IN HEAVENLY LOVE ABIDING

Hymn Devotion - January 21

Scripture – Isaiah 40:10-11

 John 15:10

In heavenly love abiding,

No change my heart shall fear.
And safe in such confiding,

For nothing changes here.
The storm may roar without me,

My heart may low be laid,
But God is round about me,

And can I be dismayed?

Wherever He may guide me,

No want shall turn me back.
My Shepherd is beside me,

And nothing can I lack.
His wisdom ever waking,

His sight is never dim.
He knows the way He’s taking,

And I will walk with Him.

Green pastures are before me,

Which yet I have not seen.
Bright skies will soon be over me,

Where darkest clouds have been.
My hope I cannot measure,

My path to life is free.
My Savior has my treasure,

And He will walk with me.

Anna Laetitia Waring (1823-1910)

 As we know life is ever changing but we need not despair because if we believe in God, He will walk with us, free us from sin, guide us through this life and into eternal life.

1. The definition of abiding is enduring; permanent. Heavenly love is like that so what shall our hearts not fear?

2. A meaning of confide or confiding is to have trust or confidence in. What can we have confidence in?

Where does nothing change?

3. What can happen to us?

4. Dismayed is to be reduced to despair. Why will we not be reduced to despair?

5. Verse 2: We shall not be turned back because of want because He is our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. We will lack nothing because who is beside us?

7. What is ever awake?

8. What is never dim?

9. Why would we walk with Him?

10. Verse 3: What is before us?

11. Do we know the way?

12. After darkest clouds comes what?

13. Can we measure hope?

14. How is our path to life free?

15. What is the treasure the Savior has for us?

16. How can we be confident that He will walk with us?

GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY

Hymn Devotion -January 22

Scripture – Exodus 34:5-7

 John 13:7

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs
And works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

William Cowper (1731-1800)

 God does move in mysterious ways and we don’t always understand why but we know that He works only for the good of those who believe in Him. Don’t just take anything or everything at face value but study and learn the ways of the Lord.

1. To be mysterious is to be in secret. God often “moves” in ways we do not understand but what does He perform?

2. What does planting footsteps and riding a storm imply what God like?

3. Verse 2: Where does God treasure up His bright designs?

4. What does He work?

5. Verse 3: What are saints like?

6. What kind of courage can we take?

7. What will come of the clouds we dread?

8. Verse 4: What is the kind of sense that humans judge the Lord?

9. What must we trust Him for?

10. What could a “frowning providence” be?

11. What is behind any frowning providence?

12. Verse 5: How might things change?

13. What kind of situation may have a “bitter bud”?

14. What will be sweet?

15. Verse 6: Blind unbelief is as sure to err as blind belief. If we only scan His work or His word how will it be?

16. But if we study His word and He will be His own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

17. If we really look how will His will be made?

GREAT GOD OF WONDERS

Hymn Devotion - January 23

Scripture – Micah 7:18-19

 Psalm 89:5

Great God of wonders! All Thy ways
Are matchless, Godlike and divine;
But the fair glories of Thy grace
More Godlike and unrivaled shine,
More Godlike and unrivaled shine.

In wonder lost, with trembling joy,
We take the pardon of our God:
Pardon for crimes of deepest dye,
A pardon bought with Jesus’ blood,
A pardon bought with Jesus’ blood.

O may this strange, this matchless grace,
This Godlike miracle of love,
Fill the whole earth with grateful praise,
And all th’angelic choirs above,
And all th’angelic choirs above.

Refrain:

Who is a pardoning God like Thee?
Or who has grace so rich and free?
Or who has grace so rich and free?

Samuel Davies (1723-1761)

 When we realize how our pardon was bought, with the blood of Christ we know there is no other love, grace or god that has given his or her life to pardon our sins and our only response is grateful praise for all eternity.

1. Great God of wonders - List what Thy ways are:

2. Thy grace has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. This grace is more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Verse 2: How do we take the pardon of our God?

5. What would be “crimes of deepest dye”?

6. How is this pardon bought?

7. Verse 3: How is grace described here?

8. What kind of love?

9. How should we respond?

10. A long with whom?

11. Chorus: Can any other “god” pardon like God?

Why not?

12. How is grace described here?

JESUS, I AM RESTING, RESTING

Hymn Devotion -January 24

Scripture – Hebrews 4:9-10

Jesus, I am resting, resting,
In the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness
Of Thy loving heart.
Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee,
And Thy beauty fills my soul,
For by Thy transforming power,
Thou hast made me whole.

*Refrain*

*Jesus, I am resting, resting,
In the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness
Of Thy loving heart.*

O, how great Thy loving kindness,
Vaster, broader than the sea!
O, how marvelous Thy goodness,
Lavished all on me!
Yes, I rest in Thee, Belovèd,
Know what wealth of grace is Thine,
Know Thy certainty of promise,
And have made it mine.

*Refrain*

Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
I behold Thee as Thou art,
And Thy love, so pure, so changeless,
Satisfies my heart;
Satisfies its deepest longings,
Meets, supplies its every need,
Compasseth me round with blessings:
Thine is love indeed!

*Refrain*

Ever lift Thy face upon me
As I work and wait for Thee;
Resting ’neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus,
Earth’s dark shadows flee.
Brightness of my Father’s glory,
Sunshine of my Father’s face,
Keep me ever trusting, resting,
Fill me with Thy grace.

*Refrain*

Jean Sophia Pigott (1845-1882)

 If we believe in Jesus we are supported by his love and grace and can trust in Him completely as we work and wait for whatever He has in store for us.

1. Rest or resting has many meanings the one that fits best here is supported by – we must never be asleep in Jesus. What are we resting in and finding out about the loving heart of Jesus?
2. What is the “beauty” of Jesus?
3. What makes us whole?
4. Verse 2: How great is His loving kindness?
5. What is lavished on us?
6. How is Jesus described?
7. What two things can we make our own by believing?
8. Verse 3: How can we behold Jesus as He is?
9. What two descriptions of love satisfy the heart?
10. What are the “its” in the next two lines?
11. “Rewrite” those two lines substituting what “its” stands for.
12. A synonym for compasseth could be surround – When we are surrounded by God’s blessings this is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ indeed!
13. Verse 4: What could it mean to lift His face upon us?
14. What are we doing through time?
15. Here resting could be an interval of silence where under Jesus’ smile what flees?
16. What keeps us trusting and resting, filled with His grace?
17. Chorus: If we were to substitute two synonyms for resting – supported or relying – “Rewrite” using these words for resting.
18. When will we know the complete greatness of the heart of Jesus?

O GOD OF BETHEL

Hymn Devotion -January 25

Scripture – Psalm 121:1-4

O God of Bethel, by whose hand
Thy people still are fed,
Who through this weary pilgrimage
Hast all our fathers led.

Our vows, our prayers, we now present
Before Thy throne of grace;
God of our fathers, be the God
Of their succeeding race.

Through each perplexing path of life
Our wandering footsteps guide;
Give us each day our daily bread,
And raiment fit provide.

O spread Thy covering wings around
Till all our wanderings cease,
And at our Father’s loved abode
Our souls arrive in peace.

Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

 The God of Abraham and Jacob at Bethel in Genesis is still the God that leads this succeeding race. He is the same yesterday, today and will be the same tomorrow. What a comfort to know who guides our wandering feet down this perplexing path of life. Praise the Lord!

1. Bethel means House of God. Both Abraham and Jacob worshipped there. By whose hand are the people still fed?

2. Not only now but when has God led?

3. Verse 2: What are we presenting as we pray?

 Where?

4. God was the God of whom?

5. Also asking to be the God of whom?

6. Verse 3: What are the paths of life often like?

7. What kind of footsteps need His guide?

8. What two things are asked for?

9. Verse 4: What is being asked for when “Thy covering wings” are asked to be around us?

10. Until when?

11. Where is “Our Father’s loved abode”?

12. How will our souls arrive?