

Bible Basics...

Layers of Understanding



*Strange songs
Sad songs...
I don't know where they belong.*

Written by Osten Aune

Strange Songs, Sad Songs, I don't know where they belong lives up to its title. When I first started writing I did not know where these poems belonged. The writing started off so depressing I couldn't see how it could help anyone; not even myself!

The writing begins with doubt, desperation and pain; fears! It moves through self-pity to anger; not outrage but a restrained anger.

– *only a fool gives full vent to his anger.*

Somehow remorse comes in; Light is shed on the darkness. Remorse, conviction of sins, sincere repentance, turning from sin begins. You receive forgiveness from your sins from God.

And then it happens: A flicker of Hope! Hope, Faith, and Love come into your heart. You are filled with God's Grace, Strength, Comfort, and Salvation.

*And Love Conquers All Despair and Fears.
Open up your heart and let the Light shine in!*

Osten Aune

1. New Psalms

Dear Lord,
How can it be?

I Love you Lord with
All of my heart,
But there is much
I don't understand.

How can I have so much fear?
When I put my Trust in you?

How can I have so many doubts?
When I put my Hope in you?

How can I be so discouraged?
When I put all of my Faith
in you?

How can I cry so many tears,
When deep down in my heart
I am filled with such Joy?

How can I be so depressed?
When my life
is so richly Blessed?

Sometimes I hate myself,
I wish I had never been born.
But somehow through God's loving grace,
I am Reborn.

Dear Lord,
I want to cry,
Even though
I don't know why...

Lord, Lord,
I run around in circles,
Waving my hands up in the air.
 “What do I do?”
 “What do I do?”
 “I don't know.”
I must give it all to you.

People I don't know,
Stand around and stare,
But deep down,
No one seems to care.

Help me Lord,
To do good.
Help me to do
What I know that I should.

Lord, Lord,
What is wrong with me?
At times I despise myself!
Why can't I be someone else?
The ones I cursed,

The ones I hurt,
When will they forget?
When will I truly be forgiven?

Dear Lord,
I have too many regrets,
Too many sorrows,
Too many tomorrows.
There is too much past,
Too much future.

I hate and hide
from the present.

*My Only Promise
Is in You, dear Lord...
My Only Promise
is in You, dear Lord...
My Only Promise
is in You, dear Lord....*

How can I be so poor
When I am so thankful
for all that you have given me?
How can I be so ungrateful,
When I am so thankful?

How can I be in such desperation?
When I know you dear God,
Are in control of every situation?

The world has really hurt me.
My heart has been broken,
yet my heart is filled with Joy.

People who love me
surround me,
Yet I am all alone.
How can I be so all alone?
When I am so filled
with Love?

I am empty and have nothing,
Yet my cup is filled to overflowing.

From this world
I wish to escape,
The chains of this world
they bind me down.
When will I go home?
When will I be "free, free, free at last?"
- *MLK Jr.*

There are dark corners
in my heart,
I feel my life falling apart.

God takes the darkness
in my soul –
God turns darkness
into Light.

God cleanses my soul
whiter than snow.
For I give all of my sins
to Him.

I thank you God
for forgiving me,
You remember my sins
no more.
But Why? Why?
Why can't I,
Forget the sins
that I did commit?

I think I can't do anything
for anyone,
But you God
put people in our lives.

You make our
Life-Paths cross,
Not so we can be a brief acquaintance,
But so we can make a difference!

I am very rich,
Though I am poor.
I am weak,
But you make me strong.

Dear Lord you are all
that I want
You are all that I need.
You are my heart's desire
You are my portion....
I pray Lord to obey
With gladness your Word
I ask with all of my heart,
Have mercy on me.
I have considered my ways
I pray for the strength
To follow your instructions,
And to hasten without delay
To obey your commands.

- Psalm 119:57-60 adapted

Dear Lord,
Your Love and Grace has captured me.
There is no turning back now.
You have carried me too far.
I am far from where I started...
But I still have a long, long way to go.

I have seen your face,
I have seen the Light.
I feel the warmth of your Love
Upon my face.

I can see heaven
In the distant horizon.

I can see God,
I can see Glory.
Not at the end –
But at the beginning
of a new journey.

It is your journey,
It is your story.
It's all about
God's Grace and Glory.

2. A Continuous Prayer

I pray to be in your Light,
In the day and in the night.

Before I open my eyes
in the morning.
I pray for my prayers
to begin before I wake.

I pray that your Word
Will be on my lips
And in my heart,
All through the day.

After I close my eyes and sleep.
With the help
of the Holy Spirit,
I pray for my prayers,
To continue through the night.

I pray to the Lord,
Morning, noon, day, and night.

Amen

Evening, morning, and noon
I cry out in distress,
and he hears my voice.
Psalm 55:17

How can Love and suffering co-exist?
I pray for understanding,
But I only increase
my ignorance!

Hot or Cold?
Dark or Light?
Paper or Plastic?
Good or Evil?
Faith or Fear?
Where will I wander?
Where will I ponder?

Dear Lord,
I have so many choices to make.
What will I choose?
What will I forsake?

Should I worry?
Or should I pray?

I shall bow my head
I will bend my knee.
I will be lifted up.
I will give all of my burdens
to Him.

I have a God whose Love is
Beyond my understanding –
Deep and Wide.
Deep and Wide.

I will put my trust in the Lord,
And not lean on my own understanding.

Life is a never-ending struggle,
a struggle that I will never win.

 Please, Dear Lord,
I pray for relief
You send me good Gifts...
I do believe!
Please help my disbelief.

Apart from you I can do nothing.
I pray for strength
That can Only come from you.
Only from you....

I am selfish and self-centered
I always want to be first
Yet it is for your Word,
That I hunger and thirst.

3. Despair

Joy seems to escape me,
But troubles always find me.
Dreams never come true,
But nightmares always do.

Is the cup
Half full or empty?
It really doesn't matter...
For the cup is filled with poison. - *J.S.*

As bad as things are...
They could be worse.
I am surrounded by people,
With problems larger than mine.

I have chased money
All of my life.
I looked for a rainbow,
With a pot filled with gold.

Now I have nothing
And now I'm too old
I have no where to put my trust,
Except in the Lord.

Dear Lord,
May the Morning bring me your everlasting loving Word.
For I have put all my trust
in you.
Show me the Way I should go,
For to you I lift up my soul.
Psalm 143:8 adapted

I try hard to feel better...
If you're depressed and you know it clap your hands.
If you're depressed and you know it clap your hands....

When I am down in the
"cave of depression"
I hear a soft whisper a calling,
"What are you doing here?"

God lifts me up
He dusts me off and speaks,

"Come, Follow Me."

I can run swiftly now
With the strength He has given me.
I now have endurance
for God gave me His assurance.

Is it too late to build treasures in heaven?
I haven't much time.
I must start soon...
Maybe tomorrow.

No, No, No,
I must start today
And not wait for tomorrow.

When I had time,
I did not have money.
When I had money,
I did not have time.
Now I have found a balance – Now I have neither.

dona weisman

I trip, stumble, and fall.
I trip, stumble, and fall.
But I get up again.
I pull myself up.

I trip, stumble, and fall.
I trip, stumble, and fall.
All of this...
Just getting out of bed.

What will the day bring?
I'm afraid to open my eyes.
Something good happens
Much to my surprise.

No matter what it was...
I surely must have done it.
I'll take full responsibility.
I'll take the blame.
I'll face the consequences
For this must
surely be my shame.

I may be depressed
I may be down.
But I will always, always
get up again.
For God gives me strength.

I will always get up
For I have put all of my
Hope, Faith, and Trust
in Him.

I will always get up
To meet the challenge.
For God wipes away my tears
And gives me courage
to face my fears.

I may be knocked down...
But not knocked out!

As Pastor Rick Hawkins said in his sermon at N.U.M.C

Sometimes I feel “puny”
and “small”
And I want to hide.
Why can't I remember,
God is mighty to save and strong to provide.

Strange songs
Sad songs...
I don't know where they belong.

4. *The World's Piñata*

I am the World's Piñata,
my life is dangling
on a string.

The world it beats me with a stick,
again, again, and again....

I am broken,
my life pours down and out.

I am chewed up,
and then spit out.

I am shattered and broken,
trampled on the ground.

But my loving God,
he surely comes along.
God knows my suffering,
God knows my pain.
God stops, God stoops down,
God picks up
all the broken pieces.

My broken life
is in his loving hands.
He puts the pieces back together again.

God has picked me up,
put me back together again,
for nothing is impossible
for Him.

My life has been shattered and put back,
but unfortunately
I still have cracks.
I am damaged goods –
I keep looking back.

I pray to live in heaven,
to walk with God my Lord,
to be made whole,
to be reborn,
to be made anew.
In eternity I pray to continue
to love, to praise, and
to serve Him.

Amen

5. Enigma

How can things co-exist?

On one side of the earth
it's day.
On the other side of the earth it is night.
They both exist at the same time!

I am very much the same.
I live in the Light...
I live in the darkness.

How can Light and darkness co-exist?
This is the way of the world.

I try to live in the Light,
But I always cast
a shadow of sin,
Which always follows me.

Heaven is a place where you live in God's Light,
Where you are Forgiven – free from sin This is the life
I pray to begin.
How can Love and
hate and anger co-exist?

How can poverty and hunger
co-exist with prosperity and wealth?

How can suffering, tragedy, and ill health
co-exist with joy, good luck, and good health?

Why does the strong devour the weak?

Why do we march off to war?

How can we treat this good earth with such contempt and disdain?

Why can't we just help each other?

Why can't we see the value in each and every man?

Lord, Lord,
What can I do?
I am not sure...
But, Here-I-am.

Lord,
We are your Hands
We are your Feet
We are your Eyes
We are your Ears

You are the
Heart of our Love.
Shape us and guide us,
dear Lord.

You are the Vine,
We are the branches.
You are the Potter,

We are the clay.

Send us out.

“Whom shall I send,”
asks God

Send Me.

To him that has been given much
Much will be asked of him.

O Dear Lord,
You have given me much,
Yet I pray for more.

I have questions for many things,
I realize that I understand nothing!

Please Lord, gently guide me
Take me by the hand
Hold on tightly
Never let me go.

I am in God's presence
all of the time.
He is my strength,
my Hope, my Friend,
my Guide.

Gracious God who counts my days,
I bow down now
and give Him praise.

All that I am, I give to Him.

I pray to do the work
He has set before me.

I pray to complete
His work as fast as I can
So I can eternally
Live with Him. Amen.

6. Injustice

Injustice is the
way of the world;
not the *Way of Christ*.

Injustice is where
the strong and the powerful
devour the weak
and the helpless.

Injustice is the mother of
selfishness and greed.

Selfishness and greed gives birth to corrupt ambitions and
power.

Corrupted ambitions and power lead to war, violence, crime
and cruelty –
Man's inhumanity to man.

Injustice breed's poverty,
the homeless, and poverty to where the most vulnerable in our
society are at the gravest risk.

Injustice is in a rich world where children die from hunger.

Injustice is where children die from curable diseases.

Injustice is a world of haves;
and of have nots'.

Injustice is when the rich get richer;
and the poor....

Injustice is when children are starving for an education and
social opportunities.

Injustice is when children do not receive pre-natal care, medical
care, medical insurance, childcare, good schools, or enough to
eat.

Injustice is when children come home from school and no one
is home; both parents are working, a single parent raising their
children, and grandparents raising their children's children.....

Injustice is when we do not see the value in each man, woman,
and child.

Injustice is when we look at others, those different from us
with distain.

What a sinful injustice it is when we don't tell other people,
believers and unbelievers alike about
God's love for us.

The laws, the courts often do not help those that are the most
at risk!

The child, the orphan, the widow, the single parent,
the homeless, the poor, the impoverished, the hungry, the sick,
the ailing, the hurting, the lonely, those in prison, those in
hospital, the addicted, the mentally challenged, the weak, the
lame, those who suffer from depression, family estrangements
and separation, those who have lost their health, their security,
their home, those who suffered the loss of someone close to
them, the loss of someone they love....

All of these are an injustice.
All of these are
the way of the world;
not the *Way of the Lord*.

The *Way of the Lord*
is the *Way of God's Grace and Love*.

The Lord's *Way* is the
Way of Hope, and of Faith; and the Greatest of these is *LOVE*.

These *Gifts from God*
are freely given to us from God, even though we did nothing to
deserve, merit, or earn such wonderful Grace.

The way of the world
is the way of fear.

The Way of the Lord, is in Jesus Christ, This is the Way; the
only Way.

We have a choice on which way, which road, which path, -
which Way we go – Choose!

Faith or Fear?

7. Modern Day Pharisees

Every time we stick our nose up in the air in arrogance at other people; we may look righteous, like we are looking up to heaven, but God is not fooled. God knows our hearts.

If we claim we are without sin; we deceive ourselves, we are modern day Pharisees.

Every time we look down upon people and place ourselves on a self-righteous pedestal; and every time we do not see the value in each man, woman, or child, we are modern day Pharisees.

Every time we think we do more than others,

Every time we think our gifts and talents are greater than others;

Every time we are prideful, our gifts, our sacrifices are not acceptable to God.

Every time our pride comes before God; we are modern day Pharisees.

Every time we ask Christ, "Who is the Greatest?"

Every time we want to have the greatest most important seat at the table;

Every time we want to wrap ourselves in robes of glory before others;

we are modern day Pharisees.

Every time we treat fellow believers or non-believers with harsh, judgmental, vindictive words we are not

followers of God's WORD;

we are modern day Pharisees.

Every time we do not encourage and support fellow believers in their ministry and their mission;

we are modern day Pharisees.

Help us dear Lord to be your people.

You taught us to "love one another as Jesus Christ loved us."

When you washed your disciples feet you showed us that there is no greater love than to love one another and to be a servant to one another.

Jesus Christ laid down
His life for us,
to save us from our sins.

Help us dear Lord,
to give ourselves to you and to others as a holy living sacrifice
for your Glory;
not ours.

Let us always remember that every time we approach God;
we come to God
with empty hands.

Amen

8. Mighty to Save and Strong to Provide

I look at the man
With a fat paycheck
in his hand
And I think O' how happy
he must be.

I look at my empty hands
At how little I am
I envy and wish
that I had
what he had for me.

But God reminds me
in a whisper
Do not envy –
do not be deceived.
Obey my Word
With joy and faithfulness.

Put your trust in me
And you will be blessed.
And remember do not put
Your God to the test.

When my problems are big
And I am so small
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When life overwhelms me
When I need God's
strength and courage
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When my confidence flees
When I have my doubts
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

Whenever I struggle
And begin to give up
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

Dear Lord I pray to be
a wise person
Who heeds your instructions.
No matter how hardheaded
I be.

Command me Lord
To walk on the waves
To come out to you.
For God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When I wake up in the morning
And I am filled with dread
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When I am filled with worries and fears
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When I am hurting
And when I have pain
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When life is too tough
When I've had enough
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When I have loved
And when I have lost
Let me remember

That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When I have worked hard
And given my best –
But failed!
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When everything I have built
Has been torn down
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When I am weak
And when I am
knocked down
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When I am suffering
And when I am in pain
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

Whenever I sin
And pray to be forgiven
Let me remember

That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When I am here
And need to be there
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When my life comes crashing down
And troubles surround me
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When I face challenges
That I must overcome
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When obstacles are
in my way
And I cannot continue on.
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When I am lost
And cannot be found
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When I am blind
And can't find my way
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When I trip, stumble, and fall
And have no one to help
pick me up,
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When I have nothing, nothing...
Nothing at all
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When I lose hope
And when I lose faith
Let me remember
That God is mighty to save
and strong to provide.

When problems are few
And troubles are far

Let me remember
That God is always with me,
Mighty to save and strong to provide.

When my days must come to an end
My God will be with me
God holds my hand
For God is mighty to save
And strong to provide

My promise is in heaven
For my salvation is in Him.
For God is mighty to save
And strong to provide.

Amen

9.

Lord,
I can do much to help others.
But why can't I help myself?

Why am I in such despair...
When God is always
beside me?

I pray to go
Wherever God sends me
To do the work
God has set before me.

Dear God,
I love you so much,
Hear my despair...
Hear my complaint.

Please, lend me your ear
Rescue me quickly I pray;
Please don't wait another day.

Jesus Christ,
gave up his life for me.
How can I have so many complaints...
After all that Christ has done for me?

10.

Christ suffered
So I suffer;
God is with me through my pain.

Every day that I pick up my cross and follow my Lord,
I will suffer too.

But my suffering does not compare
To the suffering which,
Christ suffered for me.

Christ gave up his life
So new life could follow.
This is the example
I pray to follow.

Like the Son
followed the Father,
I pray to walk
in the Son's footsteps,
Following the Father.

11.

Dear Lord,
I am afraid to wake up and open my eyes
I can't take another day.
How can I possibly face tomorrow?

Dear God,
I'm not taking one more step without you. Where are you?
Where can you be? Why won't you answer me?

As hard as I work and try –
it is futile.
Apart from you
I can do nothing.

Please Lord,
Take me by the hand;
be my guide.
Dear Lord,
Let me hear your Command.

12.

Dear Lord,
I am angry, I blame myself,
for doing me much harm.
I can blame no one else.

People have hurt me
in the past;
But I will not allow them to hurt me anymore.

The past is past.
It cannot be changed.
I will stop looking back!

I will look forward
to where I am going.
I will make my paths
straight to you Lord.
I will seek your face;
I will not be distracted.

I shall turnabout –
turn from sin,
Turn from the pain
of the past.

I shall seek my Lord
with all of my heart
And follow close to him.

I pray not just to follow,

but to catch up.
I pray to walk side-by-side
step-for-step, with him.

I pray to never fall behind.
I pray to never be lost again.

My God will never forget me.
My God will never leave me.

Every day is a new day,
a new beginning,
a new dawn.
Every day brings hope.
Every day I pray to live
my new life
For every day,
I am reborn.

The past is filled with pain.
Today is filled with worries.
But tomorrow is always filled with hope.

I look to the future
Not for worldly dreams to come true.

I look to the future
For my hope is in God.

If I look far enough
into the future –

I can see death.
But if I look further,
past death
I can see a bright new future.

I see a new day, a new dawn,
I can see a new life
of salvation.
I see new hope,
I see my Lord,
For I am made new
and reborn.

Looking further I can't see...
But this love continues everlasting
Through all eternity.

13.

All fear and doubt
Have been cast out.
For I am a child of God
I am a child of Light.

For I am filled with God's
Love and Grace
And this is where I place my Faith.

I will not fear
from this day on –
For it is God
To whom I belong.

14

I will not take one more step without you Lord.
Without you I will never go.
I will hold on to you tightly,
I will never let go.

I will reach out,
I will clutch,
I will grasp you Lord,
with all of my might.

I hold on to you with frail,
weak human hands.
My hands grow weary...
My hands grow old.

But my Faith is not in my strength.
My Faith is in Your Strength.

My Hope, my Faith,
my Strength,
my Salvation -
comes not from me
holding on to you...

But from You, dear God,
Holding on to me.
You dear God,
I am in Your loving
caring hands.

Through the storms of my life
My grasp may be weak and faint.
I have no fears...
For You are holding on tightly.

When death appears
I will have no fears.

When I let go
You will still be there,
Holding on ever more tightly.

You will raise me up
Embrace me in Your loving arms.
You will hold me in Your heart
For you have prepared a room for me
And there I will live with you...
Throughout eternity.

15. Turn the Corner

There is something great
Right around the corner.
It is just out of sight
Barely out of reach
Like some wonderful present
Waiting to be opened.

This wonderful present is UNSEEN
And yet like the wind,
I know it's there!
This gift does not try
to escape me
This gift is not allusive.

All I have to do is to
“*turn the corner.*”
Christ reaches out His hand to me and says,
“Please child,
Put your Trust in me.”
“Let's go there together...”
“Let's go around the corner.”
“And see what we shall see.”

Christ is patiently
waiting for me.
I have no fear to
go with Him
For it is my God
who is calling me.

I will Joyfully
Obediently
Lovingly...
with all my heart
Go around the corner
For it is my God
a calling me.

When death overcomes me
I pray
That Christ will be with me and say,
“Let’s go around the corner.”
“And see what we
shall see.”

Do you see...?
Do you hear your God a calling?
Standing at the corner saying,
“Come to me.”
“Please child,
Put your Trust in me.”
“Let’s go around the corner.”
“Let us see what we shall see.”

16. Envy

Prisoner of Debt

Come Holy Spirit,
Help Me, Help Me
Be my Guide.

God of my Salvation,
My Savior,

Save me from bondage, the slavery of poverty and debt.

Give me the faith to move mountains of debt.

Save me from repeating past mistakes.

Save me from myself.

I pray for enough to share.

I pray to be an obedient and trustworthy steward of Your
blessings.

Sometimes it seems as though God has a better plan for the
wicked than His plans for the righteous.

Why do the righteous suffer?

My foot almost slipped when I envied the prosperity of the
wicked.

Please Lord,

Don't let me trip over the possessions of others.

How long Lord,
will the wicked succeed?

How long Lord,
will I continue to bleed?

How long Lord,
must the righteous suffer?

Come O Holy Spirit,
Come O Holy Spirit,
Please come and fill my needs.

Hear O Lord,
the prayers of your people.
Hear our prayers
from bended knee.

I wait for you Lord
in Patient Great Expectation.

Amen

Dear Lord,
Don't let me be torn down by riches built up here on earth.

Keep me Lord,
Keep me focused.
Help me to keep my eyes on you and treasures built up in
heaven.

Paradox:

What is so strange that I cannot explain.

Well Lord,
I would rather have little and be crushed at the bottom;
Than live with plenty with the wicked up at the top!

I will give my thanks to God for God is mighty to Save and
Strong to Provide!

Distribution

Dear Lord,
There's more than enough to go around...
If those who have plenty... would give to those who haven't
any.

If the rich-arrogant would open their eyes...
The needs of poor could be found.

If the rich few could reach out to the poor many....

The poor is always with us.
Why do we always neglect?

Why do I have eyes filled with greed...
When God gives me everything, everything I need?

God gives me all that I need.
Keep me Lord,
from a life of greed.

Weed

When I was planted

I was a small seed.

I was watered with arrogance and greed.

I have grown tall;

I am a weed.

But Rains of Grace fell down from heaven.

My old life has died.

Now I have been replanted;

The smallest of seeds.

I am now growing

and bearing good fruit.

God is my Gardener who prunes and cares

for all of my needs.

17. Alone

I work at night;
I work alone.

But I am not by myself.
God is always with me;
by my side.
He is my guide.

If God is with me;
'Who can stand against me.'

With God so near;
I have no reason to fear.

○

In the day and in the night;
God is my guiding Light.

○

Here I am again Lord;
Looking for my Friend.

I thank you Lord
for being so close, so near.

Dark, Dark World

I live in a dark, dark world.
I am surrounded by darkness.

I see the Light,
But I live in a dark, dark world.

The Light that I seek
is always just out of reach.
I live in a dark, dark world.

I pray that the Light will shine upon me.
So I won't live in a dark, dark world.

In God's hands I am secure; even in a dark, dark world.

I pray to God,
for my sins to forgive.
For I want to live in
God's pure Light,
and live in a
Bright, Bright World.

Waves of Depression

I am being swallowed by waves of depression.

They keep rolling in
and beating me down.

Like a riptide they carry me off to my destruction.

I think I'm going to drown.

I pray to God to still the waves on the water.

I pray to God for peaceful still waters.



I wish I would look at all I have;
Instead of looking at all that I don't have.

God is Working in Our Lives

God working in our lives
is not arrogant and vain.

We should be looking
for God to be working...

in our lives.

We should be expecting
God to be working...
in our lives.

We should be praying
for God to be working...
in our lives.

We may not see it;
we may not believe it;
But God is working
in our lives!

Come Holy Spirit,
Come Holy Spirit,
Come Dear Lord,
and open our eyes.

Come Dear Lord,
Live in our lives.

Amen

Trap

I look cautiously for the Trap so I can stumble in.

○

My mind drifts and races
into far off places.

So I can escape a life of failure, an insignificant flea.

From this world I want to leave.

As little as I am,
God loves and cares for me.

○

If you regret it;
pray for forgiveness
and try to forget it.

But somehow remember the lessons, and pray not to make the
same mistake again!

New Life

To my old life;
I have died.

To my new Life;
I abide.

○

My mind is like a maze;
My thoughts are trapped
and cannot get out.

My mind is in a fog;
My mind is in a bog.

All I do is trip, stumble,
and fall.

I pray Dear Lord,
that it makes me humble.

I thank you Lord,
for picking me up.

I thank you Lord,
for not giving up!

Dumplings

Doodle, Doodle Dumping
Doodle, Doodle Doo
Doodle, Doodle Dumping
I Love You!

Dinka, Dinka, Dinka
Dinka, Dinka, Doo
Dinka, Dinka, Dinka
I Love You!

○

Yo! Yo!
You Yo!
Red, the Ball!

○

My Hope is kept alive...

When I look into children's eyes.

When I see their faces...
I see God's Graces.

Looking Good

When I go to church;
you see me at my best.
To tell ya the truth;
I look like all the rest.

But beneath the façade; beneath the veneer...
I have doubts.
I have fears.

I don't come to church because I'm good
or because I know that I should.

I come to church to heal from my sins.
Each day is a New Life
I pray to begin.

Help me Lord to be trustworthy in small things so I may be trustworthy with greater things.



“I’ll pray for you.” Is often the equivalent of saying:

“Have a nice day.”

No real commitment –

No real sincerity –

You fail, you forget to pray for them.

In a world of have’s;

I have not.

In a crowded room;

I am alone.

Surrounded by plenty;

I have nothing.

When others are built up;

I am torn down.

While others laugh;

I only cry.

While others live;

I want to die.

Surrounded by food;

I go hungry.

Surrounded by wealth;

I crawl in poverty.

When other succeed;
I only fail.
While others live their dream;
I live my nightmare.

How can I be in such distress when my life is so fully blessed?

How long Lord,
will I be rejected?
How long Lord,
until I am selected?

I feel like my life has been cursed;
Each day my life gets worse.

When will it stop;
When will it end?
When will my life begin
and never end?

Why do others have such plenty?
Why do I live a life of such envy?

Alas, my foot almost slipped for I envied the prosperity of the
wicked.

Nobody wants me...
Nobody needs me...
Nobody loves me....

I pray Lord,
that it can't be true.
I know Lord,
that I always have you.

Others seem to be so blessed.
Why can't I be
like all the rest?

Dear Lord,
Why do the wicked thrive?
Why do the faithful barely survive?

I pray Lord,
not to have eyes that envy.

I pray not to judge and despise (look down) on those who have
plenty.

I pray dear Lord, to give thanks for all that I have.

I pray not to stumble over the possessions of others.

Lord,
Why do I refuse to be joyful?
Why do I refuse to see what I have?
Why can't I see how richly blessed I truly am?
Dear Lord, I Believe!
Dear Lord, open my eyes to see.

I have seen the anguish of the rich. They only have what is in their hands and in their pockets. They only have what they can carry.

Their burdens are heavy. Their burdens are more than they can carry.

Their possessions weigh them down like an anchor.
With their possessions they drown.

So I ask you Lord,
Why do I want more things?

Temptation is Bait.
We stare at it and look.
If we take the bait;
We are blind to the hook;
Blind to the consequences of sin.

Why?

Was I born to suffer;
Was I born just to feel pain?

Was I born to be looked down upon;
Was I born just to be stepped on?

Was I born to be so unworthy;
Was I born to be such a failure?

Why is my life so meaningless;
Why does God always put me to the Test?

Will I ever have Hope;
that is not false-hope?

My Hope and Faith is in my God.
I put my Trust in Him.

Where I Don't Want to Go

Why do I wallow in such depths of sadness and depression?

Why do I reach such lows?
These are the places
where I don't want to go.

Why do I come here so often?
Why do I find myself here?
I just don't know –
I cannot explain....

???

If it weren't for God,
I would surely be dead
with a bullet in my head.

If you don't love me...
What do I have?
Nothing!

A Beautiful Sound

It's a beautiful sound...
The wind rustling through the leaves of the trees.

There is nothing more beautiful than the Wind,
the Holy Spirit.
Rustling through the faithful.
(of the church).

○

Miserable Man

These are the stories of a miserable man.

These are my stories;
just as I am.

○

Last night was the worst night of my life...
Until tonight!

What will tomorrow bring?
HOPE I Pray!

I don't own my time...
I don't own my money...
I don't own my gifts...
I don't own my life.

They all belong to God.
I have been "Souled" to God,
My Redeemer.

○

I don't look at my wins;
just at my losses.

My victories are temporary;
I dwell on my failures ... longer.

○

Run

All I can feel is impending doom.
I pray to look forward
to tomorrow
and not be filled with dread.

Run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, stop.
Run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, stop.

When will my life slow down?

Run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, stop.
Run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, run, stop.

When will my life stop?

You may think me a fool;
for I am God's tool.

God uses me as He pleases, for I love my Lord, Jesus.

I am obedient and obey;
for it is following God's Way.

I pray not to delay;
Jesus told us:

"I Am the Truth"

"I Am the Way."

John 14:6

In the morning
I'll await in expectation...
to hear Your answer,
to my lament, to my petition.

Good Night Prayer

Dear God of Power and Might,
I pray that I may get some sleep tonight.

Take my problems,
take my worries.
For God cares for me –
1 Peter 5:7

Help me Lord,
to sleep tonight.
I love you Lord,
with all my might.

I thank you now Lord,
and now I say,
'Good Night.'

Amen

18. Three Little Words

Three little words
tear me apart.

Three little words
are locked in her heart.

Three little words
that mean so much.

Three little words
I long to hear.

Three little words
that I'll never hear.

○

I'm not a poet
don't you know it.

But I love God; and I try to show it!

I keep writing prayers
all the time.

God keeps putting them
in my mind.

I think of God
all the time.

God is always with me;
by my side.

By His Word,
I abide.

○

Jesus Christ, His Spirit
is all I hunger and thirst for.

Jesus Christ, His Spirit
is all I desire.

I will never be
Mr. Righteous.

I will never be
Mr. God-Know-it-all.

Cause I know I am
Mr. Imperfect; Mr. Mistake.

Mr. I Have Doubts;
Mr. I Have Fears.

I am not being Humble;
For I am a Mr. Failure.

○

Why is my life so hollow?
Why is my faith so shallow?
When will I trust?
When will I follow?

I will never be satisfied with where I am.

I will always desire a closer relationship with God;

for God is always drawing me nearer, closer to Him.

○

How much more do you need to be secure?

...always just - a little more!

How much is enough?

Greed is an unquenchable thirst and desire.

Only the *Bread of Life* and *Living Water* can fill our hearts and souls.

Only every *Word* from the *Mouth of God* is the bread we need to satisfy our hunger.

19.

I feel like giving up.
I want to give up.
I would love to give up.

But I can't give up.
Giving up is a luxury that I cannot afford.

My Life is an "Open Book"
Literally!
Don't be fooled...
Don't be misled...
I write down the good;
I write down the bad.

Almost everything that I have written in "*Strange Songs, Sad Songs, I don't know where they belong*" was condensed in Sunday's November 30, 2008 Bulletin Program (First Sunday of Advent) at Arapaho United Methodist Church:

Prayer of Confession:

There is darkness in the world, God, and at times, we feel overcome by it. Pain, illness, grief, self-doubt, strained or broken relationships, fear. In our darkest hours, we can come so close to despair. We want to believe that you are the answer, our ever-present companion, redeemer, and savior. But we confess that sometimes it's hard to see it. Be our light, God. Be our light.

Words of Assurance: (from psalm 27, verses 1 and 14)

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Wait for the lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

We give you thanks, God, for the opportunity to participate in making the world a brighter place. We praise and love you, God. Amen.