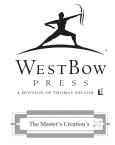


Leslyn Richard



#### Poems Praises Prayers Promises # Fifth Edition

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Note: The Name of God or any references related to Him are always capitalized. I choose to acknowledge Him in every way even to the point of violating grammatical rules.

All scriptures quoted in this book are taken from the Holy Bible (New King James Version).

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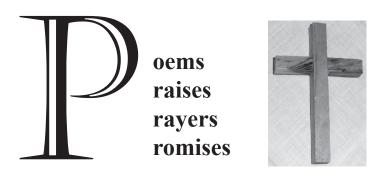
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Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together. Psalms 34:3 (NIV)

## Words Inspired by God For God's People

by Leslyn Richard



## Dedication

 $\boldsymbol{F}$  irst giving glory and honor to God, for the compassionate, merciful, act of loving kindness, Jesus showed by leaving His throne to come, and save us all from the condemnation that sin brings, and for the cross He so gladly embraced, was the lonely, painful, price He paid. To reconcile God back to man, was the perfect picture of the unconditional love, Jesus came and gave.

For this, I will forever give Him praise.

To my wonderful husband Raymond: You are the breath beneath my wings that sends me soaring into my every possibility. Your love, support, and encouragement gave me the courage to finish the gracious assignment of publishing this book. There are no words I can write to express how much I love, honor, respect, and appreciate you. I thank God every day, all day, every time I see your face. I watch you sleep, and I smile. I pray that God will continue to show you His favor for handling me with so much care. Your example of a Godly husband moves me to strive to attain every attribute of the woman of God you so rightfully deserve.

#### Love always, Lynn

To my mother Yvonne: You have encouraged me with your supportive words of Godly wisdom that have always taught me to believe in myself. It is amazing how a mother's words can erase all doubt and put a sense of urgency in her child. You have one of the most caring hearts I have ever seen for God's creations. I am proud to call you my mother.

#### I love you so much, Lynn

To Tonya, Antione, Mia, Leith, and Tara, my siblings: I will always remember the good times, and all the love, caring, laughter, and secrets we've shared. Looking back, the memories are priceless. No matter how far apart we are, if you ever need me, I'll always be there for you.

Love and prayers always, Lynn

To all other family members and friends: Thanks for all of your love, support, and prayers. You have all inspired me in some way or another to pursue my dream. My prayers are that all your dreams come true too ...

Love you all, Lynn

## Acknowledgments

**B**less the Lord, Oh my soul and all that is within me, Bless His Holy Name, for every page of this book that God will use to inspire, encourage, empower, and provoke everyone concerning the returning of the Lord and Savior, 'The Christ Jesus'.

Father God, cover every word in this book with Your Son's blood, and by your Holy Spirit, confuse the devil to protect its contents. Amen.

To Pastor Julius R. Malone and First Lady Ann Malone, of The New Testament Church of Milwaukee.

To New Testament Church of Milwaukee family.

To Dr. Pastor Sandi L. Johnson and First Lady Roylene Johnson, of The North Side Church of God.

"Running, Running, Running" poem by Yvonne Hatchett, page #'s 27/28-footnoted and edited by L.Richard. Introducing my niece I am very proud of you.

Special thanks to Beverly Taylor-Gladney for editing and proofreading this book.

Hebrew Names of God (King James Version)

XV

## From the Author

In writing this book, I encountered many spiritual attacks to the point that they became physical. I sometimes felt like the woman who had lost all hope during a famine in her land. She contemplated suicide by preparing her and her child's last meal before dying. She had given up on the belief that God would show up, and somehow all her dreams for herself, and her child wouldn't die. Then God sent her His prophet Elijah, and when she obeyed the illogical instruction of the prophet of God, she never had any lack in her house again.

<sup>12</sup>And she said, As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. <sup>13</sup> And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. <sup>14</sup> For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth. <sup>15</sup> And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. <sup>16</sup> And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah.

Kings 17:12-16 (KJV)

This has been one of the most spiritually challenging assignments that God has ever given me to do. Before writing this book, I prayed that God would anoint me to write a book that would become a mighty weapon against the forces of hell. In my pursuit to finish its contents, I began to come down with all kinds of infirmities sent straight from hell, to stop me from ever publishing this book. I prayed that God would cover me in His blood and use me for His glory to write a book that would be here long after I'm gone, and I needed to be able to hear God's heart for His people so I would know just how He wanted me to write this book.

That's when I realized why I had been under so much attack. I knew that God had entrusted me with this powerful evangelistic tool in such a small package. *But the impact on its readers will be large*.

Enjoy this book as you celebrate, with me, the birth of my child.

#### Hebrew Names of God

The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Proverbs 18:10 (KJV)

**Elohim**: *The Creator* 

El Elyon: The God Most High

El Roi: The God Who Sees

El Shaddai: The All-Sufficient One

Adonai: The Lord

Jehovah: The Self-Existent One

Jehovah-Jireh: The Lord Will Provide

Jehovah-Rapha: The Lord Who Heals

Jehovah-Nissi: The Lord My Banner

Jehovah-Shalom: The Lord Is My Peace

Jehovah-Sabaoth: The Lord of Host

Jehovah-Raah: The Lord My Shepherd

Jehovah-Shammah: The Lord Is There

Jehovah-Ttsidkenu: The Lord Our Righteousness

Jehovah-Mekoddishkem: The Lord Who Sanctifies You

## Grace Raining Down



One night I was awakened in the Spirit, and I saw raining down. 'Sparkled stardust from Heaven, 'Showers of mercies and blessings'. Now behold in the darkness: There are lights of love drops to brighten.

Keep growing stronger, and hold tight to your Savior. Plans to protect, plant, and present you, safe in 'God's Hands'.

It was dust, but shined like diamonds. I asked God, 'What's this 'Sparkled Stardust' from Heaven'? 'These showers of mercies and blessings'? I wrestled with God all night for the answer, and I fell off to sleep.

I was awakened again in the Spirit, and God said, You saw "Grace Raining Down", 'Sparkled Stardust from Heaven', 'Showers of Mercies and Blessings'.

Now behold in the darkness: There's lights of 'Love Drops' to brighten and strengthen. Keep growing stronger, and hold close to your Savior.
Plans to protect, plant, and present you ...
It was 'Grace in God's Hands'.

Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abound, grace did much more abound. Romans 5:20 (KJV)

## His Body, the Church



**T**o be with God in the beginning, to make for all men a new ending, To come and pay the price for all, to hold men up and not let them fall:

Even then, at first, He knew, His body would be the church for you. To come to face a world of pain, to walk like man who had no gain, to die and pay the price for sin, to dwell in man's heart, deep within. Rejected, bruised and accused, He sacrificed it all for you.

To be man's friend first was surely His curse. He hung on a tree to set man free.

To die, so that man could win....

To bring man and God back together again.

Even then, at first, He knew: His body would be the church for you...

Who now rejoice in my suffering for you, and fill up that which is behind of the affliction of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church.

Colossians 1:24 (KJV)

#### The Lamb Slain



<sup>6</sup> But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him? <sup>7</sup> Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

Hebrews 2:6-8 (KJV)

**W**hat is this manner of love that came down from above? Himself He disrobed, to be disgraced and delivered—to be destroyed. We could not make it without Him. so He said, "I'll die for them." Then to rise: to be edified and magnifiedto glorify and justify. The Lamb of God was slain: His body, laid in a rich man's grave. But in three days He was raised: God is to be praised! He said. "I have done everything I can do". I even died and rose again for you. To save your life was nothing I had to think about twice. It had to be done, and I was the One to draw you back home to where you first came from, and with Me, you can spend Eternity." God with us—'Jesus 'The Christ', is His name. Down from Heaven is where He came. For your restoration, write down this information: You are saved from the grave. Jesus died for your deliverance. And through God's Son, you have won—the *victory* ...

### Who am I?



What is man that you are mindful of them, the son of man that You did visited Him. You have made them a little lower than an angel and crowned them with glory and honor?

Psalm 8:4 (KJV)

 $W_{
m ho~am~I?}$ 

A wretched sinner that He would die. My peace upon Him, I ask myself why? I'm counted worthy of His sacrifice.

Who am I? He has to love me to lay down His life. Without a word not even a why? My Jesus suffered, was afflicted, and died.

Who am I? Still so imperfect, I ask myself why? Do I deserve Him, when I'm still full of pride? He has to love me to stay by my side.

Who am I? That when I stumble, He won't let me fall? He shines His light in me: through nights and through storms. His perfect love, it makes me stand tall.

Who is He?
The Son of God, Jesus—He set me free.
He made me love Him, and made me love me;
and made me see who I am

I'm His child ...

#### The B-i-b-l-e



The B-i-b-l-e is His legacy. God is revealed, from Heaven against sin. I confess. I'm blessed, set apart from the rest; God's banquet guest... Now you see why I smile? He's made me His child. I have friendship. I have kinship. A better way to walk, different words to talk. Eternally, can't you see? I'm eating from Heaven's living trees. I confess. I'm blessed, good news: a crown of jewels, the trumpet sounds, a bridal grown—I'm Heaven-bound, forever to live in God's town. Christ is in the driver's seat. I'm worshipping at His feet. He's on His throne. This is my song. I confess. I'm blessed, saved by grace; this through faith. Clothed in a 'Robe of Righteousness', As I'm walking bold..., down Heaven's streets paved in gold. Lonfess I'm blessed

In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:2 (NKJV)

### Then I See You



It was You that made, named, and numbered each star, then perfectly hung them in the sky. And the powerful sound of rushing water falls—so comforting yet commanding.

And it was You that created every tree in different sizes, with dissimilar leaves, displaying Your creativity.

And the beauty of a sunrise, and how its' wonder gives way to the governing of the moonlight. When I consider all the things that You have created, then I see You as Creator ...

You have made mountains so high and valleys low, the beauty when a snowfall covers them white with snow, and how the morning dew gently kisses the grass and leaves so tenderly. And the love that You ordained between a man and his wife to the only true and living God that can bring forth a life, and the certainty of You when I hear a child's first cry.

When I try to behold the entirety of everything You do, it reminds me that Your eyes are everywhere, beholding both the good and the evil, and Your presence fills the Heavens and the earth, holding all things together. So when I'm going through, I just lift my eyes to the hills. Then I see You in control ...

My heart might not always have a song to sing.
Sometimes I don't fully comprehend the benefits Your salvation brings. My eyes see things that are not always true: mixed messages that speak lies to my heart and mind, to contaminate my faith with doubt, and all kinds of confusion, but when I keep my focus on Your "Spirit of Truth,"
Then I see You leading me Home...

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

**Romans 1:20 (KJV)** 

### Free From Sin



My sins were many. They had multiplied. The weight of my sins had become far too heavy for me to carry alone. The burdens of my sins had attached themselves to my very soul. I wore them like clothes I never changed, as if I put on clean clothes, without ever taking a bath.

Sin had me chained by both my hands and feet.

I became enslaved to sins' every desire.

My sins had taken control over what I did or said. My disobedience started the whole thing, taking advantage of repentance over and over again.

Sin had separated me from the One who created me, and my sins required that I hurt the One who died to set me free from sin.

Sin made me betray His ways, and bring shame to His name. I messed up! I began to put self first. I didn't take God's Word seriously enough. Self kept telling me I was in control and I knew what was best. Now, my sins have overtaken me, I'm like a blind man that cannot see, a mute unable to speak, a deaf man not able to hear.

I become spiritually paralyzed.
I no longer had control over my own body parts.
All my members lived in darkness, and my
footsteps walked in the night. My mind
had lost all control to make any right decisions.

My members were now told what to do. How did I let myself get in this situation? I was once a child of the Most High God, seated in high places in Christ Jesus, the head and not the tail, more than a conqueror through Him who loves me ... I was of

a royal priesthood, one appointed to judge nations, an ambassador of Christ. Then sin came, and called me out to play, and strategically made me fall from grace. But to God be the glory! He did not let me stay in The sickness of my sins. In my brokenness; I cried out with a contrite heart, forgive me, Father, for I have sinned against You, Your Word, and against Heaven... Then, just as fast as sin had taken control over me because of my disobedience, my Heavenly Father ripped me from the grip of sin, and broke off sin's every stronghold. He then restored me back to Himself, and now I am free from sin again ... He took away the darkness and shined in me His marvelous light.

I will never again make any decisions or move without my Father's guidance. I have learned my lesson well, and I am living testimony, that where sin abounds; grace abounds all the more.

Then, by His Sprit, my Father spoke to me and said; "Now rise up and sin no more".

Sin is the very reason for you to stay on your knees, meditate on My Word daily, and keep self under the control of My Spirit.

Your obedience is a required sacrifice, so that you can live a life pleasing and acceptable in My sight. "My child, sin desires to have you, but you must master it. Sin is sneaky and most deceptive, with its' lying, persuasive words. Sin has deceived my people from generation to generation, separating them from Me, and their true destiny.

With misleading lies, designed to hinder them from fulfilling their divine purpose on this earth.

Sin keeps them from experiencing the fullness of, My

blessings and holds them under My judgment.

Designed to distract and entrap, sin entangles them to the wages of death, attaching them to My Eternal wrath ...

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Ephesians 2:8 (KJV)

## By the Grace of God, I Survived



If I could sing like a bird, ring like the loudest bell. Sell nothing but give everything I have. Speak encouraging words wherever I go.

Fly like a beautiful white dove. Do all things in the name of love.

Everywhere I go, I'd bring with me the sweet smell of flowers in springtime.

I've had my share of heartaches and pain. I've made it through the pouring rain. I hope you wouldn't mind, that it might just be my time to shine ...

I've survived, as I walked life's rough, tough road each day. I've paid in full in my own way.
I've learned to have enough faith now to say;
I no longer have to live under my lingering past mistakes.
I've survived my winter's tough, cold road.

Asking only God, to help me carry my load, in knowing that my springtime has just begun.

I'm no longer walking down memory lane. I welcome my springtime, and I'll walk in its' way. I won't worry or push it away.

I will celebrate my life each day, as I close the door to my yesterday, and open up my heart to today, and ask the joy of my springtime to stay. By the Grace of God I Survived ...

## Highway Home



Moving down the highways of "Eternal Life." I saw a street called "Eternal Night," with by-ways that have a cost, the expensive cost, of being lost.

Making sure I stayed to the right, not taking the street called "Eternal Night." For to take the highways designed for most, could pay the cost of eternal lost.

Reading the signs of confusion and lies, I heard this street say; that this was the way. Tears rolled down my face as I wondered how, this street called "Night"; could disguise itself as "Light."

But, in keeping straight, not wanting to stray; I'd give up all tolls cost to reach that 'Great Day'. Which is home; no need to roam, no need to go on...

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Isaiah 30:21 (KJV)

## Lost Lady



**W**ho's that lost lady? God's baby: mind torn, body worn. Pretty girl in a very ugly world, heart scarred, scared, messed up in the head. There's no escaping family raping. Taking off your skirt, won't make it work. Diamonds, glitter, gold, will she sell her soul? In her mind she shines, a glass of wine, no time. Sin kills and daffodils die. Her men are lustful not mindful. Drugs; for dreams, depressing. She has no function, just self-destruction. Lady with lose feet; come out from the streets. To embrace the devil's dance is truly a deadly chance. Lost lady, God's baby, you need the truth, to set you free. Ask God for His forgiveness, and there you will find His repentance...

In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace Ephesians 1:7 (KJV)

## The Sleeper Has Awakened



The darkness of the night, awaits the light for the sleeper to awaken. To see the sun rising, and know that their new life in Christ is now starting For the moon that now governs their nights, displays itself with the 'Light of Christ'. As the smell of dew falls on the tree's leaves, the awakened sleeper feels God's presence and is set free.

The smell of growing flowers and grass helps the awaken sleeper know that their new life is worth the living again.

The awakened sleeper is filled with gratitude, because Christ has opened their eyes to see the evidence of Himself, everywhere.

The awakened sleeper's dark nights have all passed away, because Christ has erased the pain from their past.

And their future holds the wonders that only God can bring.

Because, now the sleeper has awakened and sees, God is their "*Everything*".

Wake up and open your eyes, and see all the wonderful things that God has created, just for you to enjoy. Finding the courage to face the pain from your past, and walking through it into; your destiny that has always been there waiting for only you...

# Help Me



 $\boldsymbol{H}$ elp me to trust You alone, because my faith is under attack. The siege was to create a conflict. testing my faith in Your Word. I find myself fighting a battle that is Yours alone Help me to be still, so that I can once again be healed. Revive me; I'm struggling from the weight of unbelief, which is far too heavy for me to carry alone. Take the broken fragments of my life, and make my faith unmovable. Guide me so that I can again be made whole. Increase my territory, and make my direction clear. Be a lamp to my feet; leading me toward the path that You have already prepared for me, long before I arrived here. Make my crooked places straight once again. My faith is wounded, and I'm hurting. Only You can restore the faith I once had. Lord, You are the potter, and I am the clay. Mold me, and make me all over again. I desire to accomplish every good work that You created for me in total victory. Free me from these chains of stress and strife. Help me to trust You alone, for the rest of my life.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

### Is It Us?



Is it us that is wrong?
Is it us that could wait too long?
Is it us that when we can't be strong, blame You?
Is it us who refuse to choose?
Thinking we have Eternity not to lose?

Is it us who is being confused? Not wanting to, but influences can use. We choose not yet to belong, but to remain in the wrong?

And now the negative choice we chose to make, has become the difficult-path we now must take.

Never choosing the right, while knowing we're choosing the wrong,
Is a dangerous path to be on.

If the wrong cup, is the choosing cup we choose to lift up and drink.

Then it is us.

Lord, help us rethink?

Help us choose the right cup, to lift up and drink.

We have all been given free will from God. He never wanted us to be puppets. He always wanted us to be freewill children that want to freely choose Him as our Father and Lord...

#### I Never Saw His Face ...



I saw God in all His Splendor and Majesty, pass right by me. He was dressed in His "Righteousness."

I felt His eyes carefully watching over my life's plans.

He spoke a word of healing to remove all my infirmities. He whispered a word of comfort in my ear, to erase all my anxieties. His peace showed up, and He scattered my enemies. I saw Him touch a summer's tree and change its' season to 'fall'. When I met Him in His Holiness, He gave me life forever.

I never saw His face, because His countenance is too great. He cleansed me from the guilt of my sins: and then washed me white as snow. Love brought us face to face, and through His Son's blood, I received victory over sin.

When I was in a place of need, He gave me His super-natural provision. When I stood in the mist of His Truth, He gave me His protection.

In all His Awesomeness, He created me in His image. Since I first met Him, I've longed to see His face, but His beauty is too immense.

Only through His miraculous touch am I able to see the evidence of His glorious presence.

I have never seen His face, but I know His omnipresence dwells here with us forever.

I was introduced to His mercy, and now I live under it all day, every day. I'm saved by His grace through faith: as I long to behold His Heavenly face.

#### Thanks for the Rain



It's raining today.
The rain always seems to make me feel sad.
But in knowing that the rain makes everything grow;
I'm glad that the rain comes and then goes.
The smell of the rain is escaping.
The raindrops play a beautiful song.

Sometimes a fast song, and sometimes a slow song. Yet always: a beautiful song. The wind acts as if it hears the rain's song, and repeats the melody to the trees.

The trees give up leaves to the wind, with an elegant dance of thanks for the rain.
The flowers grow in hopes of touching the sun.
They give thanks to the rain by displaying beautiful bouquets of flowers in different colors, shapes, and sizes. I guess everything gives thanks to the rain, because without it, nothing would grow.

Let us also learn to give God thanks for the rain in our lives. Because without it we would never feel the beauty of spiritual growth ...



Why is it hard to look upon my graceful glide...? when I come with lamentations of love, sharing words from above.

Why when you see me, is it hard to see my beauty inside? My heart beats so strong, not judging others, rights or wrongs: but only wanting the best, and just seeking rest.

Why when I speak, no one wants to know why? Just walks away, without saying good-bye. With laugh stabs of hate, I never anticipate.

Why is it that: words' of love fly like white doves covered in blood?

Why despise but not make wise? Why not we make love our guide?

Love suffered long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

1 Corinthians 13:4 (KJV)

## You Can't Judge Me!



How can anyone say I never tried?
I gave it all I had. Everyone makes mistakes.
Are they ever forgiven? Or are they never forgotten?
When is the price paid in full?
You spend your whole life trying to
make up for only hurting yourself.
Always apologizing for your past,
means; that your life will never be yours to own again.
This only brings discouragement, disappointment, and self-doubt
to any future you could have tomorrow.
How can you let yourself be known to others,
when they only celebrate what you consider your sorrow?

I would do anything to have a second chance with you, or change just where my life went wrong with you. But without my destructive past, you might not be able to understand the determined person I am today. Your words tried to rape me of who I am, and judge me for a crime I committed against myself. I'm no longer trying to prove myself anymore—to anybody, or everybody, and somebody else. It was God who forgave me, and set me free, and nobody else. So keep your judgments to yourself.

For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Matthew 7:2 (KJV)

## Being Misunderstood



Misunderstood ... about who I am.
Misunderstood ... about my plans.
Misunderstood ... about my stand.
Misunderstood ... about if I can.
Misunderstood ... about my life.

Misunderstood ... about my sacrifices.

Misunderstood ... about what I have to give.

Misunderstood ... about how I feel.
Misunderstood ... about my mission.
Misunderstood ... about my position.
Misunderstood ... about my committee

Misunderstood ... about my commitment. Misunderstood ... about my intentions.

Misunderstood ... about my intentions.

Misunderstood ... about the decisions I make. Misunderstood ... about my concern for other's sake.

Misunderstood ... about what I see.

Misunderstood ... about who I choose to be.

Misunderstood, why me?

Are you misunderstood too?

Being misunderstood is nothing new.

#### As I Rise



A s I rise with my face to the sky forever.

Lord, please stay by my side.

You are my provider.

You told me your plans: for my footsteps in the sand.

Away went sickness, grief, pain, and strife.

As I rise with my face to the sky,

the world tried to hold me.

You brought me out boldly.

You love like a mother, and stand like a brother.

You know my life's story, the pain and the glory.

Now lead me and teach me.

All I am, I give to thee.

As I rise with my face to the sky, forever

Lord, please stay by my side.

### Jesus, this Love Letter Is to You



 $T_0$ , the One who knows the secrets of my heart unspoken. To the One whose promises are never broken.

To the One who didn't count me out.

To the One who died to come into my life.

To the One who picks me up when I fall.

To the One who answers every time I call.

In the presence;

of all the world: Jesus, this love letter is to You.

To the One who shines brighter than, any man-made light:
To the One who in me delights.
To the One who has the power to save my soul.
To the One who makes me whole.
In the presence;
of all the world: Jesus, this love letter is to You.

## Breaking the Chains that Bind



 $oldsymbol{W}$ hen will our minds, break the chains that bind us back to yesterdays? Chains that remind us, to keep us from doing what we need to do for us today. Yesterday isn't today, and today makes for a changed tomorrow. Why do dreams, saturate themselves in yesterday's storms? Yesterday is over! We can't continue to look back any longer. Now we must strive not to make today; our yesterday's mistakes, or our tomorrow's wrong. We must stand and be strong. Today will come, but will not last. Tomorrow will change; to yesterday fast. Let us learn from our yesterday mistakes: For our tomorrows' 'know how', the course of our future reflects what we do now

## True Beauty



**T**rue beauty is more than skin deep. It's more than high cheekbones or the lashes that flatter your eyes. No, it is not found in the brightness of your smile.

That is not where true beauty lies. True beauty comes from what's deep down inside your heart. True beauty does not come from the style cut, or color of your hair.

It's not found in the different shades of the lipstick you wear. Nor is true beauty found in the designer garments you display. These things are all temporal and soon to fade away. True beauty is found in your-actions, reactions, attitude, or how you treat others; friend and foe.

True beauty is found in the contents of your heart.

True beauty is not boastful, nor is it proud.

True beauty cannot be captured in a picture, or the cover of a magazine.

True beauty does not come from 'Cover Girl' or 'Maybelline'.

True beauty comes from what lives deep down in your soul.

True beauty comes from above.

True beauty is found in God's love.

## A Christian's Pledge



I pledge allegiance, I pledge my life, to my Savior Jesus Christ. For the blood that He shed, When in sin, I was dead.

And to the Lord God above, who from Heaven to earth, spreads His love.

On this we stand: Jesus is seated at God's right hand. He's the chief cornerstone, the first Son born. One Father, One Son, One Spirit, made one.

With sanctification and justification for all, I pledge allegiance, I pledge my life, I pledge my love, to Christ sacrifice.

## Those Freed Sing



Those freed sing:
Jesus Christ is Lord of lords and King of kings.
Do you know what this means?
God has fulfilled our dreams.

We are made right, through faith in Jesus Christ. Now saved from sin, guilt, shame, and death's grave, the cross is no loss.

For by God's power, He gave us this hour. No more sorrow in tomorrow. Those freed sing: Jesus Christ is Lord of lords and King of kings.

We were once sin's slaves; dead from what the old testament's law said; Now alive; by faith in God: justified. This life we're living is Christ-given. Those freed sing: Jesus Christ is Lord of lords and King of kings.

## Without God, Going Nowhere Fast



I'm 'Running, Running, Running', from God. (going nowhere fast) Running away from the calling He has for my life.

Not wanting to be the woman that He has created me to be. Scared to step out and be unlike the world.

Ashamed for people to say, that she's a different kind of girl.

So I'm 'Running, Running'. (going nowhere fast) Running back to a world I no longer fit in.

Running back; to the places where temptations delights to entice me into sin.

Living opposite from what I know is right; moving closer to darkness to avoid the light.

So I'm 'Running, Running' to hell; clearly realizing that's my final destination.

All because I refuse to stop living this world's "Do what pleases you way." I've finally come to the knowledge that God has the final say.

Because when God has chosen you, there is nowhere you can hide.

And until you give your life to Him, you'll never have true peace inside.

So I turned around and start 'Running, Running, Running, Running'; back to my Father's House.

Asking Him to fill my empty vessel,

finally realizing with Him, there's no moral sense to wrestle.

I'm Running, Running back to the Father, where my true identity lies.

Repenting ... Asking God for His forgiveness, and praying for Him to break off these soul ties

So I'm 'Running, Running, Running'.

Running back to His Saving grace, and praying God shows me His mercy. Because resting in the safety of His loving arms is where I need to be. With tears rolling down my face, I humbly fall on my knees and cry out, Jesus Please, forgive me ...

Now, I'm 'Running, Running, Running', back home fast ...

Now knowing that with God is where I've always belonged.

So, I finally stopped Running from God (going nowhere fast).

## The Shepherd



He never slumbers nor needs sleep, for He's the Shepherd, and we're His sheep. Even if or when we stray, He keeps the beast far away. With His staff in the presence of death, He holds the roaring lion's breathe. For He's the "Path of Peace Protector" and the "Righteousness Director." Abundance of goodness, mercy, and grace rain down from Heaven for 'His Namesake'. I will come when I hear, walk near, obey, and await. "Sovereign King Glorious," "Lord Majesty," "The Shepherd, Christ Jesus."

The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want. Psalm 23:1

#### God Eternal



 $oldsymbol{H}$ eavenly Father, Hallowed be thy Name. From season to season, You're always the same. Come, thy kingdom from above. Holy kingdom filled with love. The words you said: will be my bread. And I will forgive that I might live. Away from temptation, to liberation. Give us this day, a day full of praise. Harp music and hymns, visions of You in the Heavenly realms. Stay forever and a day, I pray. God Eternal ...

After this manner therefore pray ye:
Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Matthew 6:9 (KJV)

#### All that I Am



 ${m I}$  give You all that I am, because You keep pouring in me all that You are. For every bruise, from the whips that cut You to the bone.

For every insult, and the mocking You endured.

For the crown of thorns that caused blood to run down your face.

For taking my peace upon Yourself:

You took off Your glory to come and suffer this world.

Nailed my sins to Calvary by way of 'The Cross',

to bring man back to Yourself.

You knew that Your dying, would change our lives from condemnation; to justification.

You left Your throne in glory, to pay a price which only You could pay. Jesus, there's no place I'd rather be, than found in Your love. All that I am, or ever hope to be, is wrapped up in You,

and on that 'Great Day', when I see You face to face,

with all my heart, I'll give You the praises that's due Your Name.

## And if God, is not happy



What if the sun decided not to shine? And the moon stops glistening throughout the night? What if the star's twinkle no longer gave off its' light? And what if the waters, were no longer safe to drink? What would you think if the trees stopped producing nurturing fruit? And what if the ground could no longer produce food? What if flowers wouldn't bloom? And what if the air was filled with the hazards of bio-chemicals? What if we run out of solutions for pollution? And what if every bird of the air, and all the animals for our repast, and the fish in the seas, were no longer certain to eat? What do you think about the seasons not knowing their place? And what if days and nights could no longer be traced? What if man-made bombs proceeded to strike earth's face? What if we've insulted the "Spirit of Grace", as we live in the last days of the ending of this place? And what would you say if you knew that most of this has already taken plot? What does all this make you wonder about? And what would be the reason if all this did happen? Could it just be that God is not happy?

#### There Is a Secret Place



In Christ, there's a secret hiding place; in God I've found, where His ministering angels are all around.

And under the shadow of His wings, there I find rest; in my secret hiding place.

There in my secret place; I hide, in the goodness of His loving arms. There God is my refuge, and fortress that keeps me secure on every side. A place; where I run in, and hide; when the floods of life start rising high: There once again, He speaks peace, causing every storm in my life; to have to cease.

In my secret hiding place, His salvation keeps me safe and sound. And His faithfulness gives me comfort, joy, and peace of mind. In Christ, there's a secret hiding place; where I abide, in God through Christ. There God hides me from the snares and traps of my enemies all around. Selah

Psalm 91:14-16 (KJV)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. <sup>15</sup> He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

#### Wisdom



A riddle to the wise:

It keeps you safe from disaster and defeat.

With it on guard, you sleep in peace.

Hey you, who reject wisdom:

as you sleep, poverty creeps.

Like a robber, your riches it steals, attacking you in full armor to kill. How long will the simple say, "We won't listen or change our ways"? Poverty is closely watching your every move. It carefully weighs what you do.

The wicked man's house leads down to death. The life of his spirit has no breath. But God holds victory for the upright, Godly wisdom, and spiritual insight. The Lord's wisdom formed the earth, His understanding the universe.

Wisdom's a tree of honor and peace, so make it your pleasure to search for her as for treasure. Like to silver and gold, to wisdom hold. Then with no blame, you will find favor and a good name. In the sight of God, boldly before men, you will stand.

Proverbs 2:4-5 (KJV)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

#### Conditioned in Sin



Three times I had the same dream of a good friend approaching me to take me to a happening place. It was a place where a lot of my family and Christian friends lived; a place where they had become conditioned into sin. Everybody there had been deceived into staying. When I arrived, everything was disguised and looked very pleasing to my eyes. In my case, I love shopping (the devil knows selves' desires), so for me, he showed me the biggest malls, and stores that had the sharpest clothes. So without delay, I shopped until I was dragging bags on the floor. Then I began to talk to other family members and Christians. But, I soon noticed that they were in a daze. They could not hear or answer me; it was as though there was nothing to say. I started feeling that something was wrong, so I gathered my bags to get ready to go home. But a voice quickly said, "There are other stores over there; that you haven't been in, with snakeskin suits, and alligator boots: Remember, everything here is free."

Even though I wanted to go see, I began to want more to just leave. I started to feel like I was being deceived, because I remembered that nothing in life is free. I felt that things were not all my eyes could see. When approaching the doors I was offered even more. Then I replied, "No, I'm just ready to go home." Feeling like I would not be allowed to leave, I dropped my bags and ran for the door.

When I opened the door there to my surprise, I saw with my own eyes dead bodies everywhere. It was a dreary gray place, with rotten flesh and bones, under the bottom of my shoes, and all around me was the awful stench of death. Terrified, I began to run for my life. I could see far away off on the other side a place where there was life: With beautiful flowers, trees, and all; kinds of greenery. Then someone ran up beside me and said: You might as well go back. You can never reach the other side, because you wanted to please self. "So now you have to stay here with

me." I did not reply; I just kept running for my life. Again, a voice spoke to me more sternly and said: "It's too late! The bridge has been broken. You desired everything your eyes could see." I then knew I never should have come to this place. Filled with fear and much regret, I knew that it was the devil that I had met.

As he tried to fill my mind with nothing but confusion and lies, I ran even faster to reach the other side. Then, with an angry voice, he said: You'll never make it to the other side. Now that you've shopped here, there's no way out; you are mine, so end your fight.

As I reached the edge, I saw that the bridge was broken, and had fallen down. There were many others that had just jumped, and their dead bodies were broken and crushed. So with no way to cross over to the other side, I cried, Forgive me Lord, I was deceived. This was truly just a shopping trip to me. I never meant to come to this place.

Then suddenly I was lifted up and placed on the other side; to that beautiful place, where there is life. I was told by the Lord; never to return to the place where those who live there have become conditioned into sin.

There is a great chasm, a gulf, separating Heaven from hell; and Jesus is the bridge. So deny self, pick up your cross, and follow Him to '**The End**'

"There will always be family, friends and even some Christian's that will approach you; to take you to places they perceive to be harmless. But, if your spirit; is not completely, comfortable. Then, my advice to you is never compromise."

And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

**Luke 16:26 (KJV)** 

## My Un-Forgiveness



My un-forgiveness silenced my message. It stole my testimony and demanded the very thing I was created to do is: *Praise*. The sad thing about it all is that I was not aware of the damage that un-forgiveness can cause. Un-forgiveness created in me a poison called bitters.

Un-forgiveness created in me a poison called bitterness.

Un-forgiveness had so cleverly slipped up on me like a thief in the night, capturing me and making me its prisoner.

It was so easy to blame everyone for hurting me.

But I am without excuse for dropping the call on my life, by allowing bitterness to enter into my heart.

Un-forgiveness crept in, and I become traditional instead of relational.

I read God's Word daily, meditating on it all the time.

I prayed every day, and God's Grace would always, show up in my life.

So I thought nothing was missing, but I became broken.

I forgot why I had been chosen by God in the first place.

I became bitter, and un-forgiveness set up residency in my very soul.

As long as everything was going right in my life and people, places, and things gave me no conflict, then there was nothing left undone.

But God in all His mercy showed me that if He were here, He would be loving those who seemed un-loving.

And, by example, showing them what true agape love consists of.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 1 Corinthians 13:4

#### Made One



A wesome "Prince of Peace, Precious
High Priest"; perfect in all Your Ways.
Above all worldly authority, exalted to Royalty.
When the time comes, Your Will shall be done.
You have destroyed satin's power.
Now in his last hours;
we sleep, delivered from death to peace.
Jesus, when we lose our way to You we can pray.
Lord, help us again; please pardon our sins.
Lead us from temptation, to liberation:
Eternal forgiveness, and everlasting deliverance.
Now let us embrace this future of faith.
The Father, His Spirit, and Son:
the three and us made one.

## Mama's Testimony



Mama's crying, and I know why.

She's crying because her baby had to die.

Hearing in the night, when she thinks no one's in sight:

She cries; "Lord why did my baby have to die?"

He's down in a grave, and it's making her its' slave.

She cries; "Lord, why did my baby have to die?"

Then, when in sadness, she cursed all that happened. In trying to understand, God gave her His Hand. This was a test she had to take to find rest. To forgive first and love last, the name, and the man; that laid him in God's Hands. He's down in the ground, and everyone around was mad. They couldn't understand why? She forgave the man, and lent him a helping hand.

This had to come from above, a blessing that overtakes anger with love.
When judgment came, she gave him no blame.

She knew why her baby had to die, and Mama stopped crying. Now the end is that, she is blessed. Because she obeyed God's Word, and passed His test.

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Matthew 6:14

### Bold, Proud and Beautiful



'Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death'. (Mark13:12 KJV)

A fro's and braided bead designs, bell bottom pants, and miniskirts, so-fine. Bold, proud, beautiful, walk, strong, sound, spiritual talk. Peace, love, and happiness, always wishing, each other the best. Where have family values gone? Father's being a mother's backbone, teaching their children right from wrong. That's all changed: Now the pain of no-hope. Drinking, not thinking, drunk as a skunk. Whacked off

Dope's killing, its' got people stealing.

Talking bout there's a living off dealing death,

to everyone else.

People talking genocide: We take care of our own.

Stop lying!

crack!

We should treat our old like gold:

Putting our past, first not last.

Not trying, while our family values are dying.

To remain is to rearrange, rethink, regain, to reclaim.

To bring back all, that should not have been lost.

Now the afro's back: In all different kinds.

With 'Bold, Proud, and Beautiful, Minds'.

#### Sisters, Brothers



**S** isters and, brothers! Stop hurting our mothers. You're killing lilies. Is this what you want your children to see?

Because she's not the tree, you'd have her to be. We're the root of her planted seed. By hurting her, we'll die off like weeds.

Can't you see her spirit is passed down? So why at her do you frown? Dishonor, disrespect, and neglect; When you display this type of behavior: It simply shows, that it is yourself that you reject.

Now join hands together, we're family forever. This covenant of love; is sent from above.

Be positive, proud sister queen. Empower your children's dreams. Come, strong brother man; have respect, love, and encouraging hands.

"If we have just one mandate on our life; it is to look hard at our reflection in the mirror of life: Because whatever we do or don't do, will carry on into our children lives, if we are not mindful". Remember they're watching and learning from you.

## Bodies Continue to Drop



Why is it that brothers and sisters face head-on and minds off? Is it because fathers stopped showing the example of real love and respect? Or is it that mothers stopped promoting a life full of values and moral consciousness? Or could it just be that the two were never taught to love or esteem themselves? Love is the road to our 'Eternal Home'. There's no time to delay. Now is the time to let love manifest itself. We must teach the ways of love, and respect; before the evil plaque of hate destroys our fate.

Let's walk down the road of love, hand in hand, together. Removing; the chains of disrespect, mistrust, and hate, far from ourselves forever. This message of love echoes words sent from Heaven above.

Without us teaching love as the <u>only</u> way, we will become conditioned into thinking hate is okay. With no direction, and a lack of hope; oppressed people turn on each other, not caring if they kill someone else or themselves.

When will the hating stop?

When restraining grace is gone, bodies will continue to drop. Love lifts, while hate plots.

<sup>4</sup>Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things .8 Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (NKJV)

## Said; Martin Luther King Jr.



 $\boldsymbol{L}$  et freedom ring!

Said: 'Martin Luther King':

A chosen seed, called to lead us to believe, received a dream.

In his vision, God destroyed division.

All of us equal forever, eating, drinking, and living together.

A day of liberation, God let him see.

With no more separation is how it should be.

God showed him the 'Promised Land', gave him a "we can" plan.

On that, Martin would always stand.

He spoke of love; no force he taught.

A fight using faith; no weapons he brought.

Whether yellow, red, black, or white, he led us all from wrong to right.

In victory we watched him march.

Standing still, we saw him killed.

In God's Book of Life, we'll read about his sacrifice.

Let freedom ring,

said: 'Martin Luther King'.

Our Pope of Hope...

## Loss of Hope



Self-hatred is a personal crime.

A lack of concern for others is the product of a loss of hope. For self-destruction is there no anecdote?

Our streets have become a war zone.

Children are undernourished from lack of love.

So they pick up guns, and kill without reason.

This all stems from a generation of young adults taught disrespect and no regard for life; is okay. When arguments can kill, where does all this end? When will this madness stop?

Life is a treasure, and when a life is taken by murder, its' not like a video game. There's no existence again, this is permanent.

Drug dealers offer false hope, in the substance of dope. People who once had dreams; now smoke them up in a pipe. The abuse of drugs and alcohol will rob anyone, of all self-respect, and their regard for life is condensed to nothing.

Drugs and alcohol can rob you of all your talents, hopes, and dreams. And when they're finished; its' hard, to re-claim your life back, again.

But prayer is a mighty weapon.

A force: Not to be reckoned with.

Where loss once was, but now cries a will to live.

There is a God that hears and heals

#### Save Our Streets



**D**aily news, and in International, headlines ...

People hurt in senseless crimes. High fatalities: low morality. Bombs strike, gunshots, bodies drop, blood is shed; when will this all stop?

Sisters, mothers, fathers, brothers, our children can't play outside because cowards, doing drive-bys.

They're snatching purses, and stealing, robbing old folks, and killing. In banks and stores, they're doing stick-ups with guns and knives they pick up.

We can't even walk the streets, for fear of being robbed, or killed.

This display of disrespect and hate is filling up graves, and opening cemetery gates.

For tomorrow's sake, a prayer today we must make.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)

# Keep My Child



**K**eep my child, make 'em smile, just for a while. It won't be long, 'til I'll come back home.

Separated from me is not how it should be. Right now I'm not able; nor am I stable.

Wet, not fed, weeping, fear in scared eyes. I need some time, but they're still mine.

Please God, hear my cry, and dry the tears from their eyes. Will they see or understand that this was not the plan?

Cold, no clothes, hungry, fear in their scared eyes. I need some time, but they're still mine.

Feed them, keep them don't mistreat them. Give them a good home so that they won't feel alone.

Keep my child make 'em smile, just for a while. It won't be long, 'til I'll come back home. Separated from me is not how it should be.

## Cover the World



Jesus, cover this world with Your 'Healing Pearls'.
Save Your people; make us whole.
Feed our hungry souls, faithful Father.
Your Word is like a hedge of protection around us.
With Your blood, You cover us.
You are the strength of our joy.
Your Spirit transforms our lives into Your prefect likeness.
You are our rock and fortress, a fortified city, which guards our hearts with Your promise of peace.
Grant us victory from our enemy's traps and snares.

When Your Spirit speaks, it turns our impossibilities into realities.

Troubles rise just to fall.

Trails come to us all.

To us they seem big, but to You they are small.

You are greater than them all.

It was You who spoke the beginning, and wrote the ending. Your presence changes all who receive You, reminding us to just trust and believe You.

Jesus, please cover this world with Your 'Healing Pearls'.

#### Feel Their Fears



**P**lease, God, hear and say: You're near. So God heard, and gave His Word.

Now I saw what they meant. A life wasted, not spent. All that pain, filled with shame.

Another life is ceased, from HIV/AIDS the disease. Pneumonia, for sure: with a sentence of death, no cure. Their minds filled of whys? Family crying because they're dying.

They can't take much more—covered with sores, knocking at death's door.

Their eyes are going blind.
Losing their minds,
contemplating suicide,
running out of time.
Please, God, hear and say: You're near.
So God heard, and gave His Word.

## My Savior's Love



No greater love to tell of, than a Savior who was born to die, for us to gain Eternal Life.

Jesus, You are my burden bearer, my heavy load sharer.

You are my 'Righteousness', my 'Salvation', my 'Soul's Caretaker'.

One day I heard You say, "Pick up your cross, and follow my ways."

Now through the valley of the 'Shadows of Death', You guide me safely to my mountaintop destiny. You are the One who keeps, the One who never slumbers nor sleeps.

Lord Jesus, You died for our 'Salvation' to be born.

Without a word or frown, You stretched out Your arms, laid Your head down, and gave up Your life. No greater love to tell of than a Savior who came to die for us to gain 'Eternal life'.

#### Not One



**W**ho is Righteous? No, not one is wise. Who has not done wrong in God's eyes?

All are quick to curse and steal. Oh so swift, to hurt and kill. Danger, deceit, destruction, dismay, evil decisions, causing division.

Instead of judging other's experiences, we need to learn true repentance. By and with 'God's Grace', we can win this *not one* race.

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: Romans 3:10 (KJV)

### Who Is He?



Who is He that raises the dead?
The One for us, His blood was shed.
Who is He who came in our time of need,
to plant in us all salvation seeds?
Who is He who knows all and sees all,
who hears and answers every time we call?
Who is He? We ask ourselves.
He is God, all by Himself.
When storms come and strong winds blow,
raging like a dangerous war,
who is He to the winds speaks peace,
causing every storm in our lives to have to cease?
Who is He? We ask ourselves- He is God, all by Himself?

## A Man of God's Own Design



Created in His likeness, a saved, sanctified, set apart, servant of God.

A man who wears these qualities is hard to find.

God has his life all planned out and orders his footsteps daily.

He was predestined for God's purpose and created for greatness.

He is planted of the Lord, anointed, and appointed to boldly, and without hindrance work in the Kingdom of God, preaching the "Good News of Jesus Christ". Designed with a heart that trusts God and given strong hands to serve Him. Preordained, trained, and raised from childhood. Tried, refined, and approved in manhood. He is seasoned, made steadfast, and unmovable.

Being perfected for a Royal Priesthood, a man after God's own heart is given Godly wisdom and walks in God's favor. A Sprit-filled instrument, chosen, and entrusted: To teach, and preach liberty to those in captivity. He is built to endure hardship. Humble and obedient, acknowledging God in all his ways, he's a loving husband, a responsible father, a faithful friend, and compassionate shepherd.

Protected by the Father's Word, covered in the Son's blood, clothed in garments of Salvation, covered in a robe of Righteousness; with a garland of Grace around his neck. This man daily meditates on the Word of God and praises the works of His Hands: Causing God's favor to chase after him. And every morning when he rises, he lifts his soul to the Lord in adoration. Blessed is a man that trusts in 'The Lord' and uses his hands and heart to serve Him. A man who delights himself in the law of the Lord does not entangle himself with the affairs of this world; that he may please Him who made him "A Man of God's own Design."

I Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. <sup>3</sup> And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalm 1:1-3 (KJV)

#### The Proverbs 31 Woman



She is the ... shepherd's wife, a mother, and "Uncompromisingly Righteous": In all her ways. She walks in the "Light of Truth," with arms ready to embrace and teach compassion. Her heart is built to give comfort, and love is her goal. She stretches out her hands to the poor and extends help to those in need. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. She holds courage in her heart and builds her household on Christ, the "Solid Rock." Because her hope is in 'God's Word', she delights in all that's right. The heart of her husband is entrusted to her. Her devotion gives her children hope in days to come. She tells of life in 'Righteousness' spent, her mind at peace with all. Her life is their example of God's unfailing love. She walks in the counsel of faith that shines light to erase her dark clouds. And all that's best and bright meets in the lamp of her eyes. While beauty softly lights her face so eloquently, revealing a lifetime of Holiness that cannot be erased, her gentleness imparts grace to her face, where serenity sweetly expresses the clear purity of her Godly dwelling place.

Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

Proverbs 31:31 KJV

#### You and I



**B**efore the foundations of the world were framed,

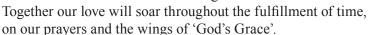
before all things created were formed, our love existed in Eternity.

God preordained us to love and cherish each other always.

It seems as though God had ordained our love from the beginning of time.

Way before time and space were created you and I, were; loving each other, before time existed.

And our love will stand the test of time, united as one soul without an ending ...



And our love will endure every trail that comes our way; together. With us; loving, living, and laughing, as we cherish each moment in time without an end. Because the foundation of our love; is built on nothing less than "Jesus Blood and His Righteousness".



#### Your Love



Your love has made my life worth living, your love has ended my search to share, my innermost dreams and wishes, my secret thoughts and ambitions. You're my 'Fairy Tale'.

My "Knight in Shining Armor," protecting me always.

Now love's presence keeps me anticipating the next moment I see you. Just the thought of all the things you do. Always thinking of me, before yourself.

You are my heart, my hero, my king, my everything, after Jesus. God put you on His potter's wheel and made you into a masterpiece.

To: my best friend, I thank you for bringing sunshine into my life, to brighten my dark days and nights. And whenever your person enters my world, it expresses to my heart, true agape love. And all the thoughtful things you do keeps me wanting to spend my; whole life just loving only you ...

## Where Were You?



Where were you, my sister, when the lights went out? Where were you, through my screams and shouts? When bound by mistakes, chains had me locked. When cell bars slammed, I felt dammed. Through much confusion, where was our union?

I was there through all your fears.
It was my prayers; that helped dry your tears.
Sacrifices were made:
I stood right there with you in the pouring rain.
Be not dismayed.
In all your grief, I spiritually paid.
Like a substance in a mixer.
Then God instructed; peace, be still.
I was always there, in prayer my brother.

# I'll See, You Again ...



 $\boldsymbol{A}$ s I looked at the sky, my eyes filled with tears, and my mind questions of why. But I can hear you say; there's no more reason to cry. Good-bye, my best friend, from your loved one for life. I'll always remember your style. The way your eyes shined when you smiled. You were always so brave, in the mist of your sickness; encouragement to us you gave. Gone from this place; never to, return. Now you're with God and all is affirmed. And God has promised me that you, again, I would see. And we will both be free forevermore. Now as we look up at the sky, I now have the answers to my whys. I can hear you say, "In God we must stay." See you again in Eternal life. Good-bye, my best friend and loved one for life.

## Good-Bye My Love, Good-Bye



To say good-bye,
no reason, just had to depart this life.
Not to cry. Not to sigh.
Good-bye, my love, good-bye.
I wondered why they had to go,
because at that time, I didn't know.
Left to memorize a touch, smell, and laugh
of a loved one that had to pass.
So in letting you go, I still have to grow.
You're with God, I know.
Then and when we again meet,
it will be forever at Christ's feet.
I never know when I'll say; this again,
one life ends, and a new one begins.

#### Forever Friends



Thank You, Lord, my God and Lord, for all the things, that He have done: Gave us the moon, the stars up above: And most of all, gave us His Son: "His only Son";

Thank You, Jesus. I thank You, Jesus. For all my sins: You've paid the price. On Calvary's cross, You gave up Your life to set us free so the blind could see.

Thank You, Lord, my God and Lord. For You gave up Your only Son to show Your love for each and everyone. He shed His blood to make us one: Forever friends ...

## Yesterdays Past



**W**hy do we sing songs of yesterday's past? Knowing that their melodies don't ever last? Conquering our yesterdays' gives us victory in our tomorrows.

Letting go of our yesterdays' mistakes, pains, and sorrows releases a chain of forgiveness that will cover all our past hurts from this world.

In righteousness, go and live.

For your future is now hidden in God, who gives abundantly all you will ever need.

Your life is now freedom, joy, love, and peace with God.

No more tears ...

For your eyes now see the dawn and the dropping of fears.

## Keep Me in Your Prayers



You don't know me, and most of your time is not spent thinking of me. Well, maybe sometimes when you're told by someone, about how I'm living each day.

I have lived here, and I have lived there.

It seems for a child, I've been some of everywhere.

I was neglected by my own father and mother; separated from my sisters and brothers.

It seems to me, the wrong person got punished.

Now I'm in a house they gave me as a home.

Look, I've been through enough, and I have probably seen more than most adults. How am I expected to be strong? Well, I'm without hope and weak. Sometimes I've been in places and saw faces where nobody cared if I was hungry and needed something to eat.

Open your eyes and see I'm sometimes raped and beat.

I pray that out there, somewhere, there is a family or person who wants to get to know me, who will open their hearts and home to receive me.

I believe that love and happiness can erase or help comfort the pain of my past's insanity.

So help me if you can, or at least keep me in your prayers.

## Our Dear Jesus





Our dear Jesus, "Blessed Savior", shines His light through our darkest nights. And when we stray, He guides our way home again, home again. "Our Dear Jesus, Precious Savior," when the floods of life's waters got you drowning, calms the storm with His standard and the words, "Come back home". "Come on home." Our Dear Jesus—what a Savior—. when our sins have stained "His Wonderful Name," gently says, "I'll bear the shame. "Just come back home". "Come on home."

## Putting Nothing, Before Everything



Man-made holidays seems, to be for us so much, if we are not celebrating; than our happiness is all a lost. We eat, laugh, play, and tell a few bad jokes, Remember: It's all about that day, of course. Music playing, card games, pour the wine and pop the beer cans. While precious time, just keeps slipping right by us: Not realizing, our attention is centered; on just a holiday.

But when 'God's Sabbath Day' comes, week after week; we just let it pass right by us.
Why is it that we put the first, last?

Then, when in need, our attention suddenly changes, but only for the moment of receiving and taking.

Without God's due praises every day, we forget what's really important.
Can our conscious, ever be made aware; that we're always putting nothing, before something?
Or will our hearts wait too late?

#### In God's Rest



T roubles rise just to fall. Trials come to us all. To us they seem big, but to God they are small.

Just trust and know that they'll come and go.

Nothing is too much for God's supernatural touch. With faith, this race is already won in Christ Jesus, God's only begotten Son.

Stop relying on yourself.
Just trust and see.
God already has; everything you will ever need.

#### Reflections of Revelations



All souls up against the wall, under arrest by the acceptance call. Choose now or forever be lost. Hands in the air!

The scales of justice balanced with care.

You still an evil driver, following your sinful desires? A forgiveness call is made; don't run and you'll be saved. But walk off the line, you will pay the fine. No citizenship, no kinship.

Freeze! Jesus has the keys, all souls seized.

God's here to see where you've chosen to be.

Here's where the Grace rests. Take the faith test.

Are you happy on your way to Heaven or in jail on your way to hell? All rise; it's judgment time ...

Court's in session for God's possessions.

"The Lord God Almighty", presiding and 'Jesus His Son' deciding. Will He say; "Go away from me, you worker of iniquity"? God's controlling; angels patrolling.

Bail is set:

Some will be justified then glorified. To those left, weeping and gnashing of teeth, never to end, never to cease. Your actions will show where you will go ...

## We Worship You



Let us worship Jesus Christ our Lord.

To one who gave up His life, and
to the one who paid sin's price, and
to the one who made Himself, a living sacrifice.

Be ye lifted up, be ye magnified, be Ye Lord in our lives. Let the words we say help guide a soul Your way. Let Your Spirit guide us each and every day. As we lift up our overflowing cups, our praise is due to you.

Our eyes wait to see, our spirit longs to be free, the enemy has to flee, as we worship Thee.

Our hearts through tests and trials are sustained, even when our minds are sometimes filled with guilt and shame. This is your fight; lead us as soldiers in your light.

You hear us when we're calling. You catch us when we are falling. Our refuge in the time of storm, our sword and shield that's worn, in the presence of all the earth: We worship You.

## I Prayed, Cried, and My Answer Arrived



**S** ometimes I'm filled with questions of why, and Heaven is silent, as though God did not care a thing about it. Yesterday I prayed for God to guide me through every trial I would have to face each day.

As the tears filled my eyes, I patiently press forward, with my heart closely following his ways.

That morning I prayed, and cried, knowing that my answer would arrived, Your Grace showed up that evening, and all my doubts and fears lost life and died.

By the midnight hour, all my tears were dried.

God showed up to comfort me and His Word became my peace.

You have to believe, that God's ears will always; be attentive to your prayers. But there will always, be a time to go through, and a time to be reproved. I prayed, cried, and my answer arrived.

#### Bodies of Evidence



**T**here is not enough love in the world today. But there's an abundance of hate and greed. It is hard to trust your fellow man, because man's intentions are not always clear.

There is no respect for life in the city and urban communities. Children die for the shoes on their feet.

There are bodies of evidence all over the streets.

Men of different races can't coexist.

One tries to do away with the other.

Thinking themselves they can save.

There are bodies of evidence filling up graves.

The poor are not considered human beings. A veteran is abandoned by the country he/she served. There are bodies of evidence sleeping on the curbs.

There are those who can make a change, who say they are concerned, but turn the other way when asked to take a good look. There are bodies of evidence reading this book.

Psalm 49:12-13 (KJV)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Nevertheless man, though in honor, does not remain; He is like the beasts that perish. <sup>13</sup> This is the way of those who are foolish, And of their posterity who approve their sayings. Selah

## We Are Our Brother's Keeper



There are people sleeping on our city's streets, cold and hungry, without proper clothes to wear, or food to eat.

We see they have nothing, and all we do is turn up our noses, as we walk by and stare.

Looking on, why can't we understand?

Why, at their hardship, do we feel with cold hands?

Jesus said,
"When you give to the least,
you are giving to Me."
But we can see our brothers
begging for change.
With nothing to lose
and everything to gain,
we refuse to feel each other's pain.

I'm not my brother's keeper.

We sound like Cain, in all his shame.

If it were you, what would you want others to do,

Are we going to go on not giving?

Nor open up our hearts to the cry of humanity?

I can hear Jesus saying; you might get by. But you won't get away.

#### What Would I Do?



**W**here would I be without your goodness? Where would I be without your love? Where would I be without the goodness, of your love?

What would I do without your mercy? What would I do without your grace? What would I do without your mercy and your grace?

Where would I be in this cold world?
Where would I be so all alone?
Where would I be in this cold world so all alone?

What would I do without Your Son?
What would I do without His blood?
What would I do without Your Son, without His blood?

Without Your goodness, without your love, without your mercy, without Your grace, in this cold world, so all alone, without Your Son, without His blood that sets us free at Calvary.

What would I do?

Where would I be?

#### This World



**W**hat is here to laugh about? Stories of life aren't always nice. Hearts full of wrong not right.

Tears shed, not shared, no one to care. Pray yesterday's sadness is replaced with gladness.

What is here to cry about? Disease, death, and despair of life; loved ones suffer and others dying. Should we feel our time is near?

Pray yesterday's sadness is replaced with gladness.

What is here to pray about? Tears shed, not shared, no one to care. People homeless, hungry, no one to hold, dying, lonely, while longing for love.

Pray yesterday's sadness is replaced with gladness. Everybody, everywhere ... Lift this world up in your prayers.

## Preacher, Teacher



**P**reacher, teacher, minister man, speak God's Word as best you can. God is standing very near, watching to see, waiting to hear.

The House of God is His alone, so teach His people, right from wrong.

Your prayers should be fervent, for you are God's servant.

Light shines your ways as He numbers your days.

Preacher, teacher, minister man, let God have dominion. Don't preach your opinion. Listen to what His Spirit says, and teach His people, His Righteous ways.

His thoughts are not yours, for "He is the Lord." Preacher, teacher, minister man, Let God be God, He's in command.

# Strongman's House Plan



Lord, make my house a strong tower. Then fortify it with Your power. A house whose foundation is not built on sand, but a house built on "Christ the Solid Rock." I want a house that can weather the storm. so when the winds blow and waves rise, it keeps me safe inside. A house reproved, that can't be moved. So in the time of trials, it will prove to endure. Then whatever comes, what may, in my house I can stay. A house that You rule, where no other can come and subdue. And in my house make a light that shines bright, for this world's spiritual insight. Lord, make my house a strong place. Until the end of this race, fill my house with the security of "Your Grace".

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

#### Like David Said



**B** lessed are you when God covers your sins. What is man that You are mindful of him? The 'Son of Man' that You visit them.

When I was in sin, I could not win.
Like David said, Your hand was heavy upon my head.
As in the heat of day my bones were wasting away.
Then I confessed, I'm a mess, and You blessed.
Your love covered my faults, and gave me new thoughts.
Now, saved from slavery, sin, and the grave,
I lift up my overflowing cup:
My praise is due to You.

Romans 4:7 (NKJV)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered;

#### He Who Loves Me



Lord, Father God, wipe the tears falling from my face. Jesus, Lord of lords, King of kings, no one can take Your place.

Father, how I long for Your embrace forevermore. until I see Your face, I'll wait in hope of Your blessedness.

There can never be another: God than, You for me.

Oh how I long to leave this place, to be with You.

He who loves me and died for my iniquities. Nailed to a tree, He set me free from all sins.

He who loves me and died for my infirmities ...
Nailed to the tree, He set me free from all sickness.

He who died for me and rose again for my victory. I will sing His praise eternally, because I love Him.

He who loves me ...

## A Spoken Word of Christ Jesus



**J**esus made Himself a living sacrifice, so for those who ask and believe in Him; will receive ever-lasting life. God's only begotten Son was beaten with a sharp leather whip, spit on and hit by the Roman soldiers' fists, mocked then handed over to the very people He came to save.

Guilty of nothing but for our peace, He gave up everything as they screamed, "Crucify Him", nail Him to the cross.

#### Not realizing:

He was "God's Redemption Plan for Man."
He came in victory; to defeat death, and deliver man from the bondage of sin, guilt, and shame.

He was deserted by His friends, denied by Peter near the end. God's only begotten Son came to suffer this world and died to give us all back legal and official authority over our lives.

But that's not how His story ends ...

Three days later, He rose from the grave with all power in His Hands, defeated death, and now He lives deep down within the hearts of men. Jesus made Himself the "Ultimate Sacrifice" so that all who believed in Him, will gain Eternal life. *Forgiveness:* A spoken Word from Jesus Christ ...

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Luke 23:34 (KJV)

## One Day We'll Meet



In the twinkling of an eye, the trumpet will sound, and the Lord will descend on a cloud, and in an instant, we will all be changed.

Then we will behold Him face to face.

For we will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

I believe there's a greeting place in Heaven. A place where our loved ones will greet us at the pearly gates.

Heaven: a place where I've been told the streets are paved with gold.

An Eternal place of Praise, where we will eat from the "Trees of Life."

I pray to see you in Heaven, celebrating our victories, reunited with our loved ones for all Eternity.

There will be no more fighting, for peace will take its place. And we will lay our weapons down by the "Riverside".

Put on our robes of Righteousness, while tossing our crowns at Jesus' feet.

On that Great Day, in that "Beautiful City," I've been told:
One day, we will all see Him; face to face forevermore.

#### Hold On



My Jesus said; not to despair, cause He would wipe our tears away. My Jesus said don't be afraid, cause He would guide us all the way. And every day He'd be our friend through everything we'd have to bear. So hold on, just hold on.

My Jesus said; that when we fall, He would give us strength to carry on, and guide us through our darkest storms that seem to always last so long.

My Jesus said to cast our cares on Him; He'd bear our sins and all our shame. And in the end, we'll see Him face to face and be like Him in every way. So hold on, just hold on.

#### Call His Name



**S**helter, shield, and rampart, sweet salvation satisfies me.

Rescue from the storm's roar, rest and refuge waiting for free.

He is power in tempting hours, strength providing all you need.

He is love from above: Grace abounding mercies in Thee.

Call His Name, blessings reign. Jesus saves: He sets you free.

In His Name, victory reigns. Jesus saves; He's all you need.

There's no name that means the same. Jesus saves. He is the key.

## Angels of Yours



An angel came by my way one day, Lord. an angel of Yours.

An angel spoke to me one night, Lord. an angel of Yours.

An angel woke me out of a dream, Lord. an angel of Yours.

An angel shined a light for me, Lord. an angel of Yours.

An angel showed me glorious things, Lord. an angel of Yours.

An angel saved my life, Lord. an angel of Yours.

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Hebrews 1:14 (KJV)

## Looking out Life's Window



Time is passing ...
The past keeps flashing.
Season's changing, rearranging.
Summer's a remembrance;
winter's approaching, soon to pass.
Time stands still for no man.
Season's greetings never last.
Where have all the flowers gone?
Should we think about their pasting;
when their presence never last?
Will we live to see their coming again?
Just where do we fit in, or where do we belong?
A long time has passed, and now it's all gone ...

# Wake Up!



Wake up!
You drinkers of iniquity,
the time is winding up.
Remove from your mouths your sin-filled cups.

Your enemy has invaded your land, deceiving you by the fellowship of your own right hand. With power and in many numbers, your adversary (the devil) has come to attack you in your slumber.

Ruin your houses and lay waste your land, to later return to destroy you (the man). He has come to steal your strength and to kill all your "Spiritual Gifts."

But you are being transformed into an instrument of Righteousness, built for the tearing down of strongholds that stand in your way. Made with many threshing teeth, in God through Christ, you'll devour every mountain, you will have to face each day ...

# Hold to These Things



Hold to these things, hold to these things.

Did the Lord not say; to you, that you should lack no good thing? Hold to these things, with all your hopes and dreams. Let your soul cry out in prayer; to the Lord with these things. Hold to these things, just believe and you will see. Because he loves me, says the Lord, I will show them mighty things. Hold to these things, saints.

Every promised 'Word of God'.

#### I'm a Woman



I'm a woman; I'm a queen.
I'm the daughter of the King of kings.
Watch my arrayed style:
I light up the room when I smile.
I'm clothed in garments of Salvation, from head to toe.
Draped in a "Robe of Righteousness," when I walk, I flow.
I thought you all knew, but as I see, you have no clue.
I'm a woman; I'm a queen,
I'm a daughter of the King of kings.

## Just for Us



It was just for us that You gave up Your life. It was just for us that You paid "sin's" price. It was just for us that You became God's "Master Plan." It was just for us that You were born, Son of God, and Man. It was just for us, who just couldn't comprehend, that You were the plan of the "Great I Am".

#### God's Warriors



**W**e are not fighting people made of flesh and blood but against wicked spirits in the spirit world. We fight for the privilege of a free spiritual life.

#### **Before Battle:**

We buckle the belt of truth around our waist and use Righteousness as our breastplate. We put on our shoes fitted to preach the Good News of the Gospel of Peace. So when the enemy comes in like a flood, we can stand firm covered in Jesus' blood.

#### In Battle:

We hold up our faith shield to extinguish the enemy's fiery spears.

We are safe because salvation is our helmet; fearless and strong because God's Word is our sword. Now with the whole armor of God in place, we stand and pray, Lord lead us all the way.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)

#### Christ for the World



**C**hrist in the world we need. The truth to the world He brings. With heartfelt compassion for the widows and the poor, He shows mercy to all that mourn.

Christ for the world we need.
We the light of the world and salt of the earth; crown Him King of kings.
With salvation and unconditional love,
He gives hope to those that are lost.

Christ for the world we need.
As we work on one accord,
the truth is our reward.
We share with this world
the reproach He wore.
For the cross He bore,
we proclaim Him Lord of lords ...

#### God's Last Chance



 $N_{
m ow}$  choose today, mercy's giving her last hand.

Will you die, without God's last chance?

When His wrath comes, Grace will be gone.

To hope will be all, should compassion be none.

Then poured out on earth is God's judgment done.

Could you be lost, without realizing the cost?

Now choose today. Grace's giving her last hand.

Will you die, without God's last chance?

#### Don't Wait Too Late



**I** hear a voice each day, whether east- or westbound, saying, "Look and go this way, don't close your eyes and be blind. Let the light in you shine, so that all who are blind. might see through your eyes: The gift of life Eternally through Jesus Christ. Don't turn and walk away, because the road seems so tough. And the other road you see seems like a shorter, walk. You've got to pick up your cross, and follow Jesus at any cost. Then lift Him up, so that the world may not be lost. Please hear what I say; it's for your own life's sake. Don't let time run out on you. Don't wait too late. The trumpets are going to sound, and in the twinkling of an eye: The Son of God is coming on the clouds."

Isaiah 30:21 (KJV)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

## Prayer Of Forgiveness

Lord, I've been living my life my own way.

Now I want to live it Your Way.

I believe that You are the Son of God;
born of a virgin.

I believe that You died for my sins and rose from the dead, for my justification.

Come into my heart and be Lord of my life:

Please, forgive me of my sins and teach me Your Ways, so that I will not sin against You.

Lord, help me to be everything,
You created me to be.

"In Jesus Name", Amen.

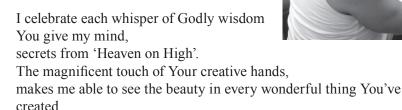
<sup>15</sup> choose you this day whom ye will serve; **Joshua 24:15b (KJV)** 

## Jesus Christ Is Your Name



**T**he reconciliation power in Your resurrection, bought me back from death to life.

The depths of Your love turned my darkness into light.
When I asked for Your Salvation, 'Your Spirit' restored me, and once again You made me Your child.



For You give charge over my down settings, and my uprisings. You are everything, and Your eyes are everywhere, watching over me to safeguard my path, all the days of my life.

And as I enter into Your rest: I'll lay my pen down before 'Your Throne in Eternity', and tell the story of 'Your Glory'. All my love, honor, and praise, is due.

To the One who was crucified, and rose up, from the grave. To the only One able to save, from the gutter-most to the uttermost:
Righteous in all 'Your Ways', 'Jesus Christ is Your Name'.

*Poems, Praises, Prayers, Promises* presents a Christian poetry tool of evangelism that you can use again and again as a treasured gift of inspiration for finding God's purpose for you.

Before the world was made, before all things created were framed, every one of us was equipped with talents. But in order for us to discover just what we were created for, we must consult our Creator. He is the key that unlocks the treasures of talents deep down inside of us all. Our only responsibility is to perfect and use our talents.

*Poems, Praises, Prayers, Promises* is a compilation of three decades of writings in which I share a host of modern-day praises, psalms, and hymns. Each poem is a reflection of my experience while encountering people, places and things.

This book was written to evangelize everyone, from the lost to the child of God and the theologian. We all have someone in our lives that we can share something in this book with.



**LESLYN RICHARD** is a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and a member of New Testament Church of Milwaukee. She has been involved in youth ministries for over twenty-five years in her hometown. She has appeared on local television programs and hosted a gospel video program for two years. Leslyn Richard was featured at the Milwaukee Summer Fest four years in a row.



