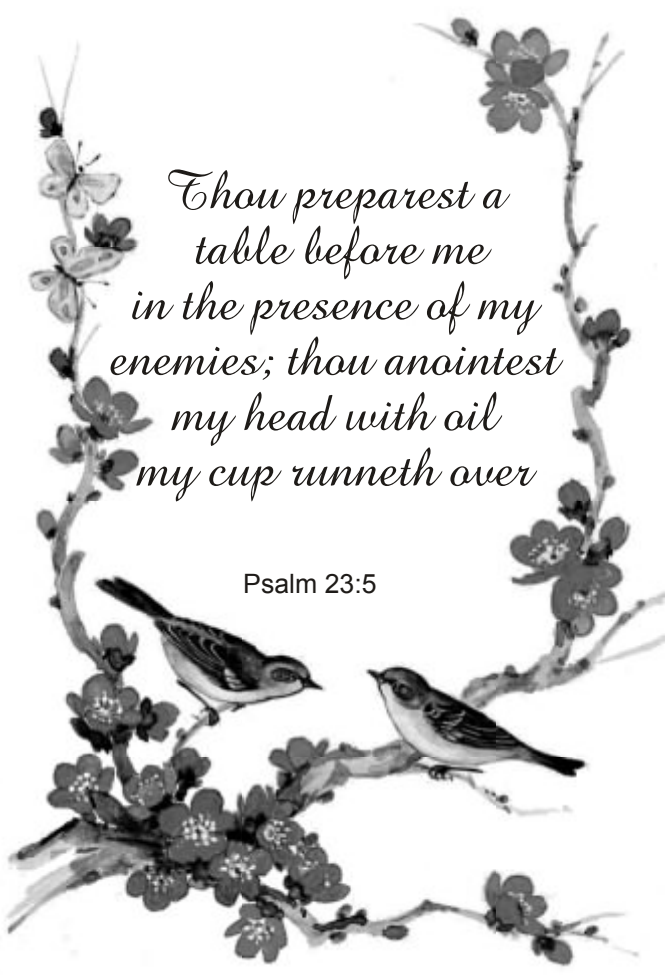


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# *My Cup Runneth Over*



A decorative wreath made of flowering branches, possibly cherry blossoms, with several butterflies fluttering around it. At the bottom of the wreath, two small birds are perched on a branch, facing each other.

*Thou preparest a  
table before me  
in the presence of my  
enemies; thou anointest  
my head with oil  
my cup runneth over*

Psalm 23:5

## *Countin' My Blessings*

When I count up my blessings  
and see all the stuff I've got  
They far outweigh my problems  
and things that I have not.  
I find that God is awfully good  
in looking after me  
And even overflows my cup  
when I'm tired as can be.



When I think of all my problems  
and count 'em one by one  
I make myself feel miserable  
because of what I've done.  
My attitude comes from my heart  
and it is mine to choose  
If I will keep a happy heart  
or if I'll sing the blues.

It's normal to have bad-hair days  
and times when things are tough  
But countin' blessings helps to keep  
your living up to snuff.  
So set the dial of your heart  
to thankfulness and praise  
Then you'll be living in the pink,  
enjoying all your days.

*He will love you and bless you  
Deuteronomy 7:13*

## *The Apple of His Eye*

I wonder if you realize  
How much God cares for you—  
He's not a politician,  
For what He says is true.  
His eyes run to and fro, my friend,  
Throughout the whole wide earth  
To care for those who follow Him,  
No matter place of birth.  
I guess it kinda' blows my mind  
That God loves us so much  
He watches o'er us day and night  
And gives His special touch.  
If we have given the Lord our heart  
We need not fear nor sigh,  
For in His Book He tells us  
We're the Apple of His Eye.



*Keep me as the apple  
of your eye; hide me  
in the shadow of your wings  
Psalm 17:8*

## *Stay Upbeat*

If you will think on happy stuff  
And keep your heart upbeat  
You'll be surprised how good you feel  
And that is hard to beat.  
If you can stay on top th' heap  
And smile from day to day  
You'd sure cheer up a lot of folks  
When you pass by their way.

God recommends a merry heart.  
It helps to keep you well  
So if you'd live a long, long time  
Some stories you could tell  
To future generations  
When they climb up on your knee  
And tell some wide-eyed grandkids  
The way things used to be

*This is the day that  
the Lord has made;  
Let us rejoice and  
be glad in it.  
Psalm 118:24*



## *Is Your Cup Full?*

I wonder if you thank the Lord  
your cup is not on dry  
For if it sits on empty  
there must be a reason why.  
Some folk get awful busy  
so they fail to keep in touch  
With Jesus Christ who died for them  
and loves them very much.



If your cup keeps running over  
and your heart is filled with song  
No doubt you are a blessing  
as you travel all day long.  
It's great to mingle with the folks  
who love the Lord a lot--  
It helps us stay on top th' heap  
and keep the friends we've got.

So count the blessings  
that you have  
and have a glorious day,  
It makes God very happy  
if you choose to live that way.  
So if your cup runs over  
and your saucer is full, too,  
Ask God what you can do for Him.  
He'll tell you what to do.

*Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
Blessed is the man that takes refuge  
in Him. Psalm 34:8*

## *Enjoy Today*



Enjoy today.

It's all you've got.

Just one day at a time.

If you are holding God's big Hand

He'll help with hills you climb.

The Bible says He feeds the birds

So don't just sit and stew

Remember that He loves you much

So keeps His Eyes on you.

So talk to God throughout the day

And hear His joyful sound

And join the other happy folks

Who have what you have found.

God gave us lots of blessings

That He wants us to enjoy,

And best of all He wants to fill

Our hearts with love and joy.

*However many years a man may live;  
let him enjoy them all. Ecclesiastes 11:8*

I  
*Wonder . . .*



I wonder what you're doing  
In your corner of the earth--  
Are you sowing seeds of kindness  
And doing things of worth?  
Do people kinda' seek you out  
To pass the time of day  
Because they think that you're upbeat  
And like the things you say?

If you are loving folks a lot  
And living up to snuff  
No doubt you are a blessing  
To someone whose life is tough.  
God needs some happy folks around  
To spread a bit of cheer  
For good news and encouragement  
Are what folks like to hear.

So don't report some gossip  
Or don't even criticize  
For sometimes what is hearsay  
Might be a pack of lies.  
If you see someone down and out  
Just try to lift him up  
And angels might smile down on you  
While Jesus fills your cup.

*But encourage one another daily  
Hebrews 3:13*



## *Where God Lives*



God has two places  
    where He lives--  
One's up in Heaven above,  
The other place is here on earth  
Where hearts are filled with love.  
I'm sure that keeps Him busy  
Watching over Heaven and all  
But He is such an awesome God  
He will hear us when we call.

I know folks worship money  
And the things that it can buy  
But money will not love them back  
When life has gone awry.  
There's nothing like the touch of God  
To help a fella' then  
For He knows what has happened  
No matter where or when.

So put your hand in God's big hand,  
He has good news for you.  
And if you're on a long detour  
He'll help you safely through.  
He knows where all the speed bumps are  
And knows what lies ahead  
And He can give you peace and joy  
Just like the Bible said.

*I live in a high and holy place, but also with him  
that is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the  
spirit of the lowly Isaiah 57:15*

## *Heart Song*

Do you have something  
in your heart  
that makes you want to sing?  
There's Someone who's available  
to make the joy bells ring.  
A lot of folks have found out how  
and gone straight to the Source,  
Make no mistake about it, friend,  
its Jesus Christ, of course.



The folk who give their heart to Him  
feel like they've been set free,  
And if that life sounds good to you,  
just try it and you'll see.  
Don't get entangled in this life  
with things that are not good  
For if you do you'll soon find out  
you won't feel like you should.

So get in touch with Jesus Christ,  
He'll change your heart today  
Then you can have a song down deep  
today and every day.

*He put a new song in my mouth,  
a hymn of praise to our God.  
Psalm 40:3*



## *Wrinkles*

Some faces may show wrinkles  
when years pile up, ya' know,  
And they are hard to camouflage  
and fix so they won't show.  
But that's not what's important,  
if you keep your spirit sweet  
You'll still have friends  
who love you  
and that is hard to beat.

But if your soul gets wrinkled  
and you feel like giving up  
Don't wait another minute, friend,  
to let God fill your cup.  
He has some stuff for you to do  
for we're His hands and feet--  
You might find someone  
needs your help  
who lives just down the street.

God wants your soul in tiptop shape  
to keep you going strong  
And He would like to take your hand  
and give your soul a song.  
So if you've wrinkles on your face  
just add to them a smile  
And keep a twinkle in your eye  
as you walk mile on mile.

*I will be glad and rejoice in your love;  
Psalms 31:7*

## *All the Same*

If you would go to China,  
Taiwan, or Timbuktu,  
Or even to Siberia,  
Manila or Peru,  
One thing we have in common,  
though we cannot with them talk,  
We all smile in the same language  
if we're there and take a walk.  
So practice smiling every day  
so you will be in tune  
In case you take a trip somewhere  
and go there kinda' soon.  
Another reason you should smile  
and sorta' practice up--  
It just might brighten someone's day  
and help to fill their cup.



*I will change my expression  
and smile Job 9:17*

*The Dial  
of  
Your Heart*



When you get up in the morning  
And get started on your day  
Do you set the dial of your heart  
In just a certain way  
So you will hear some happy stuff  
If whispered in your ear  
And if you think on it a bit  
You might feel God is near.

Sometimes we keep so busy  
That we fail to realize  
That God may use a still, small Voice  
To whisper from the skies.  
So try to calm your pounding heart  
Or even take a rest  
For when we're kinda' quiet, folks,  
We may hear God the best.

*Be still and know that I am God;  
Psalm 46:10*

## *Just Forgive 'em*

If someone is unkind to you  
And kinda' gets your goat  
You're 'sposed to love your enemies  
To keep your life afloat.  
If you blast off and say some stuff  
That ought not to be said  
You may find out you've lost your song  
When you crawl into bed.

Sometimes it's hard to handle stuff  
That comes across our way  
And so we need to think a bit  
About the words we say.  
The Bible says forgiveness  
Is the way to play it smart  
And then you won't get ulcers  
Plus it will heal your heart.

*We also forgive  
everyone who  
sins against us  
Luke 11:4*



## *Doing Your Math*

When you wake up in the morning  
do you think to do your math?  
Do you count the many blessings  
God has strewn across your path?

If you tell the Lord you're thankful  
for all the stuff you've got  
It may help you not to worry  
'bout some things that you have not.

Take time to count your blessings  
when you're starting out your day,  
You'll find it makes a difference  
in the things you do and say.



*Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand  
Psalm 139:18.*

## *Rocking Chairs*



I know some folks can hardly wait  
until they can retire,  
They visualize a rocking chair  
before an open fire.  
I will admit that sounds right nice  
when days are mean and tough  
But sitting in a rocking chair  
sometimes is not enough  
To keep a fella' satisfied  
with gladness in his soul  
Because his life seems meaningless  
without a worthy goal.  
But I've observed some folks I know  
who do that very thing,  
They've sorta' lost their grip on life  
and seldom ever sing.  
It seems the happiest folks I know  
keep going day by day  
And try to help out other folks  
whose skies have turned to gray.  
Now as I dwell on this a bit  
I'm sure you'd feel the same--  
The happy folks still work and sing  
'til Jesus calls their name.





## *The Cup-Filler*

If you do an act of kindness  
And bless some hurting soul  
They may remember it for years  
And helped to make them whole.  
The love you give away, my friend,  
Won't die and fade away  
But it gets planted in their heart  
And grows from day to day.

The folks who spread their love around  
And hum and sing and smile  
Will find the happiness they want  
Is never out of style.  
God watches us both day and night  
And wants us to look up  
Because He's passing good stuff out  
And wants to fill our cup.

*for you yourselves have been taught by God  
to love each other. 1 Thessalonians 4:9*



*Your  
Cup*

When your cup is runnin' over  
you can smile and you can sing  
And thank the Lord for all you've got  
with thanks for everything.  
God really likes those Thank You prayers  
ascending to the sky  
And when I think on it a bit  
I know the reason why.

God gets a lot of messages  
when folks call 911  
These frantic calls from folks down here  
keep angels on the run.  
So when God hears a loving heart  
not asking for some things  
My guess is that He listens hard  
and maybe even sings.

God made us in His Image  
so He has feelings, too,  
So talk to Him as your best Friend.  
He'll love it if you do.

*Then God said: "Let us make man in our  
image, in our likeness" Genesis 1:29*

*you have filled my  
heart with greater joy  
Psalm 4:7*

## *Suspicious Folks?*



If you kinda' sing and hum a tune  
and smile an awful lot  
Folks may become suspicious  
and wonder what you've got  
That makes your heart so happy  
and fills your soul with joy  
And things that well could rankle you  
does not your peace destroy.

Now if they question you a bit  
about your state of mind  
Just tell them God lives in your heart  
and that they, too, can find  
The peace and love that you enjoy  
and gives your heart a song  
If they will let the Lord on board  
and love Him all day long.

Our God does not discriminate  
against the black or white  
For He is fair and loving  
and always does things right.  
He'd really like for everyone  
to open his heart's door  
So He could put a song inside  
like they've not had before.

*Old  
Love*



We like to go to weddings  
And see the groom and bride  
All gussied up and smiling big  
As they stand side by side,  
Just waitin' for the preacher  
To pronounce them man and wife  
Then rush off on their honeymoon  
And start a brand new life.

We also like to celebrate  
Some older folks, you know,  
Who've lived together time on end  
Like fifty years or so.  
Their love has not eroded  
But has grown throughout the years,  
They've learned to stay on top th' heap  
Through sunshine or through tears.


I think God likes the young folks  
But smiles on oldsters, too,  
I guess God planned it just that way—  
So we'd know what to do.  
It seems we need each other—  
Whether young or old and gray  
And we'll continue to hold hands  
Till God takes us away.

*Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:8*

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*The Joy of  
Family and  
Friends*





*Your love  
has given me great  
joy and  
encouragement.*

Phileman 7

## *Bedtime Stories*

When bedtime stole around each night  
the kids would gather 'round  
To hear Dad read a story  
in a children's book he found.  
He read of Peter Rabbit,  
or of that scary troll  
Whose house was underneath a bridge  
where people took a stroll.

Of course old Humpty Dumpty  
really ended up a mess,  
What really happened when he fell  
is anybody's guess.  
And Goldilocks went visiting  
the house of three nice bears  
And liked a piece of furniture  
when she sat in their chairs.

Sometimes he'd read a story  
from a children's Bible book,  
These also were exciting  
for Dad knew just where to look  
To find Daniel in the lion's den  
or Jonah in the whale,  
Or Jericho's walls all tumbled down—  
their interest did not fail.

Some stuff was kinda' scary  
but that kept their interest up--  
When Dad sat down and read to them  
it helped to fill their cup.  
They'd go to bed with happy thoughts  
and then drop off to sleep  
But first they prayed and asked the Lord  
that He their souls would keep.





## *Forever Friends*



If you have friends you are not poor,  
in fact you're truly blest  
For they are much more valuable  
than gold and all the rest.  
You can count up all your silver  
and the gold you've slashed away  
But it won't love you like a friend  
if you've a rainy day.

I know some folks with lots of dough  
and have a bit of fame  
But having cash and having friends  
are really not the same.  
A friend will always love you  
whether you are up or down  
Or if you live across the tracks  
or on Main Street in town.

So if you have some close, close friends  
be thankful every day  
And tell the Lord how blest you are  
when you kneel down and pray.

*there is a friend who sticks closer  
than a brother, Proverbs 18:24b*

## *Special Moments*



We all have special moments  
That we treasure in our heart,  
The time when we got married  
And did a family start  
And looked upon a newborn babe  
Who brought us tons of joy  
For children are a special gift,  
No matter girl or boy.

It seems God knew a family  
Was the best way to go  
To bring a lot of love and joy  
To folks on earth, ya' know.  
It seems these kids are little chips  
Straight from the family block  
And give us special memories  
That in our heart we lock.

I'm glad God made a special plan  
To populate the earth  
For nothing can exceed the love  
Of a new baby's birth.  
So if you're blessed with lots of kids  
Or only one or two  
Thank God you have these special gifts  
And that He smiled on you.

*Sons are a heritage from the Lord  
Children a reward from him. Psalm 127:3*

## *Selective Hearing*



It seems to me that kids select  
the things they want to hear;  
Its kinda' hard to rise and shine  
till Dad shouts loud and clear:  
"The bus is due to be out front  
in ten, or maybe five"--  
'Tis when they hear that final call  
that out of bed they dive.

Another time its hard to hear,  
and fills a kid with gloom,  
Is when Mom shouts, and points upstairs:  
"You must clean up your room!"  
And other words are hard to hear,  
like "take the garbage out,"  
Or feed the dog, these, too, can seem  
like foreign words, no doubt.

I know some kids have hearing loss  
and don't hear very well,  
But they can hear a block away  
the ice cream man's small bell.



## *Choosing Your Friends*

Be careful when you choose your friends  
for they'll influence you  
In thoughts you think and other stuff  
that you will say and do.  
Some folks we only know a while  
and then they fade away—  
They really don't impress us much  
as we live day by day.

But there are other folks we meet  
that we like quite a lot  
Sorta' like a cup of coffee  
that really hits the spot.  
And so we travel on life's road  
and try to play it smart  
Aware that lots of folks we meet  
leave footprints on our heart.

## *Walking the Dog?*

I know some folks will own a dog  
for it's a friendly pet,  
It eats a lot of dog food  
and sometimes sees the Vet.  
Of course the Vet advises that  
they should walk their dog  
As exercise will help their pet  
to sleep just like a log.

But when I see them walk the dog,  
the dog is in the lead  
As if it takes it's master out  
to thank him for its feed.  
I wonder if it's possible  
for dogs to realize  
It's owner needs  
some good fresh air  
and also exercise.

I 'spose I'll never figure out  
what's in a mongrel's heart,  
But I would guess a well-fed dog  
would want to do its part.  
So I'll not worry if the dog  
takes its master for a walk  
I'll kinda' watch  
from my front door  
while dog and master talk.





## *Cheer 'em Up*

When people come across your path  
I wonder what you do—  
I wonder if you cheer them up  
or they leave feeling blue.  
Remember, everyone you meet  
could use a bit of cheer  
So take the time to say some stuff  
they really need to hear.

And if you cheer 'em up a tad  
it could be you will find  
Their attitude might really change  
about the daily grind.  
And if they hum and sing a bit  
and make a joyful sound  
It really might cause other folks  
to spread their love  
around.

*But encourage one another daily  
Hebrews 3:18*

*You  
Are  
Special*



When I said "Yes" in '45  
then shortly said "I do"  
I didn't know the joy I'd have  
when I first married you.  
It seems God had a special man  
dressed in a Navy suit  
Who also was a gentleman  
and really kind, to boot.

Though it was sixty years ago,  
some things ya' don't forget  
I still can see my wedding dress  
I wore on that day yet.  
I didn't have much money  
so a big ten dollar bill  
Was all I paid for it, you know,  
but still it filled the bill.

We've worked together many years  
and four kids came along  
And we were happy for each one.  
They filled our lives with song.  
We've really done a lot of stuff  
that most folks do not do  
Like going overseas to teach.  
We also traveled, too.

We went around the world two times  
and saw a lot of things,  
We've been in fifty countries.  
What great joy this travel brings.  
We saw a lot of people  
that we thought were really kind  
And meeting different folk abroad  
helped us expand our mind.

How blest we are for sixty years  
that we've walked side by side--  
I didn't know how great you were  
when I became your bride.  
The kindness and the gentleness  
you show from day to day  
Says though I'm pretty shaky  
you still love me anyway.







The good Samaritan we know  
was really a nice guy,  
He helped a fellow in a ditch  
who was about to die.  
The Bible tells that other folks  
who saw the wounded man  
Just left him there and passed on by.  
I wonder if they ran.

Some folks are not compassionate,  
they just go on their way  
Ignoring folks around them  
who are struggling through the day.  
But happy are the loving folks  
who take the time to share  
And look out for the hurting ones  
and show them that they care.

It doesn't matter who we are  
or how much stuff we own  
We all need love and caring friends  
so we are not alone.

*John 4:1-26*

## *Bitterness*

I know that it is not much fun  
to feel depressed and low  
When bitterness keeps  
plaguing you  
most everywhere you go.  
You want to have a song inside  
and have a happy heart  
But you have felt so bad so long  
you don't know where to start.



To harbor bitter feelings  
because someone did you wrong  
Can really kinda' get your goat  
and take away your song.  
If you would think on it a bit  
I'm sure that you would find  
It really is not worth the stress  
to keep it in your mind.

Forgiveness is the only way  
to set your spirit free--  
I know it's worked for other folks  
and also worked for me.  
Don't let another person  
spoil your life and make you sad,  
Forgiving them will heal your heart  
and make your spirit glad.

*Get rid of all bitterness Ephesians 4:31*

## *Flawless*

If you are looking for a friend  
Who has no flaw nor fault,  
You might as well call off your search  
And bring it to a halt.  
There is no one on planet Earth  
Who's perfect to a "T."  
And if we're honest with ourselves  
Our own faults we might see.  
So if you have a friend or two  
We take folks as they are,  
And they may do the same for us  
Although not up to par.  
This could be why we get along  
With others day by day,  
We've come to know all folks have flaws  
And love them anyway.



*for all have sinned and fall short  
of the glory of God Romans 3:23*

## *Don't Just Stay At Home*

You've been everywhere and you've seen all the sights?

You've not missed a thing on your multiple flights?

Just slow yourself down to a much slower pace;

A road map will tell of an interesting place

Like Horse Heaven Hills, Oblong, and Big Foot,

They might be worth while for a glance or a look.

Then Thief River Falls, also Gully and Hay,

May be just the place for a wonderful day.

E'en Stinking Creek Road has a sound all its own

(Before taking that one you may want to phone).

The place that's called Pitts just might be a winner.

It could be a place for a jolly good dinner.

There's Windfall, and New Hope, and Rattlesnake Hills--

Now that in itself could produce many thrills.

So get out your map and pack toothbrush and comb.

You'll miss all these sights if you just stay at home.



## *Blue Mondays*

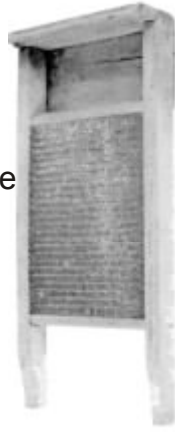


I did our laundry yesterday  
it was no trick to do  
I threw stuff in our wash machine,  
in minutes it was through.  
Then in the dryer went the clothes  
as clean as they could be--  
It wasn't long before the load  
was dry and wrinkle free.

It hasn't always been like this,  
those folks of long ago  
Would wash their clothes on Mondays;  
they just would plan it so.  
They had a copper boiler filled  
with water from the well,  
And on a wood-fired kitchen stove  
they'd wait 'til they could tell

The water would be hot enough  
to melt Fels Naptha soap.  
Then they would get the wash tubs out,  
but somehow they could cope.  
And in those early, early days  
a washboard was the thing  
To scrub the soil out of the clothes,  
most scrubbers didn't sing.

In later years a wash machine  
with wringer came along  
And I would guess this new machine  
did help restore their song.  
But they were not clear  
through the day,  
the clothes must be hung out,  
And hopefully they would be dry  
if days were warm, no doubt.



Then ironing was quite a job--  
on this I will not chat,  
And women's lib was quite unknown,  
there was no time for that.  
Those country folks were mighty tough,  
they didn't sigh nor shirk,  
They did the things they had to do--  
and that was work, work, work.

Some places in the world today  
things still are pretty bad  
The ladies head for river banks  
to wash their clothes a tad.  
There may be crocodiles around  
or hippos swimming by.  
Yet those brave ladies wash their clothes  
and lay 'em out to dry.  
So ladies of America,  
remember how you're blest,  
How you can run a batch of clothes  
and then lay down and rest.

## Take Time



I've thought of young folks of today  
    with lots of stuff to do  
With cell phones held up to their ear,  
    computers nearby, too.  
Of course TV and radio  
    take time to hear and see--  
With all this modern stuff around  
    something sorta' bothers me.

I wonder if kids of today  
    hear bedtime stories read  
When all the children gather 'round  
    before they're tucked in bed.  
Have they heard of Humpty Dumpty,  
    Peter Rabbit, or Bopeep,  
The little girl who tried so hard  
    to find her missing sheep.

It seems they're missing something  
    if there is no story time  
There are lots of things to cheer the heart  
    in stories or in rhyme.  
So if you have some little folks  
    whose love you'd like to keep  
Take time to read some stories  
    just before they go to sleep.

## *Just Smile*

Don't push the replay button  
If someone's done you wrong  
For if you do you'll surely find  
That you have lost your song.  
The folks who even up the score  
And ruminate on stuff  
May find that hatred is not smart  
And makes their life more tough.

Forgiveness heals a lot of wounds  
That could one's life destroy  
But if we keep a singing heart  
It brings us lots of joy.  
No matter what one says to you  
That kinda' gets your goat  
Just look 'em in the eye and smile.  
Don't let 'em rock your boat.



*When I smiled at them,  
they scarcely believed it;  
the light of my face was  
precious to them. Job 29:24*



## *School Days*

How fondly I remember  
The little one-room school  
Where I attended as a child  
And learned the Golden Rule.  
My father was a farmer  
And so this was the place  
We went to learn to read and write  
And ran hard to first base.

I know the building lacked a lot  
Compared with schools today  
But this small country schoolhouse  
Served the village of Horton Bay.  
And so the kindergarten kids  
Heard stuff up through grade eight  
So they learned things beyond their years  
Which in itself is great.

If kids didn't learn the things they should  
When they'd recite in class  
They'd hear it several times again  
So most of them would pass  
And then they'd go to high school,  
Some on to college, too,  
It seemed those country kids were smart  
And knew what they should do.

And recess was a special time  
When we went out to play,  
The young kids and the older ones  
Would mingle every day.  
At noon we'd get our dinner pail  
And sit around and eat  
Sometimes we'd find that Mom had packed  
Some special little treat.


Don't feel sorry for the children  
Who attend a one-room school--  
They learn a lot and you can bet  
They are nobody's fool.



3

*Loving God's  
Creation*





*For you make me  
glad by your deeds,  
O Lord;*

*I sing for joy at the  
works of your hands.*

*How great are your  
works, O Lord*

Psalm 92:4,5

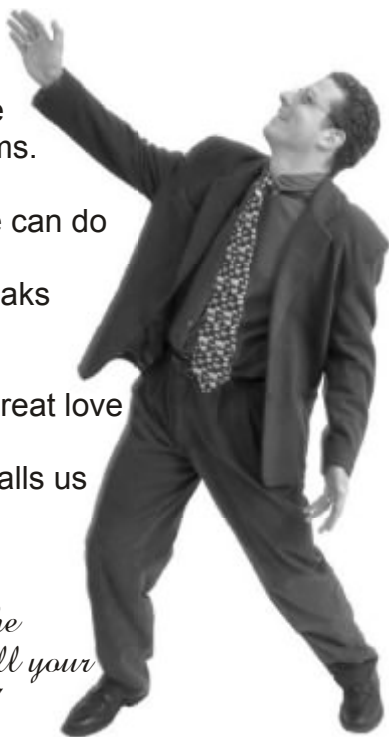
## *If We Could . . .*

If we could add up all the songs,  
Plus gather every book  
And then add all the sermons preached  
In every church and nook  
We couldn't summarize God's love  
So folks would understand  
How big God is and what He does  
And things that He has planned.

And even if we added flow'rs,  
And trees of every kind  
Plus birds and animals and stars  
And other things we'd find  
Like mountain peaks and valleys,  
And rushing flowing  
streams  
No words we have  
can e'er describe  
The love of God, it seems.

I guess the best that we can do  
Is love God in our heart  
And listen when He speaks  
to us  
And kinda' get a start  
On understanding His great love  
And see if we can try  
To find the reason He calls us  
the Apple of His Eye.

*Jesus replied: "Love the  
Lord your God with all your  
heart" Matthews 22:37*



## *Evening Shadows*

When evening shadows are stretched out  
There's lots that we can do, no doubt.  
It's awfully nice to take a walk  
Or sit out on the porch and talk.  
With pressures of the day now done  
We've time to watch the setting sun;  
This is a special time of day  
So let it wash your cares away.



## *Our Awesome Creator*

Sometimes I think on things a bit  
that almost blow my mind  
And I find God is awesome  
because of what I find.  
How could God make big elephants  
and small mosquitoes, too,  
And still come up with garter snakes  
and the hopping kangaroo?

Each kind of creature has its mind  
and set of eyes to see;  
How God comes up with lots of stuff  
just really baffles me.  
It also is amazing how he gave  
the dogs a bark,  
It's different from a lion's roar  
and from a meadow lark.

And then the gold and diamonds  
that He tucked inside the earth  
Were really nice surprises  
when folks found what they were worth.  
God didn't clone a bunch of stuff  
and say that "it's okay  
If things aren't really up to par—  
folks won't know anyway."

He never does a half a job  
or leaves his work undone,  
He is never on vacation  
just to sit out in the sun.  
He knows that folks on planet earth  
need lots of help, ya' know,  
And so He always is on call  
if folks are feeling low.

God's really a perfectionist  
and does things up to snuff,  
He doesn't get worn out and tired  
and think He's done enough.  
And best of all God loves us  
and that's the crowning touch  
Of all of His creation  
because He loves us much.



*Say to God, "How awesome  
are your deeds" Psalm 66:3*



*Our  
ID*



It really is amazing  
That there is no one like you.  
Your fingerprints and DNA  
Can give the cops a clue  
Of if you're who you claim to be.  
Of if you are a fake  
When someone holds a camera  
And will your picture take.

I know that God knows us so well  
He doesn't need that stuff  
To tell the shape our soul is in  
For He knows well enough  
By thoughts we think and words we say,  
And deeds that we do, too.  
For not a thing escapes His Eye,  
He knows us through and through.

And then I get to wondering  
And muse on it a while,  
Does God have work for everyone  
Who walks earth mile on mile?  
I know that I am only one,  
But do I have a part  
In God's great scheme of things on earth  
To do with all my heart?

It seems we'd please the Lord a lot  
By whispering in His Ear  
And ask how we could serve Him best—  
Those words He'd love to hear.  
God has a place for everyone  
For He needs hands and feet  
To help the folks who need a lift  
No matter town or street.





## *Birds*

I kinda' like to watch the birds—  
when they wake up they sing,  
Is it because their needs are met  
and don't need anything?  
Do they like their job description  
building nests with bits of grass  
And then lay eggs and keep 'em warm  
and wait for time to pass

Until some baby birds appear,  
then there is work to do  
For little birds have hunger pains  
just like their parents do.  
And so the mom and dad pitch in  
to raise their little brood  
And even teach them how to sing  
and how to find their food.

It's amazing how the bird brain  
knows how it must survive  
And it is programmed so they know  
how they can stay alive.  
This didn't happen just by chance  
a million years ago  
For God created birds with care—  
He loves their songs, you know.

## *Penguins*

Don't you love the looks of penguins  
as they look all gussied up  
Like they have on tuxedos  
to go somewhere to sup?  
They're always seen in black and white  
at home or at the beach—  
And when they talk among themselves  
I don't understand their speech.

They have scale-like barb-less feathers  
along with flipper wings  
But these don't get 'em off the ground,  
but penguins know these things.  
It's fun to watch these flightless birds  
go waddling through the snow,  
It seems they're in a hurry  
almost anywhere they go.

I'm glad their coat  
of feathers  
keeps them warm  
and looking neat  
For they might want  
to chat a while  
with new friends  
that they meet.



## *Rhinos*

Some folks will visit Africa  
and then go on safari  
And from the stories that they tell  
they really are not sorry.  
Of course it costs a bit of dough  
to take that kind of trip  
But if you wait too long  
you just might fall and break a hip.

A lot of things I liked to see,  
but the big black rhino  
Was so much bigger than the rest  
you'd think he'd be quite slow.  
Although he weighs more than a ton  
don't think he is not fast  
Unless you can top 30 miles  
you just might come in last.

His sense of smell is very good,  
his hearing is acute,  
But when it comes to seeing things  
it isn't worth a hoot.

Amazingly, this hefty beast  
will charge full speed ahead  
And if you're in the critter's way  
you well may end up dead.

I read about a rhino  
that was moved inside a truck  
And when the door was open  
he showed he had some pluck  
For he took vengeance on that truck  
and rammed it pretty bad  
So if you're moving rhinos, friend,  
make sure they are not mad.



## *The Vet*

A doctor who treats animals  
must really be quite smart  
For animals can't tell the Doc  
if it's its head or heart  
That makes it feel down in the dumps  
with head a' hangin' low,  
And if their tail is dragging,  
they're pretty sick, you know.

The Vet can't understand meows,  
a whinny, or a bark,  
I've never heard a ferret talk  
when it hides in the dark.  
It must upset the Doc a bit  
when he just has to guess  
About the medicine he gives—  
should it be more or less?

When treatment is a guessing game  
for those that cannot speak  
And if the Vet says "open wide  
so I can take a peek"  
The animal may eye the Vet  
and wonder what he said  
And even give a wistful look  
with heart that's full of dread.

I know I could not be a Vet,  
I know I'd sorry be  
When cats or dogs or horses  
would look wistfully at me.  
I'd prob'ly have to specialize  
on those that can be heard  
And only treat the parrots  
and the talking myna bird.







### *Tree Frogs*

Have you ever seen a tree frog  
Sitting on your kitchen floor?  
It was a little visitor  
We'd never seen before.  
I'm not too much on wildlife  
Sneaking right inside our house  
And that includes small lizards  
And the hungry little mouse.

Now if I'd want a critter  
To share my home and board  
I'd have a special place for it  
And let it stay aboard.  
Now when we took our kitchen broom  
To try to shoo it out  
We found that little rascal  
Was pretty smart no doubt

For when we closed our workroom door  
With our computer stuff  
It made a jump and found the crack  
Was really big enough  
And so we have a tree frog  
Living in our workroom here  
And as long as it keeps quiet  
We will not live in fear.

## *Storms*



Last night the wind  
blew really hard,  
it whistled in the dark,  
Torrential rain was falling  
on the town of Avon Park.  
The people had been watching news  
about a hurricane  
And wondered where the thing would land,  
and Wilma was its name.

When morning came I saw the wind  
blow branches back and forth,  
Do you suppose their roots hung on  
for all that they were worth?  
And birds must have a special touch  
to build a sturdy nest  
So they can weather wind and rain  
and really stand the test.

Its kinda' like sometimes in life  
we run into a storm--  
It's hard to hunker down again  
where we felt safe and warm.  
But be assured the sun will shine  
for God is Lord of all  
And if you dial His 911  
He'll hear you when you call.

## *Flowers Are Special*



God made a lot of flowers  
And He did it with a splash  
And though He made a lot of them  
The colors never clash.  
There's nothing like a spring bouquet  
To cheer a weary soul  
Especially when loving hands  
Arrange them in a bowl.

But not just colors and design  
Make flowers hard to beat  
God also added perfume  
Which I think is pretty neat.  
No wonder men take flowers  
To their wife or to their date,  
Or when they're getting married  
And about to cut the cake.

And even when a person leaves  
And walks that golden stair  
The gift that's most appropriate  
We give them then and there.  
It seems that flowers say a lot  
That words can never say,  
That's why God gave His special touch  
And made them just that way.

## *Life's Lemonade*



Some folks get bent all out of shape  
when someone does them wrong,  
And if they don't forgive it,  
it steals away their song.  
First thing ya' know their aches and pains  
will worsen by the day  
And its really kinda' stupid  
to live your life that way.

But if your mind says "hold a grudge"  
and keep it in your heart  
You're making your life difficult  
which isn't very smart.  
We all have bumps and hurts in life  
but we've the power to choose  
If they will keep us in the pits  
where we are bound to lose,

Or if we'll throw it in the trash  
and smile and keep our song  
And 'fore ya' know it life is good  
and we can travel on.  
God wants us to be happy  
and enjoy the things He's made  
So if life hands you lemons, friend,  
make a batch of lemonade..

## *Smarts*

I know some folks have lots of smarts  
But cannot figure out  
How birds can migrate miles and miles  
And never seem worn out.  
We know they never have a map  
To show them where to head,  
You'd think their heart and lungs would burst  
And leave the birds half-dead.

I know if we would try to swim  
A thousand miles or so  
Before we'd swim a country mile  
We'd have no get up and go.  
And yet the bird can fly with ease  
To some far distant shore  
And doesn't lose directions  
In a thousand miles or more!

I wonder how the Arctic terns  
Born up near the North Pole  
Leave home when they are six weeks old  
And they are in control  
And fly eleven thousand miles south  
To spend the winter there  
Then they fly back to their old home  
To spend their summer there.

God must have made the bird-brain  
Out of special kinds of stuff  
Because those birds are awful smart  
And must be pretty tough.  
There are some folks who ride a plane  
And circle planet earth,  
Still others take a catamaran  
And sail for all they're worth.  
And so we find that birds have brains  
That tell them what to do,  
God also gave smarts to the folks  
Who sail the oceans, too.



## *Trees*

I know we've seen a lot of trees  
and oft sit in their shade  
But have you counted up the kinds  
of trees that God has made?  
The oak, the palm, the evergreen,  
the maple, and the fig,  
The sycamore, the beech, the elm,  
tell us that God is big.

I know I've only named a few—  
I sure can't name 'em all,  
But have you thought on them a bit,  
how some are big and tall  
And have a trunk so thick and broad  
supporting tons of wood?  
The roots must hang on awfully tight—  
more than you think they could.

I marvel when the wind blows hard  
and beats against a tree  
That it can still stay upright  
and not topple down on me.  
The wind and rain and storms that blow  
just tend to make it strong,  
God knew how tough they'd need to be  
so didn't do it wrong.

It kinda' makes me think a bit  
while we tread earthly sod  
There are gonna' be some storms in life  
till we get home with God.  
No doubt if we can weather them  
and keep from giving up  
We'll find, like trees, they'll make us strong  
and God will fill our cup.







## *Its Different Now*

I know that things have changed a lot  
since I was just a kid--  
It seems the folks who grow up now  
don't do the things we did.  
We kinda' had our chores at home,  
attended Church and school,  
Of course our parents wanted us  
to live the Golden Rule.

When we had extra time for fun  
we might play hide and seek  
And that was kinda' fun, ya' know,  
if the seeker didn't peek.  
Of course we didn't have a grill  
but if we'd gather wood  
We'd light a fire and roast hot dogs  
that tasted mighty good.

I doubt that life at slower speed  
deprived us very much  
For we had neighbors who were kind  
and so we kept in touch.  
I hope the folks who have a lot  
and rush from place to place  
Will take time to enjoy themselves  
and not just take up space.




## *Stuff*

I like the word “stuff” for it covers so much,  
And puts lots of things in a group,  
It may be the things we don’t know where to put  
Could fit in a file we call “Soup.”  
There is stuff that we write, and stuff that we mail,  
There’s stuff in the closet and car,  
There’s stuff in our purse, and stuff in the fridge,  
There’s stuff wherever we are.  
There’s stuff that we love and stuff that we hate  
There’s stuff we would like to forget,  
There’s stuff that we want and there’s  
stuff that we don’t,  
There is stuff we need to do yet.  
I know of no word that will cover so much,  
No word that could ever embrace  
The odds and the ends of disorganized folk  
When there’s stuff all over the place.

4

# *According to Your Faith*





*Take heart, daughter,  
he said, your faith  
has healed you.*

Matthew 9:22

*According to your  
faith will it be  
done unto you.*

Matthew 9:29



### *Figuring It Out*

Sometimes we have to scratch our head  
and try to figure out  
Why we are here on planet earth  
and what life's all about.  
It seems some folks know how to climb  
the ladder of success  
While other folks from down below  
just watch 'em climb, I guess.

It seems God gives to us a choice  
to either stand up tall  
Or be a couch potato  
and do nothing good at all.  
So if you're in that place in life  
just wond'ring what to do  
Put your small hand in God's big Hand.  
He has good news for you.

## *Behind the Scenes*

God does some things behind the scenes  
that we don't know about--  
Sometimes we wonder, "Why this, Lord?"  
and we begin to doubt  
About the things that come our way  
and rankle us a tad  
Because it makes no sense to us  
so we start feeling bad.

But now that I have lived a while  
sometimes I plainly see  
Some things that happened in the past  
were much the best for me.  
God knows what He is doing  
and sometimes it's hard to tell  
The things He's working in our lives  
and does it oh, so well.

So if at times your way seems tough  
and troubles come your way  
Remember God's preparing you  
to live with Him  
some day.

*And we know that  
in all things God  
works for the good of  
those who love him  
Romans 8:28*



## *Morning Time*



When you wake up in the morning  
and you kinda' scratch your head  
Do you greet the day with gladness  
thanking God you are not dead?  
I think contented folks who smile  
and have a happy heart  
May well prolong their days on earth  
if they will do their part.

It's kinda' strange how attitudes  
affect the way we feel,  
They even might affect the way  
that we digest a meal.  
The stomach may appreciate  
a happy heart as well  
So all our parts can smoothly run.  
Sometimes it's hard to tell

If stress can do a person in  
so things don't work quite right  
And folks will end up counting sheep  
to get to sleep at night.  
So keep the dial of your heart  
tuned in to happy stuff--  
You may not need those phantom sheep  
to live life up to snuff.

*God Has  
A Plan  
for You*



Sometimes when we get kinda' old  
and feeling pretty tired  
We feel our work on earth is done;  
we really aren't inspired—  
But did you know if you're alive  
God has a plan for you?  
Until you walk those streets of gold  
there's stuff that you can do.

God puts a premium on smiles  
when they reflect God's love,  
The folks who smile a lot will find  
it fits just like a glove.  
There's nothing like the love of God  
to brighten up one's day,  
God doesn't care if you are young  
or if you're old and gray.

So don't get grumpy when you're old  
and don't complain a lot  
But try to keep on smiling  
with all the strength you've got.  
And be prepared to feel God near  
and hear His loving Voice  
For all the folks who live for Him  
will feel their heart rejoice.



## *Faith*

Some people have a lot of faith,  
Some others almost none,  
That could explain why there are folks  
Who have a lot of fun.

The folks who have their faith in God  
And trust to Him their life  
Will find He drains some pressures off  
That want to cause us strife.

“According to your faith,” my friend,  
“So be it unto you,”

And that’s straight from the Bible  
So we know that it is true.

To build your faith it helps to read  
Some verses from God’s Book  
And there are lots and lots of them  
If you’ll just take a look.



A favorite is of Jonah  
In the belly of the whale,  
And God was watching while he took  
That under-water sail.  
And Daniel in the lion's den  
Should get your interest up—  
At times God uses different ways  
To fill a fellow's cup.

The fiery furnace held no fear  
For three young Hebrew men  
For Jesus stood beside them  
So no flames could harm them then.  
How Noah and his family  
Could build that big old ark  
Preserving animals and birds  
Though it was cold and dark.

Read of David and Goliath,  
And of Paul and Silas, too,  
Remembering they're not fiction  
But all of them are true.  
There is story after story  
Written down to help us cope  
That really will amaze you  
And increase your faith and hope.

*Then he touched their eyes and said,  
"According to your faith will it be  
done to you." Matthew 9:29*

## *Change*

A lot of folks who've lived for years  
have seen a lot of change  
And most of it is really nice  
but some is kinda' strange.  
The horse and buggy days are gone,  
so now we drive a car  
To get us where we wanna' go  
though it is near or far.

The clothes we wear don't look the same,  
a lot are wash and wear;  
Some folks take medicines galore  
to help with wear and tear.  
Of course fast foods are popular  
so folks don't have to cook,  
They'd rather watch a movie  
or curl up with a good book.

Computers make folks change a lot,  
now we don't need a stamp  
For emails are so fast to write  
we don't get writer's cramp.  
Our air conditioned rooms are great,  
our frozen foods are nice,  
When we microwave leftover food  
we eat for half the price.

Oh, there are lots of changes  
that will come our way each year  
And though sometimes we shift our gears,  
one thing is very clear  
We serve a God who changes not,  
His Word's the same today--  
We know the Ten Commandments  
are forever here to stay.

So don't be fooled by trifling stuff  
that wants to make you mod,  
It's better far to keep your faith  
till you're at Home with God.



## *Methuselah*

I've thought about Methuselah  
    who lived so many years,  
He must have thought on happy stuff  
    and didn't dwell on fears.  
Nine hundred sixty nine, ya' know,  
    are lots of years to live;  
He must have talked to God a lot  
    and knew how to forgive.

He may have exercised each day  
    and ate good healthy food  
For if he ate a lot of junk  
    he might have come unglued.  
I would doubt that he ate pizza  
    and other greasy stuff--  
Could he have eaten cornbread  
    if times got kinda' tough?

I'm not sure what his diet was  
    that made him live so long  
But I am sure he loved the Lord  
    who gave his heart a song.  
Another thing that might have helped  
    was there was no TV  
For couch potatoes can die off  
    if that is all they see.

Back then computers were unknown  
and microwaves were nil,  
No planes were flying overhead,  
the atmosphere was still,  
I'm sure he lived a different life  
than we folks do today  
And must have had great peace of mind  
that made him want to stay.

So if we'd live a long, long time,  
I wonder could it be  
We oughta' keep a song inside  
that kinda' sets us free?  
If we love God with all our heart  
and serve Him every day  
It could be He would let us live  
until we're old and gray.



*Genesis 5:21-27*

## *Flower Gardens*

When people plant their flowerbeds  
they give them lots of care  
And hope the seeds put in the ground  
will come up bright and fair.  
They chop the soil and water it  
and even fertilize  
Expecting that some blossoms rare  
will soon materialize.

And so these folks will watch and wait  
to see some shoots of green  
And when they finally do come up  
its such a lovely scene.  
I'm glad the Lord made flowers,  
and He splashed on colors rare  
So folks would love to grow 'em,  
and maybe even share.



Another thing amazes me  
is how some plants will grow  
And come up through some little cracks  
with not much room ya' know.  
It must be God knows how to plant  
and does it with great care  
And so if He has planted them,  
they can grow anywhere.

It's kinda' like some people  
who are penniless and poor  
And yet they somehow can squeak by  
although they wish for more.  
So if you're in a flowerbed  
or growing through a crack  
Keep blooming where you're planted  
for the Lord is keeping track.







## *Always There*

Don't wait until disaster strikes  
before you start to pray--  
God really likes to keep in touch  
with you each passing day.  
He wants to know when times are good  
and also when they're tough  
So He can know when you need help  
and give you grace enough.

At times it seems God's far away,  
not knowing where we are,  
But be assured He always knows  
if we are near or far.  
Some folks will try to hide from God  
but it's a waste of time,  
He sees us if we're young or old,  
or if we're in our prime.

Don't hesitate to talk to God,  
don't put your life on "hold"  
He wants you to commune with Him  
e'en if the winds blow cold.  
It's awfully nice to hunker down  
in His great love and care;  
No matter what life hands to us  
our God is always there.

*Because He is at my right hand,  
I will not be shaken Psalm 16.8*



## *Smile A Lot*

Smile a lot, friends, smile a lot—  
It makes folks wonder what you've got  
That makes you laugh and smile and grin  
As if you've something deep within  
That's kinda' secret from the rest  
And makes you look like you are blest.  
You need not have a lot of clout  
To show what life is all about.  
If you have joy it's gonna' show  
So if you have it, let it glow.  
A lot of folks could use a smile  
And they are never out of style.  
So spread your joy and just relax  
Then you can live life to the max.

## *Make 'em Happy*

If someone comes across your path  
Give them a word of cheer,  
It may be they have sought you out  
Because of what they'd hear.

Don't spread a word of gossip  
But encourage them a tad,  
For they may need encouragement  
If they are feeling bad.

It's good to make folks happy  
And take worry off their chest  
Some folks just have a special knack--  
It's what they do the best.



## *Cold Winds*



Some days are kinda'  
tough, ya' know,  
when things don't go just right,  
It seems no matter what we do  
it seems we feel uptight.  
So what's a guy supposed to do  
if he has lost his song?  
It may be some would tell us  
that we've done something wrong.

But if we think on it a tad  
that may not be the case,  
It could be we should talk to God  
about more love and grace.  
There is no easy answer  
when life's winds are blowing cold  
And sometimes they seem stronger  
when we are growing old.

We really need to hunker down  
in God's great love and care  
And tell Him all our troubles  
and then just leave them there.  
He is good at solving problems  
and loves to hear our voice,  
And if we'll put our hand in His  
He'll make our heart rejoice.

*Come to me all who are weary and burdened  
and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28*



When you're tired and discouraged  
do you take the time to look  
And see if there's an answer  
in God's most Holy Book?  
One verse I really like a lot,  
though not of too much length  
Says simply when we have God's joy  
that it will give us strength.

There are some other nuggets  
I find scattered here and there  
And I delight to read them  
in my kitchen rocking chair.  
"Come unto Me, I'll give you rest"  
renews my spirit, too,  
When I feel pushed and kinda' down,  
with stuff I oughta' do.

Sometimes it comes in handy  
to recall a verse or so  
So we can get on top th' heap  
and then get up and go.  
At times we do not realize  
there's help not far away  
That could give us a joyful sound  
and brighten up our day.

*Propping  
Us  
Up*



Some days when we crawl out of bed  
It's hard to get in gear  
And do the stuff we oughta' do,  
although its very clear  
That there are things awaiting us  
that really need our touch  
And if we really felt quite good  
'twould not amount to much.


But if you don't feel up to par  
and life is kinda tough  
There's something you can do, ya' know,  
when you lack strength enough.  
Tell God you need His help today  
although you've really tried  
And He will help you sure enough  
and prop your leanin' side.

*Look to the Lord and his strength;  
seek his face always. Psalm 105:4*

5

*Our Father  
in Heaven*





*Our Father  
in heaven, hallowed  
be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as it  
is in heaven.*

Matthew 6:9, 10





## *Asking*

I don't ask God for  
too much stuff  
for He knows what I need  
So I enjoy the things he sends  
and kinda' let Him lead.  
I get a lot of joy, ya' know,  
to think that He loves me  
And that's as good as it can get  
and sets my spirit free.

I often talk to Jesus  
and will tell Him "Thanks a lot  
For all the blessings that I have  
and for the stuff I've got."  
God has good things to say to folks  
who take the time to hear,  
And when our hearts break forth in praise  
He bends a list'ning ear.

To know your heart is right with God  
and often keep in touch  
Gives Him the message loud and clear  
that you love Jesus much.  
So when you talk to Him each day  
just try to measure up  
And keep your heart's door open wide  
so He can fill your cup.

## *Fancy Prayers*

Some folks use lots of fancy words  
when to the Lord they pray  
As if they want to show their skill  
by big words that they say.  
I doubt the Lord is too impressed  
by fancy words and such  
For if they're only from the head  
they won't amount to much.  
I am not sure how God views these,  
to judge is not my part,  
But one thing that I know for sure—  
God listens to the heart.





I wonder if you've thought about  
that God is always Home,  
You never get beyond His reach  
no matter where you roam.  
He's open seven days a week  
and never locks His door  
So anyone on planet earth,  
though they are rich or poor

Can talk to Him and tell Him thanks  
for all the stuff they've got  
For when they count their blessings up  
they find they have a lot.  
And if they have a problem  
they can also share that, too,  
And if they tell Him all their heart  
He knows just what to do.

It almost blows my mind, ya' know,  
to think He's always there  
And never takes a few days off  
to breathe some country air  
And take some time for R and R,  
relaxing just a tad  
For it must really weigh Him down  
when things on earth are bad.

The folks who want no part of God  
and do things their own way  
Have no one they can turn to  
when they have a lousy day.  
So folks thank God He's always Home  
and not locked up at night,  
Just put your hand in His big Hand.  
He'll make your burden light.





## *Quiet Desperation*

It seems some folks will spend their life  
in quiet desperation,  
They find no joy to cheer their heart  
in all of God's creation.  
I know sometimes it's hard to sing  
when skies have turned to gray,  
But hard times really come to 'pass,'  
they do not come to stay.

Now if you find you have no song  
and life is mean and tough,  
Self-pity will not fill the bill--  
it's really not enough.  
You've got to stir yourself a bit  
and count the things you've got;  
It's not too smart to make a list  
of things that you have not.

If desperation has set in  
and quietly you groan,  
Just put your hand in God's big Hand;  
you'll find you're not alone.

*For I am the Lord your God,  
who takes hold of your right  
hand. Isaiah 41:13*

*Luke 18:9-14*

*Both  
Men  
Prayed*



Jesus told a parable one day  
About two different men  
Who both were praying to the Lord  
And 'fore each said, "Amen"  
The one told God how great he was  
And good things that he did,  
No doubt he went to church a lot  
Since he was just a kid.

He said he always paid his tithe  
And fasted twice a week,  
He liked to pray so folks could hear  
The bragging words he'd speak.  
This Pharisee talked on and on  
And said a lot of stuff  
And then told God the other man's  
Not living up to snuff.

The other man, a publican,  
Did not have much to say  
But smote his breast and bowed his head  
And God heard him that day  
For he said, "I'm a sinner, Lord,  
Be merciful to me,"  
And this man went home justified  
And happy as can be.

## *I Love Your Word, Oh Lord*

I love to read Your Word, Oh Lord,  
it means a lot to me,  
For there's wisdom in its pages  
that can set a person free.  
It tells us how we ought to live  
for living at its best  
And if we do the things it says  
we'll have both peace and rest.

It tells us of the patriarchs  
who lived in days of old  
And though we've heard of them as kids  
they still are often told  
Like Daniel in the lion's den,  
and David and his sling,  
Of course when Samson's hair was cut  
it spoiled most everything.

There's Moses and the burning bush,  
and Jonah and the whale,  
And these and many more are told  
of God who did not fail.  
And then in the New Testament  
some lived when times were bad  
Some Christians got some beatings  
taking all the grace they had.

But there were also happy times  
when Jesus healed the blind  
And even brought folks back to life,  
for He was super kind.  
He gave the Sermon on the Mount  
and taught us how to pray,  
The things He taught aren't out of date  
but still are used today.

Besides the heroes in God's Book,  
it gives in great detail  
How Christians can prepare for Heav'n  
and make it without fail.  
So when you knock on Heaven's Gate  
and walk that golden stair  
Please be assured inside your heart  
King Jesus will be there.







## *The Sacrifice of Praise*

Since Jesus Christ was Crucified  
and shed His Blood for man  
He was the all-time Sacrifice  
according to God's Plan.  
We no more offer bulls and goats  
to take away our sin  
For God devised a different way  
to give us life within.

God still wants us to sacrifice  
in several kinds of ways--  
I kinda' like to give to God  
the Sacrifice of Praise.  
It makes me happy when I thank  
the Lord for what I've got  
For He has blessed me bountifully  
and given me a lot.

I feel the Lord is really pleased  
when we've good stuff to say,  
I think the Sacrifice of Praise  
might really make His day.

*Let us continually offer to God  
a sacrifice of praise. Hebrews 13:15*

## *Trying Out Stuff*

Some folks will try a lot of stuff  
to try to help them cope  
So they can stay on top th' heap  
and give them joy and hope.  
Some may buy fancy cars and clothes  
and eat expensive meals  
And if their health in kinda' poor  
they may get Meals on Wheels.

The Bible has good news for those  
who struggle for life's best  
It says if we will come to God  
He'll give us peace and rest.  
Some folks have learned this secret  
and they look to God each day  
For guidance and protection  
and for help along life's way.



## *Small Prayers*

When children say their prayers at night  
before they fall asleep  
Their trusting little hearts will ask  
the Lord their soul to keep.  
They also ask that if they die  
before they should awake  
They want God to remember them  
so He their soul will take.

I'm sure God's heard that childish prayer  
repeated o'er and o'er  
No doubt it's in the millions—  
even billions, maybe more.  
But Jesus loved the little kids--  
I'm sure He takes time out  
To listen to a little child  
and things they talk about.



## *I Prayed for You*

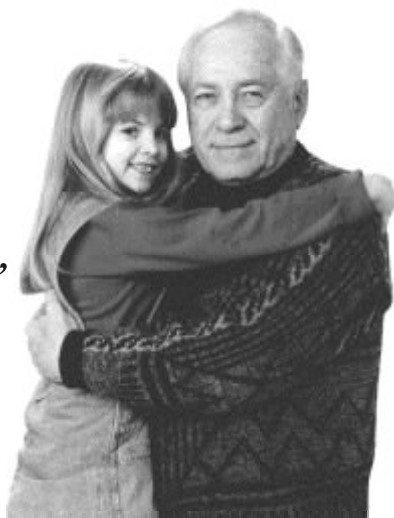


Today I prayed for you, my friend,  
I just want you to know  
That you are thought about and loved  
More than you'll ever know.  
I realize that living  
Can sometimes steal your song  
But God has ways to cheer the heart  
When minor things go wrong.

Don't forget God watches sparrows  
So you know He watches you  
So keep it in your heart and mind  
He knows all things you do.  
You are the apple of His Eye—  
He wants for you the best  
And if you keep your hand in His  
He'll give you peace and rest.

God never is surprised, ya' know,  
At things that come your way  
And be assured He'll give to you  
The strength you need each day.  
So keep a song deep in your heart,  
And if you will look up  
He will come by in His great love  
And fill your empty cup.

*Keepin'  
On  
Touch*



God's really awfully good to us  
to tell us not a thing  
About just what the future holds  
and what each day will bring.  
He knows that we might get upset  
and be depressed and blue  
And so He hides the future  
so we won't give up and stew.

It could be that He much prefers  
to give us strength each day  
For any problems that come up  
to muddy up our way.  
I think God likes it best this way  
so He can keep close touch  
And also let us know for sure  
He loves us very much.

*God is  
Always  
Listening*



I bet the Lord bows down His ear  
and likes it quite a lot  
When people pray and give Him thanks  
for all the stuff they've got.  
He really knows our every need  
so He takes care of things  
So why not just say, "Thank You, Lord"  
and find the joy it brings.

Of course our God would like for us  
to often keep in touch,  
He'd like to hear you tell Him  
that you love Him very much.  
And while you're on the line with Him  
you oughta' ask Him, too,  
If He has something in His Heart  
He'd like for you to do.

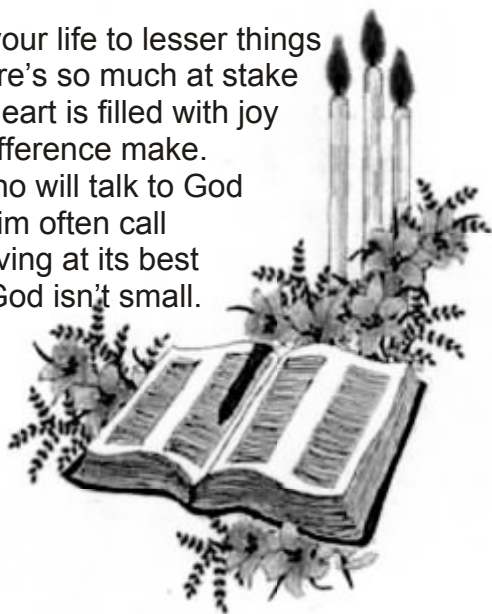
Don't live a mediocre life  
and kinda' drift along--  
God has a special plan for you  
to give your heart a song.  
Don't miss the joy of serving God  
for it's so good to know  
That He will keep His Eye on you  
and never let you go.

*“on call”*

Some folks don't seem to realize  
God always is “on call”  
And it's unfortunate to see  
their God is far too small.  
When they don't have their head on straight  
they follow rabbit trails  
And may end up lost in the woods  
because their judgment fails.

Our God is really wise, ya' know,  
and if folks want life's best  
They need to talk to Him a lot  
and let Him be their Guest.  
He's always been in Heaven  
and He runs the Place with care  
And folks who give their heart to Him  
will live with Him up There.

Don't trust your life to lesser things  
when there's so much at stake  
For if your heart is filled with joy  
it will a difference make.  
A person who will talk to God  
and on Him often call  
Discovers living at its best  
for their God isn't small.



## *Long Prayers*

Some folks say long and fancy prayers  
That don't get off the ground.  
I'd guess those prayers are not sincere  
And have a hollow sound.  
It's not too good to just say words  
If they're not from the heart--  
God knows if they're sincere or not  
Right from the very start.  
So if you'd speak with God, My friend,  
And catch His listening ear  
You've gotta' tell it like it is  
If you want Him to hear.





## *The Listener*



It really kinda' blows my mind  
About this thing called prayer  
Nobody can prevent it  
For our God is always There.  
We can pray for someone far away  
Or someone right next door  
For distance doesn't bother God,  
He always knows the score.

God hears the prayers of little folks,  
Or those who say a prayer  
Because they feel depressed and down  
And need someone to care.  
But if you think on it a bit  
We need God every day  
To help us with the bumps in life  
That seem to come our way.

Don't hesitate to pray for folks  
Who mean a lot to you  
For they have struggles all their own--  
Needing love and caring, too.  
No one can stop a person's prayers  
No matter how they try  
For God is always listening  
Somewhere up in the sky.



## *Refinement*

When your life is going smoothly  
and you're perking right along  
It's easy to be cheerful  
if you haven't lost your song.  
But if you get too busy  
and you don't take time to pray  
You just may hit a speed bump  
that will slow you on your way.

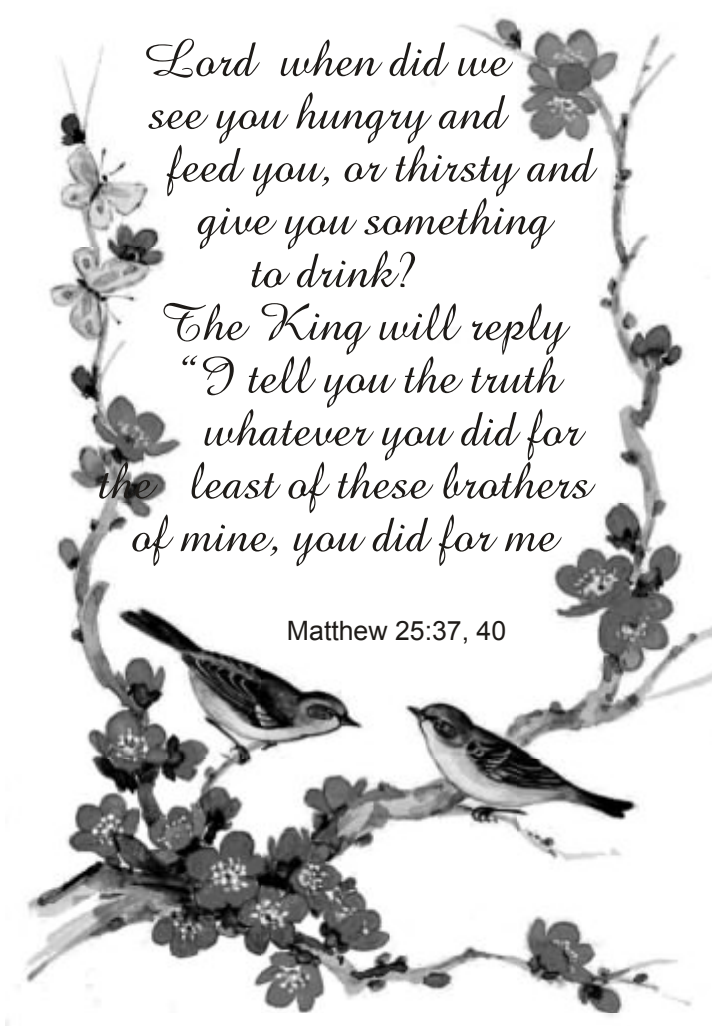
And when these tough times slow you down  
no doubt you'll breathe a prayer  
And tell God what your problems are  
assuming He's up There.  
Sometimes it's easy to forget  
the good stuff that you've got  
Until it sorta' slips away  
and then you're on the spot.

But if you're kinda' in that shape  
and hardly can endure  
Remember God still loves you,  
of this you can be sure.  
It could be He's refining you  
so He can shine through you  
So folks can see the love of God  
in everything you do.

6

# *Being God's Hands and Feet*





*Lord when did we  
see you hungry and  
feed you, or thirsty and  
give you something  
to drink?*

*The King will reply  
“I tell you the truth  
whatever you did for  
the least of these brothers  
of mine, you did for me*

Matthew 25:37, 40

## *Dressing Up*

Some folks will get all gussied up  
and wonder where to go  
Because they want to show stuff off  
and strut about, ya' know.  
I wonder if they realize  
folks really aren't impressed  
By all the trappings and their gold  
and if they look well dressed.

I think a lot of folks I know  
like folks who love and care  
About the needs of other folks  
so help 'em out and share.  
It's nice to have some fancy stuff  
to wear and to enjoy  
But happy are the loving folks  
who bring to others joy.



## *Leaving Footprints*

It's kinda' hard to hold our tongue  
And not judge other folks--  
When they don't do the things we do,  
We think they are a hoax.  
We like to think that we are right  
In things we do and say  
And though we don't agree with them,  
We love them anyway.

If we are living like we should  
Folks might want what we've got.  
And if we tell 'em what we have  
'Twould please the Lord a lot.  
Sometimes we might be careless  
And think "no one watches me,"  
But let me tell you, friend of mine,  
You're wrong as you can be.

If Jesus' love shines through you  
And comes from inside out  
You'll leave your footprints on their heart,  
I've not the slightest doubt.



## *Helping Others*

If you show kindness to someone  
I'm sure that you will find  
Not only are they happy  
but you'll have peace of mind.  
It's kinda' strange it works that way  
but sure enough it will  
For while you're helping other folks  
the Lord your cup will fill.

To help some folks by doing stuff  
is never out of style  
And if you want to do it right  
you'll do it with a smile.  
If someone is a problem  
that you work with day by day  
It could be if you'd smile at them  
some good might come your way.

Some folks are quite a challenge  
to love them in your heart  
But why not tackle lonely folks  
and kinda' do your part  
To make them feel important  
and you'd like to be their friend—  
It could be that some TLC  
a hurting heart could mend.







*Living  
in  
Style*

Some people are so busy  
Climbing ladders to success  
They miss a lot of joys in life  
And so end up a mess.  
Instead of watching sunsets,  
Making friends, and smelling flowers  
They're bent on being "big shots"  
Throughout the daylight hours.

I'm not too sure that lots of dough  
Brings happiness of heart  
Unless they help some hurting folks  
And kinda' do their part.  
So take time for all the good stuff  
God made for us to see  
And folk who take the time to look  
Are happy as can be.

And so if God has blessed you  
Try to spread His love around  
For lots of folks would like to hear  
A happy, joyful sound.  
Life is kinda' what we make it,  
We can growl or we can smile.  
Forget about those ladders, folks,  
And live your life in style.



*Brighten  
Someone's  
Day*

If you talk about your problems  
when you're chatting with your friends,  
They may be looking for the time  
your conversation ends.  
They've troubles of their own, you know,  
and sometimes life is tough,  
And if they're working hard to cope  
they've problems quite enough.  
So don't unload on those you love,  
they'll hate to see you come  
If all the things you say to them  
will leave them down and glum.  
It's better far to tell your friends  
how blest you are today,  
And greet them with a smile and hug  
and brighten up their day.

*Shining  
for  
Jesus*



Let the love of Christ shine through you  
As you live from day to day  
For lots of folks need cheering up  
To drive the blues away.

Some travel on a lonely road,  
At times that trail is rough  
And they could use a smile or hug  
So they'll have strength enough  
To make it through life's winding road  
And maybe even smile  
For if they have a song inside  
It makes the trip worthwhile.

The same is true for everyone  
Who treads this earthly sod--  
We all need some encouragement  
Till we're at home with God.

## *Getting A Song*



When you read the morning paper  
does it fill your heart with cheer  
Or do you kinda' wince a bit  
at things you read and hear?  
I know we need to know some stuff  
that's going on today  
But could the news folks add good things  
that happen every day?

Not everything is bad ya' know,  
some good things happen, too,  
And how we'd like to hear some stuff  
that's happy and is true.  
It would be nice to hear about  
some folks who volunteer  
And do nice things for hurting folks  
that bring them joy and cheer.

Some folks would like a phone call  
or a knock upon their door  
That lets them know that they are loved  
e'en if they're sick and poor.  
God smiles on folks who show their love  
by things they say and do  
And He's aware of everything  
so gives a song to you!

## *Happiness*

When we went to Church this morning  
I heard the pastor say  
That if you own a lot of stuff  
it's really quite okay  
But it won't make you happy  
and give you peace of mind  
'Cause you can't take it with you  
up to Heaven you will find.

You're better off to love the Lord  
and give Him all your heart--  
To love your neighbor as yourself  
is really pretty smart.  
Sometimes we need to think a bit  
about how blest we are  
And share the good stuff that we have  
with folks not up to par.

I've lived on earth a long, long time  
and I can plainly see  
That people who are givers  
seem as happy as can be.  
I've seen some folks with lots of dough  
that buy and buy and buy  
But they cannot buy happiness  
no matter how they try.

God gives to us so we can give  
and spread God's love around  
For lots of folks sure need to hear  
a happy, joyful sound.  
And if you give someone some joy  
and kinda' lift 'em up  
You'll find that God will bless you  
and even fill your cup.



*remembering the words the Lord Jesus  
himself said: "It is more blessed to give  
than to receive." Acts 20:35*



God made us in His image  
so He gave us hands, ya' know.  
For if we didn't have them  
we'd have no get up and go.  
We couldn't write a letter  
and we couldn't sign a check  
Nor could we play our table games  
and shuffle up the deck.

We couldn't even tie our shoes  
or cook a tasty meal  
For if a person had no hands  
how could he onions peel?  
How would one clean the kitchen floor  
and tidy up the house  
Or even put a bit of cheese  
to trap a wayward mouse?

We couldn't use computers  
nor could we pick a flower  
Life would truly be a hassle  
every day and every hour.  
We couldn't hold our children's hands  
when walking in a park  
And give their hand a little squeeze  
when it is getting dark.

Sometimes we do not realize  
how blest we really are  
That God gave us a pair of hands  
and made us up to par.  
We know His Hands stay busy  
looking after folks down here  
And He sets the example  
that we oughta' spread some cheer.

So take a look at your own hands  
and thank the Lord today  
That He has made you like you are  
and fold your hands and pray.  
And when you get up off your knees  
you may soon want to start  
To use the hands He's given you  
by blessing someone's heart.

*Whatever your hands find to do,  
do it with all of your might.  
Ecclesiastes 9:10*



## *Opportunities*

Most of us are common folk,  
we haven't come to fame,  
And there are some who've blown the chance  
to get a famous name.  
But if, my friend, this sort of thing  
has come to pass for you,  
You need not throw the towel in—  
there's stuff that you can do.

God knows what you are doing  
and watches you a lot  
So help some folks around you  
and give it all you've got.  
If you are working for the Lord,  
my friend, do it with class  
For He keeps track of things you do,  
He doesn't let it pass.



So whether you are rich and great,  
or whether you are small  
God knows what you are up to  
and if you're standing tall.  
It seems to me since God loves us  
we oughta' play it smart  
And work for Him the best we can  
and give Him all our heart.

## *Comin' in First*

It's kinda' strange how some folk feel  
that they are number one  
And that they're more important  
because of what they've done.  
If they would think on this a bit  
they just might come in last  
Because they glorify themselves  
and live their life too fast.

The Good Book says both loud and clear  
that common folks may find  
That they may come in first, ya' know,  
and have great peace of mind  
Because they help the hurting folks  
and lend a listening ear  
And take the time to spread around  
some love, and hope, and cheer.

It's when we are Christ's hands  
and feet  
and do the things He'd do  
That gives folks some encouragement  
if they are feeling blue.  
Don't envy other folks you know,  
but humbly do your part,  
It well may be you'll come in first  
and God will bless your heart.



## *The Givers*



Not many folks have servant's hearts,  
folks find so much to do,  
And so we find that helping folks  
is done by just a few.  
But those who go as volunteers  
and cheer folks up a tad  
Arrive home feeling mighty fine  
and in their heart they're glad  
They took the time to help someone  
and went the second mile  
For if one gives part of ones-self  
how can he help but smile?

Not many folks with selfish hearts  
will hum and sing a song--  
And if they think they're number one  
their focus is all wrong.  
We find that joy and peace and love  
the servant's heart will bless  
For folks who spread their love around  
find they have happiness.

Not many folks have servant's hearts  
for it takes time, you know,  
To spend some time and energy  
with folks whose steps are slow.  
It seems the world keeps rushing on  
and some folks cannot find  
The happiness they're looking for  
and quiet peace of mind.

No matter if they shop and shop  
and have more than enough  
They can't fill up an empty heart  
with selfish kinds of stuff.  
The Bible says that happy folks  
will love and serve a lot  
So why not go the second mile  
and give it all you've got?



## *Your Greatest Gift*

The greatest gift that  
you can give  
to God or anyone

Is giving of yourself, ya' know.

It's really number one.

Some folks will write a check to help

or maybe send a card,

And both are really, really nice

if someone's way is hard.

But if you give them of yourself

and chat with them a while

It lets them know that they are loved

and may bring them a smile.

There're lots of ways to show your love

so folks know that you care

It might be just a simple thing

like combing someone's hair.

It may be you could baby sit

so Mom could get some rest

Or if the laundry bag is full,

to wash it may be best.

I'd guess God blesses servant folks

who work for Him and smile

And if you're working for the Lord

do it, my friend, with style.



If you find jealousy and pride  
Tucked deep down in your heart  
It's best if you get rid of it  
And really play it smart.  
Your heart can only hold so much  
So let it overflow  
With love and kindness, peace and joy,  
Wherever you may go.

A lot of folks are hurting  
And they need a joyful sound  
And that's why it's important  
To spread your love around.  
The world does not need bitterness  
And other worthless stuff  
So brighten up your corner  
And keep it up to snuff.

If you will smile and sing and hum  
You'll find your life is blest  
Because a heart that's full of love  
Is what God likes the best.

## *Smiles Help*

Don't knock a fella' down, my friend,  
by unkind words you say,  
You won't feel good about yourself  
to spoil another's day.  
Instead just look folks in the eye  
and give a great big smile,  
It could be it might make their day  
and bless them for a while.

A lot of folk need cheering up  
for sometimes life is tough,  
They even get depressed and down  
when life's not up to snuff.  
So give folks smiles instead of frowns  
and try to cheer them up  
And you will find when you do this  
the Lord will fill your cup.



## *Face To Face*

As you look into the mirror  
When you've just crawled out of bed  
What is the face that greets you,  
Does it smile or look half-dead?  
Some folks will get up cranky  
And it takes a little while  
For them to get all gussied up  
And then put on a smile.

But what's behind that face of yours,  
Does it show strain and stress?  
The face you wear quite simply shows  
What's in your heart, I guess.  
So keep your heart tuned up and full  
Of love and joy and grace  
So when you get your mirror out  
You'll see a happy face.





## *Staying On Top th' Heap*

Do you have much to sing about  
or is life pretty drab  
And all you have to think about  
are things that once you had?  
Your heart can get quite empty  
if you fail to prime your pump,  
For if your attitude is bad  
you'll fall into a slump.

Sometimes we get quite out of breath  
to stay on top th' heap,  
So its important that we know  
that God our soul will keep.  
So when you're feeling kinda' blue  
and life has let you down  
Look up, and count your blessings,  
wear a smile and not a frown.

God cares for people everywhere,  
no thing is new to Him,  
So give your troubles all to God  
when life is bleak and dim.



*Cast all your cares on  
the Lord and he will  
sustain you; Psalm 55:22*

*Living  
to the  
Max*



Be careful what you think about,  
It could affect your health;  
And if you live down in the pits  
It could affect your wealth.  
The Bible says a happy heart  
Is like a medicine  
And so our health may quite depend  
By what we find within.


If we are angry and upset  
It gets us off the track,  
It isn't worth the hassle  
To let our lives get out o' whack.  
Then we do stuff we shouldn't do,  
And say an unkind word  
And folks are disappointed  
By the things they've seen and heard.

So think good thoughts,  
And even try to whistle now and then,  
If you encourage other folks  
They may wonder where you've been.  
To think on happy things, my friend,  
Is what you oughta' do  
So you can live life to the max  
And be a blessing, too.

7

*If Anyone  
Opens  
The Door*





*If anyone hears my  
voice and opens  
the door,  
I will come in and  
eat with him  
and he with me.*

Revelation 3:20

## *Only God*

No one but God could make a plan  
    like for our Savior's birth  
And have it orchestrated right  
    when He came down to earth.  
The governor imposed a tax  
    that everyone must pay  
So people were all hurrying  
    to get well on their way.

And Joseph led a donkey,  
    a lowly beast, you know,  
To an Inn where they could spend the night  
    and then get up and go.  
And Mary, who was great with child,  
    was anxious to lie down  
And kinda' get a breather  
    in that sleepy little town.

To think the Inn was full that night  
    and with no place to go  
They were allowed to spend the night  
    in a stable down below.  
Of course you know the story well  
    that Christ was born that day  
And Joseph filled a manger  
    with some nearby straw and hay.

*. . . and she gave birth to her first born,  
a son. She wrapped him in clothes and  
placed him in a manger because there was no  
room for them in the Inn. Luke 2:6,7*



No one who stayed inside the Inn  
    had offered them their room,  
It seems they were too busy  
    with their own stuff, I presume.  
I really like that shepherds  
    were the first to make it there  
Because a choir of angels sang  
    and told them when and where

They'd find the place where Jesus Christ,  
    the Son of God, was born,  
And sure enough they found the place  
    on that first Christmas morn.  
God didn't send his Son, you know,  
    to folks who reeked with fame,  
He sent Him to the common folks  
    who'd be so glad He came.

So if you're rich or if you're poor,  
    and have an empty cup  
Just give your heart to Jesus Christ.  
    He'd love to fill it up.

## *Zacchaeus*

Sometimes I think of Zacchaeus  
who climbed up in a tree  
For he was just a little man  
and Christ he could not see  
Because the crowd of bigger folks  
were walking in his way  
And that is just exactly why  
he climbed a tree that day.

I think its neat he ran ahead  
and climbed a sycamore,  
Apparently he'd never seen  
how Jesus looked before.

Zacchaeus was a wealthy man  
and was not liked a lot  
For he collected taxes  
cheating folks right on the spot.  
It could be that he took off work  
on this one special day  
And had determined in his heart  
he'd see the Lord some way.

And in my mind's eye I can see  
him run that dusty trail  
Then shimmy up the sycamore—  
he'd see Christ without fail.



And sure enough when Jesus came  
he called him by his name  
And after he had met the Lord  
he never was the same.

He said that he would give the poor  
a half of all his stuff  
And also added something more,  
as if that weren't enough--  
He said if he had cheated folks  
he'd pay 'em back fourfold  
But that is not the end of it  
for after that we're told  
That Jesus would have lunch with him,  
He'd be his honored guest  
And so this little man was changed  
to one whose heart was blest.

*Luke 19:1-10*



## *Mary*

If you've ever had a baby  
    you no doubt had gone by car  
And checked in at a hospital  
    which wasn't very far.

The doctor and the nurse in charge  
    did the admission stuff  
And put you in a nice clean bed  
    and gave you meds enough  
To help you through the labor pains  
    until your child was born  
And then you got to see your babe,  
    though you were tired and worn.

I wonder if you've thought about  
    how Mary, great with child  
Could travel many weary miles  
    and still be meek and mild  
When they would come up to the Inn  
    where she could get some rest  
And find the place was all filled up,  
    though Joseph did his best.

I wonder just what Mary thought—  
do you think that she sighed  
When she lay on a bed of straw, and  
maybe even cried?  
I doubt she had much stuff along to  
make a cozy place—  
She must have prayed to God a lot  
to give her strength and grace.  
Who ever thought this humble place  
would welcome such a Guest  
Who truly is the King of kings, the  
Best of all the best.



*Luke 2:4-7*



I often think how Jesus called  
His disciples here on earth,  
He didn't question them and ask  
Just how much they were worth,  
Nor did he hand out questionnaires  
With pages to fill out  
And ask for several references  
To check them out, no doubt.  
He didn't discuss benefits;  
There was no dotted line  
Where if they measured up OK  
A contract they would sign.  
He didn't ask about their past  
Nor for a resume  
He simply said, "Come, follow Me,"  
And it 's like that today.  
Christ is still saying, "Follow Me,"  
And if we hear His voice  
And follow Him where e'er He leads  
He'll make our hearts rejoice.

*Christ  
Loved  
Kids*



I wonder if you've thought about  
    why Christ loved children so.  
Was it because their little hearts  
    have lots of love, you know?  
They don't have stuff like sin and hate  
    stored up inside their heart  
So they can kinda' be themselves  
    which really is quite smart.

Some older folks with lots of clout  
    may put on lots of airs,  
But Jesus cuts right through that stuff  
    because He really cares.  
Christ tells us in the Bible  
    that we should all become  
Like children with their simple trust  
    and love for every one.

I'm sure the Lord likes simple faith  
    that has no fear or doubt  
For He likes folks who trust in Him  
    right from the inside out.  
So copy little children  
    in the love they shed abroad  
For Jesus says to live that way  
    till we're at home with God.

## *Just As We Are*

If you are out of work, my friend,  
And need a job to do,  
You may look several places  
That you think appeal to you.

Of course they'll want a resume  
Of where you worked before,  
They'll also want an interview  
When you walk through their door.

You've got to look quite classy  
Just to meet the standards there,  
And so you gussy up a bit,  
Might even curl your hair.

So if you can impress the folks  
Who work in personnel  
It may be you will land a job  
Because you look so well.

But that is not the way with God,  
He takes us as we are,  
We don't fill out a questionnaire  
Though we're not up to par.



St. Peter will not ask us  
For a lengthy interview,  
God simply wants a humble heart  
That He can make anew.

He takes the sick, the blind, the lame,  
And those who cannot cope,  
No matter if they're rich or poor  
He offers them some hope.

He never leaves us as we are  
If we give Him our heart,  
He changes us from what we were  
Right from the very start.

## *Still Speaking*

God is still speaking, friend of mine,  
He hasn't left us here  
To travel on life's road alone—  
in fact He's always near.  
But if you want to hear Him  
and see things that He has done  
You've gotta' get your heart in tune  
and not stay on the run.

God speaks to us through sunsets,  
and through a gentle breeze,  
He also speaks through flowers,  
the singing birds, and trees.  
The Bible says He's everywhere  
so if you'd look a bit  
You really might find it is true  
if you'll just think on it.



Sometimes God speaks in special ways  
that tells us of His power  
When thunder rolls and lightning comes  
and skies pour down a shower.  
At other times we feel God speak  
in quiet gentle ways  
And somehow comes and fills our cup  
with music and with praise.

Some folks will say there is no God  
or that He's far away  
And so they took off their list  
and seldom ever pray.  
But happy are the many folks  
who feel God is their Friend  
And hold to His unchanging Hand  
until the very end.





## *My Kitchen Window*

I like my kitchen windows  
    where I can see outside.  
It's fun to watch the neighbors  
    when they go out for a ride.  
Or maybe some will take a walk  
    escorted by their dog  
And some are really in good shape  
    and find it fun to jog.

At times I see some other things—  
    some birds go flying by  
I guess they want some stuff to eat  
    and so they really try.  
Some butterflies might make the scene  
    and add a touch of class,  
A friendly neighbor might drop in.  
    I'm glad they didn't pass.

The clouds intrigue me quite a bit—  
    the white against the blue  
And sunsets add great color  
    and we enjoy that, too.  
It blows my mind to wonder how  
    God made the things He made  
Including lots of flowers and trees  
    for beauty and for shade.

Another thing I like to watch  
    are lizards on the screen  
They travel 90 miles an hour  
    if you know what I mean.

Our God created everything  
that's found on planet earth  
He didn't make some junky stuff,  
but made all things of worth.

Yes, I like my kitchen windows  
so I can see outdoors--  
It's much more interesting to me  
than news of floods and wars.  
So if you'd spend some worthwhile time  
pull up your kitchen chair  
And enjoy all the beauty  
that is waiting for you there.



*The  
Greatest*



*Jesus*



Whoever thought that  
Jesus Christ  
born in a stable dim  
Would spend His life  
in healing folks  
if they believed in Him?

The common people loved Him much  
and liked the words He spoke,  
He spent a lot of time with them  
though some were sick and broke.

Whoever thought this Son of God  
who changed folks life so much  
Would some day be hung on a cross  
by some who felt His touch.  
But even greater, who would think  
that this unusual Man  
Would change the world forever  
as no other person can?

And now each time we write the date  
it points to Jesus' birth,  
For He's the greatest Person  
who has lived on planet earth.

*Today in the City of David a Savior  
has been born to you, He is Christ the Lord  
Luke 2:11*

## *Unconditional Love*



God's love is unconditional,  
His heart is open wide  
To any who'll believe in Him  
and want His love inside.  
His eyes are searching everywhere  
on planet earth, you know,  
For folks who want to serve Him here  
and then to Heaven go.

There is no case too hard for Him,  
no heart He cannot touch  
If folks will give their heart to Him  
and really love Him much.  
God's love is unconditional,  
but we must do our part  
And tell Him we invite Him in  
to live within our heart.

*Just: “Follow Me”*

When Christ called His disciples  
He didn't tell them then  
That he was making up a group  
of very special men.  
He didn't ask where they were born  
or of their family tree,  
He only said just two short words,  
and that was “Follow Me.”

He could have questioned every man  
and learned a lot of stuff  
But all He said were those two words  
And that seemed to be enough.  
We can complicate religion  
with all our don'ts and do's  
And kinda' fail to follow Christ  
because of things we choose.

If we love God with all our heart,  
our body, soul and mind  
It truly is to follow Christ  
and gives us peace of mind.  
I really like the way that Christ  
said simply "Follow Me"  
And folks who do that very thing  
are happy and set free.

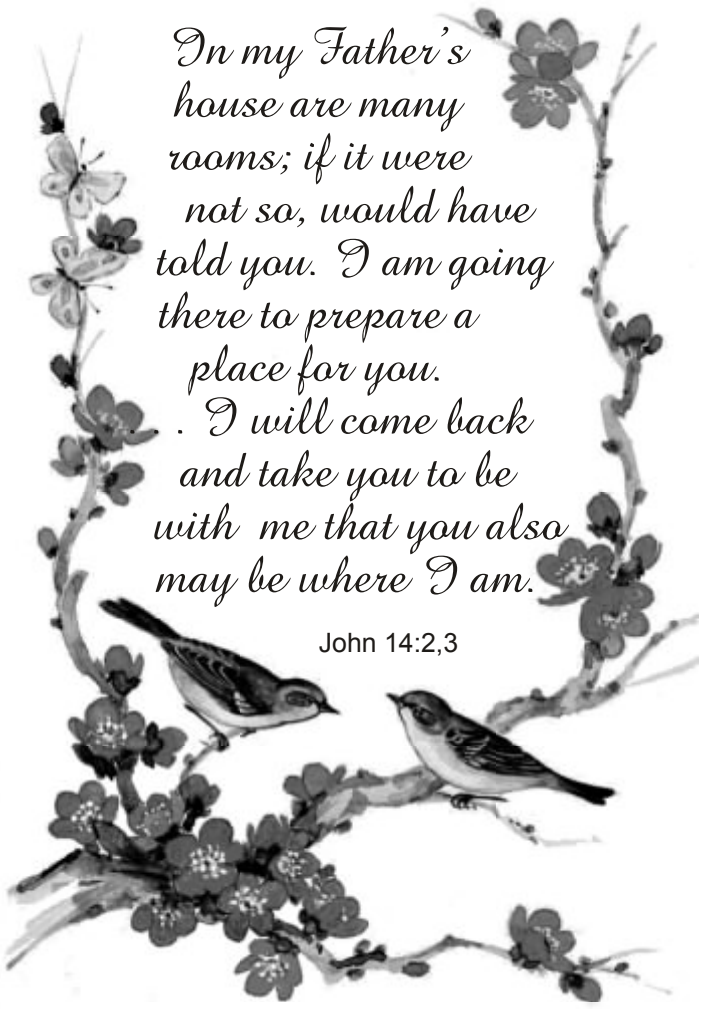
*As he walked along, he saw  
Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at  
the tax collectors booth. "Follow  
me" Jesus told him. And Levi  
got up and followed him.*

*Mark 2:14*



*I Go to  
Prepare a  
Place for You*





*In my Father's  
house are many  
rooms; if it were  
not so, would have  
told you. I am going  
there to prepare a  
place for you.  
. I will come back  
and take you to be  
with me that you also  
may be where I am.*

John 14:2,3



## *Finally Home*

Have you noticed in the book of Psalms  
A very special verse  
That gives the Christian lots of hope  
Although it's kinda' terse?  
It says that when folks die on earth  
It's precious in God's sight,  
We might have known if God's involved  
He'd really do it right.

We know that when our kids come home  
To spend a week or so  
We get our house prepared for them  
With things they like, you know.  
We welcome them with open arms  
And try to do our best  
So they'll know they are loved a lot  
And are our special guest.



On earth it's difficult to give  
A tearful last goodbye  
But if we think on it a bit  
We maybe shouldn't sigh  
Because God has a place prepared,  
The Welcome sign is clear  
And He keeps waiting for the time  
His children will appear.

So while we struggle here on earth  
To let a loved one go  
The ones who are in Heaven  
Are rejoicing for they know  
Another child has made it Home  
And they will always stay  
Where there is happiness and love  
Forever and a day.

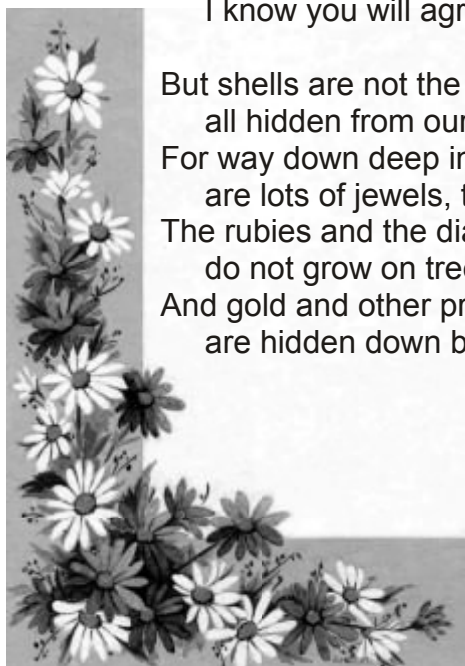


*Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of His saints.  
Psalm 116;15*

## *God Loves Color*

We see a lot of pretty stuff like  
flowers, birds, and trees,  
And if a person takes a walk  
he lots of beauty sees.  
It must be God loves color  
for He used it everywhere;  
It could be He had extra paint,  
and so with some to spare  
He even painted lots of shells  
all hidden in the sea  
And made them very beautiful,  
I know you will agree.

But shells are not the only things  
all hidden from our view  
For way down deep inside the earth  
are lots of jewels, too.  
The rubies and the diamonds  
do not grow on trees, you know,  
And gold and other precious things  
are hidden down below.

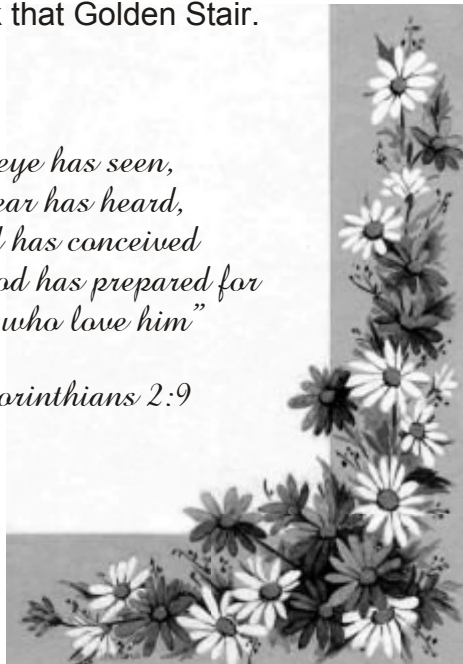


When I see earth so beautiful  
for our enjoyment here  
It makes me wonder what's in Heaven  
and how it will appear.  
We know it must be beautiful  
and we cannot compare  
The things that we have seen down here  
with what will be up there.

Some folk believe they've lots of smarts  
and know a lot of stuff  
But when it comes to Heaven, folks,  
our minds aren't big enough  
To visualize the things we'll see  
and how it looks up there  
When we are finished with this life  
and walk that Golden Stair.

*"No eye has seen,  
no ear has heard,  
no mind has conceived  
what God has prepared for  
those who love him"*

*1 Corinthians 2:9*



## *But When We Get to Heaven . . .*

When oldsters gather in a group  
and kinda' chew the fat  
They'll sit and spin their yarns, ya' know,  
that covers this and that.  
But one thing seems to head the list—  
they're going to see the Doc  
So he can tune 'em up a bit  
and kinda' wind their clock.

The weather is another thing  
they'll find to talk about  
For if a storm is on its way  
they'll have more aches, no doubt.  
The price of gas may be discussed,  
they think its much too high,  
Their pensions are not adequate  
for things they'd like to buy.



They'll talk about their grandkids  
and just how smart they are,  
And even say some church folks  
are not living up to par.  
A lot of stuff will be discussed  
by members of the group  
But they'll keep chatting on and on  
while eating chicken soup.

But when we get to Heaven, folks,  
this stuff will be forgot  
And we'll not talk of aches and pains  
and stuff that we have not.  
No one will be complaining on that  
happy golden Shore  
Where all things will be perfect and  
we'll live forevermore.



## *Heaven*

I've never been to Heaven  
But I hope to go some day  
And when I reach that lovely Place  
I'm sure I'll want to stay.  
After living for a lot of years  
Down here with toil and fear  
It sure will be lots different  
When all problems disappear.

We'll never have to phone in sick  
Or have a tire go flat,  
Or get a tune-up from the Doc,  
Or walk the dog or cat.  
We'll not get hit by hurricanes,  
Tsunamis won't be There,  
No families will be arguing,  
There'll be no pain or care.

No one will be complaining  
About how bad they feel  
And how it almost wears 'em out  
To just prepare a meal.  
Your neighbors or your boss at work  
Won't make you lose your smile  
And if you find you need a nap  
There'll be time to rest a while.

God is the CEO, you know,  
And keeps things up to snuff,  
He has a limitless supply  
Of lots and lots of stuff.  
It's hard for me to figure out  
Why all folks don't prepare  
And live for God down here on earth  
So they can live up There.

*They will be his people, and God himself  
shall be with them and be their God.  
He will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
There will be no more death or mourning  
or crying or pain, for the old order of things  
has passed away.  
Revelation 21:3,4*







Sometimes we think that by and by  
when we get up to Heav'n  
We'll want to ask some questions  
'bout some trials we've been given,  
It may be on our heart to ask  
why we have suffered so  
And why living wasn't easy  
with its aches and pains, ya' know.

But I have thought on this a tad  
and wondered, could it be  
That we'll forget all that bad stuff  
when Jesus face we see?  
Our souls will be excited  
when we reach that Golden Shore  
And things that used to irk us here  
will bother us no more.

The Bible plainly tells us  
God will wipe away all tears  
And He can do that very fast—  
it won't take months or years.  
So just be glad and thank the Lord  
when angels give their nod  
That you'll leave troubles far behind  
and be at Home with God.

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes.*

*Revelation 21:4*

## *Could It Be?*



The Bible doesn't  
tell us much  
What Heaven will be like—  
But what it does say  
here and there  
It sounds like pure delight.  
It's nothing like our planet earth  
Where we spend all our days  
For in Heaven we'll not worry  
In countless, endless ways.

My husband wondered, "Could it be  
Why not too much is said  
Is folks might hate to live down here--  
Preferring to be dead?"  
I hadn't thought of that before,  
But I can plainly see  
If life is tough and mean down here  
We'd like to be set free.

But many folks who live long lives  
Enjoy each passing day  
And doing things for God and man  
Fulfil their lives some way.  
I really think God had in mind  
That we live here awhile  
Then when the angels come for us  
We'll greet 'em with a smile.



## *Not a Millionaire?*

I'm really not a millionaire,  
But I sure feel like one  
Because God's watching over me,  
And things that He has done.  
But I would like to let you know,  
By naming just a few  
Some blessings that I like a lot  
Though they are old, but true.

My husband means a lot to me,  
He's gentle and he's kind,  
And having kids who love me, too,  
Gives me a happy mind.  
I also have a lot of friends  
I've gotten here and there  
Although I have a lot of them  
There're none I'd like to spare.

And though I'm blest with lots of things  
To feather up my nest  
Some things are extra special  
And I rate among the best.  
To have God's love inside my heart  
Along with peace of mind  
Tops off my pile of blessings,  
But still more things do I find.

When Jesus calls my name down here  
I need not moan and groan  
Because I know within my heart  
I need not go alone.  
God's Presence will be with me  
When I walk that Golden Stair--  
It's then I will discover  
That I AM a millionaire!

