

Selected Poems

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All in eternity

We wait for troubled waters to be finally stilled
We wait for dreams and wishes to be finally filled
We wait for some tomorrow when we shall finally be
All together, all is better in eternity

We had some fun and good times, with laughter as we'd fall
We had some small and big plans, our life was very full
We had our precious moments and memories so warm
Life together is life better, life in eternity

Side by side we labored, shouldered all we could bear
Side by side we wrestled, rested only in our prayer
Side by side encouraging each other as we'd go
Worked together, walked together towards eternity

I'll miss your lilting smile that brightened up my day
I'll miss your calming touches that kept me from going astray
I'll miss your warm embraces, the joy you raised in me
Love together, love is better, love in eternity

Until I go to meet you on that eternal shore
Until I lay my burdens and my labors are no more
Until I greet you once again, my heart will ache for you
All together, all is better, all in eternity

Bits of Truth

A bit of heaven
A bit of hell
But on earth kept well

A bit of evil
A bit of grace
Ready to be embraced

A bit of love
A bit of hate
Serve as deadly bait

A bit of dark
A bit of light
Must choose the wrong or right

Blue Roses

It seems forever
We've been together
I know it's just my state of mind
But I can't begin
To think of how
I'd get through life without you now

As friends and lovers
We've uncovered
The deepest parts of both our lives
And both our souls
Are intertwined
We seem to be a single vine

I've set ourselves a tables
With places just for two
Candle glowing, music playing, wine is on the ice
Three roses on the table
Their fragrance fills the room
Blue roses for the mystery of love and life and you

Sweet mystery of love
The first rose asks just why
Just why of all it's me you chose to love
Sweet mystery of life
The second rose asks why
Just why it is I have the gift of life
Sweet mystery of you
The third rose ponders long
In great impassioned awe of who you are

I've set ourselves a table
With places just for two
Candle glowing, music playing, wine is on the ice
Three roses on the table
Their fragrance fills the room
Blue roses for the mystery of love and life and you

Breaking Into Joy

Breaking into joy
Breaking into joy
Breaking into who I was first designed to be

Putting aside my dreams
Putting aside my desires
Putting aside my trust in where my strength will carry me

Facing all my hurts
Facing all my fears
Looking at the face of Him who counts and dries each tear

We are gems of Heaven
Buried in the earth
Needing to be uncovered then broken to reveal
The beauty deep within us
The beauty formed inside
The crystal formed and molded by the very hand of God

We are gems of Heaven
Placed upon the earth
Waiting for the Master Jeweler in the fiery pits of Hell
The Master Jeweler knows
Where to strike His blows
To show the lustrous faces hiding deep inside our fears

The Birthday Tree

A tree with many branches on,
That is just the thing
We need to hang our treasures on,
To remind us of the King
The presents all around the tree,
Are gifts of love we bring

Who made the lights? God made the lights
The sun the moon, the stars,
The star that led to Bethlehem,
The Bright and Morning Star
The Light that shines into all the world,
The Light of all mankind

Oh, Birthday Tree, please bring to us,
Those precious thoughts of Him, Who gave us countless treasures
From Birthday tree to Calvary,
He lived that He might bring, The joy that can't be measured

The angel Gabriel
Appeared to Zechariah first
And told him of the joyful news
Of John the Baptist's birth
How John would prepare the people for
God's Son's arrival on earth

Then Gabriel appeared to Mary
To tell her of God's favor
How she was chosen to bear the Son
Of God who'd reign forever
Then angels told the shepherds of peace
To men from Christ, the Saviour

Oh, Birthday Tree, please bring to us,
Those precious thoughts of Him, Who gave us countless treasures
From Birthday tree to Calvary,
He lived that He might bring, The joy that can't be measured

Then Jesus was born in a stable
Among the animals and straw
And yet, though His birth was lowly still
The Magi came in awe
And brought the gold, incense, and myrrh
To Him who is King of all

So when I see the Birthday Tree
I see these things and many more
For many are the gifts of God.
So many, many more.
They fill the tree and overflow
and will forever more

Oh, Birthday Tree, please bring to us,
Those precious thoughts of Him, Who gave us countless treasures
From Birthday tree to Calvary,
He lived that He might bring, The joy that can't be measured

Because He gave us smell and taste,
We have some gingerbread
And candy canes, and potpourri
And popcorn, peppermints
So we remember the precious gifts
Of pleasing tastes and scents.

Because He gave us eyes to see,
We have balls that shine
And colored pictures in stained glass
And artwork small and fine
Yet more beautiful is He than these.
Let not our eyes be blind

Oh, Birthday Tree, please bring to us,
Those precious thoughts of Him, Who gave us countless treasures
From Birthday tree to Calvary,
He lived that He might bring, The joy that can't be measured

Because He gave us ears to hear
We have our bells that ring
And instruments of every kind
And carolers that sing
So let us not forget to hear
The words of Christ the King

Because He gave us arms and legs
For work and play and worship
We have the hammer, saw and skates,
Ballerinas and churches
Now let us come to honor him
Who is the Lord of Lords.

Oh, Birthday Tree, please bring to us,
Those precious thoughts of Him, Who gave us countless treasures
From Birthday tree to Calvary,
He lived that He might bring, The joy that can't be measured

The Lord of Life gave breath to birds
And then to beasts and man
And from the first he had for us
A great eternal plan
That we should know His holy love
As when life first began

The houses that we lovingly
Place upon the tree
Remind us that our homes on earth
Aren't ours eternally
But in heaven with the Lord is home
And where our hearts should be

Oh, Birthday Tree, please bring to us,
Those precious thoughts of Him, Who gave us countless treasures
From Birthday tree to Calvary,
He lived that He might bring, The joy that can't be measured

Broken Spirits

Only broken spirits fly on heaven's wings alone
Only broken confidence will trust in God alone
The grip of pride must loosen
Our arms must stretch out wide
Then we must lean fully into the arms that wait for us to fall

Only falling spirits can be fully made to rest
Only falling spirits have learned how to fully trust
We must let go of earthen treasure
The right to pride and pain
Then we must hold on tightly to the grace that leads us home

Only broken spirits fly on heaven's wings alone
Only heavens wings can carry all the way to home
Only broken joy convinces
We're only on the way
Only heaven's joy can carry from night into the day

Only broken hearts can feel the passion God has borne
And find the wholeness that only comes from the grace of scar-filled hearts
Only broken men can walk
Among the helpless and distressed
And offer hope that comes from learning how to trust

Only broken spirits fly on heaven's wings alone
No longer bound by laws of earth but bound by grace above
Above the winds that tear and wear
and drown the helpless cry
Above the oceans of grief and sorrow and selfish human pride

Called to be Holy

We are called to be holy
Not yet where we want to be
We are called by the grace of God
It is from the distance we all see
Where we need to be

We know by grace the one who calls
For you, for me and for others
From many paths we come
From many paths we travel
But only one who is the Way

He is near and yet distant
He is Holy
We are called
He is the destination
And the journey

The one who calls is Holy
The who calls us is the Way
The one who simply is
Is apart from the world
And the Holy One calls us to be with Him

We are already Holy
Set apart to be apart
To live as a people of God
Becoming more like the one who's called us Holy
And is calling us still

Called not so much as to a particular place
But more to a particular journey
To follow a particular living God
His particular way
And particular holiness.

The path we follow is not fixed in unchanging time
That breaks us if we fail to follow
But is fixed in the one who is
Is living in time
Is also the Living Word

The path we follow is not unchangeable Law
That knows naught of our temper or strife
But rather we follow the living Stone
That shelters us when we need it
And gives us a firm place to stand

The path we follow is not unchanging rules
That break us if we fail to follow
But rather we follow the Living Word
That gives us courage and hope
That gives us knowledge of Life.

Castles in the Sand

There is a precious moment
The tide has just released
A narrow ribbon along the beach
Of castle building sand

You use the gift of mind
To dream of bricks and stone
Imposing shapes within your mind
Within the shapes of sand

You use the gift of hands
To scoop and shift and shape
Raise dream-filled castles
That will greet the rising tide

The gift of God to build
The gift of God to dream
The gift of time and sand and play
And tides that wash our feet

Could It Be

Could it be so many years
That we've walked side by side
It seems like only yesterday
We spoke our wedding vows
The memories are so precious
and still so very clear
I still can see the burning glow
of young love in your eyes

Could it be so many sunsets
So many loads of laundry
And so many talks at breakfast
That we've shared

Could the fire burn so long
Through so many disappointments
Through so many tough and hard times
And yet burn so very warm

Could it be so many years
Of pillow talks and planning
Our first walk along the road
Doesn't seem so long ago
The start of friendship deep
Still seems so very near
And sometimes we still don't seem
Much wiser for our years

Deeper

The shadows in the valley are deeper
The light of life
Who walked by my side
Is gone

I long for the arms that once held me
That made me feel warm
That comforted me
At night

The pain of my journey o'erwhelms me
Away and at home
I'm feeling alone
Right now

But the one who called you home
One day will call for me
And we'll all meet beyond the vale
And we'll walk on the mountain of joy

The death of my beloved goes deeper
It rips through my soul
It causes my heart
To weep

I long to hear the voice that once called me
That made me feel home
That filled my heart
With peace

I'm missing your love and your friendship
The joy of my life
That anchored me through
The storms

But the one who called you home
Will one day call for me
And we'll all meet beyond the vale
And we'll walk on the mountain of joy

The light in my life goes deeper
Through pain and death
I shall find my rest
And peace

I look to the day
I will hold you
Forever again

Life with you again
In heaven

There'll be joy to displace all the sadness
The pain and the hurt
The loneliness will
Be gone

But the one who called you home
Will one day call for me
And we'll all meet beyond the vale
And we'll walk on the mountain of joy

Directions

I have a lamp that lets me read directions God has written
Then I walk into the night
Fearful shadows seem so long

Comfort comes from faithful friends who walk along the way
Sometimes I feel very frightened
I'm sure the road I took is wrong

Comfort flows like a silent river, unexpected and so strong
The weather seems the fiercest
I am feeling faint

The directions are not like a map that tells where I will be
Give me hints of distances
Or on which paths I'll roam

The directions they don't tell me which path I'll travel on
Only that the Lord will meet me there
And one day take me home

Discipline of Grace

Sometimes I need to take some rest
Sometimes I need to work
Sometimes I need to stay awake
Sometimes I need some sleep
But all the while I need to cling
To His eternal grace

I need His grace when I awake and stumble out of bed
And when I work through the stresses of the day
I need His grace when I relax and take some time for fun
And when I wind down or crash and go to bed
And whether or not I took time to remember
His grace is always there

By His grace we're called to share His yoke and discipline
And in His yoke to share His work and rest
And often when I strain to work He bids me wait and listen
Not as a slave but as one of His own children
And of all the disciplines to learn
The very first is love

Sometimes I'm called to take some rest
Sometimes I'm called to work
Sometimes I'm called to stay awake
Sometimes I'm called to sleep
But in all the disciplines I'm called
To love and grace and rest

Expecting

Expecting
The same old people
Expecting
The same old songs
Expecting
Not much different
Not expecting
Much new at all

Is this what you're expecting
From the great Creator God
Or do you expect
Surprises
New beginnings
Heavenly joy
Interrupted plans where God gives you
Greater purposes than your own

And do you expect
The peace of God
Within the midst of pain
Greater strength than you possess
To carry you through the day

Changing hearts and breaking hearts
Refilled with God's pure love

Communion with a holy God
And with His people
He has given you to love

Are you expecting promises
That only God can fill
And in spite of all your weaknesses
His grace that covers you
Are you expecting
To be growing in your knowing
Of the God
Who loves you until it overflows
In the love He shares through you

Are you expecting
Greater joy
Greater love and peace
Greater purpose in your life

Greater service you can give
Greater hope within your heart
That you can give the world
Greater eyes to see how God
Is transforming broken lives

What are you expecting
From the great Creator God
And expecting of the One
Who promised someday to return

The Flame

When the fortunes and the heartaches that befall us
Burn away and the Lord shall reappear
The real work of our lives will rise triumphant
And the work of the Lord will be complete

When the Flame has burned all things around us
And the fortunes and the heartaches disappear
When the testing of our lives has been completed
Will our flames still be burning bright and clear

As the seasons of this life fly by our window
And the toils of our lives seem but a waste
When discouragement mounts high outside our doorway
We still can have the Hope that gives us peace

When the Flame has burned all things around us
And the fortunes and the heartaches disappear
When the testing of our lives has been completed
Will our flames still be burning bright and clear

When our lives are filled with wealth that falls around us
And the things in our lives are working well
When the blessings in this world come to our doorstep
Let us hold onto the peace that can endure.

When the Flame has burned all things around us
And the fortunes and the heartaches disappear
When the testing of our lives has been completed
Will our flames still be burning bright and clear

Forever until Tomorrow

Quiet moments in the morning
When the world is half-asleep
Sharing moments in the sunrise
As the shadows start to creep
Walking next to one another,
Talking about our God's new day
Hope of what tomorrow brings
And thoughts of yesterday

And I shall love you from the rising of the sun
Until it rises again tomorrow
Then learn to love you even more again
And look again to another tomorrow

God, our Father, guides us through another day
To serve our best
Oft we fail and oft we try Him,
Oft He brings us to His rest
He has taught that we should love
As he has loved us from the start
So as was the love He gave,
I give you my God-touched heart

If God allows, I will love you as His Son
'Til He should come some tomorrow
Then learn to love you even more and more again
Forever until tomorrow

Friends

When I was on my way back home, oh, not so long ago
My heart was filled with happiness and joy that overflowed
I pondered only for a moment what had made me feel this way
And the reason for this happiness was made as clear as day
When the Lord had taken my sins from me, when He died at Calvary
In His abundance and His grace He provided me a family
My brothers and my sisters with whom I serve at Jesus' feet
Whose fellowship, prayer, and blessed love are shared whene'er we meet
And in a miracle my vision's blurred, my eyes are filled with tears
A miracle it has to be because for so many unemotional years
Apathy that crushed even anger had not allowed me to cry
But when Jesus filled my soul with love - - that ol' man had to die
The love of my family through joys and through sorrows
Has sustained me through yesterday and will again tomorrow
Sustain me, enfold me and lift me through the fires
Through gifts the Lord has given them with love that never tires
The body of the Lord are we, His blood has made us free
By His broken bloody sacrifice by His death for you and me
We're the pieces of His body joined and powered by the Spirit
As we lay our hearts before Him and have every darkened corner lit
Oh, I thank the Lord that He loves enough to purify my heart
And I thank Him for the eternal bond that no other power can part
I thank Him for the place He gave in His Holy Broken Flesh
Thank Him for my brothers and sisters by whom I'm always nourished
I can't contain the tears of joy when I bring to them confessions
When I know their prayers will all be brought before the very gates of heaven
I confess and pray before the Lord if they have any needs
Because we have a Father in heaven who watches over His seeds
I pray, "Dear Lord please strengthen them and help them through their day
If they come against the Evil One or stumble, guide their way
And most of all I pray, dear Lord, shower them with joy and gladness
For you know dear Lord, what they mean to me and made me oh so free
"May they grow in you and hide in you and see you in their dreams
May they keep you in their unworthy hearts, may their love be overflowing streams
Blessed by each life and love in my sacred family
And this I pray because dear Lord, of the way that they've blessed me."

Fullness of Grace

And the stars will shine like many distant promises
As they guide us through the dark and dreadful night
But as we walk into the day
We can look back and see the way
Our footprints have brought glory to His name
And the fullness of our pain
Will be the life that we have gained
And the fullness of His justice and grace
And our pain will be finally erased

Wounds inflicted by our brothers will be slow to heal
As our hearts overflow with bitterness and pain
But what the darkness has concealed will by our Saviour be revealed
His grace will fill our hearts 'til we are healed
And the fullness of our pain
Will be the life that we have gained
And the fullness of His justice and grace
And our pain will be finally erased

As we walk into the storms of our self-righteousness
And our sins engulf the lives of those we love
Let us turn the pain we bear into an attitude of prayer
We are servants of His grace and of His care
And the fullness of our pain
Will be the life that we have gained
And the fullness of His justice and grace
And our pain will be finally erased

Until the Lord returns there will be many sorrows
Consequences of our sin and all our pride
But as we go before the cross
Forgive our brothers, reach the lost
We'll endure the pain that we might pray and cry
Our brother cries
Our Saviour cries
And the stars will shine like many distant promises
As they guide us through the dark and dreadful night
But as we walk into the day
We can look back and see the way
Our footprints have brought glory to His name
And the fullness of our pain
Will be the life that we have gained
And the fullness of His justice and grace
And the fullness of His justice and grace

God Revealed

God revealed in the grand creation
God revealed in the complex code
God revealed in the power of oceans
God revealed in the flight of birds
God revealed despite the dark corruption
And His Holy Image broken by sin

For naught could stop the flood of love exceeding human measure
Nor the relentless tide of overflowing grace
And naught could stop the flow of love returned and ever blooming
Through redeemed and broken creatures that have sought to see his face

God revealed in the grace of husbands
God revealed in the love of wives
God revealed in the sealed commitment
God revealed in the gift of life
God revealed despite selfish pride and envy
And the hardness of a heart that won't forgive

And naught could be more beautiful than the image of God revealed
In the loving giving husband and a pure devoted wife
As they firmly stand committed to give sacrificial love
And resolved to keeping on giving as long as they have life

God revealed in the pews of churches
God revealed in the sacraments
God revealed in the service offered
God revealed in the gifts and tithes
God revealed despite the tears and sorrow
And the shame caused by His undevoted Bride

As the Father loves the Son and the Son so loves the church
So the husband is to love and bless his wife
As the Son submits to the Father and the Church submits to the Son
So the wife is to submit to the husband's love

God revealed in the rage of nations
God revealed in their utter fall
God revealed in the rule of monarchs
God revealed in the rule of law
God revealed despite war and madness
And the putrid wrath of vengeance that never ends

Hard Times

When death and suffering surround
When grief and tears abound
When despair is at the door
Or the door cannot be found

We may yet cling to the hope
And to the God of peace
Who promises us a life beyond
Where troubles shall be ceased

In the meantime in this place
We still can yet prevail
And ask for courage, strength and wisdom
In the midst of our travail

He Came in Humble Splendor

He came in humble splendor
The Son of God and Man
Glory came into the universe
To be held by human hands

Entrusted to a man and wife
Of ordinary means
The Glory of the Universe
Came to be heard and seen

Majesty wrapped in simple clothes
Who lived among the dust and dirt
Glory came into the universe
To suffer shame and hurt

He lived with common men
Wrapped their sin in grace
Healed the broken-hearted
With a gentle warm embrace

Brought dignity to humble hearts
Replaced the fear with love
And with his death He gave us life
And gifts from up above

He Made Us More than Perfect

He made us more than perfect
He made us more like Him
He made us more than hearts with hope
He made us free from sin
He gave us more than beauty
He gave us endless grace
He filled our lives with so much glory
It shows upon our face
He gave us more than intellect
He gave us minds like His
Along with wisdom for each day
And boundless, endless grace
He gave us more than peace on earth
He gave us peace with Him
And peace within our willful hearts
That overflows our brim
He gave us broken bodies
So that He could make us more
More beautiful than angels
And more holy evermore
He gave us more than circumstance
More than hopeless chance
He gave us time to know Him
And to more than catch His glance
He made us more than holy
Despite our will to sin
He made us more than beautiful
He's starting from within
He gave us more than courage
Though our spirit had been broken
He gave new life to precious souls
Through His power and grace He strengthens

He made us more- more like Him
More priceless than earth's treasures
More beautiful than angels
Much more than can be measured
He gave us broken bodies
So that He could make us more
More beautiful than angels
And more holy evermore

How Far, How Far

How far, how far I wander. How far, how far from home
How far, how far I go my way. Yet I listen for the voice.
Yet I listen for the voice.

The voice, the voice that calls me. The voice that calls me home
The voice that would be guiding me, if only I trusted and followed
if only I trusted and followed

Followed, followed, trusting. Followed trusting in His Word
Followed trusting in the one who gave, and gave His very best
And gave His very best

His best, His best He gave me, His best so freely given
His best He gave to give me life abundantly and so free
give me life abundantly and so free

So free, so free, the life. So free the life from sin
So free from sin that I could choose to live and follow Him
I could choose to live and follow Him

To Him, to Him who calls me, who calls me to His side
O Him I came with open hands, to receive His precious gift
to receive His precious gift

The gift, the gift He gave me,. The gift He gave to me
The gift He gave me freely for His glory and for His name
for His glory and for His name

His nme, His name, He gave me. His name He gave to me
His name I cannot ever lose – It's His gift eternally
It's His gift eternally

I See and Don't See

Gangly legs or pudgy
Zits and warts galore
Hair in places I don't want
And not in places I want it more

Categorize things I shouldn't
Not the things I ought
Focus on things that are quickly gone
And not on what my heart has sought

See the obvious problems
Quick to criticize
Just not seeing all the work
Of what's gone on in other's lives

Fill my daily planner
Meetings, tasks and more
Urgent needs crowd out real needs
And crowd the love right out the door

Other people's issues
Can't seem to make me see
Distractions are not what they seem
A child in need is a blessing indeed

If a Man Is Content

If a man
is content it
is because he
is doing, at least in part, that for which he
has been created.

That said, even those who
oppose God
may be content in what they do,
using the abilities
given to them by God. So
pray that everyone
may be more than content and that the Spirit
draw them closer to Himself and
open their eyes to His presence and that they
may use their abilities not for themselves, but for God

I've Looked Despair Between the Eyes

I've looked despair between the eyes
And have clutched it to my breast
And I've looked deeply in my soul
And seen the emptiness

I've probed beneath the endless roles
Of all the games we play
And have found that they were all just games
Despite what we might say

The values that we cling to most
As we grope for worth and pride
We must release with our last breath
Helpless with arms held wide

If we have hope and not despair
Beyond death's final door
There must be truth that we can grasp
From one who's gone before

If there is justice on the earth
That hears unanswered cries
There must be more than life itself
That comforts when we die

I lift my eyes

I lift my eyes
I lift my eyes
Up to the hills
up to the hills
Where does my help come from

It's from the Lord
it's from the Lord
Of heaven and earth
of heaven and earth
The Holy God of Grace

God formed the heaven and earth
to be a holy unity
Full of goodness, grace and love
a temple of his joy
A place to dwell with creatures
who could freely chose his love
His glory was not even dimmed
when by his creatures filled with pride
Rebelled against his holy love
even knowing that they'd die
For love and grace would find a way
to bring his creatures back to life

I will be there

I will be there
I will be there
I will be there
I'll be there before you will call
When you won't know what's in front of you
When you're afraid of what could be
When you're nervous about what lies ahead and what will happen to you
I'll be there
I'll be waiting
I've made my plans for you
I've been waiting for this moment when you'll be looking anxiously for me
I'll be there all along the way
Tomorrow and today

The Labor of Life

The road seems long but
The well of life refreshes
Run and rest but always
With trust

The labor of life is but
Pain and strife unless
We've labored
In the fields of God
And labored
For His fruit

Our time on earth can be but
A temporary respite
From the full wrath of God
Or a time of waiting
For His peace

Earth is in the shadow
Of heaven and hell
And we are free
To seek either

We have dignity
We were created
To be unashamed
To walk naked with heads held high
To live free from naked lust

Because we were created
In the image of God
We have Beauty and dignity
In spite of our unlovely hearts

We cover ourselves not
Because of lack of beauty or dignity but
Because of our sin and our lust
Because our eyes are not innocent
Because our minds are corrupt

Masterpiece

We never get life's canvas blank it always comes filled in
With who we are and where we're from and all the good and bad
And so provides the place and time in which we get to grow

I cannot show how great a love when everything is easy
I cannot know how far I'd go if I had never journeyed
If every day I had enough and nothing caused me worry

I cannot grow in knowledge if I never have to learn
I cannot grow in strength if I never have to strain
If nothing made me try too hard and never was I troubled

It's the pull between the light and dark and good and bad we grow in
That shows us who we are right now and who we are becoming
When we choose the paint we add onto the Master's canvas

The canvas is full of joy and pain and light and somber hues
And scenes of peace and conflict and scenes that are confused
And for every scene in black and white are hundreds gray and blurred

On this canvas we leave our marks to make it more complete
With marks of joy or sorrow or light or dark or pain
The Master then transforms our marks into his radiant glory

For it takes the bleak, forbidding, world to reveal His love and peace
And our confusion and despair to show His hope and joy
And on the day when we go home we'll see His Masterpiece

My Eyes Have Seen the Morning Star

I ran as to win the race of life
I ran to win those who were lost
I ran with patience to the Lord of Lords, the King
I ran, but now I rest my weary bones
My eyes have seen the Morning Star
My ears have heard the Living Word
My hands have touched the nail pierced palms
My soul's found rest within His arms
The treasure that was in the earthen jar
Is now released from chains of grief and pain
My soul has found Jesus at the journey's final end
I wait for you to join me with my Friend
My eyes have seen the Morning Star
My ears have heard the Living Word
My hands have touched the nail pierced palms
My soul's found rest within His arms
The life we shared together did not end
But in a while more we'll meet my friend
And while you wait gain wisdom and you'll shine like heaven above
So run, until you rest your weary bones
My eyes have seen the Morning Star
My ears have heard the Living Word
My hands have touched the nail pierced palms
My soul's found rest within His arms

On Glory's shore

One more day of wondering of what the day will bring
Will it be a day with crying, some laughter or a song

Will it be a day with grief or sorrow, or overflowing joy
But we cannot worry for there's never a way to know

And then maybe some tomorrow, I'll wake on Glory's shore
With no more tears of sorrow and no more cries of pain

And then one day in Glory, with joy I'll shake your hand
For precious are the memories of the journeys that we shared

No more beads of sorrow will pour across our lips
No more furrows of worry will crease across our brow

No more silent worries, no more burdens we can't bear
No more secret heartaches, no more fears we cannot share

For the one who's shared our journey, shared our sorrows, laughs and joys
Is the one who's shared His life with us and the one who's brought us here

One Question Still

As I look into the star-filled sky
And wonder how and wonder why
and wonder who and wonder when
and ask it over and over again

The answers come by much too slowly
as questions come and questions go
as questions rise and questions fall
one question still is, "Who made it all?"

Only Heaven's Eyes

When you wake up in the morning only seeing
Another weary day that never ends
And you've barely strength enough
To take another weary step
And in your heart you feel the endless pain each tearful step will bring

When the harshness of this life seems overwhelming
And stretches out as far as you can see
And oceans of despair surround
And threaten to engulf you
And your spirit sinks beneath the tide of ever rising tears

Only heaven's eyes can see
Your each and every faithful step
And every silent tear
And the wondrous majesty
Of the grace you've left along the way

Only heaven's ears can hear
Each weary sigh you breathed
As your courage drew you onward
Though your strength would slowly fail

Only heaven's eyes can see the light
Of heaven's reflections in your eyes
Only heaven's ears can hear
The courage in your voice
As you breathe another weary sigh
And take another painful step

Power Made Perfect

For God's own voice will be heard
In our own heart's expression
In a voice
In a song that's rapturously sung
Or in a picture painted
Or in a dancer's steps and leaps and twirls
Or in a poem so softly spoken

For the full wonder of God
Is not expressed within a silent thought
Or in thoughts that are only spoken
But rather in thoughts spoken
And then
Expressed in wondrous creation
And then
Expressed once more in our own recreation

When we sing His joy
Or paint His vision
Or move our feet in His direction
Or allow our voice to echo His passion
Then is His power made perfect

Psalm

During the long and dismal days when lights are dim and eyes are too
And the shadows of this world creep long beside me
In the ceaseless sin and strife entangling men with empty lives
It is easy to lose the glow of love that you gave me in your arms

Lord, I need to see you work. I need to see your light
I need to see the Living God give life that men may see
I need to see your handiwork within me and around me
I need the reassurance, Lord, that you're working, yet, within me

Let me shine Lord, give me power to speak out bold and free
Then give me courage and wisdom to do according to your will
Let men see the way I live and hear me speak your name
That they may know you care for them and want for them the same

Quiet Echoes

The rooms still quietly echo
With the children's voices and steps
The years of nurture and tending
Have blossomed into joy
Memories float through daily routines
Accompanied by smiles and tears
For the children were precious
but now they are gone
Becoming less like children
And more like friends
In this season when the children have grown
And they walk on paths they have chosen
We now take delight
As we watch them take flight
And our world has grown larger
As we've learned to see through their eyes

Our relationship has also grown
As our children now make their own way
We now have become less like parents
With each other we're more like friends

Memories float through daily routines
Accompanied by smiles and tears
For our young days were precious
But now we have grown
And our love has grown stronger
Through the years

When our children were young we held tightly
Then let go as we carefully watched
Then we learned to let go as they grew even more
And our watching turned to waiting and prayer

In this season as we recall where we've been
And walked along roads we've not chosen
We still take delight
As we walk in the light
And our vision's grown larger
As we've learned to see through Christ's eyes

Retribution

We shall flee to hell
Or from the bell
That tolls for retribution

The price is grim
For deadly sin
There is no good solution

We'll either embrace
The deadly grace
That brings us peace within

Or heed the voice
Of imagined choice
And pay for our own sin

We'll only heal
When we finally kneel
And grasp and give forgiveness

For death's release
Will bring us peace
Or anguish that is endless

But in this life
There's always strife
The Angst of partial solutions

We must give up our fight
To demand our right
To seek final retribution

Nothing here
Is crystal clear
Neither peace nor torment

But we must wait
Until we pass the gate
To embrace the final judgment

Starting Again

It does not matter
Where we have been
God calls us from
Where ever we are

The most important detail
Is not if our actions are
Perfectly correct
And perfectly free from errors
And
In perfect agreement with the law

The most important detail
Is in the desire
Of our heart
And
Our willingness
To yield to God

The grace of God
Allows us to not only
Start each year anew
Nor each day
But
We are privileged
To yield moment by moment
And
Begin our lives each moment
Over and over
Again

The Sweetness of Death

The sweetness of death all around me
The sweet taste of death in the air
Is the sweet breath of Jesus who's taking me home
And the pain that surrounds me is the pain he will bear

Through the pain of the sorrows around me
The incense of heaven comes near
And reminds me of home and that I'm not alone
And the soft hand of Jesus is drying my tears

As the shadows of heaven enfold me
And the mercy of Jesus draws near
The pains and cares of this world start to fade
While the comfort of heaven overwhelms all my tears

In our room full of shadows we see dark and light
Some things that pain us and some things delight
But as we pass through the portal and out of the night
We'll see shadows of heaven transform into light

All the people I regarded so lightly
And the friends I have clung to so tightly
I must let them all go but I'll pray that they'll know
The God of all Comfort who calls through the night

This Child of Ours

This child of ours we give to you
This little one we surrender
This tiny child we offer you
This helpless one so tender
This helpless one so tender

For ours is not to give and take
But merely hold awhile
It's from your hand that we bring forth
Then return into your hands
Then return into your hands

What we conceive we dearly love
With bitter tears we grieve and lose
But we remember you also grieved
When from your Son you turned away
When from your Son you turned away

And it was yours to give and take
But you let go awhile
And from your Son you turned away
Then returned him to your hands
Then returned him to your hands

And we await the final day
When we shall finally see
The ones we lost beside you
And we shall cease our sorrowing
And we shall cease our sorrowing

It's only for a little while
That we must bear our pain
The hands that brought us all forth
Shall restore us then in peace
Shall restore us then in peace

Too Small a Thing

Too small a thing He says it is for you to simply be
A light only to Israel, because you're a light for me
You'll be a light to all the world despite how small you seem
The God who formed you in the womb has much too large a dream
All the world must be restored and each and every nation
Must hear that though they see no hope, the Lord will bring salvation

As a seed yields trees
And trees yield fruit
The Spirit yields His gifts

As love yields grace
And grace yields faith
The Lord will yield His saints

The Unborn cries

I'll never hold my mother
I'll never have the chance
I'll never live to see the light of day

Why did you end my journey?
Why did you take my life?
Why did you choose to end my chance to love?

Only by God's forgiveness
Only by God's grace
Only by God's power we'll be healed

We'll wait to meet in heaven
We'll wait for our first hug
We'll wait to share our stories and our lives

God will cover painful choices
God will heal the painful wounds
God will bind our hearts in overflowing love

Was It Sacrifice

Was it sacrifice to have
More time to spend with you
More time to hear your stories
More time to see you through

Was is sacrifice to see
Your eyes so clear and bright
Your smile brighten up the day
Your face filled with delight

What was it that I gave up
What treasures did I lose
Whatever did I turn away
To have some more of you

Could you call it sacrifice to lose
The things I could not hold
But to gain some treasured moments
And some precious time with you

Was it sacrifice to lose
Some time to be at work
Some time to make more money
Some time to get ahead

Was it sacrifice to spend time
On all our countless walks
On all our countless moments
On all our countless talks

What decisions did I make
What did I decide not to do
When instead of doing other things
Instead I spent time with you

Could you call it sacrifice to lose
the things I could not hold
But to gains some treasured moments
And some precious time with you.

We Are Not Righteous

We are not righteous but the righteousness of God shall prevail
We are not righteous but the righteousness of God shall prevail
We are not righteous but the righteousness of God shall prevail
The righteousness of Jesus Christ

We are redeemed by the grace of God
We are redeemed by the grace of God
We are redeemed by the sacrifice of Him who truly loves

The sacrifice of God
The sacrifice of God

When You Were By My Side

Sunlight makes the morning's shadows
Yesterday is gone
But I believe I still can feel your presence in my mind

Have you got another smile
I wait patiently
For I can bring you many flowers and walk along with you

Knowing there's so much time ahead
I remember well
The happiness that was in your eyes when you were by my side

Dream away another workday
As I've done before
Hoping you've enjoyed your friends and seen some happiness

Savoring those few days I had
Walked along with you
Time passes by so quickly till I hold you once again

Meantime there's so much time ahead and I remember well
The happiness that was
When you were by my side

Just be kind, to give something of your heart
As I have given you

Who Are We

Who are we
The King's own sons and daughters

Who are we
Holders of His keys

Who are we
Sons and daughters of the Saviour
Who've received great unearned favor
And His healing and His freedom and responsibility

All creation bears the marks of its Creator
Though it's broken by our sin and filled with shame
But the Lord of all creation plans to overthrow
And the purpose He has planned for us will glorify His Name

Many are the paths laid out before us
Many good things we can choose along the way
But the Lord bestows His wisdom so that we can wisely choose
And the pureness of our heart will be our guide

Whose Son

There was a little baby born in Bethlehem
He was the son of God and the son of man
He taught the little children how to walk His way
And all the bigger children to stay out of their way

Men were made to look like they were full of God
How is it that we seem so very odd
When Adam took a bite of the forbidden fruit
His eyes beheld the wonders of his birthday suit

Whose son, whose son, whose son are you
Whose son, whose son, whose son are you

Abel gave the Lord a worthy sacrifice
But Cain was jealous and that soon became a vice
His envy turned to murder, Abel's blood did fly
God heard the call of justice, "justice" that the blood did cry

There was a time when men lived too long
There was too much time to practice how to do wrong
Only Noah managed to do what he should
So God killed the rest with a mighty flood

Whose son, whose son, whose son are you
Whose son, whose son, whose son are you

God showed to the Pharaoh many plagues and deeds
Then God had Moses lead Israel through the dried up sea
Then Pharaoh's troops did follow but they soon got stuck
The waters came to cover them and washed them up

On a cloud filled mountain God could not be seen
But He gave Moses commandments all six hundred thirteen
When Moses came back down to show old Israel that Law
He broke the holy tablets when he saw what he saw

Whose son, whose son, whose son are you
Whose son, whose son, whose son are you

Are you the son of Jesse, son of Paul
The son of the one who is the Lord of all
Are you the son of faith of Abraham
Or the unbelieving son of that devil man

Whose son, whose son, whose son are you
Whose son, whose son, whose son are you

The Worship We Do Well

We can continue in worship
In the morning when we lift a hammer at work
We can continue in worship
In the morning when we handle an interruption from a needy child
We can continue in worship
In the morning when we listen to those around us curse and defile the name of God
We can continue in worship
In the morning when we listen to the selfish cries of the children wanting to get their way
We can continue in worship
In the morning when we offer dignity and respect to those who don't deserve it

For that is the way we were treated by God
When He was disrespected and scorned
As he, the most righteous man on earth, was tortured to death

And some of us mocked Him
And some of us were complacent
And no one stood up for righteousness
Yet to the end, He offered us dignity and respect
When we never deserved it

And so our act of worship can be
To act in defiance of the way we are treated
Or see others treated
Or see God himself be treated –
To offer dignity and respect to those who don't deserve it.
When in defiance of our own feelings,
We humble ourselves before God and
Put Him above us and offer dignity and
Respect to those who whom we do not want to give it,
We worship God

For what is it if we offer
Dignity and respect
To those to whom we feel inclined to give it
To those who will treat us well

But if we offer dignity and respect
To those who won't return it
We seek reward in heaven

You May Not See or Hear

You may not see it in the vastness of a star-filled sky
or across an ocean of raging waves
or in a hurricane
or racing cloud

You may not feel it in the volcano's power
or in an earthquake's tremble
or in a tornado passing by
or gentle breeze

You may not hear it in the rolling thunder
or in a song of unrequited love
or in a promise made
or child's cry

You may not see the hand of God that made it all
or hear Him whisper out your name
or feel His touch
or presence

The Virgin Bride

Despite the hearts you've broken
Despite the love you've turned away
He knows it comes from deep within the broken shattered lives and dreams
That started from days of Adam and still ripples through the years

Despite the pain you've given
Despite the hearts your pride has crushed
He knows it comes from depths of pain endured by former generations
For the sins of the earliest fathers still troubles hearts today

Despite the seekers you've repulsed
Despite you have shunned the work He's begun
He knows it comes from hearts that long to cling to His eternal truth
Even though you have forgotten His love and continue to turn away

Despite the idols you've worshiped
Despite the distractions that have robbed your affections
He knows it comes from unfilled hearts that long for eternal love
And for peace within your troubled hearts and for joy in the midst of pain

The bridegroom who faithfully loves you
Who died your death for you
Has declared your purity which he has seen with His eternal eyes
For He Himself has cleansed you and miraculously made you whole

The bridegroom eagerly awaits
To show His finished tapestry
So we can marvel at the completed work he's woven in our lives
And the fullness of His beauty will be revealed by His virgin bride

Why did you lead me here

Why did you lead me here, O Lord
The path has been so long
I worked so hard, my very best
But I am not sure at all
That I am where you want me now
Where I'm supposed to be

For now I'm facing great resistance
I cannot overcome
How should I go from here, O Lord
To simply try another way
Or enter into the conflict before me
That you would have to win

I need you to give the wisdom, Lord
To help me choose the way
I need your strength and courage
To help me every step
I need your peace and grace
To help me know I am

Where I always thought I was
Following you in the very path
Where you have been leading me
And continue to lead me still