

BILLY
GRAHAM
Evangelistic Association
Always Good News.

HYMNS *for the* SOUL



10 GOD-INSPIRED SONGS & STORIES FROM BILLY GRAHAM CRUSADES

INTRODUCTION

For more than 70 years, music has been an integral part of any Billy Graham Evangelistic Association event. Mr. Graham and his ministry team understood the power of music to open ears and prepare hearts to receive the Gospel message.

“God created our ears to hear His voice,” Franklin Graham said. “And this is why we begin our evangelistic outreaches with music. It’s a powerful magnet that draws people to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.”

This collection of classic hymns and songs from Billy Graham Crusades are joyful in praise—yet their singular purpose is to point people to Jesus Christ. It’s our prayer that this hymn book of songs and stories will deepen your faith and increase your love for God as you sing and reflect upon these beloved hymns.



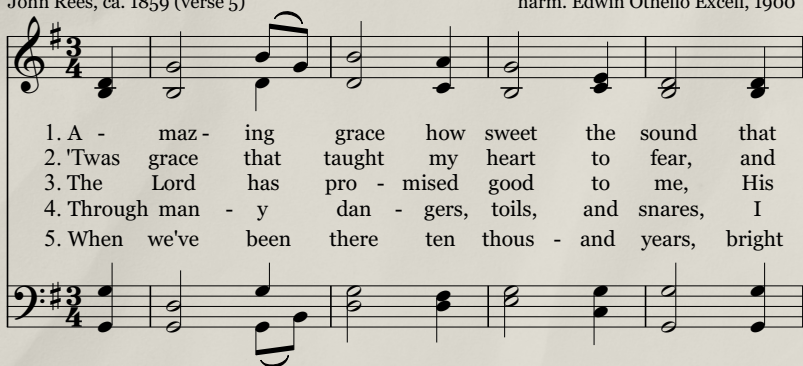
HYMNS *for the* SOUL



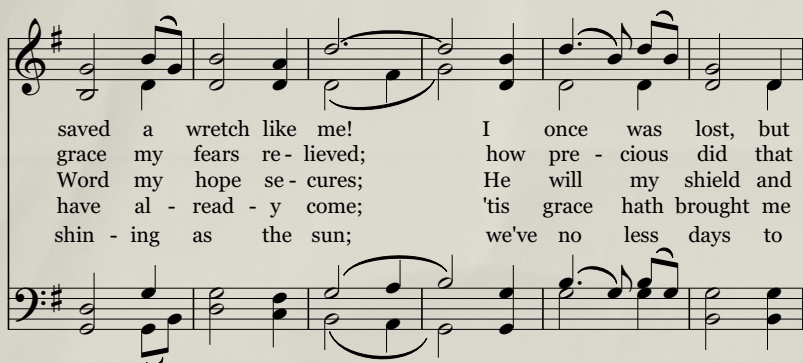
AMAZING GRACE

John Newton, 1779 (verses 1-4)
John Rees, ca. 1859 (verse 5)

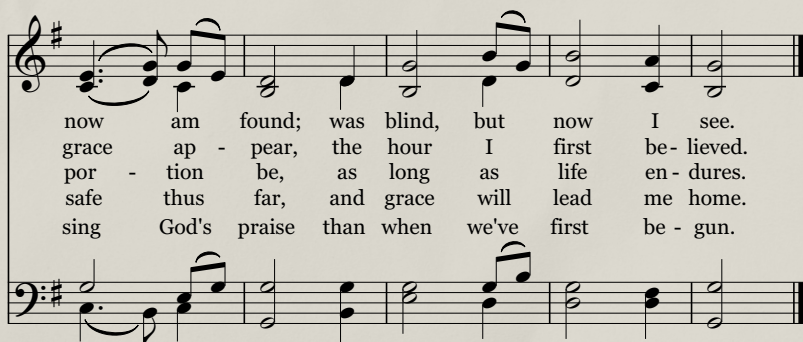
Early American folk hymn, 19th c.;
harm. Edwin Othello Excell, 1900



1. A - maz - ing grace how sweet the sound that
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3. The Lord has pro - mised good to me, His
4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
5. When we've been there ten thous - and years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me
shin - ing as the sun; we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear, the hour I first be - lieved.
por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we've first be - gun.

HYMN STORY BY BILLY GRAHAM

One Sunday in 1966 during the Earls Court Crusade in London, we were driving between speaking engagements in the university towns of Oxford and Cambridge. Suddenly I noticed that we were passing through the village of Olney and I remarked to my wife, “There’s a famous church and graveyard here. Let’s stop to visit them.”

The Olney parish church of Saints Peter and Paul was built in the fourteenth century, but much of the original beauty and dignity remains. In the corner of the churchyard, almost overgrown with tall grass, we found what we were looking for—a large tombstone with these words inscribed:

John Newton, Clerk; once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy.

Newton was the son of a sea captain who was engaged in the Mediterranean trade. His mother died when he was six, and after only two years of formal schooling he joined his father’s ship at the age of eleven. His early life was one of immorality, debauchery and failure. He was rejected by his father, in trouble with all his employers, and finally jailed and degraded.

This miserable seaman was brought to his senses by reading Thomas à Kempis’s book, *Imitation of Christ*. His actual conversion was the result of a violent storm in which he almost lost his life. At the age of thirty-nine, John Newton became a minister and gave the rest of his life to serving God in the church.

During the fifteen years he was the pastor at Olney, he wrote many hymns. It seems to me that “Amazing Grace” is really Newton’s own testimony of his conversion and of his life as a Christian.

“God’s grace” has been defined as “His undeserved favor.” It was this grace that reached out to John Newton. When he learned that Christ loved him and had died for him, he was amazed. It was this grace which made him conscious that he was a sinner (“grace taught my heart to fear”) and then assured him that his sins were forgiven (“grace my fears relieved”). So it is with all of us. We are all “great sinners” not only because of transgressions committed, but also because we fall short of God’s standards for our lives. And this “amazing grace” is available to all of us.

As Christian believers we continue to experience God’s undeserved love and favor throughout all of life. Every day He forgives our shortcomings, if we confess them. Every day He supplies all our needs.

Late in life, when he was pastor of St. Mary, Woolnoth in London, Newton entered the pulpit in the uniform of a sailor, with a Bible in one hand and a hymnbook in the other. His mind was failing then, and he sometimes had to be reminded what he was preaching about. On another occasion, he said, “My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour.”

**“I am the Lord your God, the Holy
One of Israel, your Savior.”**


—ISAIAH 43:3, ESV

REFLECT

Take a moment to think about God’s kindness and grace throughout your life. Write your personal testimony and share this story with an unsaved family member or friend.

PRAY

Dear God, I am so amazed by and grateful for Your grace, extended to someone as undeserving as I am. Give me the strength to share Your love and grace with people I know, as Newton did, for as long as I can still speak. Forgive my shortcomings today and lead me until You take me home.

A photograph of Billy Graham speaking at a wooden podium on a stage. He is wearing a dark suit and tie, and is holding a book. Behind him is a large, dense crowd of people sitting on the ground in an outdoor setting, likely a stadium or large field. The background shows trees and a clear sky.

Billy Graham at his 1973 Crusade
in Johannesburg, South Africa.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Thomas Obediah Chisholm, 1923

William Marion Runyan, 1923

1. Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther, there is no
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon and
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, Thy own dear

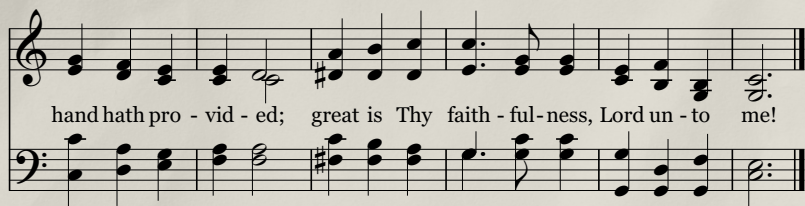
shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee; Thou chang - est not, Thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas - sions they fail not; as Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain
 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by
 morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed Thy

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GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS



HYMN STORY BY GEORGE BEVERLY SHEA

One of God's men who most influenced my life was Dr. Will H. Houghton, the late president of Moody Bible Institute. In 1938 when I was working in an insurance office in New York City and seeking to know what God wanted me to do with my life, Dr. Houghton asked me if I would like to come to Chicago and sing on the Institute's radio station, WMBI. One of our programs was "Hymns From the Chapel"—fifteen minutes of hymns at the early hour of 8:15 every morning.

I learned afterward that the program was often heard in those days by a young man named Billy Graham who was attending Wheaton College, just west of Chicago. A short time later, Billy asked me to help him in a broadcast from the Village Church in Western Springs where he was a student pastor; this association led to our work together in the evangelistic Crusades. How I thank God for His faithfulness in leading me one step at a time into His plan for my life!

Our team had the privilege of introducing "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" to audiences in Great Britain in 1954; now the song is a favorite there too.

The opening stanza and refrain are taken directly from Scriptural affirmations about God. “His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22, 23, KJV). “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17, KJV). God’s faithfulness derives from another attribute of His character—His immutability. This is our answer to a few so-called theologians in our day who proclaim that “God is dead.” He *is* alive! He *is* eternal! He cannot change by so much as a shadow!

In many ways nature shows us that God is faithful. Every sunset is followed by a sunrise. Every winter is followed by a summer. Whenever we plant seeds, we can count on a harvest. In the sky, we see innumerable stars all moving in patterns which can be charted by astronomers thousands of years in advance.

But even more clearly, through His dealings with mortal men, we have learned that God is faithful. He has promised in His Word to forgive our sins and to give us peace of mind and heart; when we accept Christ His Son as our Lord and Saviour, He fulfills His pledge. Morning by morning, day after day, we feel His presence in our hearts. Surely we can look forward with hope to His presence, even at the end of life’s journey.

**“Under His wings you may take refuge;
His faithfulness is a shield and a wall.”**


—PSALM 91:4, NASB

REFLECT

How has the Lord been faithful to you over the years? Find a way to express your gratitude, thanksgiving, and praise through a picture, letter, poem, or prayer to Him.

PRAY

Thank You, Lord, that You have shown Your faithfulness throughout all generations. The unchanging patterns of the seasons, plants, and stars all give us assurance that You do not change. As I begin each day in Your presence, give me that enduring peace that You promise to those who trust in You.

A photograph of two men, Cliff Barrows and George Beverly Shea, standing behind a wooden podium during a 1996 Billy Graham Crusade in Sacramento, California. Cliff Barrows, on the left, is wearing a dark suit and a patterned tie, and is gesturing with his right hand. George Beverly Shea, on the right, is wearing a dark suit, a patterned tie, and glasses, and is looking towards Cliff Barrows. The background is dark and out of focus.

Cliff Barrows and George Beverly Shea at a 1996
Billy Graham Crusade in Sacramento, California.

BLESSED ASSURANCE

Fanny Jane Crosby, 1873

Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873

1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of
 2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now
 3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am

glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,
 burst on my sight: an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove
 hap-py and blest: Watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,

Refrain

born of His Spir-it, washed in His blood.
 ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. This is my sto-ry, this is my
 filled with His good-ness, lost in His love.

song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long; this is my sto-ry,
 this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

HYMN STORY BY CLIFF BARROWS

Several years ago I stood in a cemetery at Bridgeport, Connecticut and looked at an unpretentious gravestone marked “Aunt Fanny.” I recalled the life of a remarkable woman blind almost from birth who was probably the most important Gospel song writer of the last hundred years. How many people have been won to faith in Christ by the hymns of Fanny Crosby!

During the ministry of the Crusades and the “Hour of Decision” broadcasts, several hymns have been used as “theme songs.” “Blessed Assurance” is one that seems to have lasted longer than the others. It is an ideal song of testimony which tells the unending peace and joy of the person who knows that God has accepted him because of what Jesus Christ has done on his behalf. In his happiness and freedom he sings, “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!” He is convinced that he has experienced a sample of Heaven—a “foretaste of glory.”

“I want you to know ... that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.”

—PHILIPPIANS 1:12, ESV

REFLECT

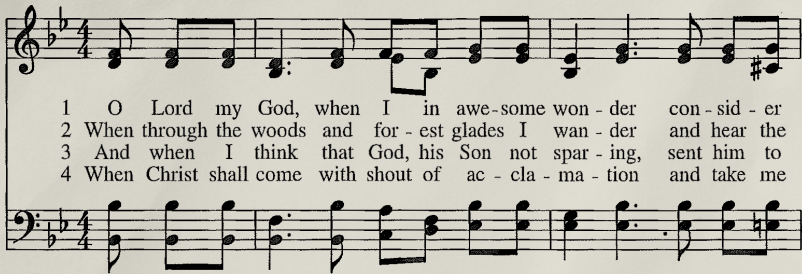
Although blinded by an illness when Fanny was a baby, she was never bitter but instead believed that her blindness was a blessing. She wrote, “I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me.” Reflect upon some of the challenges in your life. Ask the Lord to help you praise Him—with confident assurance—that He is in control and He will use all circumstances for His glory.

PRAY

My Savior, I praise You for saving me by shedding Your blood on the cross. And thank You, Father God, for the Holy Spirit. He gives me the assurance that the promise of salvation in Your Word is true. I offer my praises and prayers as an offering to You.



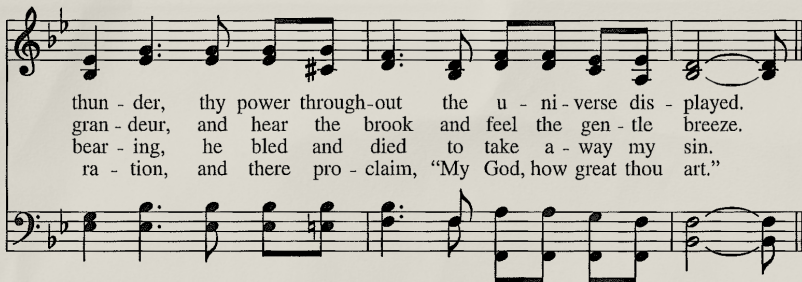
HOW GREAT THOU ART!



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the
3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me



all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-



thun-der, thy power through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played.
gran-deur, and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze.
bear-ing, he bled and died to take a-way my sin.
ra-tion, and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art."

Refrain

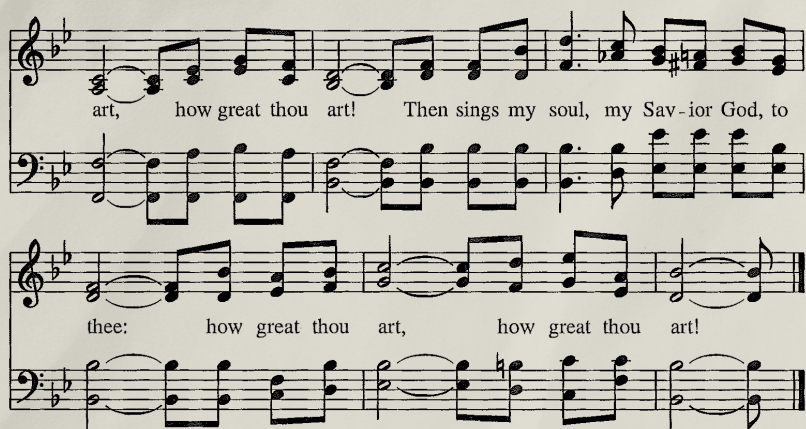


Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee: how great thou

Words: Stuart K. Hine
Music: Swedish folk melody/adapt. and arr. Stuart K. Hine

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HOW GREAT THOU ART!



HYMN STORY BY GEORGE BEVERLY SHEA

During the London Crusade at Harringay Arena in 1954, my friend, Mr. Andrew Gray, of the publishing firm Pickering and Inglis, Ltd., handed me a little four-page leaflet containing a “new hymn.” ... At first I did not examine it closely. But I did notice that it had words in both English and Russian, and that it had a very strong and worshipful title, “How Great Thou Art.”

A few weeks later I learned that this “new hymn” by S.K. Hine was the final result of almost seventy years of literary activity, involving several different writers and translators. It had been first written in Sweden in 1885 or 1886 by Rev. Carl Boberg, a well-known preacher and religious editor. The original title was “O Store Gud” (O Great God). The song was completed in 1949 in a Russian gospel magazine published by

Mr. Hine. Reprints were requested by missionaries all over the world, and it was one of those leaflets that was given to us in 1954. We first sang “How Great Thou Art” in the Toronto, Canada, Crusade of 1955. Cliff Barrows and his large volunteer choir assisted in the majestic refrains. Soon after, we used it on “The Hour of Decision” [radio program] and in American Crusades. In the New York meetings of 1957, the choir joined me in singing it ninety-nine times! It became a keynote of praise each evening.

Yes, God talks to us through His creation—the heavens and the earth declare His glory. But the greatness of God is shown even more completely in the salvation He has planned and provided for us. What wisdom it reveals! What love it discloses! As the third stanza confesses, this greatness is more than I can understand; “I scarce can take it in.”

Mr. Hine also says* that his final verse was written just after the Second World War, when many refugees from eastern Europe were streaming into England. Although they had found greater safety and freedom in their adopted land, their incessant question was, “When are we going home?” It is only when we reach our heavenly home that we will fully comprehend the greatness of our God. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, “*Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity*” (1 Corinthians 13:12, NLT). In that day we shall “bow in humble adoration” and say, “My God, how great Thou art!”

*By permission. The author’s complete and fascinating story of his writing of this hymn: *The Story of How Great Thou Art*, by Stuart K. Hine, “Carpathia”, Coast Road, Berrow, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset (England). Price: \$.80

Click the button to listen to George Beverly Shea as the choir joins him to sing “How Great Thou Art” at the 1985 Crusade in Sheffield, England.

WATCH NOW

**“Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name
in all the earth, You who have displayed
Your splendor above the heavens!”**


—PSALM 8:1, NASB

REFLECT

Look all around you—can you see the wonder and beauty of God’s handiwork? Write out your praise to your Creator and the work He is doing in your life.

PRAY

Dear God, I am awed by the way You used different individuals and different languages to bring this inspiring hymn to people around the world. Help me not to take Your awesome creation for granted. I look forward with great anticipation to the day when I can proclaim Your greatness before Your throne. In the meantime, I praise You with my entire being.

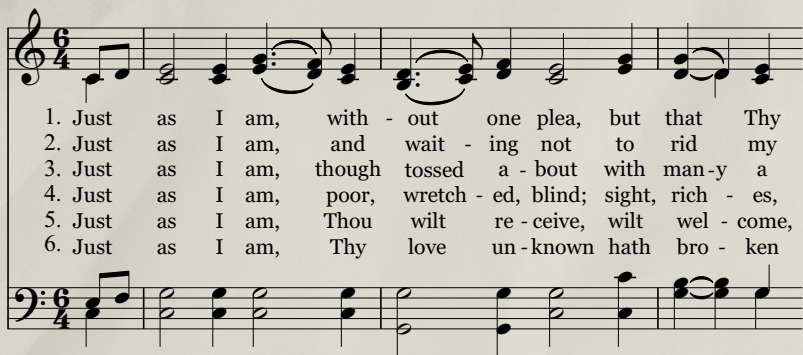
A photograph of George Beverly Shea, an older man with glasses, wearing a dark suit and tie, speaking into a microphone at a wooden podium. He is looking slightly to his right. The background is a large, out-of-focus crowd of people, suggesting a large outdoor gathering.

George Beverly Shea at a
Billy Graham Crusade in
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

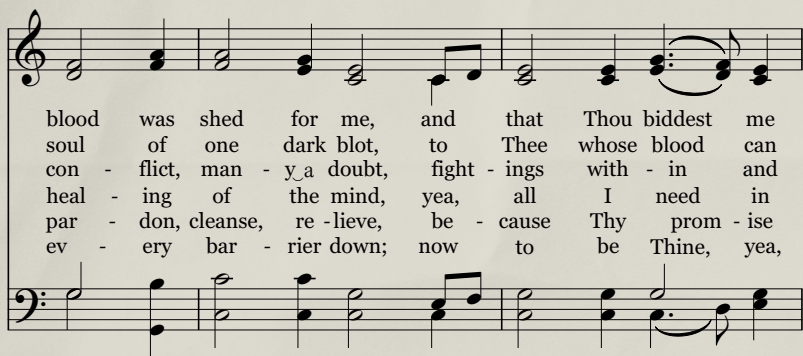
JUST AS I AM

Charlotte Elliott, 1834

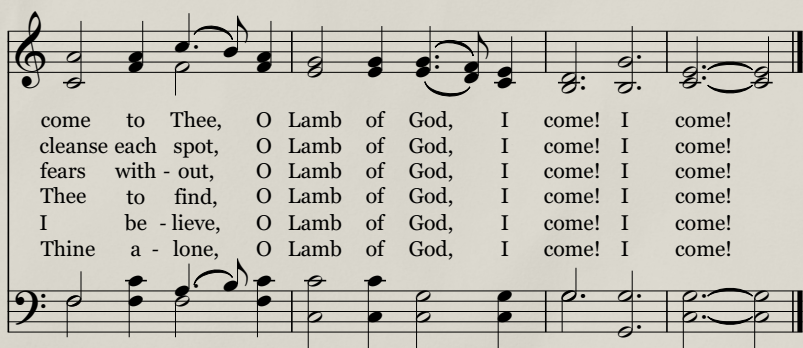
William Batchelder Bradbury, ca. 1849



1. Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that Thy
 2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my
 3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
 4. Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es,
 5. Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come,
 6. Just as I am, Thy love un - known hath bro - ken



blood was shed for me, and that Thou biddest me
 soul of one dark blot, to Thee whose blood can
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, fight - ings with - in and
 heal - ing of the mind, yea, all I need in
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve, be - cause Thy prom - ise
 ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be Thine, yea,



come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 fears with - out, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

HYMN STORY BY BILLY GRAHAM

When I was converted in 1934 under the ministry of the evangelist Mordecai Ham, two invitation songs were used and a total of eight stanzas were sung. I did not respond to the invitation until the final verse of the second song, and I have always been grateful that the evangelist waited so patiently. One of these hymns was “Just As I Am, Without One Plea.”

We use this hymn today in almost every one of our Crusades. There are several reasons why we choose the hymn “Just As I Am” for use at this most important moment in a Crusade service. For one thing, it rings with a strong, positive note. Other songs give Christ’s invitation just as clearly, but this one keeps repeating the affirmative response, “O Lamb of God, I come.” The choir sings it while the people are walking down the long aisle or across the turf of an outdoor stadium, and the hymn verbalizes just what each of them was doing.

This song also presents the strongest possible Biblical basis for the call of Christ. It repeats many of the reasons a person should respond when the Spirit of God speaks to him. The first stanza, like most great hymns, has captured the truth of the entire hymn. We should feel free to come to God because He has invited us to come, and because Jesus died on the cross in order to reconcile us to His Father.

All men who come into the world—whether in Christian or pagan, civilized or primitive cultures—have the same innate awareness of God. They want to approach God and to be accepted by Him. The book of Genesis tells us that Cain, son of Adam, came to God with an offering of fruit and grain produced

through his own hard work, but God did not recognize him. His brother Abel's approach to worship was with the sacrifice of an animal, as God had decreed; he was welcomed and accepted by God.

Today as well, men cannot apparently give up the idea that God will accept them because they "are good and decent" or because they have done good works for others or the church. But the Bible says that we have "no plea" before God—no claim on His love or His forgiveness—except that Jesus Christ shed His blood for us. God accepts the sacrifice made by His own sinless Son.

In coming to Christ we should not wait until we have straightened out our lives a bit. No small improvement we can effect will make us any more acceptable to Him. God loves us just as we are and we should come that way.

We should also come to Christ because He alone can solve the problems of our lives. Only He can free us from our sense of guilt and from our mental frustrations and anguish. Only He can pardon and cleanse us, in order to make us presentable before God.

When I come to present my credentials at the gates of heaven, it will mean nothing that I have travelled around the world preaching the Gospel. Then, as when I was first converted, I will say:

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou biddest me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.*

**“But God demonstrates His own love
toward us, in that while we were still
sinners, Christ died for us.”**

—ROMANS 5:8, NKJV

REFLECT

Meditate on the words of this powerful hymn—and the message of forgiveness and salvation to all that turn from sin and trust in Jesus Christ. Share your reflections below and praise Him, our Lord who accepts those who respond by faith and come to Him.

PRAY

It is not by my power, God, but Yours that I can enter Your kingdom. Cleanse me from the stains of my past mistakes and give me the ability to live a life that is pleasing to You. Thank You for accepting me just as I am.

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

Music by
Joseph Medlicott Scriven

Words by
Charles Crozat Converse

VERSE

1. What a Friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?
 4. Bless ed Sav - ior, Thou hast prom - ised Thou wilt all our bur - dens bear;

5 What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our Ref - uge; Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 May we ev - er, Lord, be bring - ing all to Thee in earn - est prayer.

9 O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Soon, in glo - ry bright un - cloud - ed there will be no need for prayer;

13 all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness; Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.
 Rap - ture, praise and end - less wor - ship will be our sweet por - tion there.

HYMN STORY BY GEORGE BEVERLY SHEA

In February 1953, shortly after Dwight D. Eisenhower had just become president, he asked for prayer support from Senator Frank Carlson and Billy Graham. That year, many members of the House and Senate came together for a combined prayer breakfast. These national leaders gathered with the president to pray, to seek God's guidance, and to express their dependence on Him. Mr. Graham has attended most of these breakfasts over the years.

I remember staying in a Washington hotel in 1954 and attending the prayer breakfast. I was seated next to my friend Russell Hitt, who later became editor of *Eternity* magazine. Soon he was asking, "Are you singing this morning?"

"Oh no, Russ, I'm just here to listen." We were served plates of toast with bacon and eggs.

Before long I felt a hand on my shoulder. It was Abraham Vereide, the gentleman who had been instrumental in organizing the prayer breakfast movement. He said, "My friend, would you come up with me and sing the president's favorite hymn, 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus'?"

Now what was I going to do? I had just finished eating soft eggs, a singer's nemesis. In almost the next minute I was at the microphone, saying to the audience, "If you'd like to sing along, please do."

The next day, back home in Illinois, I turned on *The Today Show* and was so surprised to see the president standing next to me, singing along with all of us:

*O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!*

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

—MATTHEW 11:28, ESV

REFLECT

Joseph Scriven, who had experienced much sorrow throughout his life, wrote the words for this hymn. He sent “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” to his ill mother in Ireland. What better advice could anyone give to a family member or friend in need of love, healing, or comfort? Believers can experience much joy and peace when we tell God about everything in our prayers. Take a moment and share your concerns with Him today.

PRAY

Thank You, Jesus, for always listening to my cares. You bless me by carrying my burdens with me. I praise You, my Savior, for being my “shield” and “solace”—and the most wonderful friend of all.



HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

Words by
Civilla Durfee Martin

Music by
Charles Hutchinson Gabriel

VERSE

$\text{♩} = 54$ C F C

1. Why should I feel dis - cour - aged? Why should the shad - ows come?
 2. "Let not your heart be tou - bled." His ten - der words I hear;
 3. When ev - er I am tempt - ed, when - ev - er clouds a - rise,

5 A A/C# Dm G G/B C

Why should my heart be lone - ly and long for heav'n and home when
 And rest - ing on His good - ness, I lose my doubt and fear. Tho'
 when songs give place to sigh - ing, when hope with - in me dies, I

G7 C F A/C# Dm7 G7

Je - sus is my por - tion? My con - stant friend is He: His eye is on the
 by the path He lead - eth but one step I may see: His eye is on the
 draw the clos - er to Him; From care He sets me free: His eye is on the

14 C C#7 Dm7 G7 C G/D C/E C7/G F Fm

spar - row, and I know He watch - es me. His eye is on the spar - row, and I
 spar - row, and I know He watch - es me. His eye is on the spar - row, and I
 spar - row, and I know He watch - es me. His eye is on the spar - row, and I

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

CHORUS

19 C G7 C G C G

know He watch - es me. I sing be - cause I'm hap - py, I sing be - cause I'm
 know He watch - es me.
 know He watch - es me.

24 C C7/E F Fm C G7 C

free; For His eye is on the spar - row, and I know He watch - es me.

HYMN STORY BY GEORGE BEVERLY SHEA

In the 1950s, Ethel Waters was performing the lead role in the famous New York Broadway play “The Member of the Wedding.” After the show came to an end, Ethel heard about the Billy Graham Crusade at Madison Square Garden. She loved Mr. Graham’s preaching and hearing the two thousand-voice choir. One of the team members, Lane Adams, recognized her as she stood in line, waiting to go inside. He said, “Ethel, it’s good to see you. Would you like to sing in the choir? We’ll save a place for you so you can join us any night when you’re able to come.” She didn’t miss a night in the choir after that. Even though Ethel didn’t want anyone to know she was there, everyone in the choir

knew. We loved having her with us.

One night, Cliff asked her the next Saturday she'd like to sing "His Eye Is on the Sparrow," the hit song of "The Member of the Wedding." An arrangement was written for the choir so they could sing with her. The people loved hearing Ethel Waters sing that beloved song, which she sang every weekend for eight weeks. In the closing moments of the song, she had the cutest little way of singing, "And I know he watches ... we" as she spread her arms open wide with a large smile on her face!

One night in 1977 while on vacation in Canada I heard on the radio that Ethel Waters had passed away. A week before she died, she heard me sing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" on a radio program. Ethel had requested I sing this favorite at her funeral.

People truly loved Ethel Waters. She gave her heart to the Lord and to us, for which we are so thankful.

**“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?
And not one of them will fall to the
ground apart from your Father.”**


—MATTHEW 10:29, ESV

REFLECT

As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we can live daily in the confidence and peace that “He watches over me.” Do you have that deep, settled peace with God? Take some time today to reflect how He has cared for you.

PRAY

Dear Lord, You have put a song in my heart because of Your loving care. I know You keep Your eye on all of Your creation, but You have said that I am more valuable to You than anything else You created. Thank You for letting me know that. And thank You for the wonderful freedom Your watchful presence gives me.

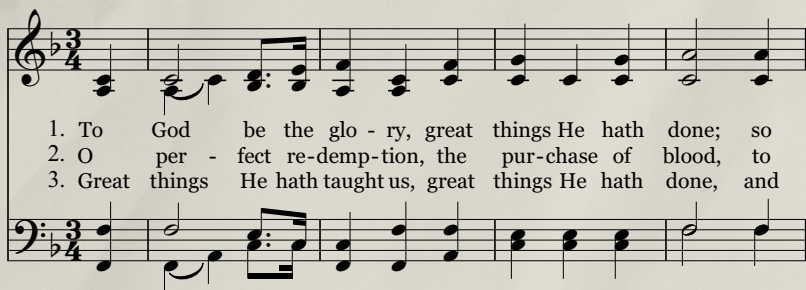


Children sing hymns during one of Billy Graham's
1984 Mission England Crusades.

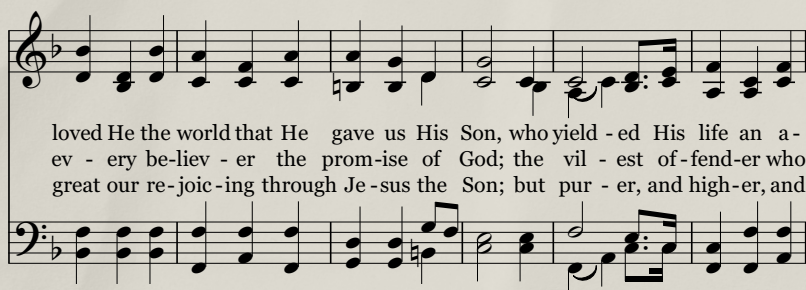
TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875

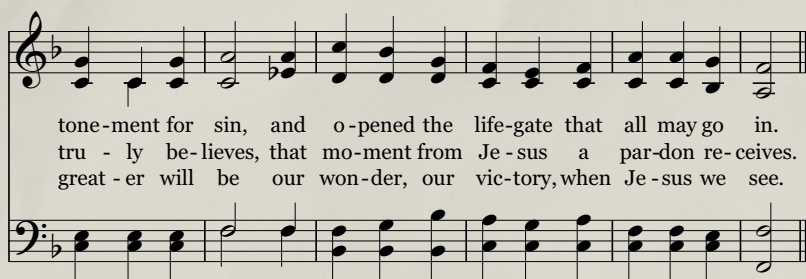
William Howard Doane, 1875



1. To God be the glo - ry, great things He hath done; so
 2. O per - fect re-demp-tion, the pur-chase of blood, to
 3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, and

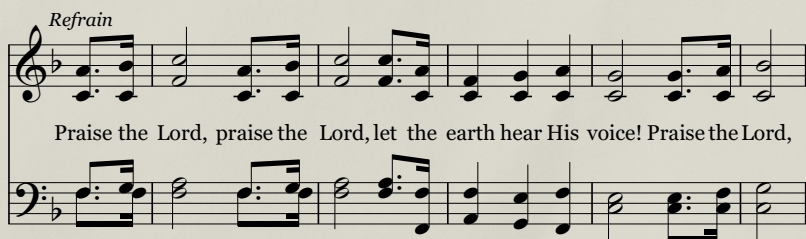


loved He the world that He gave us His Son, who yield - ed His life an a -
 ev - ery be-liev - er the prom-ise of God; the vil - est of-fend-er who
 great our re-joic-ing through Je-sus the Son; but pur - er, and high-er, and

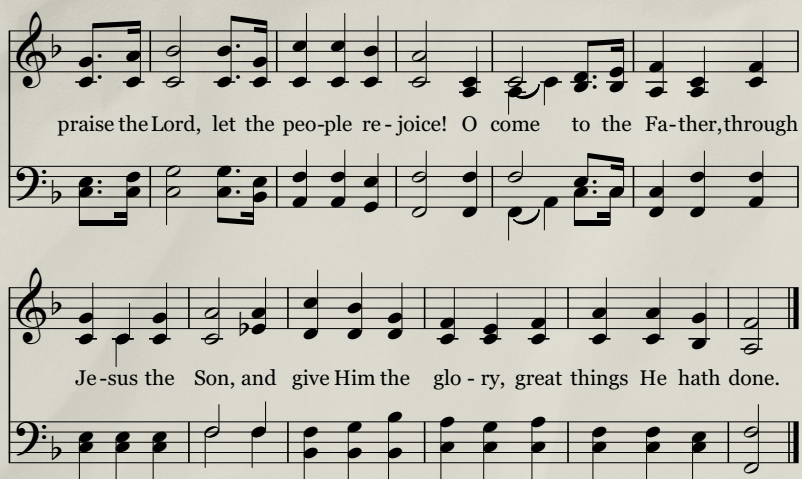


tone-ment for sin, and o-pened the life-gate that all may go in.
 tru - ly be-lieves, that mo-ment from Je - sus a par-don re-ceives.
 great - er will be our won-der, our vic-tory, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord,



HYMN STORY BY CLIFF BARROWS

Of all the songs that have been popularized through Crusade activity, we are most happy with this one. Its testimony should rebound in the heart of every Christian; every area of a person's life should reflect this witness, "To God Be the Glory."

All men—Christian or non-Christian—try to find meaning in life. Modern existentialists, atheists, and agnostics (and even a few who call themselves Christians) are trying to find this meaning *within man himself*. But the true answer to this quest is defined in the Westminster Catechism: "The chief end of man is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever." In other words, the reason for man's creation and the whole purpose of living is to express praise of God, with his lips and with his life.

We give God glory because of His love, a love which provided redemption for mankind. The Apostle Paul exclaimed, "*God forbid*

that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Galatians 6:14, NKJV). We bring nothing to our own salvation; it is all of God. Therefore, we can take no credit for it.

In another passage, Paul reminds us: *“For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s”* (1 Corinthians 6:20, NKJV). This is the Biblical answer to the seeking existentialist. Each day’s experiences have ultimate meaning only if we acknowledge that we are God’s, and that each act and each thought should glorify Him.

Billy Graham often reminds us team members that this is especially true in the full-time Christian vocations. God has chosen to use *men* to spread His “good news,” the Gospel. Because we live in a Madison Avenue world of culture and communication, the names of preachers and evangelists are sometimes advertised widely. But we will be in serious trouble if we imagine that the Crusade ministry is possible because of our talents. It is all of God, who has declared, *“My glory I will not give to another”* (Isaiah 42:8, NKJV). To God be the glory!

**“I give thanks to you, O Lord my God ...
and I will glorify your name forever.”**

—PSALM 86:12, ESV

REFLECT

A daily challenge for each Christian's life is found in Matthew 5:16: “*Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven*” (ESV). What actions can you take today to give praise to God Almighty?

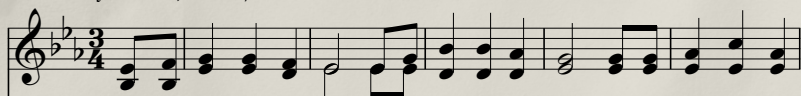
PRAY

Heavenly Father, I praise You for Your mercies, which Jesus demonstrated by going to the cross for my sins. Thank You for working in and through my life, that others may see You. I pray that everything I do today would give glory and honor to You and You alone.

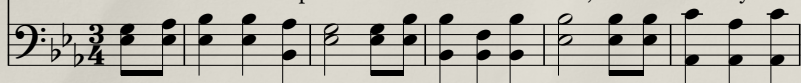
TRUST AND OBEY

John Henry Sammis, ca. 1887

Daniel Brink Towner, ca. 1887



1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, what a glo - ry He
2. Not a shad-ow can rise, not a cloud in the skies, but His smile quick-ly
3. Not a bur-den we bear, not a sor-row we share, but our toil He doth
4. But we nev-er can prove the de-lights of His love un-til all on the
5. Then in fel-low-ship sweet we will sit at His feet, or we'll walk by His



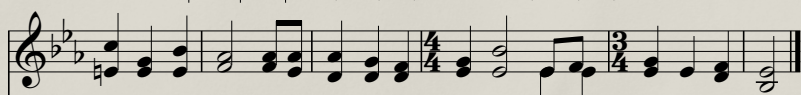
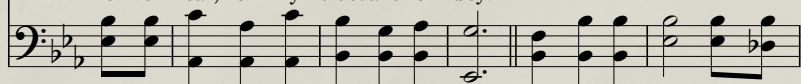
sheds on our way! While we do His good will, He a-bides with us still,
drives it a-way; not a doubt nor a fear, not a sigh nor a tear,
rich - ly re-pay; not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a cross,
al - tar we lay; for the fa - vor He shows, for the joy He be-stows,
side in the way; what He says we will do, where He sends we will go;



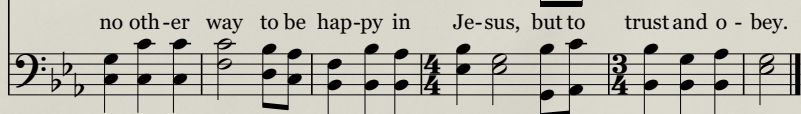
Refrain



and with all who will trust and o - bey.
can a - bide while we trust and o - bey.
but is blessed if we trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's
are for them who will trust and o - bey.
nev-er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.



no oth-er way to be hap-py in Je-sus, but to trust and o - bey.



HYMN STORY BY CLIFF BARROWS

I first learned to know the great songs of the church as a boy in Sunday school in Ceres, California. Sometime later I was drafted to be the third member of a family trio, singing with my two younger sisters. It seemed to me then that we were too often called upon to perform—at church services, youth rallies and camps, and even at weddings and funerals!

Consequently, as a growing boy, I must admit that hymn-singing was occasionally more pain than pleasure. But later in life, the hymnbook became one of my most important resources for personal worship. Today, I am thankful that I was required to memorize so many hymns at an early age.

One of my longtime favorites, which is always included in Crusade songbooks, is “Trust and Obey.”

The song emphasizes the two aspects of being a Christian—faith and good works. And it places them in proper order! We come to Christ without any plea “but that He has shed His blood” for us.

But *after* we trust in Christ, our faith must be translated into action. Because God loves us and we love Him, we seek to obey Him, and to do His will in every realm of our lives. As James asks, “*What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?*” (James 2:14, ESV).

I am afraid that some Christians are tempted to think negatively about committed obedience to God. To submit to the commands “to die to self” and “to present your body a living sacrifice” sounds painful. But the truth is clearly stated in this hymn. “We never can prove [experience] the delights of His love, until all on the altar we lay. There’s no other way to be happy ... but to trust and obey.”

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and
lean not on your own understanding; in
all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He shall direct your paths.”**

—PROVERBS 3:5-6, NKJV

REFLECT

As you sing this hymn, reflect upon the Biblical truth that He supplies everything needed for each and every situation in our lives. Write down some challenges you are facing and ask the Lord to give you the strength to simply “trust and obey.”

PRAY

Thank You, Lord, for providing Your Word to show us how to live in complete obedience. Help me to trust You in all things and to follow You daily. I know that You will provide the strength I need for every challenge.

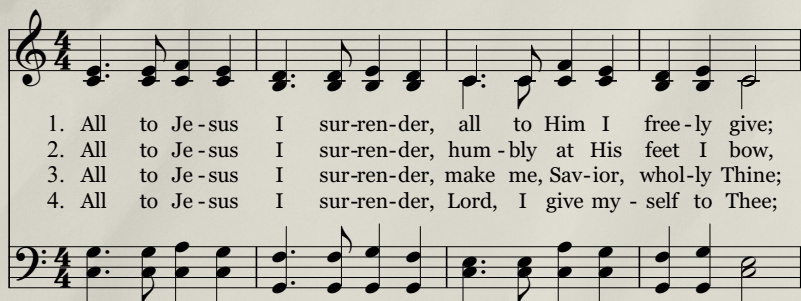


Cliff Barrows directing the choir at Billy Graham's 1967 Crusade in Tokyo, Japan.

I SURRENDER ALL

Judson Wheeler Van DeVenter, 1896

Winfield Scott Weedon, 1896

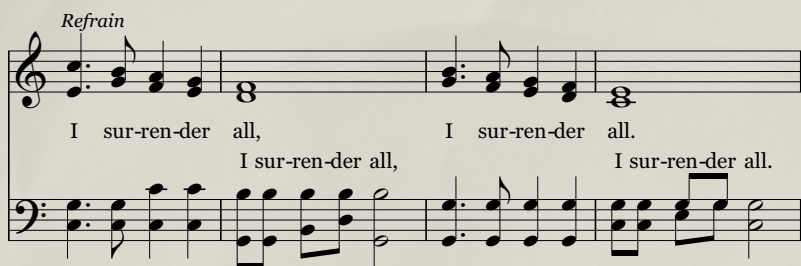


1. All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, all to Him I free-ly give;
 2. All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, hum-bly at His feet I bow,
 3. All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, make me, Sav-ior, whol-ly Thine;
 4. All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, Lord, I give my-self to Thee;

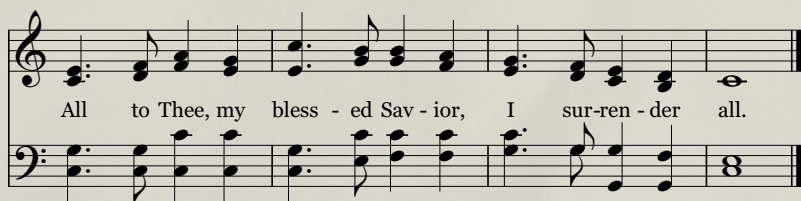


I will ev-er love and trust Him, in His pres-ence dai-ly live.
 world-ly plea-sures all for-sak-en, take me, Je-sus, take me now.
 may Thy Ho-ly Spir-it fill me, may I know Thy power di-vine.
 fill me with Thy love and pow-er, let Thy bless-ing fall on me.

Refrain



I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all.
 I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all.



All to Thee, my bless-ed Sav-ior, I sur-ren-der all.

HYMN STORY BY BILLY GRAHAM

One of the evangelists who influenced my early preaching was also a hymnist who wrote “I Surrender All”—the Rev. Mr. J.W. Van DeVenter. He was a regular visitor at the Florida Bible Institute (now Trinity Bible College) in the late 1930s. We students loved this kind, deeply spiritual gentleman and often gathered in his winter home at Tampa, Florida, for an evening of fellowship and singing.

Mr. Van DeVenter was not always a minister. According to his own testimony, his first interest and passion was for art. Having finished college, he taught school for a while in order to finance his continued study of drawing and painting.

At that time, evangelistic meetings were being held in his church and Van DeVenter became involved in counseling and personal work. Since he had obvious ability in this direction, several of his friends urged him to give up teaching and become an evangelist. For five years he wavered between this challenge and his ambition to become a recognized artist. As he told the story himself:

At last the pivotal hour of my life came and I surrendered all. A new day was ushered into my life. I became an evangelist and discovered down deep in my soul a talent hitherto unknown to me. God had hidden a song in my heart, and touching a tender chord He caused me to sing songs I had never sung before.

This hymn “I Surrender All” was written some time later

in his life, when J.W. Van DeVenter recalled this long struggle and final yielding to God's will.

We begin to surrender to God when we first accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. The word "Lord" means just that—"Master." At the close of a Crusade meeting I would ask those who came forward to pray, using these words: "I receive Christ as Saviour; I accept Him as Lord." It is a mistake to think that we can receive Christ's offer of forgiveness and then go out to live our lives as we please. From that moment of commitment, God has a claim on us and we must expect Him to tell us how we should live.

We should never fear to give God complete control over our lives. He loves us more than we love ourselves, and He will only plan what is best for us.

When we surrender our all to God, we find that we live with a new confidence, a new strength of purpose.



Click the button to watch Cliff Barrows, George Beverly Shea, and Billy Graham sing "This Little Light of Mine" in Jacksonville, Florida (2000).

**WATCH
NOW**

“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’”


—MATTHEW 16:24, ESV

REFLECT

Where in your life—at home, at work, or in relationships—do you hear the Holy Spirit calling you to “surrender all” to Him?

PRAY

Thank you, God, for loving me. Lead me in Your paths of righteousness. Show what Your plan is for my life, and help me to meet the challenges of each day with Your strength and courage.

A photograph of Billy Graham in profile, wearing a dark suit, standing at a wooden podium with microphones. He has his hands clasped in front of him and is looking upwards. The background is a clear blue sky with a white, torn-paper-like border above the image. Some green foliage is visible in the bottom right corner.

Billy Graham preaching at his 1968
Crusade in San Antonio, Texas.

**“Music is such a universal language.
In our Crusades, it is often the singing that
God uses to prepare the heart to hear the
Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

—Billy Graham

