



**REFINED AND
REFRESHED**

COLLECTED POEMS OF
RALPH J. MONROE III

Table of Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Learning](#)

[Learning Still](#)

[Faith Like a Child](#)

[Transitioning](#)

[Amazing Wilderness](#)

[Fragrance](#)

[Reflecting on My Life](#)

[Dead End](#)

[Rations](#)

[Under an Open Heaven](#)

[Transparency that Gives Hope](#)

[The Awesomeness of the Gospel](#)

[Only Shadows](#)

[Belonging to Him: A Dialogue with God](#)

[Growing Seed](#)

[Chastening](#)

[What do I Want Out of Life?](#)

[Running with Realization](#)

[Attentive](#)

[Celebration After Cleansing](#)

[Morning Song](#)

[Just Like the Water](#)

[Abiding in Fullness](#)

[Amazed](#)

[Remember Our Time Together](#)

[Imitate My Son](#)

[Remember Your Son](#)

[More than the Grains of Sand](#)

[Your Guiding](#)

[Destroying Lies](#)

[Identifying with His Suffering](#)

[Cries in the Morn](#)

[The Overflow of God's Word](#)

[Perishing to Conquerors](#)

[Just Trust Me](#)

[Faithful Love](#)

[Godly Sorrow](#)

[Faith Being Stretched](#)

[Your Presence](#)

[Eternity](#)

[Deeper Love](#)

[Giving Up](#)

[Absolute Surrender](#)

[The Singing Voice of God](#)

[A Faith Not by Sight](#)

[Extras](#)

[About the Author](#)

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Refined and Refreshed by Ralph J. Monroe III

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Introduction

How can one ever appreciate the abundance of refreshment if never having gone through a process of being refined? This collection of poems are my reflections and expressions during a season of Leintense refinement. Though it was a season, yet refinement is the call of a Christian life.

Whether you are entering this blessed time of life, going through such a season now, or exiting into a time of refreshment my prayer is that you'll be able to reads these poems, relate to the words, and be stirred up to seek the Lord through His Word.

Each poem came from reflecting on life through God's Word. After many of the poems there are scriptures to reflect on and some of the poems have questions at the end for you to ask yourself. It's an honor to share my life with you and I pray that you'll be blessed.

God bless you!

Ralph J Monroe III

“For You have tested us, O God; **You have refined us as silver is refined.** You brought us into the net; You laid a heavy burden [of servitude] on us. You made men (charioteers) ride over our heads [in defeat]; We went through fire and through water, **Yet You brought us out into a [broad] place of abundance [to be refreshed].**” Psalm 66:10-12

Learning

I feel like a fraud, standing tall in the house of God.

Every day I religiously read a chapter or two
...okay, maybe three or four but that's all...
because I can only do a few.

Next, I get my notebook and pen,
To take notes from my Christian books,
reading about five pages in each.
Now I'm really feeling like a peach,

but just like a peach, there's a pit inside of me...
My heart.

Am I trying to religiously love God?
The chapters I read from the Bible,
the notes I take from commentaries,
the inspiration I get from daily devotions...
Again I feel like I'm going through the motions!!

I'm trying to love God...
I was told in order to love Him,
I should spend more time with Him.
I say okay, I'll spend time, I'll make time for Him!
So now I religiously scheduled the Creator in my life,
yet not top priority.

Now I'm going through the motions,
No matter how many outward acts I do.
The inside of my heart is crying out
help me Lord, to love You...
...I hear

It's not about the amount of time, but the sincerity of your heart.
Not about daily devotions or commentaries,
but checking your motives is a start.
I'm not asking you to be theologically sound,
so, my child, please don't feel like you've fallen behind.
Because I have not found
a school who can truly teach you to love Me with
all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength,
and with all your mind.

Reflect On

"And Jesus replied to him," "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37

Have you ever felt like you were wearing a mask in front of others? Have you ever felt like you couldn't be yourself? Do you ever feel lower than others? Have you ever felt inadequate when you compared yourself to others? Have you ever felt like you were going through the religious motions?

During this time, I was thinking everyone was holier than me and I tried to fit in, but it became a depressing act. The Lord brought me to the point of no longer living to please others, but living to love Him. When we live to please others, life is a farce, but when we live for Christ Jesus, life become original.

Learning Still

When I do things of mine own will to try and serve you Lord,

I strive and get weary...Am I trying out of fear?

Am I trying to build up my own character?

The pastor spoke to me, saying this is the word from the Lord;

Don't try to do the change, just love me, and I will make the change happen.

God, how do I truly love you?

Do I not do anything at all?

How do I love you without feeling like I'm...
striving to love you.

God restore unto me a refreshing love for you,
a greater love than when I first knew you!

Reflect On

"For it is (not your strength, but it is) God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work (that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose) for His good pleasure." Philippians 2:13

Have you ever thought, "How in the world do I love God"? Has loving someone or something dictated your character?

I tried to love God the only way I knew how, with actions. I served anywhere I was needed hoping that my service would show my love for God, but honestly I didn't love God because my heart was still far from Him. I had other loves that shaped my shady character. Only God can refine a heart to truly love Him and the byproduct, a personality marked by His workmanship.

Faith like a Child

Yielding, I lift my heart in total surrender.

Becoming a slave to Your commands, I can joy in freedom again.
Loving Your Word more than the breath You give me.
It has become sweet nectar.

My soul longing, longing, longing for more of You,
rest upon my life like morning dew.
Bring me closer to You, Jesus.

I confess I don't know how to yield my heart in total surrender, but my faith is growing like a child's.

I desire to be in Your presence, worshiping You always.
I feel my faith growing like a child,
I know I'll see You face to face.
In Your Tabernacle is where I want to dwell,
under the shadow of Your almighty wings.

Yielding in complete obedience to Jesus is much greater than any offering.

Lord, help me to yield, for I don't know how,
grow in me faith like a child's.

Reflect On

"He called a little child and set him before them, and said, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless you repent (that is, change your inner self - your old way of thinking, live changed lives) and become like children (trusting, humble, and forgiving), you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:2-3

"My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways," Proverbs 23:26

Transitioning

In my times of adjusting,

I remembered the times of

When we sang of

how You are faithful.

Our ways are in Your hands.

Thoughts,

Dreams,

Plans.

Father, I trust You.

I am comforted because You

lead me in the right way

Thank You, God. Thank You, Father.

Reflect On

Commit your works to the LORD (submit and trust them to Him), and your plans will succeed (if you respond to His will and guidance)." Proverbs 16:3

Amazing Wilderness

The Wilderness,

Where the hungry dwell and the waters swell.
Where seeds are sown and foundation laid.
Where testing comes and things of the fickle flesh are

Burned.

Where refinement happens and dependence on God is a must!

The Wilderness,

A desolate place where it seems dry dead bones are a waste.
Where deep cries out to deep and souls are poured out
for the presence of God.

The Wilderness,

Where the hungry dwell
Where few tend to go
But once you come out of the wilderness,

you're blazing like fire because of the Presence of His Glory!

Reflect On

He turns a wilderness into a pool of water and a dry land into springs of water; And there He has the hungry dwell, so that they may establish an inhabited city, And sow fields and plant vineyards, and produce an abundant harvest. Also He blesses them so that they multiply greatly, and He does not let (the number of) their cattle decrease." Psalm 107:35-38

Fragrance

You are a highly fragrant candle set ablaze by My Spirit within you.

What I speak to you in private, speak openly as a lamb among wolves.

My flame in you is not to burn for nothing.

Come out from behind the bush.

I have called you light in this world.

A light that sits atop of a hill for all to see.

I Am the Fire that burns the wick of your heart.

I Am the Fragrance that sets you apart.

Reflect On

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us spreads and makes evident everywhere the sweet fragrance of the knowledge of Him. For we are the sweet fragrance of Christ [which ascends] to God, [discernible both] among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;"

2 Corinthians 2:14-15

"You are the light of [Christ to] the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good deeds and moral excellence, and [recognize and honor and] glorify your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

Reflecting on My Life

As I lay here thinking about my life as a Christian, I can say I'm not content.
I have an unsettled heart,

I feel waves roaring and rolling inside of me.
Waves of complacent Christianity.
I say that's what it has become!

I do thank God from the bottom of my heart for the blessing to live in a land where I'm free to
openly worship Jesus Christ,
But I'm also free to be distracted by so many other things.

I'm free to find my security in everything else other than God.
Let me be honest with myself,
I'm not consumed for His love!
His Word is not my priority!
But I desperately *Need* it to be!

I'd rather be a slave for righteousness, dictated by the divine rule of God,
than free to be deterred from the One who truly loves me.

My Savior, I come to you, totally surrendering

my rights... my freedoms... my thoughts... my desires... my dreams... my life..

Lord Jesus, handcuff my hands with Your Truth.
Cuff it tightly around my wrists so the marks of Truth will forever be seen.
Shackle my feet to the foundation of Your Word
that I may never escape the Solid Rock.

Place Your yoke on my neck,
for You shall give me grace to live the life You called me to.
Bind me in Your everlasting love.
Keep me bound close to Your heart
because Jesus Christ, my Spirit is crying out for You.

Help me, Father, to never let ministry become an idol.
I don't want to just work for you,
as a bond servant loves his Master,
I desire to love You

In the land of the free and the home of the brave,
For Jesus Christ,
I'll live as a weak vessel and a slave.
Do I desire to be persecuted for Jesus' sake?!
If it's His Will, this life is not mine.

Until then, I ask for God to grant me His Holy Spirit, so that even when distractions come, His
grace will help me to focus on Him.
I will be His diligent son.

Reflect On

"Whoever does not carry his own cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow after Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me] cannot be My disciple." Luke 14:26

"So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not [carefully consider the cost and then for My sake] give up all his own possessions." Luke 14:33

Dead End

Along this road of life, I've faced many obstacles, but none like this.
I was driving down the road of life at a constant 70 miles per hour,
when all of a sudden, things start sputtering.
Twisting and swerving, trying not to crash.
The wheels of motivation have blown out from numerous pot holes.
The glass windows of my heart have been shattered by unforeseen flying debris.
So I ask myself,

"Do I continue to drive toward the promised destination or do I pull over and wait for some great expectation?"

I choose to drive on, not knowing what's ahead.
Now I'm limping down the roadway at a, furious turtle like, speed.
It gets even better. The engine light comes on.
My thoughts are clogged with rationalization, like an engine covered in sludge.
Stop thinking, just go, and "click", I hit the radio.
The words I hear are soothing.
It's not a song I can lean back and rock to, but it has my attention.
I see the fuel gauge of my faith rising up past half as I hear the words.

"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, the just shall live by faith."

I continue to slowly drive down the seemingly open road.
However, the once open road is now a Dead End...Well, now, this sucks!

Reflect On

Dead End is where you just stop and say, "How in the world did I end up here?" Personally, being at a Dead End makes me feel like everyone else is cruising through life. It makes me feel like I've been careless in my decision making. I also start looking anywhere and everywhere, trying anything and everything to get out of a Dead End. However, it all depends on how you look at your Dead End. Being at a Dead End is an opportunity for you to see God make impossible things possible.

Our Father is an awesome loving Father and He's going to take the Dead End and turn it into a One Way. A One Way road toward His Glory.

"Consider it nothing but joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you fall into various trials. Be assured that the testing of your faith [through experience] produces endurance [leading to spiritual maturity, and inner peace]. And let endurance have its perfect result and do a thorough

work, so that you may be perfect and completely developed [in your faith], lacking in nothing."
James 1:2-4

"Trust in and rely confidently on the LORD with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight or understanding." Proverbs 3:5

Rations

My inner man has been crying out for Your Word,
but I take his yearning and unjustly give him small rations.
It doesn't satisfy my inner man,
it only makes him hungry for more.

No longer will I feed him, but this pulpit preacher will.
Attended a three-day *revival* about faith
but money is the only thing ringing through the sanctuary.
Prosperity, wealth, and success; I thought these messages were long dead.
There's nothing wrong with these, but why have they been given more glory than Jesus?
I asked God to teach me something as I sat there
The only thing on my mind now is my inner man
I've been feeding him small rations, while prosperity was on display, eating the finances from
people's wallets.
Anger rises up.
How dare prosperity be preached with a hint of Jesus on the side!
Who is God here?

But how dare I sit and judge when I have played god by handing out the amount of food needed
for my inner man to survive.
He almost died!
On the last night, revival happened...
inside of me.
No longer do I dictate my life
but My Heavenly Father who sits between the cherubim of glory!

Reflect On

“Woe to you, [self-righteous] scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of extortion and robbery and self-indulgence (unrestrained greed). You [spiritually] blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the plate [examine and change your inner self to conform to God's precepts], so that the outside [your public life and deeds] may be clean also.” Matthew 23:25-26

Under an Open Heaven

Living with an open heaven over me,
There are no limits to how deep I can go into intimacy
with the Heavenly Father.

There's direct access into the Holiest,
that I may have direct access to His Heart.
O God, You are so beautiful
I will praise You in the intimacy of love for You!

Jesus Christ, You are the Direct Connection to the Father's Heart.
You are over the House of God.
Thank You, Lord for this unprecedented entrance into the Holiest!
I shall live here.

While on this earth,
I will live from here.
My tongue won't be held down,
for I will testify of Your intimacy.
I shall know it

For You will take me deeper.
God, You are beautiful!

Reflect On

"We have therefore been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory and power of the Father, we too might walk habitually in newness of life [abandoning our old ways]." Romans 10:4

Transparency That Gives Hope

It amazes me that God is so transparent with me.
He goes beyond being vulnerable
allowing the lowly me to see the desires of His heart.

It makes me joyful,
but at the same time, I weep.
I weep for those who have no understanding of God.
I weep for those who take advantage of His grace.
I weep for the sheep who go astray.
I weep and my heart aches for the world,

But there is hope... Jesus Christ

Hope of Glory in me

He's coming again and will put an end once and for all to sin.

Reflect On

"For with You is the fountain of life [the fountain of life-giving water]; In Your light we see light." Psalm 36:9

"Desire realized is sweet to the soul; But it is detestable to fools to turn away from evil [which they have planned]. He who walks [as a companion] with wise men will be wise, But the companions of [conceited, dull-witted] fools [are fools themselves and] will experience harm. Adversity pursues sinners, But the [consistently] upright will be rewarded with prosperity." Proverbs 13:19-21

The Awesomeness of the Gospel

The Gospel of Jesus Christ, what an exhilarating and pleasant story.

The Heavenly Father longed to dwell with His children again, but unrighteousness caused separation at the "fall of man."

The heart of God desired to bring man back to Him, but there was no one on earth that could do this.

The Creator of the universe humbled Himself to die a gory death for all humanity and thus the Righteous One became ALL Sin.

Yahweh, the Almighty God paid the ultimate price and poured His own wrath upon Himself in the form of the Son, Jesus Christ.

The unity He had with the Father was for the first time in eternity, broken.

The temporal display set in place during the life of Moses was now being acted out in the Heavens.

The Blood of Jesus Christ lasts for eternity and covers those who call on His Name and they have direct connection to God in the Holy of Holies!

The torn relationship between creation and its Creator is now sewn back together so perfectly, the seams are invisible.

This is the Great News of Jesus Christ who was raised back to glory, by the Holy Spirit, which now resides in those who have faith in Christ.

He is coming back on what will be a festive day, to take the church, His bride, on an eternal getaway.

Reflect On

How would you describe the Gospel of Christ Jesus to someone?

Only Shadows

This life is only a shadow of life.

Every encounter I have with God won't compare to
the eternal stay I shall have with Him.
Every encounter is only a shadow of what's to come.

The words of the Holy Scriptures, how so sweet and joyful to my life.
They are inspired by God, however there are words
yet to be spoken by the Father
that I long to hear.
The Holy Bible is only a shadow of what's to come.

Unbelievable times of praises I've gotten to experience in which we exclaim,
"I want to continue!"
These "high" times of praises are only a shadow of what's to come.

Soon shadows will be gone and the full portion of all I longed for will overtake me!
It will be that moment when everything
that was once a shadow shall become
HIGHLIGHTED!

Dwelling in the Presence of the Almighty!
Words spoken so pure and holy,
none in the universe could ever think of them!
A continuous climb higher in praises to the Father!

My life will not be a shadow any longer, but glowing forever in the presence of beautiful
Holiness.

Reflect On

"For now [in this time of imperfection] we see in a mirror dimly [a blurred reflection, a riddle, an enigma], but then [when the time of perfection comes we will see reality] face to face. Now I know in part [just in fragments], but then I will know fully, just as I have been fully known [by God]." 1 Corinthians 13:12

Belonging to Him: A Dialogue with God

GOD

I AM your life. I AM your breath.
The inhale and exhale of
your very existence rest in Me.

I AM the one who orchestrates the
delicacies of your body totally unknown to you.
I care for ever vital particle in your system, no matter how small.

Just as the animals of the land, sea, and air all perform their duties...
Just like every star is stationed in the heavens as I commanded...
So every microbe in your body is obeying its creative role.

My thoughts are above your thoughts and what I create is full of
complexities above what you can contemplate.

Me....

LORD, even my members inside of me obey your commands and perform the creation role
You have given them.
So who am I, that You have given me free-will to take control of what You made?

LORD, You trusted me to take care Your beautiful complexities,
but the only way for me to take care of them is to give it back to You.

O God, You've given me free-will to do as I please,
so I *will*, to be free in the hands of my Creator.

Amen.

Reflect On

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:9

Growing Seed

I was a seed.

A seed of corruptible flesh and the fruit I would bare
was diseased.

Not until the soil which surrounded me was tilled
did things begin to change.

I was plucked up, from the fallow ground.
The soil was good for me;

nutrients created new roots instantly,
absorbing the goodness from which the soil gives.

I was a corruptible seed...
...But now once I bloom, I shall be incorruptible.

Mortality will become immortality, dust shall become no more.

From a seed to a growing tree
that will bear spiritual life

Reflect On

"Precious [and of great consequence] in the sight of the LORD is the death of His godly ones [so He watches over them]." Psalm 116:15

"But now [as things really are] Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, [and He became] the first fruits [that is, the first to be resurrected with an incorruptible, immortal body, foreshadowing the resurrection] of those who have fallen asleep [in death]. For since [it was] by a man that death came [into the world], it is also by a Man that the resurrection of the dead has come. For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive."

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Chastening

Blessed is the righteous man whose path is established by the LORD
His path is an extension of the character of God
Life giving and that more abundantly
The LORD delights to order my steps,
I delight to receive it

The LORD loves those He chasten.
I shall not despise it, I shall delight in it
He bruises, but He binds up
He wounds, but His hands make whole
I shall not despise it, I shall delight in it

Blessed is the righteous man whose path is established by the LORD
Along it a time of discipline birthed from Love.
I shall be trained by it yielding fruit of righteousness
I shall not despise it, I shall delight in it

Even though You bruise, I shall praise You
Even though You wound, I shall thank You
For I know You will bind me up and make me whole
But most importantly, I'll praise because
You have full control
I shall not despise it, I shall delight in it

I'd rather have my heart broken by the One who invented it
Than be broken by mortal men, who have no clue how to fix it.
I shall not despise You
I shall delight in You

Reflect On

“Behold, how happy and fortunate is the man whom God reproves, So do not despise or reject the discipline of the Almighty [subjecting you to trial and suffering]. For He inflicts pain, but He binds up and gives relief; He wounds, but His hands also heal.” Job 5:17-18

"The way of the righteous [those in right-standing with God—living in moral and spiritual integrity] is smooth and level; O Upright One, make a level path for the just and righteous."
Isaiah 26:7

What Do I Want Out Of Life?

What do I want out of life?

To do the will of God,
To glorify God with my life.
These answers seem so vague and may seem like a cop out for others.
Carnal minds will never understand

Life is more than the possession in one's hand.
But this question affected me so.
Tears stung my eyes, why did I...
Why did I...

..I...became anxious about my future.
Anxious about what others would think of my answer?
Maybe I should start planning the next step?
But then I cry, not just tears, but cry to my God!!
I pour out my heart and the first thing I see
A word from the LORD directly for me!

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with my eye.” ...”Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy all you upright in heart!” (Psalm 32:8; 11).

Then the LORD reminds me that; He is my support (2nd Samuel 22:19).
Peace overcomes me, but the LORD is not done.
Right to the forefront of my mind comes.

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds though Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

I'm pretty much set now, but there's something I must learn,
But just in case I didn't get the point,
The Lord confirms...

“Do not worry about your life...but seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you, therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things.” (Matt 6:25; 33-34)

So now, here am I,
With both eyes dry,
Thinking how to learn from this.
It has drawn me close to Jesus
To cling to His side like a little boy who's shy,
Helping my prayer life.

I have desires, which only God can do.
So I'll write down those requests,

Bring them to God,
With scriptures added too.

Running With Realization

When you run after Me
It's not a long distance sprint to get to Me
Nor is it a strenuous cross country race,
But as soon as your mind is made-up to run after Me,
I am there.

I have always been there. You have always been mine.
I am not going to force you to run to me.
My desire is for you to come into My chambers and rest satisfied.

You may call it a pursuit,
But I am not running away from you.
I am pursuing you!

Let your desired thoughts be towards Me.
Remember My love for you.
With Me, you shall know gladness.
Let your desired thoughts become actions and run to Me.
Then You shall see

Before your first step, you'll find yourself in My Presence.
In your running, you shall realize
I was never far from you.
So take a hold of Me, as I have taken hold of you.

Reflect On

“Draw me away with you and let us run together! Let the king bring me into his chambers.” Song of Solomon 1:4

Attentive

LORD,

I desire to be Your desire
Listening to Your voice
From the dawn of the day
To the dark of the night

My ears open
My heart set on You
Make me attentive to all You say
Holy Spirit, help me to do

Let me not sleep when You are talking still,
but to be still...
Weakness of the flesh
Willingness of the Spirit
Dependence on You, Abba, shall help me hear it

Your voice
Your satisfying voice
Let my choice be to
Exist listening to Your voice.

Reflect On

"Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left." Isaiah 30:21

Celebration after Cleansing

There is nothing too hard for You, my God!
Nothing too hard for the Great and Mighty.

Your loving-kindness is shown to billions
You repay iniquity of fathers down to the generations

LORD of Hosts is Your name!
Great in counsel and mighty are Your works.

You instruct me in the way to go
Even though I don't understand,
I trust Your word
Over the counsel of a thousand men.

What I think is captivity is actually a cleanse,
You cleansing all the muck, that's within.

O LORD,
You make people and the land, joy!
Praise and honor from the songs of men!

Voices of joy and gladness shall praise You,
What was once desolate life,
You had made a dwelling place

Thank You for Your everlasting mercy!
I give You thanks for Your grace!

Reflect On

'Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! There is nothing too difficult or too wonderful for You" Jeremiah 32:17

"If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just [true to His own nature and promises], and will forgive our sins and cleanse us continually from all unrighteousness [our wrongdoing, everything not in conformity with His will and purpose]." 1 John 1:9

Morning Song

Sitting out in the cool of the morning, and the sun's not shining.
It's parked behind the clouds and the only sounds are that of creation,
Birds and insects and soft winds
Are beautiful to me
Each one with its own distinct sounds and calls

I hear the call of the birds
Filling the morning air with songs
Each one, a distinct call
Their voices fall into place
As if singing morning's song.

Oh, how God has created them to be
Uniquely different.
The Creator of all things
Took His time and gave them their call.
How much more, He does for us!

The call of our life in the hands of the sovereign LORD.
Co-workers with Him, the Holy Spirit helps us fulfill that call.
A lifelong purpose; we try to figure it out,
but don't worry.

Pray to the Father.
Take it day by day
Everyday fulfill the morning's call, by spending time with the Father.
LORD of heaven and earth, help me sing to you a morning song

Reflect On

“For by Him all things were created in heaven and on earth, (things) visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities; all things were created and exist through Him (that is, by His activity) and for Him.” Colossians 1:16

“God is faithful (He is reliable, trustworthy and ever true to His promise – He can be depended on), and through Him you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” 1 Corinthians 1:9

Just Like the Water

Just Like the Waters
God, Creator of the heavens and the earth
How great are the fruit of Your works

The waters covered the earth
You spoke and they receded
Only You can set a boundary for the waters
They shall not engulf the land again.

By Your command, the waters
are now providing for the land.
Springs are in the valleys
They flow among the hills.
Quenched is the thirst of every beast
Dwelling places formed by the birds, in tranquility.

From Your upper chambers
You water the earth
All the earth is satisfied by
Your works.

There's a greater flow that's needed to quench the hearts of man
It's Your Spirit, Holy Spirit
Needed
Yearned for,
It's the deep cry from creation... man.

When Your Spirit is poured upon us from on high
The wilderness becomes a fruitful field,
counted as a forest.

When Your Spirit is poured upon us
Justice will dwell in desolate places
Righteousness shall remain
Peace will be on all faces.

Like a herd of animals sharing peacefully from the watering hole,
people shall have quietness and assurance
brought by righteous revelation

Like the tranquil dwelling places of the birds next to water,
people will dwell in peaceful habitation.

When the Spirit is poured upon us.
Father God, send the Holy Spirit, but unlike the water,
set no boundaries
Holy Spirit, as the waters engulfed the mountains
Overtake me.
Just as You descended upon Christ Jesus

Fall upon me.
Be all the water I'll ever need.

Reflect On

"You send springs into the valleys; Their waters flow among the mountains. They give drink to every beast of the field; The wild donkeys quench their thirst there. Beside them the birds of the heavens have their nests; They lift up their voices and sing among the branches. He waters the mountains from His upper chambers; The earth is satisfied with the fruit of His works." Psalm 104:10-13

Until the Spirit is poured out upon us from on high. And the wilderness becomes a fertile field, And the fertile field is valued as a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, And righteousness will live in the fertile field. And the effect of righteousness will be peace, And the result of righteousness will be quietness and confident trust forever. Then my people will live in a peaceful surrounding, And in secure dwellings and in undisturbed resting places." Isaiah 32:15-18

Abiding in Fullness

This tree in front of me
is full of green leaves

It doesn't look naked or barren.
Spring is here and it's standing
In fullness.

Two trees on the left side of me
neither one full.
Some leaves here, some leaves there
not fully green.

I want to live in the fullness of Christ Jesus
Existing in the divine will the Father has for me;
Fullness through Christ Jesus.
The Holy Spirit fruit is ripe
through character seen.

God, help me to abide in the True Vine
For there's no fullness apart
from the only life line...

Jesus the Christ.

Reflect On

"If you keep My commandments and obey My teaching, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. I have told you these things so that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy may be made full and complete and overflowing." John 15:10-11

Amazed

Father I know You watch over the sparrow; Watch over me
You clothe the lilies of the valley; Please clothe me
LORD, You created the mind; Take my thoughts captive
You restore the blind; Help me to see
You formed the heart; Draw mine to You
Spirit, soul, and body; They all belong to You

Christ Jesus, You're worthy of worship
Let every nation sing
Let every nation sing
All glory to the King of all kings

God of heaven and earth
From You, time began
You know every star by name
So all creation shall proclaim

The Name that's above every other name
Your eyes see every detail
Nothing is hidden from the number of hairs on my head
To all the grain of sand
From every atom and particle known and
unknown to man
You are the great I AM

Mount Everest, majestic is the sight
But at the sound of Your voice
It melts out of sight
Marvelous are Your ways
Oh God!
Man's mind can't comprehend it

Reflect On

"O praise the LORD, all you nations! Praise Him, all you people! For His loving-kindness prevails over us [and we triumph and overcome through Him], And the truth of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD! (Hallelujah!)" Psalm 117:1-2

What about God amazes you?

Remember Our Time Together

Remember the LORD and never forget the beautiful things He's done.
Remember His loving-kindness that pursues you in the morn
And His song that is with you at night.

Remember the testimonies of your fathers and grandfathers
the glories of God they spoke

He's the same yesterday, today, and forever.
Even when hardship comes, remember our King,
Let not your heart turn back, but press onward,
onward declaring His praise

I am always thinking of you.
My heart towards you has not changed.

I love you with an everlasting love.
Even when you turn from me,
My back is not turned,
Instead My love is vigorously pursuing you

I remember your first love for me.
As you sit in My presence silently,
Marinating your love for Me.

Remember our time together.

Reflect On

"We have heard with our ears, O God, Our fathers have told us The work You did in their days, In the days of old. You drove out the [pagan] nations with Your own hand; Then you planted and established them (Israel); [It was by Your power that] You uprooted the [pagan] peoples, Then You spread them abroad. For our fathers did not possess the land [of Canaan] by their own sword, Nor did their own arm save them, But Your right hand and Your arm and the light of Your presence, Because You favored and delighted in them." Psalm 44:1-3

When do you think about your relationship with God? Is it constant throughout the day? Do you ever wonder if He thinks of you? Do you become somber at what it used to be? Do you immediately swell with joy?

Imitate My Son

Imitate My Son.

Behold His trust and faith in Me.
I did not lead Him astray,
but told Him all things and showed Him all things.

Just as I sent My Son into the world,
I have drawn You, that I may send you too.
I could not send you if you weren't drawn by My bands of love.

Receive My love and keep the words My Son spoke.
They stir you up to do good works.
My power and might shall accomplish it.

Humble yourself in my love.
Wait to receive My instructions.
Rely on the Holy Spirit whom I sent to you.

I shall be glorified in your life.
Looking back, you'll see
the bands of love that drew you to Me
and how I have sent you with My Spirit,
full of love.

Reflect On

"So Jesus answered them by saying, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself [of His own accord], unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever things the Father does, the Son [in His turn] also does in the same way." John 5:19

What life are you living? Are you living to try and please someone else? Are you living to please yourself?

You really start living when you begin imitating Christ Jesus.

Remember Your Son

I may not be able to say "LORD, remember what I have done,"
but I can say "LORD, remember Your Son!"

Who walked before you in all truth and is the Truth.
Remember what He's done!

How He has redeemed me!
I'm unworthy to be remembered
for my good deeds are as filthy rags,

But God, I thank You that You remember me because of Your Son,
Christ Jesus, who has made me righteous before You!

Have mercy on me
According to what Christ Jesus has done!

Reflect On

"And said, "Please, O LORD, just remember how I have walked before You in
faithfulness and truth, and with a whole heart [absolutely devoted to You], and have done what
is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept greatly."
Isaiah 38:3

If you are to say, "Lord remember what I have done," what would come to His remembrance?

More than the Grains of Sand

More Than The Grains of Sand

The coolness of the sand at night

Is a delight to my sore feet.

Buried under millions of cold grains

My body becomes relaxed in the midst of pain.

How the sand absorbs the chill of the night air

It's hard for me to explain

And to realize that God's thoughts toward me are more.

More than the grains of sand is beautifully insane!

His love absorbs this frail life

His grace and mercy keep me by and by.

I'm freed from heartfelt pain through the coolness of His love

My sore spirit is delighted; buried deep in His cove.

How wonderful are my LORD's thoughts toward me,
more.

More than the grains of sand.

Overwhelmed by His goodness, I lay awaiting for the waves of His love to take me from the coastland.

Reflect On

"How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I could count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You." Psalm 139:17-18

Your Guiding

Christ Jesus is that burning lamp that guides my feet.

You are that Shining Light that brightens my path.
You are the Author that writes the pages of my days.

God, You are the Lifter of my weary eyelids.
When I'm emotionally tired,

You are my Balanced Rest.
When my focus begins to fade,

You are my Restored Focus.
When I feel overwhelmed,

You place me on stable ground.

Your loving kindness is my comforting joy.

Your truth becomes my songs of worship.

By Your grace and mercy, You have kept me.

You lovingly deliver me from the lies of what I see.

Blessed be Your Name!
My life shall be a living praise unto You.

Reflect On

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" Psalm 119:105

What area in life are you needing God's direction? Are you willing to deal with the things His light exposes as His word guides you?

We all desire direction from the LORD, but as God directs us, there may be hurts, traumas, sins, and other hidden things that God's light will expose. But whatever God exposes, He disposes of it and restores you.

Destroying Lies

From the first beat of your heart to its present day rhythm,
God remembers every one.
Even the twitch of your eye,

God remember every little stitch of your being.
God is not some puppeteer who creates and sells,
but He's the Designer who fearfully and wonderfully made you,
breathed His Spirit into you,
He sent His Son to die for you,
and His Holy Spirit desires to guide you...
yeah...
He never left you!

Now regarding the promises He spoke to you,
all the promises of God in Him are Yes and in Him, Amen!
He's not one to make a promise with fingers crossed behind His back.
When God speaks,
His Word accomplishes what it's set out to do
Fact!

Yes, there are times we feel lonely, afraid, unwanted, and ashamed.
These feelings may change depending on life's circumstances,
but life's circumstances don't make God change!
The truth is God is with you, so don't be dismayed;
He'll never leave you nor forsake you, so be courageous,
and *kick rocks* to being afraid.

Are you unwanted?
Nah, God chose you before the foundation of the world!
What about being ashamed...
He desires you to be without blame, abiding in His love.

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit,
He's a stronghold for the oppressed.
So, as for those who deal unjustly,
please believe they gone get it!

God has not forgotten about purity, for with a pure heart, we shall see God.
Maybe you're feeling hurt,
abandoned,
anxious,
depressed,
confused or
feeling mighty low.
My prayer for you is to get tired of tired,
and cast all your cares to the LORD.

Here's a little nugget of revelation, something I learned today,

“When I hold on to the cares of this life instead of giving them to God, it means my pride is in the way.”

Reflect On

"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God [set aside self-righteous pride], so that He may exalt you [to a place of honor in His service] at the appropriate time, casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully]." 1 Peter 5:6-7

What are you withholding from God and not giving it over to Him?

Our anxieties are to be like a gift unto God not something we let Him borrow. God desires to take and keep the heaviness of your life, while He lavishes you with peace.

Identifying With His Suffering

My identity is found in the living sacrifice of Christ Jesus.

I am the suffering He embraced.
I am the drops of blood from His face.
I am His desire, His beloved one.

My identity is found in His cross,

True love on display

Reflect On

"I am my beloved's, And his desire is for me." Song of Solomon 7:10

"He said to them, "I have earnestly wanted to eat this Passover with you before I suffer"
Luke 22:15

Cries in the Morn

I awaken early before the breaking of the dawn.
The yearning of my spirit is all unto the LORD.
It cries out for the living God
For His precious word in the morn.

Before the sun even shines its rays,
You provide me with life today.
Before the birds began to sing,
You pulled back my suppressed hurt
And healed me within.

Before the people of the land began to stir,
My prayers You heard.
Your eyelids do not rest. If they did, chaos would manifest.
You do not sleep, instead, Your love covers all of me.

May I always awake with an expectant urgency to meet You,
To wake up and speak to You
And pour out my heart before You.

My LORD, before breaking of the dawn
When all else is asleep
May I be fed by the Holy Spirit

Oh, how much I need it.

Reflect On

"But I have cried out to You, O LORD, for help; And in the morning my prayer will come to You."
Psalm 88:13

"I rise before dawn and cry [in prayer] for help; I wait for Your word." Psalm 119:147

When God awakens you in the morning what is your response to Him? Is it filled with thanks or the grumblings of another routine day? Do you speak with Him or give Him a cold shoulder as if He doesn't exist?

In the morning, as the sun rises, so too should the prayers of the children of God be heard. In the morning, when the clouds block out the sun, the prayers of the children of God should be heard. In the morning, when snow has blanketed the land, so too should the prayers of the children of God be heard. In the morning, when the storms pour out rain, so too should the prayers of the children of God be heard. Not necessarily heard by the ears of another human, but by God who has awoken them.

God desires to hear you.

The Overflow of God's Word

My heart beats vehemently

when Your words enter my soul.

They are a delight to my life

As I was longing for new breath.

It has been like I received a new

Fresh appetite to consume Your words so dearly.

The Holy Spirit has given me new understating,

Allowing my heart to flow over and desire

More and more!

Where else can I find words that make my spirit come alive!

Words so holy and pure, convicting and true,

And loving that makes me long for more of You!

Thank You for showing me that identity makes my heart beat!

Reflect On

"For the word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

"But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And on His law [His precepts and teachings] he [habitually] meditates day and night." Psalm 1:2

What are your expectations when reading God's Word? What is your purpose in reading God's Word?

God's Word, is meant for us to know Him. If there's any other reason whereby we read God's Word stopping short of knowing Him is tragic.

Perishing to Conquerors

God took us from perishing souls and made us conquerors
Once bound to sin, by faith living in victory

Hearts blinded to the gospel we thought was foolish
He shone in our hearts the light of the knowledge of His glory

Now triumphant in Christ
His light shines through us

No longer living with shame
But abounding with love from the life we gained.

Renouncing everything that once identified us
Living now in liberty, because Christ abides in us

Born again as a child of God
Transforming from glory to glory by the Spirit of the LORD!

Reflect On

"But even if our gospel is [in some sense] hidden [behind a veil], it is hidden [only] to those who are perishing; among them the god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelieving to prevent them from seeing the illuminating light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves [merely] as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give us the Light of the knowledge of the glory and majesty of God [clearly revealed] in the face of Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Just Trust Me

When the LORD puts a deep longing in a man
Only the LORD can pull it out!

I feel like I'm on the other side of the Jordan,
Not yet divided by God's mighty hand.
Oh, I'm desperately waiting
To get to that other land.

More than the miraculous wonder
More than that coming promised land

I hear the LORD say
"Putting your trust in Me is part of My plan!"

I see myself on old train tracks
Trying to travel, but going...nowhere
Right behind is a rail car
The train hits me!

Am I dead?

But I hear the voice of my Savior saying
My son, you are alive
Will you just trust Me and let Me lead you?
My word will be your light!

Reflect On

"Trust in and rely confidently on the LORD with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight or understanding." Proverbs 3:5

"The LORD is my strength and my [impenetrable] shield; My heart trusts [with unwavering confidence] in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I shall thank Him and praise Him." Psalm 28:7

Have you ever put your trust in someone and had that trust broken? How has that affected your trust in the LORD? Do you trust the LORD with all your heart? Will you trust the LORD with all your heart?

Faithful Love

The LORD owes me nothing,
But He is so faithful to me.
His faithfulness, driven by love for me.

Before I knew Him, He upheld me from birth.
Drew me unto Himself with loving-kindness
Teaching me songs in the night
He is truly the God of my life!

Why would He desire to relate to me?
Because His love is real.
It's real indeed!

Reflect On

"Yet the LORD will command His loving kindness in the daytime, And in the night His song will be with me, A prayer to the God of my life." Psalm 42:8

Do you ever think about God's love for you? If you were to look back on life, what ways can you see God's loving kindness chasing after you?

Godly Sorrow

Standing in the midst of the congregation, my heart beats heavy like a kick-drum.
Riding on the city bus, all of my being is overrun with longing.
Walking the concrete sidewalks on campus, I feel like I'm drowning in amazing grace...Kneeling
beside my bed, I weep, and weep and weep not able to pinpoint what's happening to me.

Whenever I read, think, hear, or even speak the life giving words of Christ, they hit me with
knockout blows to my inner-man causing irregular breathing.
Repentance is the first thing I do as I try to cover all the bases.
The simplest words of God draw me to repentance!
It seems like I can't do anything right in this season of life.
Yet I have become experienced in crying and repentance

A phenomenon!

Who can explain this?!

Why does my spirit constantly groan?!
How can someone read joyful words from the LORD and then begin to moan?
My Father reminds me of my prayers, He has answered me.
Daily, for months, I prayed for godly sorrow to become a part of me.
I desired to be drawn to repentance with godly sorrow.
He is faithful!

Reflect On

"For [godly] sorrow that is in accord with the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but worldly sorrow [the hopeless sorrow of those who do not believe] produces death. For [you can look back and] see what an earnestness and authentic concern this godly sorrow has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves [against charges that you tolerate sin], what indignation [at sin], what fear [of offending God], what longing [for righteousness and justice], what passion [to do what is right], what readiness to punish [those who sin and those who tolerate sin]! At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in the matter." 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

Have you longed for Christ with fervent zeal after you repented? Have you ever asked God to give you godly sorrow? Have you seen your life bearing fruit after you repented?

Faith Being Stretched

It's so easy for a crack in the door of thinking carnally to fling the door wide for worry.
The cares of this life floods any thoughts of clarity you once had.

Planning for the future
Scurrying for all possible avenues
Trying to grasp a hold of what in store in the future,
When I don't even know what the next second holds.

My brethren clarify for me,
Is there anything too hard for God?
Then why do you worry?
Worrying is enmity against God.

Cast your cares to Christ, for He cares for you
Close that door of thinking carnally
Let it never be open again
Only let the door of truth be opened
The truth of God's word about you

Have faith and do no doubt
God, the one who created everything out of nothing
Shall work everything out
Keep your mind on Jesus Christ
For He shall keep your life.

Peace overcomes me, but let me be honest, the Lord is stretching my faith.
Faith being stretched is like your heart racing because of the unknown!!
A mixture of being scared, but having confidence in God
Having natural feelings, but only relying on the truth of God's word!
I may dislike it, but at the same time, God gives me grace so, I love it!

Reflect On

"Cast your burden on the LORD [release it] and He will sustain and uphold you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken (slip, fall, fail)." Psalm 55:22

What things is God calling for you to place in His hands? What do you think will happen when you let God control life? Are you scared you'll have to give up everything?

You hold onto things because it gives the sense of knowing, but a great act of faith is when you give the cares of life into the hands of Christ.

Your Presence

If the Sun never shines another day,
If the moon never gives its light at night,
As long as Your Presence is with me.

If I never hear or witness a miracle,
If I never hear others' testimonies
As long as Your Presence stays with me....

Restore my soul, like the snow in the time of harvest.
LORD, keep me intimately committed to fellowship with You.

Interchanging thoughts, desires, and feelings
I ask that there will never be a breakdown
in our communication while living.

In the shadow of this world,
I'm yet overcome at Your Presence!
Desiring to know Your Excellent Glory
Holy Father, as You did with Moses, pass before me.

Being reminded every day that this age will pass away
Jesus Christ shall be revealed
And then I will truly know who I am,
But...

Your Presence, O God, is my stay.

Reflect On

"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?" Psalm 139:7

And Moses said to Him, "If Your presence does not go [with me], do not lead us up from here. For how then can it be known that Your people and I have found favor in Your sight? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we are distinguished, Your people and I, from all the [other] people on the face of the earth?" Exodus 33:15-16

Do you love God just because of His promises or His presence? If God never promised you anything would you still desire His presence?

Eternity

Oh, what a day it will be when there is no more need for books.

A day when there will be no need for masses to converge in a facility to hear of a new revelation about You.

A day when people will no longer need to gather in buildings or campuses,

It will no longer be a day, for we will be in eternity.

Eternity where all will understand and see the mysteries of God and continually have ever-flowing intimacy.

Eternity where we will not be segregated by skin color and traditions, but in unified worship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eternity where we won't have to search for big words to make message sound profound, because the words will be,

"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Reflect On

"And I heard every created thing that is in heaven or on earth or under the earth [in Hades, the realm of the dead] or on the sea, and everything that is in them, saying [together], "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb (Christ), be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." Revelation 5:13

Do you live life with an eternal outlook?

Deeper Love

I desire a deeper love
One that will never fail.
Deeper than the depths of the ocean
This can only come from above.

I can't help but feel so empty.
My Beloved, please come fill me!
You are the giver and I'm the receiver;
The receiver of deeper love

Take me into a deeper love
Not known by the world.
Only You can give a deeper love
That resonates in my heart.

You extend Your hand to me
Initiating a response from my soul.
The love you give establishes a connection that sustains.

Take me into a deeper love
Not known by the world.
Only You can give a deeper love
That resonates in my heart.

I will respond with praises of love to You.
I will respond with praises of love to You.
I will respond with praises of love to You.
Receiving Your love and giving my all.

Reflect On

"For I am convinced [and continue to be convinced—beyond any doubt] that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present and threatening, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the [unlimited] love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

Are you convinced of God's love for you? Have there been times when you don't sense God's love for you? How can you come to know God's love? How have you responded to God's love?

Giving Up

Lay me down LORD, down to sleep.
My weary soul is going bleak.
Emotionally, I feel like turmoil's raging
So lay me down LORD, let me sleep

To leave this crazy, uncomfortable reality.
The world is caving all around me.
There is something wrong inside of me!
I just want to lay down and go to sleep!

Maybe I'll sleep all my worries away
Or maybe they'll remain until another day.
I really don't want to sleep them away

Jesus, I need you right away!

So take my cares, LORD, at your feet
Turn my eyes to see Your face.
LORD, I'll carry my cross and follow you
Into your soul-saving grace!

You have kept me, yes, you did
My weary soul, I surrender all.
Now enthroned upon my heart
You're my Redeemer, my All in all.

You have kept me from emotional lies.
The Holy Spirit turned my eyes
To focus on the eternal prize
My Beloved, Jesus Christ.

Reflect On

Consider it nothing but joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you fall into various trials. Be assured that the testing of your faith [through experience] produces endurance [leading to spiritual maturity, and inner peace]. And let endurance have its perfect result and do a thorough work, so that you may be perfect and completely developed [in your faith], lacking in nothing.
James 1:2-4

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavily burdened [by religious rituals that provide no peace], and I will give you rest [refreshing your souls with salvation]. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me [following Me as My disciple]. for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST (renewal, blessed quiet) FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy [to bear] and My burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

Absolute Surrender

Many areas in my life have been surrendered to the Lord
Allowing me to enjoy freedom
But now my heart is beginning to churn and yearn to be under complete submission.
Absolute surrender is ringing once again
The nervous thoughts of what will be revealed cause me to begin to cry.
As much as my flesh wants to say no, the Spirit of Christ's cry is deafening,
And submission to the condition of Absolute surrender is not an option.
It is a must!
Even though I shake at the thought of surrender,
I am reassured my God is the one who will work in me
For His good pleasure.
Because He will lead and guide me into absolute surrender,
Joy overtakes the nerves.
Praising stops the shaking and the peace of God rules in my heart.
For I know that in previous times I went to God with my hands up in surrender
My Master brought me out
With my hands up praising Him for freedom!
Absolute surrender, here I come!

Reflect On

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [that is, separate you from profane and vulgar things, make you pure and whole and undamaged—consecrated to Him—set apart for His purpose]; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept complete and [be found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful and absolutely trustworthy is He who is calling you [to Himself for your salvation], and He will do it [He will fulfill His call by making you holy, guarding you, watching over you, and protecting you as His own]." 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Have you embraced the LORD's correction or do you run from it? What are you afraid of surrendering unto God? Do you have a healthy view of what surrendering to God means?

Surrendering is entrusting God with our lives based on His faithfulness of conforming us to the image of His Son, Christ Jesus.

The Singing Voice of God

Just imagine if we took all the singing voices and combined them together.
Would that be the singing voice of God?
But, then we would have to combine the singing voices of the angles.
Maybe then that would be God's singing voice.

His range is unmatched. His runs last forever.
He's the Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass and everything in between.
Even then, there are notes that we have yet to hear echoed from His voice.
The greatest singers on this earth were given a drop of what we shall hear.

I want to hear the song of the Lord!
I want to hear His singing voice.
What will His song be about?
What will the melody be?

On that great and beautiful day when I see the Lord face to face,
I will ask Him, please sing to me.

Reflect On

“The LORD your God is in your midst. A Warrior who saves. He will rejoice over you with joy; He will be quiet in His love [making no mention of your past sins], He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.” Zephaniah 3:17

Do you ever take the time to just think about God? Do you ever wonder what it will be with Christ Jesus face to face?

A Faith Not By Sight

We live in a time where injustice and folly seems to have taken captive the integrity of men.
Oppressed by the greedy broken hearts of once young children, now adults.
Created a system to enslave people to hatred and anger.
Meant to deteriorate the unity of society until every individual loves to isolate.
Fallen families, fallen communities, fallen world, this is what my eyes see...

But there's hope.

We live in a time where a generation is seeking salvation.
Hearts are burning with hunger and thirst for the Lord!
Amidst lukewarm Christianity, those who are hot go against the norm!
They know the war is not against flesh and blood, but against a spiritual enemy who is trying to use injustice to separate their unity!
But they fight on their knees, arms raised in total surrender!
Crying out to the Lord, "Will you not revive us again that we may rejoice in You! Father God show us your mercy and your salvation too!"
This generation's pathway will be the footsteps of Christ.
Bringing an end to injustice.
Keep pursuing Jesus Christ!
A faith not by sight.

Reflect On

"for we walk by faith, not by sight [living our lives in a manner consistent with our confident belief in God's promises]." 2 Corinthians 5:7

"First of all, then, I urge that petitions (specific requests), prayers, intercessions (prayers for others) and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all people, for kings and all who are in [positions of] high authority, so that we may live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity." 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Do you pray for peace in the land? Do you pray for those in authority? Is there a conflict with what your eyes see and your faith? Do you tend to go with what your eyes see, or faith in God's word?

Extras

Heaven's Food

This food is not produced in the soil of the earth;
It's food produced by His spoken word.

This food is not consumed by your mouth;
It's consumed by the heart.

This food does not fill you for only a short time;
It fills you for life, but yet you're hungry for more!

The food is God's precious word!
Believe and Follow.

Reflect On: "For the Bread of God is He who comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." John 6:33

As The Branch Abides

As I, the branch, abide in the Vine
I'm strengthened by the nourishment You supply.
Without You, I can do nothing
I'll wither up and die.

But as long as I abide
Your strength keeps me alive.
I'm strengthened by Your fruit in me,
The fruit of Your Spirit.

Reflect On: "O Ephraim, what more have I to do with idols? It is I who have answered and will care for you and watch over you. I am like a luxuriant cypress tree; With Me your fruit is found (which is to nourish you). Hosea 14:8

Practical Response

God stirs our faith in the storms;
We surrender our will in the storms.

God wins our hearts in the whirlwinds;
We worship our Father in the whirlwind.

God perplexes our minds with His power;
We lay prostrate in His presence.

Reflect On: "They were filled with great fear, and said to each other, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" Mark 4:41

About the Author

Ralph J. Monroe III is a campus missionary associate serving on the college campuses in Chicago. He has been a follower of Jesus Christ for 10 years and has served wherever and whenever God has led him. Ralph has many heart burdens one of which is to help equip the next generation.

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