FEAR NOT, O LITTLE FLOCK

Hymn Devotion -January 11

Scripture: Romans 8:35-37

Revelation 2:10

Fear not, O little flock, the foe  
Who madly seeks your overthrow;   
Dread not his rage and power;   
What though your courage sometimes faints,   
His seeming triumph o’er God’s saints  
Lasts but a little hour.

Be of good cheer; your cause belongs  
To Him who can avenge your wrongs;   
Leave it to Him our Lord.  
Though hidden yet from all our eyes,   
He sees the Gideon who shall rise;   
To save us, and His word.

As true as God’s own word is true,   
Not earth nor hell with all their crew  
Against us shall prevail.  
A jest and by-word are they grown;   
God is with us, we are His own,   
Our victory cannot fail.

Amen, Lord Jesus, grant our prayer!  
Great Captain, now Thine arm make bare;   
Fight for us once again.  
So shall thy saints and martyrs raise  
A mighty chorus to Thy praise,   
World without end.

Johann Michael Altenberg (1590-1650)

Translated by

Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Our foe is ever out there seeking to overthrow us individually and as a group, shedding doubt from if there is a God to if His Word is true and right. Planting doubt to if the cause of Christ is really worth the fight and sacrifice. To those of us who KNOW that God’s Word is true, His way is right and an eternity of peace in his presence is well worth the daily battle.

1. Christians are more and more the “little flock”. With that in mind - Who is our foe?

2. What does our foe madly seek?

With what?

3. What happens to our courage?

4. If the foe ever really triumphs over God’s saints - How long does that victory last?

5. Verse 2: Why can we be of “good cheer”?

6. What are we to do?

7. What is hidden from our eyes?

8. Read about Gideon in Judges chapters 6-7: Why is Gideon used as an example of the one who shall rise?

9. What will this “Gideon” do?

10. Verse 3: What word describes God’s own Word?

11. Who shall not prevail against God’s people?

12. What is suggested by a jest and byword?

13. Why will our victory not fail?

14. Verse 4: Amen - So be it – What is the Amen for?

15. What is a more modern statement for making ones arm bare?

16. What is the request?

17. Who shall raise a mighty chorus?

18. Sing whose praise?

To what “end”?

GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH

Hymn Devotion - January 12

Scripture- Isaiah 58:11, NRSV

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
[*or* Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer…]  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.  
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of deaths, and hell’s destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan’s side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.

William Williams (1717-1791)

Translators Peter Williams and author

With our Great God guiding us through life we should have no anxious fears of crossing over from this life to the next. Hell’s destruction will not be a concern. His Word, comfort, and love should see us safely to the other side for all eternity.

1. Jehovah is the Hebrew word for God in the Old Testament. As a Pilgrim, a person on life’s journey, Who would be the one to guide?

2. What is the comparison between us and God?

3. How do we want to be held?

4. “Bread of heaven” List some different thoughts on who and what this bread is and does:

5. In this life do we ever “want (or need) no more”?

6. Verse 2: The “Crystal fountain and healing stream” who and what do these refer to? (Answers may vary)

7. Who were lead by the fire and cloud?

8. How long were they and are we lead?

9. Their strong deliverer is also ours, What is He also to us?

10. Verse 3: What is near on the “verge” of Jordan?

11. With Jehovah as our guide what about the verge of Jordan will subside?

12. What is meant by “Death of deaths”?

13. How would you describe “Hell’s destruction”?

14. What did “Canaan’s side” mean to the Israelites? What does it mean to Christians?

15. What should we be ever giving to God?

I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

Hymn Devotion -January 13

Scripture- Psalm 86:1-4

Hebrews 4:16

I need Thee every hour,

Most gracious Lord;  
No tender voice like Thine

Can peace afford.

*Refrain*

*I need Thee, O I need Thee;  
Every hour I need Thee;  
O bless me now, my Savior,  
I come to Thee.*

I need Thee every hour,

Stay Thou nearby;  
Temptations lose their power

When Thou art nigh.

*Refrain*

I need Thee every hour,

In joy or pain;  
Come quickly and abide,

Or life is in vain.

*Refrain*

I need Thee every hour;

Teach me Thy will;  
And Thy rich promises

In me fulfill.

*Refrain*

Annie Sherwood Hawks (1835-1918)

Robert Lowry (1826-1899), refrain

Every hour of everyday we need God, we require His love, care, guidance and blessing. We are His and when we learn His will, His rich promises will be ours to receive. Call on Him this very hour.

1. A definition of need is require. What is a requirement every hour?

2. List the description of the Lord.

3. What would be given up without the tender voice of the Lord?

4. Verse 2: How often is the Lord needed?

5. Where do we need Jesus?

6. What loses power when Christ is nigh?

7. Verse 3: Who requires God every hour?

Think of ways -

8. In what circumstances do we need God?

9. What is the timing of His arrival?

10. One definition of abide is to dwell. What should be the duration of His stay?

11. What would be the meaning of life without Christ?

12. Verse 4: How many hours is God needed?

13. What is the request to learn?

14. If these items are fulfilled in us, what is our part?

15. The Refrain: What line is repeated? Why?

16. What is asked of the Savior?

17. What has to happen before #16 can be achieved?

IT IS GOOD TO SING THY PRAISES

Hymn Devotion -January 14

Scripture – Psalm 92:1-4

It is good to sing Thy praises and to thank Thee, O Most High,  
Showing forth Thy lovingkindness when the morning lights the sky.  
It is good when night is falling of Thy faithfulness to tell,  
While with sweet, melodious praises, songs of adoration swell.

Thou hast filled my heart with gladness through the works Thy hands have wrought;  
Thou hast made my life victorious, great Thy works and deep Thy thought.  
Thou, O Lord, on high exalted, reignest evermore in might;  
All Thy enemies shall perish, sin be banished from Thy sight.

But the good shall live before Thee, planted in Thy dwelling place.  
Fruitful trees and ever verdant, nourished by Thy boundless grace.  
In His goodness to the righteous God His righteousness displays;  
God my rock, my strength and refuge, just and true are all His ways.

The Psalter, 1912

Singing praises fill our hearts with gladness but also we are reminded of the greatness of God, through creation and how He is righteous and faithful to us in the morning light and in the falling of the night. Praise His Name.

1. What is it good to do?

2. What two times are praises sang?

3. What does the morning sky show forth?

4. The night praises tell of God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

5. How are the praises described?

6. Verse 2: The heart is filled with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

7. What has His hands wrought?

8. Thou hast made my life \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, great \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ deep Thy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

9. How is God exalted?

10. In the mighty God’s reign what will happen to His enemies and sin?

11. Verse 3: The “Good” in singing praises is different than the “Good” that lives before God - this “good” is desired qualities- Does God ever work other than in the realm of “desired qualities”?

12. Where is good planted?

13. Verdant means green, fresh-colored. How is the good described?

14. How is good nourished?

15. How is God to the righteous?

16. What is displayed?

17. List the description of God and His ways:

LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL

Hymn Devotion –January 15

Scripture – Isaiah 6:1-3

Jeremiah 10:10

Lead on, O King eternal,  
The day of march has come;  
Henceforth in fields of conquest  
Thy tents shall be our home.  
Through days of preparation  
Thy grace has made us strong;  
And now, O King eternal,  
We lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal,  
Till sin’s fierce war shall cease,  
And holiness shall whisper  
The sweet amen of peace.  
For not with swords’ loud clashing,  
Nor roll of stirring drums;  
With deeds of love and mercy  
The heav’nly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal,  
We follow, not with fears,  
For gladness breaks like morning  
Where’er Thy face appears.  
Thy cross is lifted over us,  
We journey in its light;  
The crown awaits the conquest;  
Lead on, O God of might.

Ernest Warburton Shurtleff (1862-1917)

We can follow God with courage in the field of conquest - in this world of sin and hate because we have an eternal King, a God of might.

1. Who is the eternal King?

2. What are we asking Him to do?

3. What “day” is the day of march?

4. Henceforth means from this time onward. What are the “fields of conquest”?

5. “Thy tents” are these actual structures?

6. The days of preparation for the author was seminary but those who are not prepared in such a way and even for them as well - What are our days of preparation?

7. What makes us strong?

8. When is now?

9. What is the battle?

10. Verse 2: How long do we want Him to lead on?

11. What will whisper the sweet amen of peace?

12. What is not the heavenly kingdom?

13. What is the heavenly kingdom?

14. Verse 3: How do we follow?

15. How does gladness break?

16. Where what appears?

17. We are under what?

18. We journey in the light of what?

19. What awaits after the conquest?

20. God is not only eternal but also a God of what?