



Hopefully you are enjoying the signs of Spring. We are waiting as a family for our first grandchild, who is now a week overdue! If we are at all fed up with the situation, remember: We are surrounded by a crowd of witnesses... so let us run the race set out for us.

Song

In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea

In the silence, You won't let go
In the questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea

My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness. I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea

My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore

Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms
Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms
Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms
Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms

My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore

Teaching

Read John 15:18 – 16:4

The world will hate Jesus' followers.

A W Tozer wrote "Modern Christians hope to save the world by being like it, but it will never work. The Church's power over the world springs out of her unlikeness to it, never from her integration into it."

Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

What challenges do you face in making that meaningful for you?

What pressures might others face in a system that is opposed to God's purposes?

Song

All I once held dear, built my life upon
All this world reveres, and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now, compared to this

Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you,
There is no greater thing
You're my all, you're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love you, Lord

Now my heart's desire is to know you more
To be found in you and known as yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All-surpassing gift of righteousness

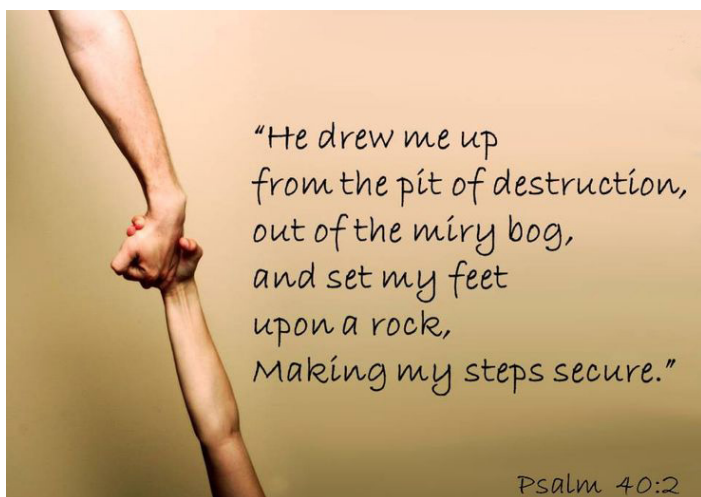
Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you,
There is no greater thing
You're my all, you're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love you, Lord

Oh, to know the power of your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like you in your death, my Lord
So with you to live and never die

Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you,
There is no greater thing
You're my all, you're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love you, Lord

Graham Kendrick

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Psalm 40

**I quieted my worried, despairing heart
and I waited.**

The Holy drew near.

**I felt myself drawn to a single point;
all of life collapsed into a timeless moment.**

(I breathed.)

Desolation dissipated.

When I arose, I stood on solid ground.

**My self recollected, a song of praise erupted
from my throat,
a new song, born of heaven and rooted in
earth.**

A song of joy. A song of gratitude.

**Happy are we who find ourselves in God,
who wait and listen,
who set aside distraction
and see behind the surface satisfactions.
Nothing can compare with the eternal glimmer,
with the whole held in tender hands.
Depths and heights clasp glory;
a whisper of wonder binds all in all.**

An opened heart is the divine desire,
not thoughtless obeisance.

Attentive presence is all I have to give,
and all You want.

I open the book of my days
that You may write Your story
in the lines of my life.

The flow of ink is smooth and pleasing;
even sorrow and disappointment reveal
the goodness of Your guiding hand.
You have become my delight,
as it is meant to be.

May my testimony ring true
in the ears that hear it.

May my song strike joy
in the hearts of those who catch the
harmonies.

May my flesh-made-Word be seen
to reveal Your purpose:
the blessing of all that lives.

**Mercy abounds, steadfast love uplifts
and justice springs up where the faithful walk.
I stumble; my heart fails within me.**

I remember: Your grace saves me.

**Nothing can separate the heart turned
towards God
from her salvation.**

**Again I turn: you are life and breath to me.
My back toward those who would denigrate
and dismiss me,**

**I grasp your goodness with both hands
and pledge my loyalty and my love.**

May all who seek You find You.
May all who love You sing You.

As for me, in my weakness and my need,
give me the patience of overwintering seed,
that I may quiet my restless heart,
turn,
wait,
and prepare to receive You.

Prayer

- 1 Declare God's faithfulness to you
- 2 Declare God's faithfulness to others
- 3 Ask for the ability to show faithfulness to God

Though the Storms may come
And the Winds may Blow
I'll remain Steadfast
And let my Heart Learn
When you Speak a Word
It will come to Pass

Great is your Faithfulness to me
Great is your Faithfulness to me
From the Rising Sun,
To the Setting same
I will Praise your Name

Great is your Faithfulness to me

Aaron Moses | Carrington Gaines | Dante Bowe | Keila Alvarado |
Lemuel Marin

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Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.