CLOSE TO THEE

Hymn Devotion -June 16

Scripture - Hebrews 10:21-22.

Thou my everlasting portion,

More than friend or life to me,   
All along my pilgrim journey,

Savior, let me walk with Thee.  
Close to Thee, close to Thee,

Close to Thee, close to Thee,   
All along my pilgrim journey,

Savior, let me walk with Thee.

Not for ease or worldly pleasure,

Nor for fame my prayer shall be;   
Gladly will I toil and suffer,

Only let me walk with Thee.  
Close to Thee, close to Thee,

Close to Thee, close to Thee,   
Gladly will I toil and suffer,

Only let me walk with Thee.

Lead me through the vale of shadows,

Bear me over life’s fitful sea;   
Then the gate of life eternal

May I enter, Lord, with Thee.  
Close to Thee, close to Thee,

Close to Thee, close to Thee,   
Then the gate of life eternal

May I enter, Lord, with Thee.

Fanny Jane Crosby (1820-1915)

Our desire should be not for ease, worldly pleasure or fame but to toil and suffer if need be and that Jesus is more than just a friend and even mean more than life to us. To strive to be close to Him, to walk with Him and to be lead by Him though this fitful sea we call life and then through death to enter the gate of heaven to eternal life, to enter with the Lord and be with Him throughout eternity.

May this hymn be our prayer today - O Lord, may we always be close to Thee.

1. A definition of portion is one’s destiny or lot.

What is God to us?

2. What should He be more to us than?

3. How is our journey described?

4. What are we asking the Savior to allow us to do?

5. Where do we want to be?

6. Verse 2: What are we not asking for?

7. What is our prayer not for?

8. What will we gladly do?

9. What do we want to be allowed to do?

10. Verse 3: Where do we want Him to lead us through?

11. How is life described?

12. What is the step after life?

13. Who do we want to enter with?

14. What is the main theme throughout this hymn?

O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED

Hymn Devotion -June 17

Scripture - Hebrews 6:10-12.

O Jesus, I have promised

To serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me,

My Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle

If Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway

If Thou wilt be my Guide.

O let me feel Thee near me!

The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,

The tempting sounds I hear;  
My foes are ever near me,

Around me and within;  
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer,

And shield my soul from sin.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised

To all who follow Thee  
That where Thou art in glory,

There shall Thy servant be.  
And Jesus, I have promised

To serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,

My Master and my Friend.

John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)

If anyone does not know Jesus as their Savior and has not promised to serve Him until the end - today is the day - life is very short we have no assurance past this moment - He will be with us, He has prepared a place for those who believe to be with Him for all eternity - Trust in Him today!!

1. To promise is to assure that we will undertake a certain action.

Who have we promised?

2. What have we promised?

3. What are we asking of the Lord? (List all three)

4. Why will we not fear the battle?

5. What will not happen if Jesus is our guide?

6. Verse 2: Why do we need to have Jesus near us?

7. In the next two lines what are the temptations?

8. Where are the foes?

9. What are we asking Jesus to do?

10. Verse 3: What has Jesus promised to all who follow Him?

11. What have we promised?

12. What are we asking of our Master and our Friend?

GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

Hymn Devotion - June 18

Scripture - Joshua 1:7-9.

God of grace and God of glory,  
On Thy people pour Thy power.  
Crown Thine ancient Church’s story,  
Bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil ’round us,  
Scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways.  
From the fears that long have bound us,  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

Cure Thy children’s warring madness,  
Bend our pride to Thy control.  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Lest we miss Thy kingdom’s goal,  
Lest we miss Thy kingdom’s goal.

Set our feet on lofty places,  
Gird our lives that they may be,  
Armored with all Christ like graces,  
In the fight to set men free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
That we fail not man nor Thee,  
That we fail not man nor Thee.

Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969)

This hymn by was written for the dedication of the Riverside Church in New York in 1930.

In these days of the “me” only attitude may our pride is bent to God’s control giving us the wisdom and courage to live and be the people that He would want us to be!

1. How is God described?

2. What is asked to be poured and on whom?

3. A definition of crown is to fulfill.

What is asked to crown here?

By doing what?

4. What are we asking to be granted?

5. What for?

6. Verse 2: A definition of lo is to call attention to an amazing sight.

What is the “Lo!” phrase?

7. What do these hosts of evil do?

8. What have bound us?

9. What do we want freed?

To do what?

10. What do we want wisdom and courage for?

11. Verse 3: What is asked to be cured?

12. What needs to be bent?

13. A definition of wanton is immoral person.

What should be put to shame?

14. What are the rich and poor in this statement?

15. What do we need wisdom and courage against?

16. Verse 4: Where do we want our feet set?

17. What needs to be done to our lives?

18. What is the armor?

19. What is the fight?

20. What is the wisdom and courage needed for here?

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

Hymn Devotion -June 19

Scripture - Hebrews 12:1-2.

Faith of our fathers, living still,  
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;  
O how our hearts beat high with joy  
Whenever we hear that glorious word!

Refrain

*Faith of our fathers, holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death.*

Faith of our fathers, we will strive  
To win all nations unto Thee;  
And through the truth that comes from God,  
We all shall then be truly free.

Refrain

Faith of our fathers, we will love  
Both friend and foe in all our strife;  
And preach Thee, too, as love knows how  
By kindly words and virtuous life.

Fredrick William Faber (1813-1863)

The author of this hymn was Anglican (Church of England) then changed to Catholic so he was talking more of the Saints and martyrs who had given their lives for their faith - we have a whole chapter in Hebrews 11 - the Hall of Faith - dedicated to the faithful people of our past - those that are good examples for us to look up to.

Faith is not easy and it doesn’t come cheap if we truly give ourselves over to God, having a holy faith and are true, loyal to God, true to the faith we have in God until we die.

1. Faith is confidence in God and not oneself.

Whose faith are we talking about?

2. They are living still in spite of what?

3. How do our hearts react?

4. What are we hearing?

5. Verse 2: Through the faith of our fathers - What will we strive to do?

6. What comes from God?

7. What shall this make mankind?

8. Verse 3: Who will we love?

9. How will faith be conveyed?

10. How will it be preached?

11. By \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

12. The Chorus: Who is faithful?

13. What kind of faith are we talking about here?

14. What are we going to be true to until death?

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

Hymn Devotion- June 20

Scripture - Ephesians 6:18.

I Thessalonians 5:17

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
That calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Father’s throne  
Make all my wants and wishes known.  
In seasons of distress and grief,  
My soul has often found relief  
And oft escaped the tempter’s snare  
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
Thy wings shall my petition bear  
To Him whose truth and faithfulness  
Engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since He bids me seek His face,  
Believe His Word and trust His grace,  
I’ll cast on Him my every care,  
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
May I thy consolation share,  
Till, from Mount Pisgah’s lofty height,  
I view my home and take my flight:  
This robe of flesh I’ll drop and rise  
To seize the everlasting prize;  
And shout, while passing through the air,  
“Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!”

William W. Walford (1772-1850)

Every prayer time whether a sweet hour or a sweet second is so important, we can get comfort, relief from our distress and grief, we can be saved from temptation becoming sin, and we know that He is truth and faithfulness. If we open up our soul and participate in prayer, the waiting soul will be blessed.

1. How is the time we spend in prayer described?

2. What does this prayer time call us from?

3. Where are we invited to be?

4. What are we making known?

5. When have our souls found relief?

6. How do we often escape the tempters snare?

7. Verse 2: How are our partitions taken?

8. How are our souls blessed?

9. List all that He invites us to do:

10. What do we have the confidence to do?

11. What then do we need to do?

12. Verse 3: Consolation means comfort, console as in reassure, calm, relieve etc.

What does a sweet hour or time of prayer do?

13. What will we do from a lofty height?

14. What will we drop?

15. What will we seize?

16. What will we shout while passing through the air?