IN THE HOUR OF TRIAL

Hymn Devotion – February 6

Scripture – Hebrews 2:14-15

Revelation 3:10

In the hour of trial, Jesus, plead for me,   
Lest by base denial I depart from Thee.  
When Thou seest me waver, with a look recall,   
Nor for fear or favor suffer me to fall.

With forbidden pleasures would this vain world charm,   
Or its sordid treasures spread to work me harm,   
Bring to my remembrance sad Gethsemane,   
Or, in darker semblance, cross-crowned Calvary.

Should Thy mercy send me sorrow, toil and woe,  
Or should pain attend me on my path below,  
Grant that I may never fail Thy hand to see;  
Grant that I may ever cast my care on Thee.

When my last hour cometh, fraught with strife and pain,   
When my dust returneth to the dust again,   
On Thy truth relying, through that mortal strife,   
Jesus, take me, dying, to eternal life.

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Altered by Frances A. Hutton (1811-1877)

Whatever befalls us in this mortal life, if pleasures and treasures compete for our attention may we remember Gethsemane and the cross-crowned Calvary. Even if sorrow, toil, woe and pain plague us may we always see His hand and cast our cares on Him. Right down to our last hour filled with strife and pain, as our dust returns to dust may we rely on His truth through all this mortal strife and Jesus takes us dying to eternal life. No matter what our fate may we rely on Jesus totally.

1. What hour do we want Jesus to plead for us?
2. What could cause us to depart from Jesus?
3. What does Jesus see us do?
4. Nor for \_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ suffer (allow) us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Verse 2: How are the pleasures of this vain world described?
6. How are the treasures of this world described?
7. What two things do we want brought back to memory?
8. Verse 3: What all might come our way on this path below?
9. What two things do we want to be granted?
10. Verse 4: What may our last hour be like?
11. What will return to what?
12. What must we rely on?
13. What through?
14. What is our last request?

SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, ARISE

Hymn Devotion – February 7

Scripture – Ephesians 6:10-13

Soldiers of Christ, arise,

And put your armor on,  
Strong in the strength which God supplies Through His eternal Son;  
Strong in the Lord of hosts,

And in His mighty power,  
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts

Is more than conqueror.

Stand then in His great might,

With all His strength endued,  
But take, to arm you for the fight,

The panoply of God:  
That, having all things done,

And all your conflicts passed,  
Ye may o’ercome through Christ alone

And stand entire at last.

From strength to strength go on,

Wrestle and fight and pray;  
Tread all the powers of darkness down,

And win the well fought day.  
Still let the Spirit cry,

In all His soldiers, “Come!”  
Till Christ the Lord descends from high

And takes the conquerors home.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Many Christians even today face physical battles to be followers of Christ. In America yet in 2011 we are not persecuted as many around the world but there are still real spiritual battles to fight every day – mental battles, greed and idols. We need the full armor of God in place every day, including studying God’s Word and prayer.

1. What should the soldiers of Christ do and put on what?
2. Where and through whom do we get our strength?
3. Who are we strong in and how are we strong?
4. What will we be more than if we trust in Jesus’ strength?
5. Verse 2: Endued is to be clothed. If we are clothed in His strength how then can we stand?
6. Panoply is the complete armor. How will we stand entire – complete at last?
7. Verse 3: How can we go on?
8. What three things are we to do?
9. What are we to do to the powers of darkness?
10. When that is done what will be won?
11. What will still cry?
12. A definition of come is MOVE! God is saying to all His soldiers “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!”
13. Until Christ descends and does what?

WE GIVE IMMORTAL PRAISE

Hymn Devotion – February 8

Scripture – I Timothy 6:15-16

Psalm 34:1

We give immortal praise  
To God the Father’s love,  
For all our comforts here,  
And better hopes above;  
He sent His own eternal Son,  
To die for sins that man had done.

To God the Son belongs  
Immortal glory too,  
Who bought us with His blood  
From everlasting woe:  
And now He lives, and now He reigns,  
And sees the fruit of all His pains.

To God the Spirit’s name  
Immortal worship give,  
Whose new-creating power  
Makes the dead sinner live;  
His work completes the great design,  
And fills the soul with joy divine.

Almighty God, to Thee  
Be endless honors done,  
The undivided Three,  
And the mysterious One:  
Where reason fails, with all her powers,  
There faith prevails, and love adores.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Here we have everlasting praise to God the Father’s love, everlasting glory to the Son for with His blood He bought us. To the Spirit we give everlasting worship for in the Spirit is eternal life. To understand the mystery of God the three in One we must let reason fail and faith prevail!

1. To Whom do we give praise: List all three.
2. Who was sent?
3. What did He do?
4. Verse 2: What belongs to God the Son?
5. What did He do?
6. To save us from what?
7. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. As He does this - What is He seeing?
2. Verse 3: What is given to the Spirit?
3. What kind of power does the Spirit have?
4. What does this power do? List all.
5. Verse 4: To Almighty God what should be done?
6. God is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. In God the power of reason

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, faith \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

And love \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

Hymn Devotion – February 9

Scripture – Isaiah 43:1-3

Hebrews 13:5

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I’ll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;  
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.

“K” in Rippon’s A Selection of Hymns, 1787

If we have a firm foundation of faith, based on the Word of God, then no matter what we go through God will never desert us. We may be “refined” a few times but His grace is all-sufficient to see us through.

1. What are Christians called here?
2. Where is the firm foundation of faith laid?
3. Is there anymore that can be said?
4. Where have Christians fled?
5. Verse 2: Dismayed is to be discouraged or depressed. What is the first line telling us?
6. For I am thy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I will still

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. What three things will God do?
2. A synonym of righteous is just. Omnipotent means having great or absolute power. Using these ideas – How are we held up?
3. Verse 3: What are we called at times to go through?
4. We will not overflowed by?
5. Bless is to make happy or successful. How will God bring us through our troubles?
6. Sanctify is to set apart. What does God say He will do for us in our deepest distress?
7. Verse 4: What will be in our pathway?

What is all-sufficient?

1. The flame here is the trials meant to refine our lives. Dross is the impurities in our lives. Once the impurities are out of our lives – What is left? Meaning?
2. Verse 5: A soul that leans on Jesus – Will not be deserted to whom?
3. What may try to shake our soul?
4. Who will never forsake?

NEAR TO THE HEART OF GOD

Hymn Devotion – February 10

Scripture – Psalm 46:1, 10-11

Isaiah 40:11

There is a place of quiet rest,  
Near to the heart of God.  
A place where sin cannot molest,  
Near to the heart of God.

*Refrain*

*O Jesus, blest Redeemer,  
Sent from the heart of God,  
Hold us who wait before Thee  
Near to the heart of God.*

There is a place of comfort sweet,  
Near to the heart of God.  
A place where we our Savior meet,  
Near to the heart of God.

*Refrain*

There is a place of full release,  
Near to the heart of God.  
A place where all is joy and peace,  
Near to the heart of God.

*Refrain*

Celand Boyd McAfee (1866-1944)

When we become concerned about what it means to be successful in this life – striving to be near to the heart of God is success. We are concerned about clothes, food, health, happiness etc. Matthew 6:33 says “Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” Seek to be near to the heart of God and He will take care of the rest – providing in one way or another.

1. Write the “There is a place” phrases for the whole hymn:
2. Where is that place?
3. List all the “A place” phrases for the whole hymn:
4. Where is that place?
5. The Chorus: Who is the blest redeemer?
6. Where is He sent from?
7. What is asked for those who wait before God?
8. Where will this happen?