



10:00 a.m. ~ 10:45 a.m. Jim Hayes & Clarence Howard 10:45 a.m. -10:55 a.m. 11:05 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. Gary Marshall & Paul Vaughn 11:50 a.m. - 12:00 noon 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Craig Melton & Tommy Watkins 1:45 p.m. - 1:55 p.m. 2:05 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. Jerry Brown & Larry Cole 2:50 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. 3:10 p.m. - 3:55 p.m. Eddy Craft & Clayton Winters 3:55 p.m. - 4:05 p.m. 4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Jim Day & Clifford Reel

5:00 p.m. - 5:10 p.m. 5:10 p.m. Dinner "Our God He Is Alive"
Open Forum

"I Gave My Life ForThee"
Open Forum

"Did You Think To Pray"
Open Forum

"Stand Up For Jesus"
Open Forum

"Each Step I Take"
Open Forum

"Sing To Me Of Heaven"

"Sing To Me Of Heaven" Open Forum

Let Us Sing

"I will sing with the spirit, and I sing with the understanding also."

Singing is music of the soul. The hopes, aspirations, adorations, sorrows, faith and trust are meaningful expressions of the heart. The soul of man is nearest to God. In the beginning God created man and breathed into him the "breath of life" and he became a "fiving soul." To worship God in singing "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs" is not only the experience of making melody in "your heart," but such expressions through the singing medium is "to the Lord."

Almighty God, who gave man his soul, surely knew the richness of the singing experience, otherwise he would not have commanded singing as a part of divinely authorized worship. The spontaneous overflow of inspiration and the healing balm for wounds of life, through singing, are incomparable to any other expressions of the soul.

Music is a universal language. Few souls in the world are not touched by some kind of music. And music that speak messages of edification, praise, hope, joy, prayer, comfort and inspiration are those of eternal value. Singing is one of the greatest teachers.

V. E. Howard

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Broadus E. Smith



"OUR GOD, HE IS ALIVE"

by Jim Hayes

Untroduction:

If we speak where the Bible speaks and are silent where the Bible is silent, the music of our worship of Almighty God will consist solely of singing - not playing. Singing has been called joy unspeakable.

II. The New Testament Is Not Silent About Singing.

- A. Matt.26:30 "And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives."
- B. Acts 16:25 "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them."
- C.(Rom 15:9 KJV) "And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name."
- D.(1 Cor 14:15 KJV) "What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."
- E.(Eph 5:19 KJV) "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"
- F.(Col 3:16 KJV) "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."
- G.(Heb 2:12 KJV) "Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee."
- H.(Heb 13:15 KJV) "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."
- I.(James 5:13 KJV) "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms."
- III.(Col 3:16 KJV) "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

A.We are to teach by singing.

B.We are to admonish by singing.

IV.All Are To Sing.

A.I can't sing.(Psa 66:1 KJV) "To the chief Musician, A Song or Psalm. Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:"

(Psa 66:2 KJV) "Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious."

B.I won't sing.(James 4:17 KJV) "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

C.Let the quartet or chorus do it.

V.The Song At Hand: "Our God, He Is Alive!"

- A. This is an opportunity to praise God and to teach others about Him. (Psa 66:3-9 KJV) "Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee. All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Selah. Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men. He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him. He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah. O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard: Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved."
- B.This is an opportunity to teach others about Jesus His sacrifice for man. (Matt.27).

C.How do we sing?

- 1.Not ignorantly:(1 Cor 14:15 KJV) "What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."
- 2. Joyfully.
- 3. Sincerely.
- 4.Reverently.

CONCLUSION:

"OUR GOD, HE IS ALIVE"

by Clarence Howard

Introduction:

There is a God, He is alive, In Him we live, and we survive; From dust our God created man, He is our God, the Great I Am.

Body:

Several years ago, the "Hippie Generation" went around proclaiming "GOD IS DEAD!" God in his inspired word declares, and we who believe, maintain that "GOD IS ALIVE!" and he lives forevermore!

I.GOD WAS ALIVE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- A. GOD'S VOICE THE PROPHETS HEARD
 - 1. Jeremiah heard him say, "The Lord Liveth." (Jer. 4:2)
 - 2.Moses heard him say, "I Live Forever." (Duet.32:48)
- B. GOD IS LIVING IN THE NEW TEATAMENT
 - 1.Simon Peter confessed Jesus to be "...the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matt.16:16;Jn.6:69)
 - 2.Jesus proclaimed,"...the living Father..." had sent Him. (Jn.6:57)
 - 3.The apostles, Paul and Barnabas, preached to the people that they should turn from their vanities unto the living God. (Acts 14:15)

II.OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS PROCLAIMED "THE LIVING GOD"

- A.Joshua 3:18 "...the living God is among you..."
 - 1.I Samuel I7:26 David:"the armies of the living God"
 - 2.Daniel 6:28 The king:"...Daniel, servant of the living God".
 - 3.In the New Testament, the Gentiles at Thessalonica turned from idols to serve the living and true God. 1Thes.I:9

III.HE SPEAKS FROM HIS INSPIRED WORD

A.ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD

2 Tim 3:16,17

1.Old Testament scriptures were written for our learning. Rom. 15:4

2.New Testament. "a more sure word of prophecy." 2 Peter 1:19 3.God now speaks to us by His Son Jesus Christ. Heb.1:1,2

IV.THE CHRISTIAN BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD.

A.HE DWELLS IN THEM...

HE WALKS IN THEM...

HE IS THEIR GOD ...

THEY ARE HIS PEOPLE. 2 Cor. 6:18

B.CHRISTIANS MUST PRESENT THEIR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE UNTO GOD.

1.It must be Holy.

2.lt must be acceptable. Rom.12:1

C.CAUTIONS AGAINST DEPARTING FROM THE LIVING GOD.

Heb.3:12;10:31 "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God".

CONCLUSION:

NOTES:

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Did You Think To Pray

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"DID YOU THINK TO PRAY"

by Tom Watkins

God's children are to be a people who constantly look heavenward in search of guidance, to give praise, to give thanks, to ask for mercy and favor, and to make intercession for others. Unfortunately, this facet of modern Christianity all too often is relegated to times of crisis, i.e., sickness, financial burden, natural calamity, etc.

I. ERE YOU LEFT YOUR ROOM THIS MORNING.

A.Giving of thanks for a new day.

(Psa 118:23 KJV) "This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

B.Receive spiritual nourishment.

- 1.(1 Cor 2:9-10 KJV) "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."
- 2.(Rom 8:11 KJV) "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

C.Set the tone for the day.

(Phil 4:6-8 KJV) "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

II. IN THE NAME OF CHRIST OUR SAVIOR.

A.Our avenue of approach to God.

- 1.(Eph 5:20 KJV) "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;"
- 2.(Col 3:17 KJV) "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."
- 3.(Rom 8:34 KJV) "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

- B.Herein is power and authority.
 - 1.(Mat 28:18 KJV) "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."
 - 2.(Acts 3:6 KJV) "Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."
 - 3.(Acts 16:18 KJV) "And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour."
 - 4.(John 1:12 KJV) "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

III.DID YOU SUE FOR LOVING FAVOR AS A SHIELD TODAY.

- A.God awaits our request and longs to bless us.
 - 1.(Mat 7:7-8 KJV) "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."
 - 2.(Mat 7:11 KJV) "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

B.We must ask Him.

- 1.(Mat 6:32 KJV) "(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things."
- 2.(Phil 4:6-7 KJV) "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
- C.He will be our shield and defender.
 - 1.(Psa 5:11-12 KJV) "But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield."

IV. WHEN YOU MET WITH GREAT TEMPTATION.

A.God is not the tempter.

1.(James 1:13 KJV) "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:"

In head Us not unto temptation

- B.He may test our faith to produce growth.
 - 1.(1 Pet 1:6-7 KJV) "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"
 - 2.(Heb 12:7,11 KJV) "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" v.11. "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."
 - 3.(2 Pet 1:4 KJV) "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."
 - 4.Beware human advice.
 - a.(Job 2:9-10 KJV) "Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. But he said unto her. Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips."
 - b.(Job 21:14-15 KJV) "Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?"
- C.Christ was also tempted.
 - 1.(Heb 2:18 KJV) "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted."
 - 2.(Luke 4:13 KJV) "And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season."
- D.Jesus prayed often.
 - 1.At His baptism (Lk.3:21).
 - 2. When He was successful and had a great following (Lk.5:16).
 - 3.Before He chose His apostles (Lk.6:12).
 - 4.Before the feeding of the 5,000 (Lk.9:16).
 - 5. Prior to the confession of Peter (Lk.9:18).
 - 6.Prior to His transfiguration (Lk.9:28).

7. If Jesus needed to graye what about to?

- 7. After the disciples reported success in their preaching (Lk. 10:21).
- 8. Before His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane (Lk. 22:41-44).
- 9. While He was on the cross (Lk.23:34).

10.Before eating bread with the two disciples at Emmaus (Lk.24:30). **V.BY HIS DYING LOVE AND MERIT.**

A.Plan of reconciliation.

- 1.(John 3:16-17 KJV) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."
- 2.(John 15:13 KJV) "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
- 3.(2 Cor 5:21 KJV) "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

VI.DID YOU CLAIM THE HOLY SPIRIT AS YOUR GUIDE AND STAY.

A.The Comforter.

- 1.(John 14:16-17 KJV) "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."
- 2.(John 14:26 KJV) "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

B.The Interceder.

- 1.(Rom 8:26-27 KJV) "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."
- 2.That we might bear fruit.
 (Gal 5:22 KJV) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

C.The Revealer.

1.(1 Cor 2:9-10 KJV) "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

"DID YOU THINK TO PRAY"

by: Craig Melton

I'm afraid that one of the things that we, as christians, don't do enough is pray. In everything that we do and say, prayer is supposed to be part of it. (1 Th 5:17-18 KJV) "Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

It is not only a christians duty to pray but also his or her privilege. The Hebrew writer tells us, (Heb 4:16 KJV) "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." It should give us great comfort and joy to know that James tells us in chapter 5:16" and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

- I. Who can pray and expect to be heard?
 - a.(James 5:16 KJV) "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."
 - b.(Psa 34:15 KJV) "The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry."
 - c.(1 Pet 3:12 KJV) "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."
- II. Who should not expect to be heard?
 - a. Those who do not ask in faith: (James 1:6-7 KJV) "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."
 - b. Those who ask amiss: ((James 4:3 KJV) "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."
 - c.(Prov 28:9 KJV) "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination."
 - d.Not the sinner: ((John 9:31 KJV) "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth."

III."When your heart is filled with anger, did you plead for grace, my brother, that you might forgive another who had crossed your way? - When sore trials came upon you, when your soul was bowed in sorrow, Balm of Gilead did you borrow, at the gates of day?

- a.We must be willing to forgive others in order to meet the conditions of God to answer our prayers and forgive us.
 - 1.Jesus prayed for His enemies:(Luke 23:34 KJV) "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."
 - 2.Stephen did the same:(Acts 7:60 KJV) "And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep."
 - 3.(Mark 11:25-26 KJV) "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."
 - 4.(Mat 6:15 KJV) "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."
 - 5.Sometimes, when we refuse to forgive, the problem is more ours than theirs :(Job 19:28 KJV) "But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the root of the matter is found in me?"
 - 6.(Mat 5:44 KJV) "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"
- b.You've heard the song, "I Never Promised You A Rose Garden" God never promised us an easy life here on this earth. We're all going to have problems from time to time, but it's a way of life for a Christian and has been from the first century. We must learn to pray for God's help to get us through those times.
 - 1.(2 Cor 11:24-27 KJV) "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness."

- 2. Think of all the things that happened to Job, on that first day or two. What did Job say? (Job 1:20-21 KJV) " and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."
- 3.The Balm of Gilead, a salve from Mount Gilead, was supposed to have certain healing powers. We have prayer to help us in times of need. We can pray to God through Jesus Christ as our Balm of Gilead. (James 5:16 KJV) "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Heb.4:16 KJV) "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.")

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NOTES:



STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS

When we sing this song, what are we saying? The words tell us that we need to stand up for Jesus. We are engaged in a battle and we must stand against the enemy. When you become a child of God, you voluntarily become a member of the Lord's army and you enter a war that will last the rest of your life.

Bro. Jerry Brown and I chose to approach this lesson by each of us taking two verses and talking about them. Jerry took verses one and three. I took verses two and four. You can read the introduction to this song and the lesson on verses one and three in Jerry's lesson.

I. Verse 2 --

- A. The trumpet call obey . . .
 - 1. The trumpet was used to assemble the army (Judges 3:27; I Samuel 13:3; Ezekiel 7:14).
 - 2. The trumpet was used to sound an attack (Job 39:24-25).
 - 3. The trumpet was used to sound an alarm (Jeremiah 4:19; 6:1, 17; Amos 3:6).
 - 4. Other ways it is used . . .
 - a. Isaiah 58:1--possibly loudness, or distinctiveness, or the idea again of sounding an alarm for the people.
 - b. Listen to the word of Ezekiel 33:1-9.
 - 5. The apostle Paul said, I Corinthians 14:8 . . .
- B. ". . . mighty conflict."
 - 1. I Peter 5:8

- 2. Ephesians 6:12,13
- C. "Ye that are men . . . "
 - 1. I Corinthians 16:13
 - 2. The idea is that of bravery.
- D. "Against unnumbered foe . . . "
 - 1. I John 5:19
 - 2. The foe appears to be growing numerically.
 - 3. If God be for us . . . (Romans 8:31).
- E. "Courage rise with danger . . . "
 - When danger approaches, we respond in various ways. We can run away. Sometimes that is an appropriate response.
 - When it comes to standing up for Jesus, we must have courage.
 - 3. Joshua 1:9
 - It took great courage for Daniel to stand against
 the king . . . for David to stand against Goliath

 for Elijah to stand against Ahab and the
 prophets of Baal.
 - 5. John said in I John 4:4 "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

II. Verse 5. . .

- A. "Strife will not be long . . . "
 - 1. Lifetime is short compared to eternity.
 - 2. I Corinthians 15:58
 - 3. Galatians 6:9

- B. "This day the noise of battle . . ."
 - 1. Today we are engaged in a battle.
 - 2. Tomorrow we may be laying our swords down.
 - 3. We sing "Victory in Jesus."
- C. "To him that Overcometh . . . "
 - 1. Revelation 2:10
 - 2. Seven times in Revelation 2 and 3, we have these words, "to him that overcometh . . . "
 - 3. Paul says that the crown of righteousness is for all who "love his appearing." (II Timothy 4:8).
- D. "King of Glory . . ."
 - 1. Psalms 24:8
 - 2. Daniel 7:13, 14
 - 3. Revelation 5:12, 13
- E. ". . . Shall reign eternally."
 - 1. Heaven is an eternal home.
 - 2. I Timothy 6:12
 - 3. I Timothy 6:16

Conclusion: It is essential that we stand up for Jesus. The cause of Christ cannot be allowed to suffer loss. We must answer the battle call and fight the foe, no matter who or the number. We cannot stand on our own, but with God's help we can, by putting on the whole armor of God. The victory can and will be ours if we remain faithful until this life is over. The reward-eternal life.

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Introduction
 I.
         Meaning of song title
             Acceptance of Jesus as Christ
             Defender of Jesus as Christ
             Sufferor for Jesus as Christ
         3.
             Teacher of Jesus as Christ
         Historical examples
     В.
         1. Stephen- Acts 7
           Paul and Silas- Acts 16
         3. Early Christians- Acts 8:4
             James and Peter- Acts 12:1-9
             Christian martyrs and apostles
         Commands today
             Readiness to defend- I Peter 3:15
             Defense of faith- Jude 3
             Faithfulness to death- Rev. 2:10
     Soldiers of the Cross- II Tim. 4:6-8 (verse 1)
         Description of a Soldier- Eph. 6:13-17
             Truth- John 8:32 How important are your feet ?
             Armor of God-Rom. 13:12
             Breastplate of Righteousness- Is. 59:17, II Cor. 5:21
             Preparation of Feet-Gospel- Mark 16:15-16
         5.
             Shield of Faith- Heb. 11:1, Heb. 11:6, Rom. 10:17
             Helmet of Salvation- Acts 4:12, Heb. 2:3
         6.
              Sword of the Spirit-Word-Heb. 4:12, II Tim. 3:16-17
         7.
         Duties of soldiers
     В.
              Spiritual battles- "of the cross"- Matt. 26:47-56
         1.
              Upholding the banner- "Lift high the royal banner;
              It must not suffer loss." Matt. 5:16
             Christ, the Commander-in-Chief- "From vict'ry unto
              vict'ry, His army shall He lead"-Eph. 1:20-23
              Defeating all enemies- "Till every foe is vanquished"
         4.
              Establishment of Christ as Lord- "For Christ is Lord
              indeed"- Acts 8:26-40, John 8:24, Matt. 10:32-33,
              Acts 10:36, Rom. 10:9-10, Rev. 17:14
     Christ, the Foundation of all success (verse 3)
III.
         All success from His Strength- Phil. 4:13
          1.
              Overcoming Satan- James 4:7, Eph. 6:11, I Pet. 5:8
              Overcoming Sin- John 1:29, II Cor. 5:21
              Overcoming Temptations- Matt. 4:1-11, I John 2:15-17
              Overcoming Self- Matt. 16:24, Matt. 11:28-30
          Importance of Prayer in our stand- Luke 18:1
     В.
              Prayer in Spirit- I Cor. 14:15
          1.
              Prayer- Continual- I Thess. 5:17
          3.
              Success from righteous- James 5:16
         Duty of Service
                                                  Par 60:4
Sang 2:4
San 13:2
              Kingdom- first- Matt. 6:33
              Through Love- Gal. 5:13
              To Christ-Col. 3:24
          3.
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- D. Characteristics of Stand in verse 3

 - His Strength, not Ours- "Stand in His strength alone"
 Trusting Christ, not Self- "The arm of flesh will
 fail you, Ye dare not trust your own"
 Gospel Message- "Put on the whole armor"
 Prayerful attitude- "Be watching unto prayer"
 Requirement of Duty- "Where duty calls, or danger,
 Be never wanting there." 2.

Jerry R. Prown





SING TO ME OF HEAVEN

We teach and admonish through our psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Col 3:16). Heaven is a theme that is popular in our songs. We must be careful to do the right teaching as we sing. We need to have more singing about heaven at times other than funerals. Not only do we need to be singing about heaven, but we need to create a desire to go there, and to encourage souls to obey in order to be in heaven in eternity.

DEATH IS CERTAIN

Sing to me of the fact that death is an appointment that all must meet -- unless we are alive when Jesus returns. "We are going down the valley one by one, with our faces toward the setting of the sun..." These words in the song by Jessie Brown Pounds point out the fact that man is mortal and we all must die. Laura E. Newell shows the brevity of life in her writing:

"As the life of a flower, as a breath or a sigh, so the years that we live as a dream hasten by; true today we are here, but tomorrow may see just a grave in the vale, and a memory of me. (chorus) As the life of a flower, as a breath or a sigh, so the years glide away, and alas, we must die."

Yes, we all must one day be "Crossing the Bar."

HEAVEN AWAITS THOSE WHO FAITHFULLY FOLLOW GOD

My father's favorite song was "Above the Bright Blue," by Charles Edward Pallock. Coming home from Freed-Hardeman with a car load of youngsters, we would sing. Dad would always request:

"There's a beautiful place called heaven, it is hidden above the bright blue; where the good, who from earth ties are riven, live and love an eternity through. Jesus is waiting...heaven is there...beautiful city of light."

So many songs we sing, though not specifically on the theme of heaven, have the promise and hope of heaven in them. Take this stanza from one:

"Give me the Bible, lamp of life immortal, hold up that splendor by the open grave; show me the light from heaven's shining portal, show me the glory gilding Jordan's wave (death)," by Priscilla J. Owens.

THE HOPE OF HEAVEN OF WHICH WE SING MAKES LIFE BEARABLE

"When Days of Toil Have All Gone By, and I, my dear Lord shall see, a word of welcome when we shall meet, I know will make heaven for me," by Mrs. C. D. Martin. In "The Sands Have Been Washed," Charles D. Tilman's words state;

"When the last feeble step has been taken, and the gates of that city appear, and the beautiful songs of the angels float out on my listening ear; when all that now seems so mysterious will be bright and as clear as day, and the toils of the road will seem nothing when I get to the end of the way."

We should sing and should really mean it; "Earth Holds no

Treasures but perish with using, however precious they be; yet
there's a country to which I am going; Heaven holds all to me."

"Here We are but Straying Pilgrims; hear our path is often dim, but to cheer us on our journey, still we sing this wayside hymn; yonder over the rolling river, where the shining mountains rise, soon will be our home forever, and the smile of the blessed Giver, gladdens all our longing eyes." (I. N. Carman)

Other songs which encourage us in our longing for heaven are: Home of the Soul, Never Grow Old, How Beautiful Heaven Must Be, Beyond the Land of Parting, I have Heard of a Land, When all Labors and Trials Are O'er, After the Midnight, O Think of the Home Over There, An Empty Mansion Awaits Us, and Angels are Singing - redemption's sweet song.

There will be "Beautiful Robes So White" for those who are prepared to go to heaven. Souls must be told to get ready and urged to be ready; "Today is the day of salvation for all, can you say you are ready to go? A home and a crown is awaiting for thee, will you come and be ready to go?" from "Don't You Want To Be Ready?" by F.L. Eiland. One must be In Him to obtain salvation (2 Tim. 2:10). Hear these words from "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less," by Edward Mote: "When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found, Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne."

If you "sigh for the land of rest," remember "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes," by Elizabeth Mills, and work "till gathered home." Whatever the price in toils and tears, burdens and heartaches, just remember "Heaven Will Surely Be Worth it All."

ON THE ROAD TO HEAVEN, WE INVITE AND URGE OTHERS TO GO WITH US

"I Am Bound For the Promised Land, O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land." Let us all so fervently pray for lost souls and work for their salvation. Sing "I Am Praying for You," by S.O'Maley Cluff. (2nd stanza)

"I have a Father; to me He has given a hope for eternity,

blessed and true; and soon He will call me to meet Him in heaven, but O that He'd let me bring you with me too."

Remember, one day we shall be "Face to Face" with our Redeemer - Mrs. Frank a Breck. She said, "only faintly now I see Him, with the darkling veil between; but a blessed day is coming, when his

the darkling veil between; but a blessed day is coming, when his glory shall be seen." Faithfulness is necessary as shown in "O Jesus I Have Promised," by John E. Bode.

"O Jesus Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee, That where Thou art in glory, there shall Thy servant be; and Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; O give me grace to follow my Master and my Friend."

"Farther Along" we'll understand the reward of being faithful.

"Faithful till death said our loving Master, a few more days to labor and wait; toils of the road will then seem as nothing, as we sweep through the beautiful gate."

AS WE COME TO THE END OF LIFE'S JOURNEY, WE HAVE THOUGHTS FROM SONGS TO STRENGTHEN AND COMFORT US.

From Crossing the Bar, by Alfred Tennyson;

"Twilight and evening bell, and after that the dark! And may there be no sadness of farewell when I, when I embark; For though from out are borne of time and place the flood may hear me for, I hope to see my Pilot face to face when I have crossed the bar."

We must all one day stand "On Jordan's Stormy Banks," and if ready to depart can sing "Filled with delight, my raptured soul would here no longer stay; tho' Jordan's waves around me roll, fearless I'd launch away." We sing of heaven "In The Land of Fadeless Day," by John R. Clements;

"There they need no sunshine bright, in the city foursquare, for the Lamb is all the light, and there is no night
there. God shall wipe away all tears; there's no death, no
pain, nor fears, and they count not time by years - for
there is no night there."

Our prayer should be "Lead Me Gently Home, Father." We look forward to the time when "How sweet will be the welcome home, when this short life is o'er; when pain and sorrow, grief and care, shall trouble us no more——Welcome home, sweet welcome home, The Christian's Welcome Home." There is An Empty Mansion awaiting those who are Asleep in Jesus. Our desire is that the Lord will "Be With Me, Lord, when loneliness o'er takes me, when I must weep amid the fires of pain, and when shall come the hour of my departure for worlds unknown, O Lord, be with me then," as in the song by brother L.O. Sanderson. Joy awaits!

"Beyond the Sunset, O glad reunion with our dear loved ones who've gone before; in that fair homeland we'll know no parting; beyond the sunset for evermore."

"So amid the conflict, whether great or small, do not be discouraged, God is over all; Count your Many Blessings, angels will attend, help and comfort give you to your journey's end."

And, it will not end for God's "Amazing Grace" assures us "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we first begun." Yes, "Sing to Me of Heaven" for "when my heart is weary, when the day is long, (please), Sing to me of heaven, sing that old, sweet song."

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SING TO ME OF HEAVEN

Introduction

The theme is very unique but a very good one. Most of the time we talk about the doctrinal aspect of singing instead of talking about the purpose for it. Our songs are to be spiritual songs. Our singing must come from the heart with grace. Our songs must instruct and build up.

Sing To Me Of Heaven instructs and admonishes. One may never know what influenced Ida Powell and B.B. Beall to write this song. The person in the song is looking for peace. He is also looking for release from all his burdens. He wants to be showered with blessings. He longs to be with his comrades who have been gone so long. There are shadows over him. His heart is weary and his days are long. Therefore, Sing To Me Of Heaven, That Old Sweet Song. Only Heaven can bring peace, lift burdens, bring showers of blessings, cheer the weary heart, and make the day not so long. There are several reasons why we should sing of Heaven.

Heaven Is A Perfect Place Of Rest

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews said, "There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His (Hebrews 4:9-10). The Biblical meaning of the word rest is to cease from working. God ceased from working when He created the heavens, earth, and all that is in them. God cannot become tired as we do because He is all powerful. He just ceased from His works of creation. Milligan said, "It is God's rest; a rest which He has provided, and such as that which He Himself enjoys; a rest from all the toils and ills of this sinful and wearisome life." 1

¹ Robert Milligan, <u>Commentary on Hebrews</u> (Nashville, Tn.: Gospel Advocate Company, p.166.

John was told to write, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on, Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them" (Revelation 14:13). Hailey says, "The rest promised to the saints is from their present and past labors which they are leaving behind. But it is not so with their works in the Lord; these go with them as testimony of their faith."²

One can receive a foretaste of that rest by being a Christian. Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Heaven Is A Perfect Place of Restoration

Peter said, "The heavens will pass away...both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up... Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwell" (2 Peter 3:10-13). Woods says, "The heavens and the earth which the apostle describes in this passage will be fresh and new, and not worn out and old as are the heavens and the earth which now exist." ³ John said, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea" (Revelation 21:1). Some people think that the new heaven and the new earth are renovated versions of the present universe. Winters says that he is lead to believe, "...That the new heavens and earth here are symbolizing heaven itself."⁴

² Homer Hailey, <u>Commentary on Revelation</u> (Grand Rapids, Mi.: Baker Book House,) p. 312.

³ Guy N. Woods, <u>Commentary On II Peter</u> (Nashville, Tn.: Gospel Advocate Company,) p. 188.

⁴ Howard Winters, <u>Commentary On Revelation</u> (Greenvile, S.C.: Coralina Christain,) p. 238.

Heaven Is A Perfect Place Of Great Comfort

John said, "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4). Tears, death, sorrow, crying, and pain are all common to mankind. Our lives on earth are filled and perplexed by them. But the beauty of Heaven is that none of the them will be there. They have all passed away (Revelation 21:4). We can truly sing:

No tears in Heaven fair,
No tears, no tears up there,
Sorrows and pain will all have flown;
No tears, in Heaven fair,
No tears, not tears up there,
No tears in Heaven will be know.

(Hymn #385, Songs Of The Church)

Heaven Is A Perfect Place Of Protection

We live in almost constant fear. Our communities, schools, homes, and churches are no longer safe havens as they once were. In Revelation 21:9-26 John pictures a beautiful city of protection. The city had great and high walls with twelve gates (v.12). The city had twelve foundations (v.14). This was for strength and protection. The city was build in a perfect square (v.16). This symbolizes perfection. The walls were constructed out of precious stones (v. 18-21). God and Christ dwell in this city (v.22). The city has no need of the sun or moon, for the glory of God will keep it well illuminated (v.23). The gates will never be shut (v.25). There will be nothing to fear. Summers says, "The entire description is intended to present strong, spacious, perfect, and a beautiful city where God's redeemed will dwell with Him in perfect fellowship." 5

Heaven Is A Perfect Placed Of Perpetual Provision

⁵ Ray Summers, Worthy Is The Lamb (Nashville, Tn.: Broadman Press,) p. 213.

Three basic needs for sustaining life are water, food, and good health. In Heaven those needs will be supplied.

John wrote, "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it and His servants shall serve Him" (Revelation 22:1-30).

There is the water of life that flows from the throne of God and the Lamb. There is also the tree of life. The tree has twelve kinds of fruit that bears the year round. The leaves are for healing. In Heaven there will be water, food and health. All three are perpetual. Summers says, "Heaven is a place of perfect fellowship, perfect protection, perfect provision of needs, and service to God."

Heaven Is A Perfect Place Prepared By Christ

Jesus knew that He must shortly ascend back to Heaven. His disciples were going to feel abandoned. So Jesus spoke these words of comfort,

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and way you know (John 14:1-4).

Jesus was not abandoning them. He was going to prepare a place that were He was they could be also. He did not want their hearts to be troubled over His leaving. Woods says, "We learn, (1) Heaven is now in a state of preparation; when the preparatory work is finished, Jesus will return for His own. (2) Among the blessed ends of this plan is

⁶ Ibid,: p. 215

that faithful disciples will be privileged to be with the Lord, in the Father's house, in perfect fellowship and unbroken communion throughout all ages." ⁷

Summary

Heaven is a place of perfect rest, restoration, comfort, protection, perpetual provision, and a place prepared by Christ. When we sing of Heaven it will bring peace, relieve us from burdens, bring rest from our labors, and bring showers of great blessings, So, Sing To Me Of Heaven.

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⁷ Guy N. Woods, <u>Commentary On John</u> (Nashville, Tn.: Gospel Advocate Company,) p. 304.



