him, the more I care about those He loves. How can I ignore those that matter so deeply to Him?

Every parent, every loving spouse, every true friend knows that love has its own logic and its own agenda. It doesn’t always make sense to others. That is the logic and agenda my Father wants for me as I live in this needy world, full of people He loves. In

every needy "neighbor" He wants me to see my child, my spouse, my dear friend...myself.

When I am needy and hurting, I am desperate to see that Good Samaritan come along. Father, help me to *be* a neighbor to the needy persons I meet.

The Good Samaritan

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

For life in its fullness, put love in control.
Love God with your heart, with your body and soul.
And see all your neighbors? Go love them as well,
And care for each one as you care for yourself.

You wrestle with questions. There's more you would know.
Just who is your neighbor? How far must you go?
Compassionate love is not simple and neat.
Turn loose of your comforts. Get into the street!

Consider a traveler just working for bread.
He's beaten and robbed and then left there for dead.
Some pass him, and kindness is what they profess,
But they keep on going, ignoring the mess.

Then one came and put his agenda aside.
He helped him and healed him and gave him a ride.
When struggling, which one are you longing to see?
Then go be a neighbor to someone in need!

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Our Father's work is eternally important, and
He is always seeking workers.
Are you available to Him today?

You Did It for Me

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me...Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:35-36, 40, NIV)

The picture that Jesus paints is a sobering one. When He returns to earth in all His glory, He will gather before Him all our race. Then He will separate us. Some will be blessed and welcomed into a beautiful kingdom prepared for them by their loving Father (v.34). Others will be cursed and sent away from God into eternal fire, prepared for the devil and his angels (v.41).

What will be the standard for this separation? Simply this: how we responded to Jesus Christ here in this life; specifically, how we treated Him when we met Him in the needy around us.

We will answer to Jesus face to face, with our hearts and lives laid bare. In that moment our acts and our omissions will be seen for what they are: our personal response to the living, ever-present Jesus Christ.

That moment is a certain future for each of us. How should we prepare? Surrounded by need, how can we live up to such a standard? What He wants for us is very simple: live in His presence now. Make Him the center of life now, as you will see Him to be in that moment. Your love for Him will grow. And as you love Him, you will love those that He loves.

If we claim to love Him but live to please ourselves, ignoring the needs of His dear ones all around us, our love will be shown to be a lie. *If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?* (1 John 3:17, NIV)

Lord Jesus, help us to see You in the faces of the needy all around us. As we love each little one, we are loving You.

[When I Face You, Lord](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

When I face You, Lord, on that final day,
I will see Your eyes, I will hear You say,
"I was needy then with a different name.
When I called, did you turn away?"

Let me hear Your voice, let me see Your face
When a heart cries out from a needy place.
As You gave to me, let me give Your grace.
Let me be Your hands today.
Let me be Your hands today.

When I face You, Lord, on that final day,
When I see Your eyes, will You know my name?
Will You take my hand? Will You turn away?
Jesus, what will I hear You say?

Let me hear Your voice, let me see Your face
When a heart cries out from a needy place.
As You gave to me, let me give Your grace.
Let me be Your hands today.
Let me be Your hands today.

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Do you want to please your Father?
Live compassionately toward the lost and needy.
Don't separate yourself from them. Embrace them with your presence.
That will please Him more than all your religious ritual (Matthew 9:9-13).

When the Time Comes

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

"Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" (John 12:23-25, 27-28, NIV)

Jesus knew His time had come. He was about to be deserted by His closest friends, mocked and humiliated by His enemies, tortured, condemned to death by His own people, separated from His Father with whom He had enjoyed an eternity of intimate fellowship, and executed by the most brutal method known.

Yet how did He think of the hours ahead? He considered it His chance to show the entire world the amazing love of His Father. It was His chance to plant the seed from which a bountiful, eternal harvest would grow.

Facing His ordeal, He wasn't begging for a way out. He was asking the Father to glorify Himself through all that was about to happen.

Father, that is my prayer as well. Through my difficult hours, glorify Yourself. Through my suffering, let the world see how marvelous and loving You are!

[Glorify Your Name](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Loving Father, I release myself to You.
All that lies ahead I leave for You to choose.
I know that freedom from all trouble
Is a freedom I can't claim,
So my Father, simply glorify Your name.

ONE WITH GOD, p.75

I am just a child--I can't know what is best,
For Your wisdom has so many ways to bless;
So I trade all my dreams and wishes
For the life Your love ordains,
As my heart is praying: glorify Your name.

Jesus, all my gains may change to grief and loss
As I bow here day by day and take Your cross;
But I'm rejoicing as I follow
That our hearts now sing the same:
Abba, Father, only glorify Your name.
Abba, Father, only glorify Your name.

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Speaking for the Father

Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him." (John 7:16, 18, NIV)

Father, when Jesus spoke,
He was completely dependent on You.
 He only spoke as You spoke.
He was completely obedient,
 speaking only Your words.
He was completely humble,
 honoring only You.

Thus He spoke with
 confidence,
 boldness, and
 authority
in every situation,
for He only spoke the words of Almighty God.

Father, to the people who hear me,
speak Your Words.
Speak Your wisdom.
Speak Your love.

[Speak Your Word, My Father](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Speak Your Word, my Father,
Speak Your Word through me.
 Quiet all my struggle.
 Let Your Spirit lead.
You are perfect wisdom.
You know every heart.
As I trust and follow,
 I will play my part.
Speak Your Word, my Father,
Speak Your Word through me.
 Quiet all my struggle.
 Let Your Spirit lead.

ONE WITH GOD, p.77

Help me hear Your whispers,
Help me know Your best,
When to press with courage,
When to wait and rest,
Moving to Your rhythms
In Your Spirit's ease,
Lightly as a feather
Floating on a breeze.
Help me hear Your whispers,
Help me know Your best,
When to press with courage,
When to wait and rest.

You are grace and goodness,
You are all I seek,
You the loving wisdom
I would always speak.
Make my whole ambition
Not the things I do,
But Yourself, my Father,
Always only You.
You are grace and goodness,
You are all I seek,
You the loving wisdom
I would always speak.

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Jesus didn't ask His disciples to leave their profession of fishing.
He called them to do it for a different reason.
He offered them the opportunity to fish for people.
What opportunity has the Lord offered you?

Set Apart

“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17:17, NIV)

We are weak, imperfect people
sent into an evil, hostile world
to do the work of a holy God.
How can we be protected from the evil all around us?
How can we effectively do God’s work here?

We must be sanctified.
“Sanctified” means “set apart”.
We must be set apart to God:
consecrated entirely to Him,
cleansed and made entirely His own,
equipped for His service.

What does God use to set us apart entirely as His own?
He sets us apart and keeps us
by the truth—
that is, by the *reality* and *reliability* of His mighty word.
We go into this evil world in complete safety and
do His work boldly and effectively
because we are shielded and empowered by
the *reality* and *reliability* of Who He is and all He says.

In all our weakness
we can be holy and effective in this world
because God is Who He is, and
we are in Him.

[Mighty God, I Will Trust in You](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Father, Father,
Mighty God, I will trust in You!
Love overflowing--
Mighty God, I will trust in You!
Joy is believing You,
Knowing You are with me.
Mighty God, I will trust in You!
You will give me what is best.
Mighty God, I will trust in You!

Jesus, Jesus,
Mighty God, I will trust in You!
Light from our Father--
Mighty God, I will trust in You!
Freedom is knowing You,
Even in the darkness.
Mighty God, I will trust in You!
Every moment, every need,
Mighty God, I will trust in You!

Spirit, Spirit,
Mighty God, I will trust in You!
Fullness of Jesus--
Mighty God, I will trust in You!
Walking in confidence,
Knowing You are in me.
Mighty God, I will trust in You!
Fear will never hold me back.
Mighty God, I will trust in You!
Mighty God, I will trust in You!
Mighty God, I will trust in You!

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As we go to make disciples of Jesus Christ, we go
in His sovereign authority and
in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit.
We go in the Spirit of Christ Himself,
with His Word and
for His glory.

Consider the Seed

"I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." (John 12:24-25, NIV)

Consider the seed.

It's so small...and hard...and dry...
very unspectacular in appearance.
We bury it in the earth.
We water it. We tend it.
We protect it. We watch it.
And do you know what happens?
Nothing.
Nothing happens...for a long time.

But hidden in that seed is a mysterious, powerful, irrepressible life.
And if we wait patiently,
one day a tiny, tender sprout begins to push up through the earth.
That sprout becomes a little stem,
and after much more watering and tending and protecting,
it produces flowers for us to see and smell.
It gives delicious fruit for us to eat and enjoy.

But do you know what else it produces?
More seeds!
Our one seed is now hundreds, even thousands of seeds.
And if those seeds fall to the ground and die,
each of them bears flowers and fruit
and gives more and more seeds.
The entire earth could become a beautiful, fruitful garden
from one seed.

Jesus Christ was one seed.
Each of us is just...one...seed.

[Bless This Seed](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Bless this seed
As we sow.
Father, only You can make it grow.

ONE WITH GOD, p.81

Bless this seed,
Sown in faith.
Lord, complete Your work as we obey.

In Your love,
By Your Word,
For Your purpose and Your glory, Lord.

Grow this seed
Day by day.
Bless its fruit in human lives, we pray.

In Your love,
By Your Word,
For Your purpose and Your glory, Lord.

You create.
You command.
Bless this seed. We leave it in Your hand.

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God's Seeds Bear Fruit

My wife and I recently received a note from a couple we knew years ago. When we met them, they were brand new Christians who had come to the church we attended. To get to know them better, we invited them to our home on a Sunday evening after church.

When their note arrived, we hadn't seen or heard from them in decades. Their note told us how much that evening long ago had meant to them. It had helped to welcome them into the church and establish them in their faith. Now they were still serving the Lord, and their children, young adults, were off to Christian colleges.

We hadn't thought of that evening in many years. Our lives had gone on to so many "bigger" things. But our hour or so together had been a seed that God had watered and nurtured. He was still harvesting fruit from that tiny seed, long after we had forgotten planting it.

When the Day of the Lord comes and we all gather around to celebrate His rich harvest, how much fruit will have grown from the few seeds we scattered during our brief time here on earth? The sower parable is so true (Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23). Though most of the seeds we sow never bear fruit, the few that fall on good soil will produce so abundantly that we are guaranteed a rich harvest.

That's why it is vital that we faithfully sow the seed God places in our hands:

*Sow your seed in the morning,
and at evening let not your hands be idle,
for you do not know which will succeed.*
(Ecclesiastes 11:6, NIV)

Don't be discouraged. Just keep sowing. The seed is good, and God will make it grow.

[See the Seed of Faith](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

See the seed of faith once planted,
Sown with tears and sacrifice,
Now a garden all around us,
Rich with color, rich with life.
See more blossoms daily open,
Spreading still the precious seed,
Bearing fruit for every hunger,
Filling every human need.

ONE WITH GOD, p.83

We are part of all He's growing,
Rooted in long ages past,
Spreading out to fill the future,
Blessing far beyond our grasp.
Daily plant the seeds of kindness.
Sow His mercy, reap His peace.
Share in love's abundant harvest,
Filling all eternity.

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“Calmly, quietly attend to what God has assigned you today.
You can accomplish far more by calm, thoughtful work done in God’s sight
than by hurried human busy-ness.” (paraphrased from Francois Fenelon)

Ambassadors of His Love

Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 18, 20a, NIV)

The mighty, amazing, lavish,
burning, boundless love of Christ
is making His appeal to a dark and dying world
through us.
Our daily lives are
His face,
His voice, and
His hands.
We are His ambassadors,
sent to show the world that
He is indeed
complete forgiveness and
tender compassion.

[Reconciled in Christ](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

God draws us to Himself in Christ.
New creatures now, we share His life.
All walls are gone forevermore.
Christ Jesus stands, our open door!

He died for us, and now we live.
His love demands all we can give.
No longer for ourselves alone,
We live and breathe to draw His own.

Ambassadors of Christ the King,
Forgiveness is the news we bring,
His mighty love, our burning flame.
We speak to glorify His name!

Through every struggle near and far,
To every nation, every heart,
In every darkness, this our light:
The blazing love of Jesus Christ!

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Jesus Christ has radically changed our moment-by-moment existence:
complete forgiveness of all we've done wrong;
deliverance from all sin's power;
God's own Spirit reshaping all we do and all we are;
complete and constant access to our Father;
eternal life in wonderful fellowship with Him.
All this is by simply trusting Him.
What astounding news!
And most of the world doesn't know!
We have to tell them.
We have to SHOW them.

One by One

Our magnificent God created the entire physical universe with a word. His sovereignty is so complete that He simply expresses His will, and matter obeys.

When Jesus came, surely He could have healed the same way. With just a word He could have healed an entire village, an entire nation, the whole world. But He did not. He healed personally, individually, one by one.

He healed in many different ways. Healing was not a technique but a personal exchange. He always established personal contact with the one requesting the healing, whether with the needy person or their representative (sick people often can't speak for themselves). From the petitioner, there was an expression of faith. Then from Jesus, a word...a look...sometimes a touch...and a changed life.

Jesus shared the Father's love person to person, face to face. How else could you fully express such a deep, personal, intimate love?

He calls us, His servants and friends, to express God's love the same way to each of His loved ones all around us: person to person, one by one.

One by One

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

God spoke into darkness, and worlds came to be.
His will in a word became all we can see.
But when our Creator was servant and son,
He healed all the needy
One by one.

He healed with a word, and He healed with a touch.
They knew that He loved them but never how much
Till hanging, He suffered in silence and blood
To pardon us sinners
One by one.

So freely receiving, now freely we give.
He calls and compels us to love and to live
That neighbors and nations and peoples and tongues
May know Him and love Him
One by one.

ONE WITH GOD, p.87

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Father, You know our desire to do “great” things
in order to win respect from other people.
But help us pursue Your goal for us:
to live a simple, sincere love.

The Essence of Life

By current U.S. standards, my financial means are modest. I'm comfortable, but my lifestyle isn't lavish. I'm a typical middle-class American.

Yet compared to other times and places, I am pampered beyond measure. My luxuries far outstrip what the world's wealthiest could imagine just a few years ago.

I live in a comfortable, climate-controlled environment.

I enjoy virtually instant communication with almost anyone, anytime, anywhere.

With careful planning, I can travel nearly anywhere in the world. And compared to earlier years, travel today is quick, comfortable, and reliable.

I live in relative safety—the best civilization can provide. I live in a strong, stable country where the government works to protect its citizens from a wide variety of dangers.

I have ready access to virtually any educational information I desire.

I have a comfortable home, meaningful work, a wonderful wife, and three healthy, intelligent children.

I am in good health and have affordable access to excellent health care.

A wide variety of nourishing foods is always at my fingertips.

Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom to go where I want, leisure time, a whole range of entertainments, a strong, active church—all these luxuries and more surround me every day. I have virtually every good thing the human imagination can conceive.

Yet with all this, my happiness is determined not by what I have, but by what I give. It is measured not by what I possess, but by the love I give out and live out day by day.

I look at my life. I look honestly at my daily happiness, and I see that it is so.

Specifically, my happiness is determined by my response to what Jesus called life's two greatest commandments:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

Love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:30, 31, NIV).

Love shapes my happiness. Not material goods. Not comfort. Not the finest luxuries. Love.

The Rich Young Ruler

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

With our arms full of riches,
Ever reaching for more,
With our hearts O so hungry,
Ever needy and poor,
Here we bow to You, Savior,
With no home of Your own,
And we ask in our blindness
For Your riches unknown.

We are fearful and grasping,
Seeking glory and gold,
Yet so weary of wanting
What our hands cannot hold.
All our wealth has deceived us.
It is never enough.
Here we trade these our riches
For Your riches of love.

We will treasure You, Jesus,
Not the things we possess.
We will give what is passing
That we gain what is best.
May we share all You give us,
Reaching out to each need.
As we love these our neighbors,
Lord, we love You indeed!

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God never wants material things from us for their own sake.
He can create those with a word.
When He lends to us and urges us to give of it,
He is teaching us to trust Him and to share in His generosity.
He is drawing us into His love, His freedom, and His abundance.
He is drawing us into Himself.

Section 5

Share His Future

*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God!
And that is what we are!
The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
Dear friends, now we are children of God, and
what we will be has not yet been made known.
But we know that when he appears,
we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.
(1 John 3:1-2, NIV)*

Eternal Day

Eternal life begins when we trust in Jesus Christ, and
it never ends!

From that moment on we have joy in His presence:

the joy of knowing Him personally as a living being and friend,
the joy of the Holy Spirit with us and in us,
the assurance that at just the right time, He will return for us.

As we wait for that day,
every taste of Him produces a hunger for more of Him.
Our joy in His presence now
feeds a longing for His full, immediate, face-to-face presence.

His daily goodness reminds us that
we are only in the early morning of an eternal day of
life and joy and fulfillment in Christ!

[Good Morning, All Who Trust in Christ!](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Good morning, all who trust in Christ!
Your day has just begun,
Your endless day of life and joy
In God's eternal Son.
The best of all that love can give
Is pouring from His heart.
The boundless life that fills the Son
Is filling all you are.

Good morning, all who love the Lord,
Now turning toward the Sun.
A feast of worship fills this day.
Our praise has just begun!
Through every loving word and work,
Through faith and simple prayer
We shout the greatness of our God
And sing His tender care.

ONE WITH GOD, p.92

Rejoice in Him throughout the day
As endless day begins.
The Lord our God is always good!
Rejoice, rejoice in Him!
Forever flowing, ever full
With rich, abounding life,
Forever here, forever now--
Rejoice in Jesus Christ!

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When redemption is complete and God's final judgments are pronounced,
death itself will be destroyed forever.
It will disappear from all creation,
and life will reign and abound everywhere—
life unchained, deep and profound,
as rich and magnificent as God intended it.

One with Your Creator

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
(2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV)

*You have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self,
which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.* (Colossians
3:9-10, NIV)

Imagine being one with our Creator.
The relationship He intended is complete and constant.
His power has done all its work.
His wisdom has had its way.
His love is satisfied and smiling.
You and I are one with Him.
The glory of the Living Christ is shining from every corner of our being,
with no shadows and
no hidden places.

We are one with Jesus Christ.
We are all one with Him.
His beautiful creation is complete.

*Be confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to
completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*
(Philippians 1:6, NIV, adapted)

[New in Christ](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

New in Christ, now one with our Creator!
All the peace of Eden is restored.
Hear His voice, and feel the morning beauty.
Walk through the day with your loving Lord.
Jesus Christ, our God and now our brother,
Bore our curse and died with all our sin.
Life is complete as He lives within us.
We are holy as we walk with Him.

ONE WITH GOD, p.94

Risen Son, the first of many children!
Now in Christ a holy race is born.
All will share His glory and His goodness.
See how He glows in their face and form!
Now they come from every tribe and nation.
Feel their joy forever pure and strong!
Hear as they swell to a sea of worship!
Look to Christ and join their mighty song!

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One day the reality of all Jesus is and all He has done
will sweep all creation up into one mighty response of praise,
full heart and full voice, forever and ever!
Even then, His greatness will far overshadow our small response.
For eternity His overwhelming magnificence will draw us into
lives of ever increasing worship and love.

Perfect Peace

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” (John 14:27, NIV)

Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1, NIV)

Imagine the complete absence of conflict
throughout our entire race,
throughout all creation,
between God and each of us.
Imagine perfect harmony,
complete well-being,
no fear,
no suffering,
no darkness,
no death ever again.
Imagine the life and love of God in all their richness
flowing unhindered every moment
forever.
This is the peace that Christ brings.

Perfect Peace

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Perfect peace,
God's own peace,
Vast beyond all knowing;
Rich in Him,
Full in Him,
Deep and ever growing.

Death is gone,
Fears all fading,
Blessings like a river.
God in us,
Loving, giving,
Flowing through forever.

ONE WITH GOD, p.96

Perfect peace,
God's own peace;
Simple faith can free us.
Rich in Him,
Full in Him;
Find your peace in Jesus.

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Right now creation groans with us under the weight of our sin.
But soon it will enjoy with us our glorification,
our freedom from all corruption, and
our full reconciliation to God's blessing and purpose.

See the Future

“Father, glorify your name!...Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” (John 12:28a, 31-32, NIV)

The world was about to see Jesus' enemies
arrest,
try,
condemn,
humiliate,
execute, and
bury Him.

But looking at the same events, what did Jesus see?
He saw all the powers of evil
judged,
condemned, and
driven out of our world forever.
He saw Himself high and lifted up, and
our entire race streaming to Him.

Do we see what Jesus saw?
Not yet,
but the battle has already been fought and won.
God's love has already secured for us a bright and glorious future.
We are enjoying its first fruits even now!

[Our Destiny Is Jesus Christ](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

Our destiny is Jesus Christ,
Our heaven all complete,
The broad and bright horizon of
What life in God will be!

Our Great High Priest is Jesus Christ.
Our union is complete:
The fullness of Almighty God
Is now humanity.

All praise, all praise,
Holy Father, Spirit, Son!
All praise, all praise,
God has come, and we are one!

Our sacrifice is Jesus Christ.
Salvation is complete.
His suffering for our guilt has bought
Our rich eternity.

Our holiness is Jesus Christ.
Forgiven, cleansed, and freed,
We breathe the holy breath of God
In thought and word and deed.

All praise, all praise,
Holy Father, Spirit, Son!
All praise, all praise,
God has come, and we are one!

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Human history seems to be an endless parade of conquerors, wars, famine, and death.
Victims are forever awaiting justice.
But all this is not our source or our destination.
Creation began in God Almighty, high and exalted.
It will culminate in Him.

Your Kingdom Come, Father!

The mall near our house isn't doing well. As a business person myself, familiar with the pain of financial struggle, I empathize. It saddens me to see so many store spaces unrented and so many shops crammed with merchandise but empty of customers. The mall's attractive façade puts on a smiling face, but its emptiness sings a mournful song of failure and loss.

But today, Father, You whisper to me that this is the story of all our world. Separated from You, separated from its Creator and His life, His wisdom, and His power, this world is bankrupt. It is doomed to struggle, emptiness, bitter disappointment, and utter failure.

But I hear new management is coming to the mall, and they have a vision. They have a plan, and they are working. They hope to transform this shell into a bustling, useful, successful shopping area.

You are working as well, our Father. You have promised that You will transform our dying world into a new creation, overflowing with life, love, fulfillment, fruitfulness, and joy. We have seen You work before, and we know You always accomplish Your purpose.

Your Kingdom come, Father. Your Kingdom come!

God Will Be Exalted

[Recording](#)

[Printed Music](#)

God will be exalted.
God will be exalted.
While kings and kingdoms rise and fall,
The Lord is sovereign over all.
Our God will be exalted!

God will be exalted.
God will be exalted.
Though mountains crumble to the sea,
Through time and all eternity,
Our God will be exalted!

Be still and know that I am God.
My Word will stand forever.
Come see the wonders of my hand!
I am God alone.

ONE WITH GOD, p. 100

God will be exalted.
God will be exalted.
When all the powers of darkness rise,
Look up! He splits the eastern skies!
Our God will be exalted!

Be still and know that I am God.
My Word will stand forever.
Come see the wonders of my hand!
I am God alone.

God will be exalted.
God will be exalted.
Now make your hope a living flame.
Arise and lift His mighty name!
Our God will be exalted!

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God's enemies rage and scheme.
His power and His purpose are never challenged or turned aside.
His complete transformation of us and all creation
will be accomplished.

Come, Our Lord!

The Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.
(1Thessalonians 3:16-17, NIV)

The One who left heaven to come to us,
who suffered the ultimate suffering to draw us near,
has physically left us for this reason:

He is preparing a place for us so that
soon we can be with Him forever.
When the time is exactly right,
He will return.

Come, Our Lord!

[Recording](#)

[Printed Music](#)

Lift up your eyes
To the earth we now can see.
Lift up your hearts
To the world that soon will be.
Life will be new,
And its sorrows come no more.
We hunger for Your new creation.
Come, our Lord!
"I'm coming! I'm coming
To the loved ones I adore."
We hear Your voice and trust Your promise.
Come, our Lord!

See all the joy
On the Father's smiling face.
Come, feel the warmth
Of eternal love's embrace.
Taste all the fruits
Of an Eden now restored.

ONE WITH GOD, p. 102

We sing the hope that rises in us:
Come, our Lord!
"I'm coming! I'm coming
To be with you evermore."
We hear Your voice and trust Your promise.
Come, our Lord!

Come, join the meal,
With the family all around.
Come, drink the wine
Of a love now more profound.
Breathe all the peace
Of His blessings now outpoured.
The Morning Star is brightly shining.
Come, our Lord!
"I'm coming! I'm coming,
So be patient through the storm."
We hear Your voice and trust Your promise.
Come, our Lord!

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We pursue so many desires in our lives,
but Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end,
the first and the last,
the source and the goal of all life.
Our entire selves are from Him, through Him, and to Him.

Praise

The more I know God, the more I realize that my response to Him is cold and inadequate. He is the Sovereign God, the Creator who overflows our sprawling universe, the One who holds insignificant me in His hand and in His heart, who constantly lavishes on me His attention and His most tender love and care, the One who poured Himself out and groaned and bled and died for me. Yet my response to Him is so occasional, so shallow, so distracted, so half-hearted.

I don't necessarily want more emotion in my worship. I want to be more aware of God...to always be centered on Him...to have an open line of communication between us every moment...to trust Him simply and constantly. I want to spend less time longing for what I don't have and more time thanking and praising Him for all that He constantly gives me. I want a living praise, a continual response to His presence.

The Psalms prod me toward such praise:

*Praise the Lord, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name. (103:1, NIV)*

*I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. (146:2, NIV)*

I have no hope that I can give Almighty God adequate worship. But His Spirit is faithfully drawing me to Him. The closer I live to Him, the more natural and heartfelt worship becomes. Read Isaiah 6 and Revelation 5. Those who stand before God's throne need no prodding to praise Him. How can they possibly do anything else?

That is my destiny. That is the destiny of all who trust Him. We will live in His immediate presence together, forever, responding to Who He is:

*Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:
"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!"
(Revelation 5:13, NIV)*

Enthronement Hymn

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

We lift our love to You, Eternal King!
Our lives of worship are the praise we bring.
Our lives, Great Savior, are the praise we bring!
King of Glory, Your universe awaits!
We lift our heads! Be lifted up, you gates!

Come, Lord Jesus!
All kingdoms are Your own!
Come, Almighty God,
Ascend Your throne!

Our God made flesh, our living Bread and Wine,
Our Lord, our Brother, and our Breath Divine!
Our Lord, we share Your holy breath divine.
Hope of glory, our heaven here begun,
The Prince of Life, the Father's Sovereign Son!

Come, Lord Jesus!
All kingdoms are Your own!
Come, Almighty God,
Ascend Your throne!

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Picture a vast multitude from every nation and people,
all standing before the throne of God,
all new and clean in Christ,
all singing His praise from all the joy and worship filling their hearts.
Picture yourself as one of them.

Blossoming

It started with one Chinese man, a medical research scientist who came to our Sunday School class at the invitation of a co-worker. Soon his wife was attending with him, then two more couples, fellow scientists from mainland China.

They were spiritually and culturally curious. They wanted to learn more about the life and language of America. But having been raised in an atheistic society, they also came with spiritual questions.

We soon found that because of their limited language skills and biblical knowledge, our regular Sunday School class wasn't enough for them. So we began meeting with them an hour before class. It was Bible 101. We started by introducing them to the scriptures from the ground up. Then we watched the *Jesus* film together, discussing each scene one by one. At the end, our version of the film addressed dozens of basic questions about the Christian faith. We used those questions to lead our friends into a greater understanding of life in Christ. Next, we began reading through Genesis together, talking and teaching as we went.

Those two and one half years were memorable in so many ways. I remember our first Christmas with them. We brought in a small manger scene, and from us they heard that magnificent story for the very first time.

I remember the Sunday we encouraged them to pray the sinner's prayer along with us. With all the barriers of language and spiritual understanding, we wondered how much had gotten through to them.

But I particularly remember one man blossoming in his faith. In spite of a horrendous work schedule, Jinyu began praying daily. He read the Bible on his own, bringing in questions that showed he was thinking about it broadly and deeply. He began witnessing to his Chinese friends. He asked us about ancestor worship, knowing that when he next gathered with his family, they would expect him to participate.

But my favorite memory is the morning he came in beaming, saying that he had been asked to read scripture in our main worship service. We were pleased along with him, but also surprised. Jinyu was a gentle, sweet-spirited man who struggled with his English. Our church was large, and scripture readers were chosen for their speaking ability. We wondered how well his reading would be understood.

That morning service focused on missions. It included a parade of flags, special music, and a missionary speaker. When it came time for the morning scripture reading, a half dozen or so people came forward. Together they read Psalm 98, each one reading selected verses in a foreign language.

Jinyu read, not in English, but in Chinese, and we were stunned! We had only heard him speak in English, his second language. His speaking was always halting and broken. We had never heard the man who read that morning. He was bold, strong, and fluent. He was eloquent! He was speaking in his own native language. He was at home. He was fully himself.

As I reflect back on that morning, I think about the Body of Christ. I think about all the personalities and cultures that make it up, in all their God-given diversity. What would the Body be like if each of its members were fully, completely themselves? What if all that individuality could blossom into the beauty and variety intended by our Creator, yet still remain one in Christ? Squeezing living things into narrow, artificial molds is constrictive and stifling. It is unnatural. Becoming all our Creator intended us to be is wonderfully freeing and enriching, both to the individual and to the Body. An eye makes a better eye than it does an arm.

That freedom, that blossoming is coming. In fact, it is happening right now as the Holy Spirit nurtures and renews each individual. He assures us that the One who began this good work in us will complete it (Philippians 1:6). Each flower will blossom into its full uniqueness, lovingly nurtured by its Creator. Together, what a garden we will be!

Each of us will speak our own native language, fluently and eloquently. And in Christ all those individual expressions will blend into one universal language: the language of truth; the language of pure love.

At last we will be all that His love purposed us to be: His holy bride, stunningly beautiful, radiant in all His glory, perfectly prepared for an eternity of oneness with Him.

[Christ and His Bride](#)

[Recording](#)
[Printed Music](#)

See, see her coming down,
Robed in all His splendor.
Christ takes His bride!
Christ takes His bride!
See how He loves her,
So radiant and holy,
Faithful and pure.

God, God is now with us.
We are joined forever.
One with our God!
One with our God!

ONE WITH GOD, p.107

Darkness and sorrow
Dissolve into glory.
Death is no more.

"See, see the morning dawn
Over earth and heaven!
All now is new!
All now is new!
I am life's fullness,
Its fountain and ocean.
Come live in me!
Come live in me!"

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Imagine Jesus Christ the first of a whole new race of human beings,
a race completely free from the curse of sin, death, and the fall,
holy and glorious as He is,
children of our Father in the fullest sense.

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