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# *Joy*

*Choosing to Live  
With a Full Cup*



## *Naomi (my joy)*

*For you made me glad  
by your deeds, O Lord.  
I sing for joy  
at the works of your hand.  
Psalm 92:4*

*I have told you this  
so my joy may be in you  
and that your joy may be complete.  
John 16:22*

*May the God of hope  
fill you with all joy and peace  
as you trust in Him.  
Romans 15:13*

## *Today*

Today my heart will have a song;  
I will look up and smile,  
I have so much to sing about  
to make my life worthwhile.

When I have God to care for me  
why should my heart be sad?  
I'll leave my problems in His Hands  
and He will make me glad.

There is no night too dark for Him,  
no heart He cannot heal;  
And so my heart will have a song  
for God is very real.



But let all who take refuge  
in you be glad; let them ever  
sing for joy. Psalm 5:11

## *The Mind*

It fascinates me quite a bit  
when I think of the mind  
And how it serves us day and night  
with lots of stuff, I find.  
The brain is such a mystery  
for in that three pound mass  
We can decide what things to think  
or simply let them pass.

Some folks will ruminate on stuff  
not really worth a hoot  
And wonder why they're so depressed  
though they have lots of loot.  
We choose our attitude and thoughts  
and all the words we say  
So why not think on happy stuff  
and have a glorious day?



I have written...  
to stimulate your mind  
to wholesome thinking.  
2 Peter 3.11

## *Glimpses*

Though we have traveled here and there  
and seen a lot of stuff  
We never have seen Heaven  
though we know it's up to snuff.

But this we know God is alive  
and fully in control  
Because He pours His blessings out  
on every living soul.

And He gives glimpses of Himself  
in awesome kinds of ways  
Like putting rainbows in the clouds  
to brighten up our days.

He also made the flowers  
and the birds that sail the sky  
And we see other things as well  
that money cannot buy

Like sunsets, moon, and many stars  
that brighten up the night,  
When God decides to do a thing  
He really does it right.

No doubt some things I like the most  
that God wants us to do  
Is how to show forgiveness  
and to love our neighbor, too.

Also, God is big on kindness,  
and He likes for us to treat  
The folks who need a helping hand  
for we're His hands and feet.

When people fall in love with Christ  
life never is the same  
Because they've had a glimpse of Him  
they're oh, so glad He came.



Though you have not seen him,  
you love him. . . you believe in  
him and are filled with an inexpressible  
and glorious joy. 1 Peter 1:8



A lot of firsts come to us all  
Though some of these we can't recall;

But there are things we don't forget  
And hold a place in our heart yet.

The day we started off to school,  
The time we learned the golden rule,

The day we got a paper route  
So we could earn a little loot.

The day we got a two-wheel bike  
And we rode wobbly down the pike.

And later still we owned a car  
And hitched our wagon to a star.

The day we went on our first date  
If it was nice or second rate.

The day we struck out on our own  
And thought we'd make it, though alone.

The day we first became a bride  
When Mama smiled and almost cried.

But if we want to top them all  
It could have been when we were small

And stood before a Birthday Cake  
And Dad would then a picture take.

No worries spoiled that special day  
We'd eat some cake then go and play.

The world was ours—oh what a place  
To just enjoy God's care and grace!

. . . God, who richly provides  
us with everything for our  
enjoyment. 1 Timothy 6:17b



## *Even God Sings*

There's a verse in Zephaniah  
that I like quite a lot  
It tells about God's Character  
and other things He's got.  
It says He's in the midst of us  
and that He's mighty, too,  
And that He is a joyful God,  
so we should be so, too.

So read along in Chapter three  
and check verse seventeen  
And you will find a God who sings—  
you'll know just what I mean.  
I'm glad I serve a God like that—  
One filled with love and joy  
And has a song within His heart  
that nothing can destroy.

I know it says in Scripture  
we're the Apple of His Eye  
And so I will believe it's true  
until the day I die.



## *Special Stuff for Special Days*

Sometimes we save some special things  
that we like quite a lot  
And think we'll use them later on,  
so use the stuff we've got.  
And so we hoard our valuables  
to use at later date  
And time goes marching on, ya' know,  
and we don't celebrate.  
So if you have nice things saved up  
to use some special day  
You've no promise of tomorrow  
so just use them anyway.  
We do not stop to realize  
each day we live on earth  
Is really quite a special day  
to live for all we're worth.



Therefore do not  
worry about tomorrow,  
for tomorrow will  
worry about itself.  
Matthew 6:34

## *The Whistler*

I know its not unusual  
          to hear some people sing  
But it has been a long time  
          since I heard a different thing.  
It seems some folks of long ago  
          would whistle now and then  
And when I think on it a bit  
          those folks were mostly men.

I think it helped them cope with things  
          when life was kinda' tough  
And if they whistled while they worked  
          it almost was enough  
To get their minds off mundane things  
          and lift their load a tad  
And if they whistled happy tunes  
          life didn't seem so bad.

They didn't have a cell phone then  
          held to a listening ear  
But they had things within their heart  
          that gave them hope and cheer.

If they had peace and joy inside  
it saved them lots of stress  
And whistling told the outside world  
that they had happiness.

We have so many gadgets now  
to use to entertain  
That it's a wonder we don't get  
an overloaded brain.  
If you've not whistled for a while  
why not give it a try,  
It's so much better for your heart  
than living with a sigh.

I will make music to the Lord  
Judges 5:3



## *The Seasons*

I really like October with its skies  
so blue and clear;  
It kinda' sets the soul on fire  
and fills the heart with cheer.  
To see the colored leaves drift down  
when gentle breezes blow  
Reminds us of God's promise  
that He gave so long ago.

Remember Noah and the Flood  
when things got really bad?  
But when the earth was dry again  
God made old Noah glad  
Because He put a rainbow  
right above him in the sky  
And promised that another flood  
would not make people die.

He also said there'd always be  
the seasons of the year  
So future generations need not live  
in dread and fear.  
I like each season when it comes,  
it's pretty nice, you know,  
To see the colors in the fall  
and then it's time for snow.

And when the snow has moved on out  
there comes another scene  
And flowers then will come alive  
with earth so fresh and green.

We won't pass up the summer months  
with kids all out of school  
And when hot, humid days arrive  
they'll head straight for the pool.  
Yes, God is very good to us  
and we should thankful be  
That He made all things beautiful  
for folks like you and me.

God saw all that he had made  
and it was very good. Genesis 1:31



## *The Universal Language*

There's a universal language  
that all people understand,  
No matter where one goes on earth  
by air, or sea, or land.  
Folks should use this language often  
as they travel mile on mile  
For everyone on planet earth  
can understand a smile.



A happy heart makes the face cheerful  
Proverbs 15:13

## *A Song*

If you haven't a song, maybe something is wrong  
And you need to look in your heart  
For located there may be trouble and care  
That pierces your soul like a dart.

Old wounds left unhealed have so often revealed  
Great scars that can darken your years,  
It simply won't pay if you live life that way.  
Forgiveness can wipe away tears.

Get rid of the things that pure misery brings  
And wash the sludge out of your soul.  
You'll find you've a song as you travel along  
And heartaches will not take their toll.

There's more to this life than just sorrow and strife,  
Don't dwell on the things that are wrong.  
Your life can be good  
    like the Lord says it should  
If you fill your heart with a song!

Sing and make  
music in your heart  
to the Lord,  
Ephesians 5:19





## *Aunt Mary*

I hope you had a favorite aunt  
that you loved very much,  
The kind that seemed to know a lot  
and had a special touch.  
Aunt Mary was my special aunt,  
a sister of my Dad,  
I think I no doubt loved her most  
of all the aunts I had.

She cooked and baked and made preserves,  
her home-made bread was great  
And when she fixed a meal for us  
we ate and ate and ate.



Her fingers were kept busy  
with her needle and her thread,  
She made some really pretty stuff  
a lot of folks have said.

She lived to be a hundred  
and outlived her kids and spouse,  
But somehow she could handle that  
for there was in her house  
A Bible that she loved to read;  
her faith in God was strong  
And somehow through the trials of life  
her heart still had a song.

The world would be a better place  
with folks like this around  
For by their love and gentleness  
they make a joyful sound.

Even to your old age and gray hairs  
I am He, I am He who will sustain you.  
I have made you and will carry you;  
I will sustain you and will rescue you.  
Isaiah 46:4

## *Worthless Stuff*

Don't waste your time on nurturing  
some nagging, worthless stuff  
For if you do I think you'll find  
your life will be more tough.  
Some folks will sometimes hold a grudge  
until the day they die  
And if they do they'll miss a lot  
and let me tell you why.

Hard feelings will depress you  
and may take away your sleep  
And even with a sleeping pill  
you'll still be counting sheep.  
You may even see your doctor  
because you feel so blue  
And other than prescribe some pills  
he won't know what to do.

So check on things inside your heart  
and even in your mind  
And if you do it carefully  
it could be you will find  
Some feelings of resentment,  
maybe jealousy or pride  
And if they smolder in your heart  
you won't have peace inside.

Forgiveness can cure lots of stuff  
when hurtful things abound,  
'I'm sorry,' works like magic, too,  
a lot of folks have found.  
Don't harbor things within your heart  
so you cannot relax  
Get rid of nagging, worthless stuff  
and live life to the max.



Get rid of all bitterness, rage and  
anger. . . Be kind and compassionate  
to one another, forgiving each other,  
just as in Christ God forgave you.  
Ephesians 4:31,32

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# *Encouragement*

*One of Our  
Happiest Duties*



## *Barnabas*

*Joseph, whom the apostles called Barnabas,  
(which means the son of encouragement)  
sold a field he owned and brought  
the money and put it at the apostles feet.*

*Acts 4:36*

*Your love has given me great joy  
and encouragement*

*Philemon 7*

*We have different gifts  
according to the grace given us.  
If a man's gift is encouragement,  
let him encourage.*

*Romans 12:6,8*

## *The Cheering Section*

Are you in the cheering section  
as you travel on life's way?  
Friend, if you're not you oughta' be  
and cheer some folks today.  
When folks go to a ballgame  
they don't look all tired and glum  
For if they did the folks nearby  
would think they're kinda' dumb.

The clapping and the hollering  
may sometimes be quite loud  
But you can bet those cheerers  
are a motivated crowd.  
They want their team to win the game  
so urge them on a bit,  
It's hard to think the team would win  
if fans would simply sit.

It just might be that way in life—  
folks need a little praise  
To help them stay on top th' heap  
as they their children raise.  
The oldsters also need some help  
and look for words of cheer  
So let them know you think they're great.  
These words they need to hear.

Encourage everyone you meet—  
your kids, your boss, your spouse  
And it may change the way you live  
at work or in your house.  
It never is too late to start  
to join the cheering crew  
And you will be amazed and pleased  
at what it does for you.

But encourage one another daily  
Hebrews 8:13





## *Maybe A Hug*

When we meet neighbors on the street  
or in a grocery store  
We only see the outer man,  
but inside there is more  
And they don't really say too much  
of what they feel within,  
They've kinda' learned to hide their thoughts  
and take life on the chin.  
A lot of people cry inside  
and don't want folks to know  
That they are struggling deep within  
and feeling mighty low.  
So we should greet them with a smile  
and lend a listening ear,  
Some folks have things within their heart  
they'd like someone to hear.  
So don't rush off but take the time  
to treat them like a friend--  
You might find out a little hug  
could start their heart to mend.



Your love has given  
me great joy and  
encouragement.  
Phileman 7

## *Kindness*



I know a lot of kindnesses  
do happen every day:  
A father gets his soft ball out  
to teach his son to play.  
A neighbor takes a pot of soup  
to John who lives alone,  
A son who lives far, far away  
calls Mother on the phone.  
The grocery clerk said, 'Howdy, ma'am,'  
and gave a great big smile,  
A friend of mine stopped by today  
and chatted for awhile.  
A little boy, with dog in tow,  
brought flowers to his Mom,  
A pastor called on someone ill,  
and prayed and read a Psalm.  
God touched a heart and gave a song  
to someone long depressed,  
A daughter helps her Mom with work  
so she can get some rest.  
We fail to see these kindnesses,  
we think they're much too small--  
But look at all your blessings, folks,  
you just can't count them all.

Always be kind to each other  
and to everyone else.  
1 Thessalonians 5:15

## *Criticism*

A lot of folks will criticize  
what others say and do;  
I 'spose a little of their words  
could possibly be true,  
But seldom does this kind of stuff  
help others very much,  
The people who are talked about  
may need a loving touch.  
Its better to encourage them  
and give those folks a lift  
And tell them things that they do well  
and not produce a rift.  
If we feel good about ourselves  
we'll surely want to find  
The good there is in other folks  
and always treat them kind.  
Its not our place to run them down  
and make them feel depressed--  
We need to give encouragement  
so they can do their best.



Therefore encourage  
one another and build  
each other up, just as  
in fact you are doing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:11

## *Arguing*

I'm not too much on arguing  
or having verbal fights,  
The folks who do this type of thing  
may have some restless nights.  
They might cook up an ulcer,  
even get their pressure up  
And if they harbor unkind thoughts  
they'll have an empty cup.  
Harsh words when said in anger  
can cut deep and e'en destroy  
A heart already hurting  
even if a girl or boy.  
One easily could get upset  
and maybe lose a friend  
But its not worth the stress one gets  
to hate folks to the end.  
It's better far to seal your lips  
and listen for awhile  
Then when the fuss is done and through  
your heart still has a smile.  
The Bible has an answer  
that I think is pretty neat:  
When people get their  
hackles up  
keep answers soft  
and sweet.

A gentle answer turns  
away wrath, but a harsh  
word stirs up anger.  
Proverbs 15:1



## *The Old and the Young*

I know I'm quite old fashioned  
for my age can tell you that,  
But kids who are much younger  
never sat where I have sat.  
They think it strange that I still think  
the way that I was taught;  
When I was just a little kid  
my folks taught me a lot.

And though I've learned much more  
since then  
I guess my mind is set  
On things I still believe are true  
and will not soon forget.  
No doubt I seem a little strange  
to young folks of today  
Who may not think the way I do  
or know the things I say.

But someday when they're old and gray  
with back a little bent  
They'll look back on their childhood days  
and how those years were spent  
And they may feel they're out of sync  
with young folks on the streets  
Whose nimble feet can keep in step  
with different drummer's beats.

But when I think on this a bit  
and dwell on it a while  
I realize there've always been  
some folks quite out of style.  
As generations come and go  
there's bound to be some change  
So folks who've lived a lot of years  
need not feel they are strange.

But I would guess God thought it good  
to have both young and old  
So they could help each other  
with whatever life would hold.  
So I'll enjoy the golden years  
and pass along the truth  
That God would like to live in them  
while they are still a youth.

I was young and now am old  
yet I have never seen the righteous  
forsaken Psalms 37:25





## *Brothers*

If a bird sits on your shoulder  
and a brother's at your side  
No matter what life's handed you,  
you needn't run and hide  
For you've a brother who will help  
and likes you quite a lot  
And if you need a helping hand  
he'll help you on the spot.

We all need brothers now and then  
when life might go awry  
For he's a person we can trust  
with laughter or a sigh.  
So if you have a brother  
you should sing and you should smile  
Because you know if life gets tough  
he'll go the second mile.

## *The Blessing Business*

Are you in the blessing business  
Helping those whose life is hard?  
There are lots of struggling people  
Whose hearts and minds are scarred.  
They need a helping hand, my friend,  
They have their feelings, too,  
So don't harass the down and out  
Whatever you may do.  
If everyone would lend a hand  
To help a fellow out  
Folks lives would be much happier  
And easier, no doubt.  
Unloving folks can criticize  
And say a lot of stuff  
That never should be said at all  
And make a life more tough.  
The people who bless other folks  
Will find they, too, are blest;  
For its the key to happiness  
When one will share his best.



. . . encourage the timid,  
help the weak, be  
patient with everyone.  
1 Thessalonians 5:14



## *The Winning Team*

So often Christians smile and say  
they're on the winning team  
And that is really quite okay  
for it is not a dream.  
If Jesus lives within our heart  
our lives are truly blest,  
We feel that we have been set free  
and find both peace and rest.

But lest we settle in and say  
that we are number one  
It could be we should think a bit  
of what the Lord has done.  
Christ was the friend of sinners,  
like the woman at the well,  
It's folks like these He came to save  
and of salvation tell.

He healed the crippled, raised the dead,  
and caused the blind to see  
And people who were bound by sin  
He really set them free.  
He came to save the sinners  
and to give them peace inside,  
In fact, He loved us all so much  
that on a cross He died.

So if we feel we have it made  
and kinda' fold our hands  
We need to know there's lotsa' stuff  
the Christian life demands.  
The Bible tells us many things  
of how the Christian lives  
And how he spreads Christ's love around  
and how he freely gives.

So if you're on the winning team  
remember some are not  
And lend a hand to hurting folks  
who need the love you've got.  
So serve the Lord with all your heart,  
it's there that you will find  
Your life will be much happier  
and you'll have peace of mind.



Therefore as God's chosen people...  
clothe yourself with compassion and  
kindness Colossians 3:12

## *Passing Their Way*

Are some folks happier today  
because you passed their way?  
God likes it when we take the time  
to brighten someone's day.  
Too many folks don't take the time  
to help a fella' out,  
Somehow they haven't learned quite yet  
what livin's all about.

The people who are happiest  
and have a song to sing  
Are those who live for other folks  
and happy tidings bring.  
If you let things that you possess  
just steal your heart away  
Folks will not feel much happiness  
because you passed their way.

So if you'll go about your day  
and spread your love around  
You'll find a lot of folks out there  
who'd love your joyful sound.

Above all, love each other  
deeply, because love covers  
over a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:18



## *Retired*

A lot of folks will work for years  
and finally retire  
And for a while it's kinda' fun  
to sit down by the fire,  
But from some things that I have heard  
it may not be too smart  
To be a couch potato  
and not exercise the heart.

It seems long life may smile upon  
the folks who laugh a lot  
And don't spend time in worrying  
'bout things that they have not.  
And keeping busy saves the day  
and makes their life worthwhile  
If they will volunteer a bit  
and give the world a smile.



And do not forget  
to do good and to  
share with others,  
for with such sacrifices  
God is pleased.  
Hebrews 13:16

3

# *Love - Family*

*You Are Loved  
More Than You Know*



## *David (beloved)*

*I have found David, son of Jesse,  
a man after my own heart;  
he will do everything I want him to do.*

*Acts 13:22*

*This is love, not that we loved God,  
but that He loved us  
and sent His Son as an atoning  
sacrifice for our sins.*

*1 John 4:10*

*Dear friends,  
since God so loved us,  
we ought to love one another.*

*1 John 4:11*



It's nice to think of family  
and how much they mean to us  
For with them we can be for real  
without a lot of fuss.  
We kinda' know each other  
from the inside to the out,  
Though none of us are perfect  
we have lots to talk about.

It's around the kitchen table  
that we share a lot of stuff  
And all support each other  
whether times are good or tough.  
Yes, it's great to have a family  
where we know each other well  
And share the stuff we have inside  
but don't to others tell.

There's nothing like a family's love  
to cheer your heart and soul  
Though they are scattered far and wide—  
perhaps from pole to pole,  
But email and the telephone  
help each to keep in touch  
And what a joy a family has  
who love each other much.

Sons (daughters) are a heritage from the Lord,  
children a reward from Him. Psalms 127:3

## *A House a Home*

A house is just a building, folks,  
until a home is made,  
It needs a yard where kids can play  
with lotsa' trees for shade.  
The kitchen should be kinda' big  
for food is right good stuff,  
Its there we all can sit and chat  
until we've had enough.

Among the things a home should have  
is a big cookie jar,  
And there should be fun things to do  
when kids aren't up to par.  
I like to think a home is where  
each one can tell his tale  
And share the feelings of his heart  
e'en though sometimes they fail.

No other place on planet earth--  
no matter where we roam

Will warm our hearts and

cheer our souls  
like when we're  
all at home.





## *The Meeting Place*

I know there are important folks  
    who meet day after day  
And they discuss important stuff  
    in all the things they say.  
I know someone must head a group  
    no matter small or large  
And let the folks all gathered 'round  
    know they're the one in charge.

And so the chairman of the board—  
    perhaps the CEO,  
Will tell the folks just sitting there  
    the things they need to know,  
And though they delegate and plan  
    an awful lot of stuff  
The best laid plans may come to naught  
    if times are mean and tough.

The things that really matter  
    are discussed another place,  
It's in the kitchens of the world  
    where folks talk face to face

And learn how they're supposed to act  
and how they oughta' think  
And bits of wisdom come from Mom  
who's busy at the sink.

The kitchen is the very place  
where all the family meet  
And it's the boardroom of the home  
and really can't be beat.  
So if the kids have been taught well  
and know what's right or wrong  
The CEO's, with staff like that  
could end up with a song.

Train up a child in the way he should go  
and when he is old he will not turn from it.  
Proverbs 22:6



## *Pictures*

Have you wished you had your camera  
that's home up on a shelf  
Because your child with dog in tow  
is playing by himself?  
He's not bothered with big problems—  
life's as good as it can get  
For when he's just a little guy  
you find his needs are met.  
And so with not much going on  
your child can just relax  
And how you'd like a picture  
as he lives life to the max!  
But then a lot of Moms and Dads  
are really pretty smart  
For they have found that they can take  
a picture with the heart.



## *Family Ties Will Last*

Now just what is a family for  
if its not there to care--  
A place each finds contentment  
and away from wear and tear.  
Its fun to have our little jokes  
and kid about the past  
And know whatever comes to pass  
the family ties will last  
For sometimes life comes crashing in  
and things seem pretty bad,  
And if we find there's love at home  
a caring Mom and Dad  
Can help to get the wrinkles out  
and mend a thing gone wrong,  
And by the family's love and care  
can help restore their song.  
There's no place like a family,  
God planned it be this way,  
And if we live in harmony  
We'll find love every day.



Children's children are  
a crown to the aged.  
Proverbs 17:6

## *The Pickers*

If you will look around, my friend,  
no two folks are the same;  
Some really are laid back, you know,  
while others strive for fame.  
It seems some stay right with the flow  
and seldom go up-stream,  
They kinda let the world go by  
without a goal or dream.

I rather think folks in between  
may have a lot to give--  
They haven't stopped dead in their tracks  
so they know how to live.



Though some may pick the world apart  
and say how bad things are  
Some others pick apart their friends  
though they are near or far.

But aren't you glad that little folks  
know living at its best--  
They aren't caught up in grown-ups games  
and now you've surely guessed  
The kids know what's important  
and each day that comes along  
They take it like it's meant for them  
and seldom do it wrong.

They don't complain about the world  
or what their neighbors do,  
They concentrate on just today  
so they don't sit and stew.  
The kids take time to pick some flow'rs  
and make a spring bouquet  
And when they give it to their Mom  
it really makes her day!

From the lips of children and infants  
you have ordained praise. Psalms 8:2a

## *Despair Not*

Don't ever despair of a child, my friend,  
No other gift that God could send  
Will equal the joy that a child can bring  
And cause the parent's hearts to sing.  
If life seems hard, and sometimes tough,  
A song and a prayer may be enough  
Along with love that never dies  
To heal some wounds from children's cries.  
Each one is precious in God's sight--  
He wants them always treated right.  
God trusts His child into your care,  
So do your best, and don't despair.



And he (Jesus) took the children  
in his arms, put his hands on them  
and blessed them. Mark 10:16

## *Watch 'em Grow*

Some folks can't seem to find a job  
while others start out small,  
They start by mowing sidewalks  
but that really isn't all—  
Sometimes the mower hits the grass  
and makes the green stuff fly;  
It takes a while to learn the trade  
when one's a little guy.



But watch that fellow as he grows,  
he'll learn a trade or two;  
Might even go to college  
and find out what he should do.  
Kids have a lot of brains, you know,  
and often play it smart,  
And if they're given half a chance  
they just might steal your heart.



## *Bedtime Stories*

If Mom and Dad were busy  
it was nice to have a son  
Who'd read a bedtime story  
when daylight hours were done  
To give the kids some happy thoughts  
before they'd fall asleep  
And trust that God would through the night  
their trusting souls would keep.

'Twas back in olden times, it seems,  
that kids liked stories read  
So they'd have stuff to think about  
ere they were tucked in bed.  
It seems that Peter Rabbit  
was a rascal most the time  
And caused McGregor lots of stress  
although he did no crime.



When Goldilocks tried out the chairs  
the Three Bears owned one day  
She found just one that really fit  
so didn't run away.  
And then there was that awful troll  
beneath the bridge, you know,  
Who'd scare the travelers half to death  
if they that way would go;  
And Humpty Dumpty on the wall,  
Jack Spratt who ate no fat,  
Old Mother Hubbard's empty shelves,  
some kids remember that.

Little Boy Blue who blew his horn,  
Bo Peep who lost her sheep  
Were stories much beloved by all  
and helped kids go to sleep.  
I'm not too sure kids of today  
hear fairy tales and such,  
It seems folks are too busy now  
to do this very much.  
There's something about stories  
that can fill a child with joy  
And fairy tales should be a part  
of every girl and boy.

## *Scolding*

The little folks make small mistakes  
And right away receive  
A scolding or a reprimand  
Like you would not believe.  
But older folks, when they grow up,  
Can make a big mistake  
And they don't want a reprimand  
For all the goofs they make.  
So lets make sure that when we scold  
We don't give more than due,  
And realize that like adults  
The kids have feelings, too.  
So next time when the milk is spilled  
Do not your child harass.  
I've never seen a scolding that  
Puts milk back in the glass.



Fathers, do not embitter your children  
or they will become discouraged  
Colossians 3:21

## *Longevity*

Some folks will live a lot of years  
and seldom see the Doc  
Who tunes 'em up a little bit  
and kinda' winds their clock.  
I sometimes dwell on this a bit  
and wonder, could it be  
That folks inherit long, long lives  
straight from their family tree?

Or could it be they handle well  
the stress and strain of life  
And live in peace with other folks  
including kids and wife?  
The folks who harbor hatred  
which has festered in their heart  
May shorten up their days on earth  
and cause 'em to depart.

Christ told us how we ought to think  
and how we ought to live,  
One thing that He said loud and clear  
is that folks should forgive.  
If there's no hatred deep within,  
instead there is a song  
It might explain the reason why  
some oldsters live so long.

Forgive as the Lord  
forgave you.  
Colossians 3:13



## *The Oldsters*

When folks get up in years, you know,  
    they've learned a lot of stuff  
And yet in our fast moving world  
    sometimes it's not enough  
To keep us up on top th' heap  
    like things we oughta' know,  
But it could be we struggle some  
    because our steps are slow.

And I would guess another thing  
    that slows us down a bit  
Is that we've figured some things out  
    as in our chair we sit.  
We see success for what it is,  
    we watch folks at the top  
And find that those who always rush  
    just may not want to stop.

It's hard to smell the flowers  
    if you're always on the run  
And folks who are too busy  
    well might miss the setting sun.

The oldsters who have lived a while  
    may have it figured out  
That those who take the time to live  
    may know what life's about.

So don't pass by the older folks  
    and think they are not smart  
For they have learned a lot of things  
    and keep them in their heart.  
It just might be when life is tough  
    and you've a rainy day  
You'll find they have a list'ning ear  
    and like the things they say.



4

# *Laughter*

*Looking for the Humor*



## *Isaac (he laughs)*

*Abraham gave the name Isaac  
to the son Sarah bore him.*

*Genesis 21:3*

*And Sarah said,  
“God has brought me laughter,  
and everyone who hears about this  
will laugh with me.”*

*Genesis 21:6*

*A cheerful heart is good medicine  
Proverbs 17:22a*

*Our mouths were filled with  
laughter,  
and our tongues with songs of joy.  
Psalms 126:2*



## *Laughter*



Have you a sense  
of humor  
as you live from day to day  
Or do you find it's hard to laugh  
no matter what folks say?  
If you can't snicker now and then  
and even laugh out loud  
You may not be invited much  
to join a happy crowd.

Laughter is good medicine,  
it makes your mind relax--  
I wonder if it might prevent  
some future heart attacks.  
To laugh a lot relaxes you  
and helps your blood flow free,  
It's good for body, mind, and soul;  
e'en doctors will agree.

But if you want to live uptight  
and hassle stress and strain  
The chances are you'll feel depressed  
and often will complain.  
Why not try laughing every day  
and smile at folks you meet?  
It might bring joy into your life  
and that is hard to beat.

A cheerful look brings joy to the heart,  
and good news gives health to the bones.  
Proverbs 15:20

## *The Merry Heart*

A merry heart, the Bible says,  
is like a medicine.  
I wonder if we laugh a lot  
when with our friends and kin.  
If we would smile and sing and hum  
our stresses should be few,  
For it is hard to hold a grudge  
when smiling through and through.  
And laughing is contagious, friend,  
it drives the blues away,  
For if you have a happy heart  
depression will not stay.  
When I see people all stressed out  
and eyes keep looking down,  
It is no wonder that their face  
shows nothing but a frown.  
A smiling face, a happy heart,  
works better than a pill  
And if you wonder if this works,  
you bet your boots it will.



A cheerful heart  
is good medicine  
Proverbs 17:22



## *Hats*

If you come  
to our house  
and stay overnight  
You'll find when you enter the room  
The four walls are covered with forty some hats--  
Too many to wear, I presume.

Some hats are of cotton, and some are of silk,  
And others are made out of felt,  
Of course the straw hats on the hot, humid days  
Are helpful so that you won't melt.

There's fur from the rabbit and wool from the sheep  
These both keep you warmer than toast,  
But some with their ribbons, their strings,  
and their pins,  
Are prob'ly the ones I like most.

There's leather and plastic, and even wood pulp,  
Palm fronds and batik are both nice,  
The shapes and the colors all vary a bit,  
As well as the country and price.

I'm saying all this for I want you to know  
That I have a purpose in mind:  
In case you are hounded by long sleepless nights  
Where else in the world can you find  
A room where the hats are all hung on the wall  
Just waiting for someone to wear;  
Your night would pass faster if you'd try on hats  
Relaxing with never a care.

And though you can't sleep and your eyes  
won't stay shut--  
Not even just one little tad  
You'll greet the next day with a smile on your face  
Remembering the fun that you had.



*Eat  
More  
Fish*

It must be fish is good for us.  
I've thought on it a bit  
For Jesus fed the multitudes  
an awful lot of it.  
He didn't hand out burgers  
to that hungry, waiting bunch,  
He also knew that French fries  
might not be too good for lunch.  
No doubt He knew some of the folks  
could not eat fat and grease  
And so He gave them healthy food  
when they received each piece.

So watch your diet, friend of mine,  
be careful what you eat;  
The food that you put in your mouth  
should not your health defeat.  
So while you ponder what to eat  
and want a healthy dish  
I wonder if you'd be quite smart  
to eat a piece of fish.

## *Old Wives Tales*



I do not have a horseshoe hung  
above my cottage door,  
And I won't take a rabbit's foot,  
I think it needs all four.  
To worry about ladders  
and to read my horoscope  
Just seem like they're a waste of time  
and will not help me cope.

I really doubt I need to fear  
a cat with coat of black,  
And if I sing before I eat,  
would I get off the track?  
I've never used a worry stone  
and left my thumbprint there,  
To knock on wood won't do much more  
than mess my head of hair.  
I wonder if the folks who plant  
their garden by full moon  
Will have a whole lot better crop  
than those who plant too soon.

Oh, there are superstitions  
and a lot of crazy stuff  
That people may believe in  
but it makes their life more tough.  
I'm not just sure who started these,  
but I can plainly see  
To put my hand in God's big hand  
is much the best for me.

## *Feet*

I've seen a lot of people's feet  
    where most are walking down the street.  
Some feet have shoes with lots of shine  
    (but I'll admit these are not mine),  
While others have a dusty look  
    as if a mountain trail they took.  
Some feet are bare with callous thick  
    and carry scars where thorns did prick.  
They've followed paths unknown to most  
    which do not go from coast to coast.  
Some feet are gnarled and worn from toil  
    of planting seeds in hardened soil.  
All feet have their own tale to tell --  
    from castles grand to prison cell.  
If feet could talk or write a book  
    I'm sure we'd take another look.  
They'd tell how folks have spent their life--  
    if pastures green, or toil and strife.



## *Cement Plant*

Today I saw a little plant  
that grew up through a crack;  
It was surrounded by cement  
yet seemed to have no lack  
Of all those nutrients and stuff  
it needs to make it grow.  
How it can thrive in such a place  
I guess I'll never know.

Now can it be when we plant things  
and give them lots of care,  
We give them too much water and  
we drown them then and there?  
Or we could be too anxious and  
might over-fertilize  
And then we wonder why on earth  
it withers up and dies.

It must be God knows where to plant  
and how to make it grow  
And has some secrets all His own  
that we'll just never know.  
So while I struggle hard to grow  
my plants in fertile soil  
I'll watch for plants that  
God has grown  
without my touch or toil.





## *The Sloth*

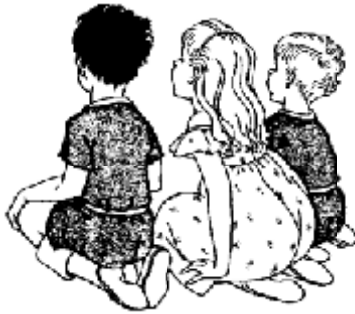
I saw a sloth up in a tree  
a' hangin' upside down,  
He really seemed quite nonchalant,  
he had no smile or frown.  
He hung right there, ignoring me,  
and did not try to flee,  
It seems he's really at his best  
just hanging in a tree.

His meat hook claws work very well  
and keep him quite secure  
For when he moves about at night  
it's only a short tour.  
He's not too much on exercise,  
nor has much social grace,  
He pretty much stays to himself,  
it seems he cannot face

The busy world that rushes on  
some feet below his head  
For if he tried to join that group  
he'd likely end up dead.

I've thought about the sloth a bit  
and thought what he might do;  
Could he be a detective  
for the rich and well-to-do?

Content to watch from up above  
the changing scene below  
He may be smarter than we think,  
I guess we'll never know.  
But we are sure he'd watch and wait  
without a bit of sound  
And most important we would know  
he always hangs around.



## *Awards*

The Hollywood folks have their Grammy Awards;  
each hope in their heart they will win.  
They're dressed in their finest, put on a big smile  
and wait for the meet to begin.

The place becomes silent as names are announced,  
then breaks into thunderous applause.  
A few tears are shed, hugs and kisses abound,  
for this is a Hollywood cause.

Reporters are there with their cameras and mikes  
and don't want to miss any sight,  
For they want to tell the whole world  
so they'll know  
what happened on this special night.

What those folks don't know with their  
trophies and gold  
with rise in prestige and with fame,  
Is millions of Granny's all over the world  
will get an award just the same.

It may be a flower clutched in a small hand  
and held up to Granny with pride,  
It may be a piece of a sticky bon bon,  
but Granny takes these in her stride.

She treasures each gift that a loving child brings,  
for children are really quite smart,  
And I'd rather have just a Granny Award  
for it is a gift from the heart.



## *Dandelions*

Some folks do not like dandelions  
to show up in their yard,  
They spray the plants with poison stuff  
and sometimes work quite hard  
To kill off all those pretty blooms  
that let us know its spring;  
They miss the little round balloons  
the blossoms soon will bring.

I've really wondered many times  
if that strong poison spray  
Will wash into our rivers, folks,  
and make us sick some day.  
The folks who can't stand yellow  
should take trowels and a spade  
And root out plants that they don't like  
and then they'd have it made.

It could be that these folks don't know  
the roots contain a drug  
That's used to treat the liver  
so some good stuff they have dug.

The leaves are rich in vitamins;  
just wash them up a bit  
And add them to your salad greens,  
they just might make a hit.

Now if you crave a little wine  
just make it from the flow'rs--  
You better start with just a sip  
as it may last for hours.  
It seems to me a simpler thing  
and safer far to do  
Is learn to love your dandelions  
for they have beauty, too.



## *The Garbage Handlers*

You're looking for a partner, friend,  
with whom to spend your days?  
I may have a suggestion that  
will your percentage raise  
Of how long you'd stay married  
and enjoy your wedded bliss;  
It's not a questionnaire of sorts,  
or how well he can kiss.  
It matters not the car he drives,  
it may be truck or van,  
His I.Q. may be average  
but he does the best he can.  
It's not his gold or bank account  
or kind of clothes he wears;  
It's more important you find out  
if he's a man who cares.  
He really wouldn't have to have  
an awful lot of clout,  
But look for one you think, my friend,  
who'd take the garbage out.



## *Living in the Pink*

Do you have a sense of humor?  
E'en laughter is a gift  
For it erases strain and stress  
and gives the heart a lift.

It's good to have around all day  
and even every night  
For if you kinda' laugh a lot  
more things will turn out right.

So don't leave home without it, friend,  
life's better than you think  
If you will smile and laugh a lot  
and live it in the pink.





## *Colors*

I know the decorator folks  
do lots of fancy stuff  
And they may charge a bunch of dough  
to bring you up to snuff.  
Their color combinations  
they promote with vim and zest  
Assuring you that you'd be pleased  
with what THEY think is best.

But when I think on this a bit  
the thought occurs to me  
There's something that these fancy folks  
may simply fail to see.  
God made the earth so beautiful  
with colors all galore  
That never seem to clash a bit  
from His eternal store.

Take notice of the sunsets  
with their orange, gray, and red,  
There even might be purple  
or a bit of pink instead.  
And have you noticed flowers  
with their glowing colors bright  
For God is big on beauty  
and so He does it right.

He must have loved bright colors  
when He made our world, you know,  
For there is something colorful  
most any place you go.  
I've never seen a spring bouquet  
with colors that would clash  
For God made all things beautiful  
and did it with a splash.

So do not be discouraged, friend,  
with colors that you use  
If they look pretty in your sight  
use any that you choose.  
Don't let the decorator folks  
get in your way one bit  
For after all, it is YOUR home  
and YOU will live in it.



Many colors  
are one of God's  
great gifts.

5

# *Faith - Trust*

*Being Sure of God's  
Care and Guidance*



Mary (strong)  
Peter (rock)

*Blessed is she (Mary) who  
has believed that what the Lord said  
will be accomplished.*

*Luke 1:45*

*You are Peter, and on this rock  
I will build my church.*

*Matthew 16:18*

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

*Matthew 9:22*

*Blessed is the man  
who makes the Lord his trust.*

*Psalms 40:4*

## *Two Arks*

We all have read or heard about  
old Noah and the Ark,  
When times were evil as can be  
and morally were dark.  
And though we know the wicked  
were destroyed by all the Flood  
And it took many, many months  
to dry up so much mud.

But that is not the only ark  
the Bible tells us of,  
There was a tiny little ark  
built by a Mom with love.  
King Pharaoh was an evil man  
and gave a bad decree  
That all the Hebrew baby boys  
should die right instantly.

But one Mom hid her little boy  
for three whole months, and so  
She then made just a tiny ark  
of bulrushes, you know.  
She waterproofed the whole inside  
with slime and also pitch  
And when she tucked the babe in there  
she hoped there'd be no glitch.

Then when she put the cover  
on that tiny, floating boat  
She must have wished with all her heart  
that it would safely float.  
Of course we know the story well  
how Pharaoh's daughter found  
The ark with baby safe inside  
who made a crying sound.  
She had compassion on the child  
and took him as her son  
And so the Lord saved Moses life  
when it was just begun.

It's really quite exciting  
how God makes things come to be  
And He has plans for all of us—  
including you and me.



For I know the plans  
I have for you,  
declares the Lord. . .  
plans to give you hope  
and a future.  
Jeremiah 29:11

## *Passing Out Lunches*

When Jesus fed five thousand  
his disciples said, 'With what?'  
And then He answered them and asked,  
'Just what all have you got?'  
They said there was no food around  
except a youngster's lunch  
And knew two fish and five small loaves  
couldn't feed a hungry bunch.

But Jesus said to seat those folks  
in groups upon the ground,  
And when the Lord gave thanks to God  
they passed the food around.  
I'm sure the twelve disciples  
were amazed and quite aghast  
When Jesus used just one boy's lunch  
and made it last and last.

No doubt they said among themselves,  
'Wow! This is really great!'  
And they rejoiced with all the crowd  
because they ate and ate.

They must have almost danced for joy  
as they walked down each aisle,  
I'd guess when they were serving folks  
they did it with a smile.  
They'd seen a lot of miracles,  
their trust in Christ was strong,  
And now a miracle like this  
sure helped their faith along.

I'm glad I serve a God like that  
Who cares about our needs  
And when we're tired and lonely  
our hungry soul He feeds.  
Don't miss the opportunity  
to serve a God like this  
For if you do you'll surely find  
a lot of things you'll miss.

It is the Lord Christ  
you are serving.  
Colossians 3:24





## *Peter*

There's something about Peter  
    when you read about his life  
That makes you kinda' like him  
    though he had some toil and strife.  
He really was outspoken  
    and he loved the Lord a lot,  
If he was asked what he believed  
    he'd answer on the spot.

He had enthusiasm  
    and he had a lot of zest  
He often spoke out for the Lord  
    when he was at his best.  
Sometimes he also made mistakes  
    when he would speak too fast  
But then he would apologize  
    so didn't come in last.

I like the way he followed Christ,  
    when he was called to serve  
He simply left his boat behind  
    which took a lot of nerve.  
He knew Christ was the Son of God  
    and said it loud and clear--  
He was the first to voice this fact  
    to others standing near.

King Herod didn't like him  
so he had him thrown in jail,  
His praying friends were not allowed  
to even pay his bail.  
The night before King Herod  
would call for him next day  
We find that handcuffed Peter  
between two soldiers lay.

The story we are told in Acts  
says Peter was asleep  
He must have trusted God  
a lot  
that He his soul would keep.  
And then to think an angel came  
and shook him wide awake  
And told him to put on his clothes  
and led him out the gate.



Yes, Peter was a special man  
who dared to give his all  
And was not disappointed  
that the Lord gave him a call,  
He left his nets and fishing boat  
to follow Christ the King  
And folks who do the same today  
find it's worth everything.

## *Shaky Faith*

If your faith is sometimes shaky  
there is something you can do--  
Just get your Bible off the shelf,  
It has good news for you.  
It tells of many people  
who can build your faith a lot  
And how they really trusted God  
Who helped them on the spot.

Remember Jonah in the whale  
was in a yucky place  
But God was watching all the time  
while in that little space  
And He was counting days and hours  
and when the time was right  
The whale threw up old Jonah  
and saved him from his plight.

And read how Noah and his sons  
built that great big old boat  
And though it rained for forty days  
they found that it would float.  
When all the flood was over  
and the land outside was dry  
God surprised the eight survivors  
with a rainbow in the sky.

And other folks had faith in God  
it tells us in His Book  
Of David, Moses, and St. John,  
so take the time to look.  
Their faith was not on shaky ground  
but it was firm and strong;  
They sometimes suffered for their faith  
when people did them wrong.

At times it takes a lot of trust  
to stay on top th' heap  
But if your hand keeps clasping His,  
your soul He'll always keep.



You, Lord, keep my lamp burning;  
My God turns my darkness into light.  
Psalm 18:28



## *Just Count Your Blessings*

You think that you've had troubles  
and could even name them all?  
I wish you'd read some verses, friend,  
that tell about St. Paul.

Have you sat in a prison cell  
and prayed and sang at night?  
Have you been beaten thrice with rods  
right out in broad daylight?  
Have you had forty stripes save one  
five times upon your back?  
Have you been shipwrecked several times  
so that you have lost track?

Have you been let down from a wall  
to get outside a gate?  
Have you been stoned or left for dead  
by folks all filled with hate?

I know that we have problems  
that we face along the way  
And aggravations rankle us  
and cloudy up our day,  
But even if our times are tough  
and find it hard to cope  
If we will count our blessings  
we may find there still is hope.

Now if we count our problems  
they just add to our distress  
And where we'll end up if we do  
is anybody's guess.  
Be thankful you're not dodging stones  
or in a prison cell--  
As you can see we're mighty blest  
and things are going well.

## *The Fiery Furnace*

The fiery furnace was a threat  
for three young Hebrew men,  
But they'd not bow to other gods  
no matter who or when.  
They really had their mind made up;  
they would not bow the knee,  
If God delivered them, okay--  
if not, they'd wait and see.

And when the king said, 'Throw 'em in,'  
it didn't singe a hair,  
It only burned off all their ropes,  
no smell of smoke was there.  
But when the king, to his dismay,  
saw still another face,  
It scared him that he saw God's Son  
was also in that place.

I'm glad I serve a God like that,  
for when we're in the fire  
He's right there close beside us  
to give help and to inspire.  
If you don't have a God, my friend,  
to help when things go wrong  
I'd recommend you serve the Lord,  
He'd give your heart a song.



## *Exciting Days*

It must have been exciting, folks,  
to live in Jesus' day  
And follow Him from place to place  
to hear the words He'd say  
And watch how He'd do miracles,  
no matter of what kind,  
In fact he fed the multitudes  
and often healed the blind.

To see Him walk on water, too,  
and even raise the dead  
Sure fascinated lots of folks  
who thought on what He said.  
There was no thing too hard for him  
no matter what was wrong,  
He cleansed the folks with leprosy  
and gave their heart a song.

No wonder people followed Him,  
His message was quite clear,  
He showed the world  
what God is like  
and brought them hope and cheer.  
And Jesus still works miracles  
and changes hearts of stone  
Of those who'll up and follow Him  
and make His will their own.

... the people were delighted  
with all the wonderful things  
that he (Jesus) was doing.  
Luke 13:17





## *God Did It*

I don't believe all things I read  
or all things that I hear--  
Some scientists promote some stuff  
that's really kinda' queer.  
They don't believe God made the world  
and work hard to explain  
Some crazy theory they've hatched up  
somewhere inside their brain.

They talk of evolution  
but they really are not sure  
Of just how all things came to be  
and how they still endure.  
They can't explain a lot of stuff  
and tell it blow by blow,  
Though they may have a lot of smarts  
some things they do not know.

Another thing I'd like to ask  
is who made gas and oil  
And other things like diamonds  
hidden down beneath the soil?  
The rubies and the sapphires  
and some other fancy gems  
Are not picked off some kind of tree  
or from some flower stems.

They can't explain the sun or moon  
or who hung earth in space,  
Or how the stars got where they are  
with each one in its place.  
There's one more thing I'd like to ask  
before I up and quit--  
I'd like to know where love comes from,  
are folks just born with it?

It's hard for me to understand  
why folks don't read God's Book;  
It tells how all things came to be  
if they'd just take a look.



In the beginning God created  
the heavens and the earth.  
Genesis 1:1

## *The Rose*



When you see roses on a bush  
I wonder what you see--  
Do see yellow, red, or pink,  
as pleasing as can be?  
And do you take the time to smell  
the fragrance of that flow'r?  
It's better than the best perfume  
all day at any hour.

Some folks just will not take the time  
to stand and gaze a while  
At things God made so beautiful  
that ought to bring a smile.  
And some, of course, will see the thorns  
that decorate the stem,  
And wonder why God put them there  
as if to spoil a gem.

But then, I guess we wonder, too,  
when life seems kinda' tough  
Why God will let us suffer  
when our road is long and rough.  
But God knows what He's doing, friend,  
when thorns beset our way;  
It's then that we lean hard on Him  
to help us through the day.



There are some folks with illnesses  
who suffer lots of pain,  
Though life for them is pretty tough  
they rarely will complain.  
It seems they have a secret code  
all hidden in their mind;  
If you could see inside their heart  
some good stuff you would find.

They think on happy times they've had  
and count their blessings, too,  
And do not think depressing thoughts  
that leave them feeling blue.  
They have a happy world inside  
for faith in God is strong  
And so in turn He gives to them  
a heart that has a song.

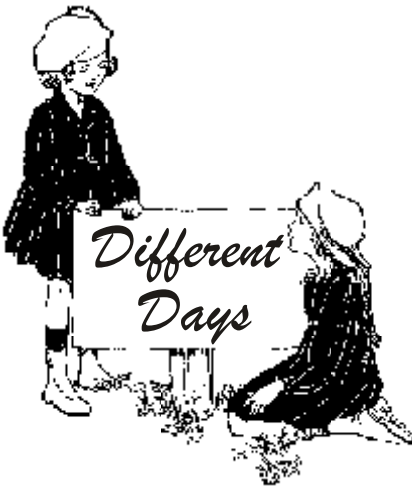
## *Brighter Days*

If your heart is apprehensive  
about the days ahead  
It could spoil a lot of livin'  
and fill your mind with dread.  
God has a remedy for this,  
the Bible says it best:  
Christ said if we would come to Him  
He'd give us peace and rest.

So if your future's in His hands  
the best thing you can do  
Is take the time to live each day  
like He would want you to.  
It's not too smart to let a day  
go by without a song  
For days are so much brighter  
if you have the Lord along.



Peace I leave with  
you; my peace I  
give unto you.  
John 14:27



When skies are blue and problems few  
and life is kind and good  
It's easy then to hum and sing  
if we do like we should.  
But when we have a lousy day  
and stuff keeps going wrong  
It takes an awful lot of grace  
to hang on to our song.

It seems we have to realize  
life can be mean and tough  
And trust the Lord to help us cope  
so we'll have strength enough.  
God loves us on the mountaintop  
and in the valley, too,  
And if our hand is clasping His,  
He'll surely see us through.

He will keep you strong to the end  
so you may be blameless on the day  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
1 Corinthians 1:8

## *Not Everything Is "Iffy"*

It might, it could, I wonder if,  
perhaps, it well may be,  
I think, I wish, I guess, I hope,  
are used so frequently.  
It seems we aren't too sure of things,  
we talk of 'iffy' stuff,  
There's not too much we know for sure,  
and this is kinda' tough.  
But one thing that we're sure about  
is God is in control  
So if you're really wise, my friend,  
you'll trust to Him your soul.



Know therefore that  
the Lord your God  
is God; he is the  
faithful God  
Deuteronomy 7:9

## *Bedtime*

At night before I go to sleep  
I like to read a while  
And just enjoy some happy stuff  
that makes me kinda' smile.  
I try not think of lumps and bumps  
that may have come my way,  
I know I'll sleep much better  
if I read awhile and pray.  
One thing that I appreciate  
is that God doesn't sleep  
And with that knowledge in my heart  
I know my soul He'll keep.



When I awake, I am still with you.  
Psalm 139:18



## *The Untroubled Heart*

If you let you heart be troubled  
you are sure to lose your song;  
There's stuff out there to rankle you  
and make your day go wrong.  
If hatred dwells within your heart  
it's sure to make you blue,  
It doesn't hurt the folks you hate  
but it will damage you.  
Your anger will not change a thing  
to even up the score,  
It could give you a heart attack,  
a stroke, or something more.  
It really isn't worth it, friend,  
to harbor worthless stuff--  
It's better far to just forgive  
then life won't be so tough.  
The Bible has the answer  
how to live life to the max:  
Forgive the folks who've done you wrong  
then love 'em and relax.

Do not condemn and  
you will not be condemned.  
Forgive, and you will  
be forgiven. Luke 6:37



## *Details Inside*

If you want to go to Heaven  
when life down here is through  
You need to read your Bible, friend,  
it has good news for you.  
It tells of things you need to know  
to give your heart a song--  
You'll find that livin's mighty good  
if you've the Lord along.  
You'll find why Jesus Christ was born  
and even why He died  
So read God's Handbook often  
for it gives details inside.



For God so loved the world that he gave his  
one and only Son, that whoever believes in  
him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
John 3:16 (1 John 1:9 and Revelation 3:20)

# 6

## *Friendship*

*A Friend Loves  
at All Times.*

*Proverbs 17:17*



## *Ruth (friendship, companion)*

*Do not urge me to leave you  
or to turn back from you.  
Where you go I will go. . .  
Your people will be my people  
and your God my God  
Ruth 1:16*

*There is a friend  
who sticks closer than a brother.  
Proverbs 8:24*

*The pleasantness of one's friend  
springs from his earnest counsel.  
Proverbs 27:9*

## *The Kitchen Folks*

It's nice to have folks over  
for a snack or for a meal,  
Folks who accept you as you are--  
its not that big a deal.  
It may be just a piece of toast  
with cocoa steaming hot,  
But it is eaten with delight,  
in this I kid you not.

Just serve 'em in the kitchen  
and an eye they will not blink,  
The stove won't worry them a bit,  
nor will the kitchen sink.  
They'll feel at home like family--  
there is love that you can't buy,  
For folks like these are hard to find  
e'en though you try and try.

The chatting and the laughter  
causes them to just relax,  
What better way to spend your days  
and live life to the max.  
I like the kitchen kind of folks  
they're true and down to earth,  
And if you haven't friends  
like these  
you're missing lots of mirth.



## *The Collectors*

Some folks it seems accumulate  
an awful lot of stuff,  
No matter what they've stashed away  
they think its not enough.  
Though they collect all sorts of things  
and have both cash and gold,  
Possessions will not love them back--  
they even can grow mold.  
The guy who's always looking out  
for good old 'number one'  
Will find his living pretty dull,  
and seldom has much fun.

A person needs some good close friends  
to give his life a song,  
And those who will invest in them  
will find they're seldom wrong.  
So get yourself a lot of friends,  
they'll help you keep on track,  
And I can guarantee you, too,  
that they will love you back.



## *Little Things*

Some folks don't really seem impressed  
with little things, you know,  
They much prefer to swagger in  
and kinda' make a show.  
They like to talk and tell folks  
of some great things they have done  
And how they've really made it big,  
and trophies they have won.

I know we can appreciate  
the folks who come to fame  
But most of us live simpler lives  
and have a common name.  
But when I read my Bible, friends,  
I find another view—  
God loves one talent folks a lot  
for they're important, too.



How would we ever get along  
without the folks who smile?  
We need the people who give hugs  
and go the second mile.  
A cup of water in Christ's Name  
God says He will reward;  
Sometimes the little things we do  
speak volumes for the Lord.

Anyone who gives a cup of cold  
water in my name because you  
belong to Christ will certainly  
not lose his reward. Mark 9:41

## *Listening*

God gave us ears so we could hear  
the sounds that come our way,  
In fact He gave us two of them  
that we could use each day;  
I guess the reason we have two  
is He made doubly sure  
That we'd know what is going on,  
not merely just endure.  
So we are glad to have our ears  
to hear a lot of stuff  
And though these really are quite good  
sometimes they're not enough.  
God knew we'd need a little help  
if we would play it smart  
And so He made it possible  
to listen with our heart.



Everyone should be quick to listen,  
slow to speak and slow to become angry.  
James 1:19



## *It's Never Enough*

'It's never enough,' we can say of our days,  
As we spend our lives in such various ways.  
Life's simply too short to get everything done  
That we'd like to do, for we've found life is fun.

We've built our sand castles and filled them  
with dreams  
And most of our plans are fulfilled, so it seems.

It is never enough. There is more up ahead.  
Life's ours to enjoy, and is not our's to dread.  
We still want to visit some faraway place  
And see if it's better than our hectic pace.

This earth has so much that's fantastic to view,  
And sharing it's beauty with friends old and new  
Makes living worthwhile, and it just seems to me  
That this is the way that our lives ought to be.



## *Dogs . . . As Friends*

We've heard that dogs are man's best friend,  
how does this come to be?  
Is it because he listens well  
to folks like you and me?  
He never breaks your confidence  
and tells what he has heard,  
He puts his head up in your lap  
and utters not a word.  
He greets you when you come from work,  
in this he does not fail;  
He runs and jumps to show his love  
and wags his furry tail.  
No matter what you tell the dog  
he won't betray your trust,  
So if you're lonely, get a dog--  
it could be, it's a must.



## *Friends*

When I count up my blessings  
I find friends will head the list;  
No other treasure that I have  
would be as sorely missed  
As those who touch my heart with love  
and care when things go wrong,  
These are the special kind of folk  
that give to life a song.  
If you have friends you are not poor,  
you really are quite blest.  
Let others rush to get their gold  
while you enjoy the best.



Two are better than one  
... If one falls, his friend  
can help him.

Ecclesiastes 4:9

## *Who Folks Like Best*

I've found that folks don't care a lot  
how many years you've spent  
On planet earth, and what you've done  
to pay your monthly rent.  
They mostly like a person  
who is honest and sincere  
And leans a little closer  
when you whisper in his ear.

The young have much to offer,  
and the older ones do, too;  
So listen well to what folks say,  
it could, you know, be true.  
So gather friends, both young and old,  
and don't from them depart.  
It may be those you like the best  
are people with a heart.



## *The Caring Ones*

Don't you love the folks who just stop by  
to check on how you are?  
They don't worry if you've dusted  
or if house is up to par.  
They still love you if dishes  
are piled high in kitchen sink,  
They simply stop to check and see  
if you are in the pink.

I think God made some special folks  
who have a heart of gold  
And they know how to cheer the folks  
who feel depressed or old.  
I wonder if an angel sends  
a friend like this along  
So they can chase your blues away  
and give your heart a song.



As you have opportunity,  
let us do good to all people.  
Galatians 6:10

## *Old Friends*

Old Friends are best you realize,  
the ones you've known for years,  
For they have stood the test of time  
through sunshine and through tears.  
It's fun to sit and reminisce  
of memories in the past;  
Friends really brighten up your day  
When skies are overcast.

So keep in touch with folks you love,  
Don't let them slip away,  
They're more important than the gold  
you hoard from day to day.  
No matter what you own on earth  
on this you can depend,  
There's nothing that will bring more joy  
than having a good friend.



*Those  
Caring  
Friends*



The good Samaritan we know  
    was really a great 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.

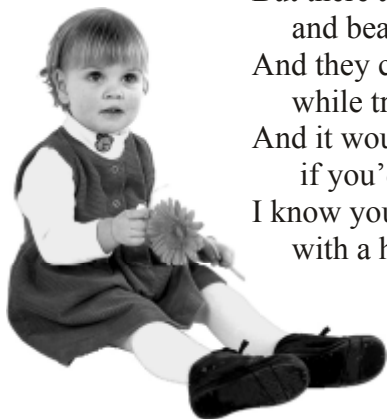
Some folks are not compassionate,  
    they just go on their way  
Ignoring folks around them  
    who are struggling through the day.  
But happy are the loving folks  
    who take the time to share  
And look out for the hurting ones  
    and show them that they care.

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.

## *The Contented Ones*

Contented are the happy folks  
who know when they've enough  
And do not complicate their lives  
with lots of extra stuff,  
For if you have more than you need  
it takes a lot of care  
To keep those things all up to snuff  
and causes wear and tear.

I'd like to whisper in the ear  
of those whose lives are blest:  
'Please spread a little love around  
while feathering your nest.'  
It's easy to accumulate  
a bit of extra cash  
And save it for a rainy day  
in case the markets crash.



But there are folks who travel on  
and bear a heavy load  
And they could use a bit of help  
while trudging down life's road.  
And it would please the Lord a lot  
if you'd share of your things--  
I know you'd be rewarded  
with a heart that hums and sings.

Carry each others  
burdens, and in this  
way you will fulfill  
the law of Christ.  
Galatians 6:2



7

# *The Savior*

*God's Greatest Gift  
Possible - His Son*



*Jesus (Jehovah is salvation)*

*You will be with child  
and give birth to a son  
and you will give Him the name Jesus  
Luke 1:31*

*She will give birth to a son,  
and you are to call his name Jesus,  
because He will save His people  
from their sins.  
Matthew 1:21*

*Today salvation has come to this house  
... For the Son of Man came  
to seek and to save what was lost.  
Luke 19:9,10*

## *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!



## *The Innkeeper*

I wonder if you've thought about  
the man who ran the Inn,  
He may have felt uptight all day  
with travelers checking in.  
It must have been a busy place--  
folks milling all about,  
Besides those dusty travelers  
were hungry and worn out.

It must have been a hassle  
to find beds for everyone,  
No doubt it dragged into the night  
before the work was done.  
The donkeys and the camels  
that the travelers rode that day  
Must be tied up and bedded down  
and given grain and hay.

I wonder if those tired folks  
found they could not relax  
Because they'd traveled many miles  
to pay their dreaded tax.  
And so with Inn and stable full  
they found a little space  
Where Mary, who was great with child,  
made this a holy place.

And here is where God's Son was born,  
among the cows and sheep,  
And though a manger was His bed  
He still could soundly sleep.  
Sometimes we feel so hassled  
with the stuff we do all day  
That we don't make room for Jesus  
as we hurry on our way.

We miss a lot of blessings  
like the man who ran the Inn  
And then we wonder what went wrong  
if we've no peace within.  
There're no two ways about it, friend,  
if you would have the best  
You've got to spend some time with God  
to find both peace and rest.



## *The Wise Men*

Have you thought about the wise men  
    who traveled from the east?  
According to our Christmas cards  
    each rode upon a beast.  
They seem to think that camels  
    were the animals they rode,  
Those big ships of the desert  
    sure could carry quite a load.

The Bible doesn't say a word  
    of how they made the scene,  
It simply said they're from the east,  
    whatever that could mean.  
But facts are there in black and white  
    that these three men were wise  
And may have been astronomers  
    because they watched the skies.

So when they saw a shining star  
    much brighter than the rest  
That really seemed to ring a bell;  
    they started on a quest  
For they were looking for a King  
    long prophesied of old  
And they brought frankincense and myrrh  
    along with lots of gold.

They must have had a lot of faith  
in what the prophets said  
Because they left their folks at home  
and plunged right on ahead.  
The other folks who saw the star  
outshining all the rest  
Could well have wondered what was up,  
but staying home seemed best.

It's not too different now today—  
wise men are seeking still  
To find the Christ who sets them free  
and can their lives fulfill.  
While others kinda' stay at home  
and Christ they do not find  
Because they do not seek the Lord  
with all their heart and mind.





## *What If?*

If Jesus Christ had not been born  
two thousand years ago  
Our lives would be much different,  
knowing not which way to go.  
We wouldn't have a Christmas time  
that comes around each year  
Reminding us God gave His Son  
to live with folks down here.

We wouldn't know that angels sang  
to shepherds watching sheep  
And told them where they'd find the Babe,  
which woke them from their sleep.  
I wonder if they ran so fast  
they hardly touched the ground  
To find the manger where Christ lay—  
with animals around.

To be the first to see the Babe  
by angels invitation  
Would make a shepherd's heart to sing  
in joyful jubilation.  
They had no gifts to offer Him,  
but they were very smart;  
They gave to Him the best they had.  
They gave to Him their heart.

Then when the shepherds left that place  
and went back to their flock  
It's not hard to imagine  
that excitedly they'd talk.  
The angels, and the singing,  
and the trip to Bethlehem,  
And then to see the lovely Babe,  
was all so new to them.

One thing the shepherds knew for sure  
as they did homeward plod  
Was that they'd never be the same—  
for they'd been touched by God.

Luke 2:8-20



## *Still At the Manger*

A lot of folks will celebrate  
          the birth of Christ the Lord,  
When Christmas time rolls 'round each year  
          we find they are not bored.  
They like the parties and the trees  
          with ornaments galore  
And like the cards and packages  
          delivered at their door.

The baby Jesus looks so nice  
          while in His manger bed  
They even stop and listen  
          to the things the shepherds said.  
But then it seems they soon forget  
          what Jesus came to do  
And leave Him in the manger bed  
          until the year is through.

They don't think about the folks He healed,  
          the multitudes He fed,  
And they don't seem to care a lot  
          about the things He said.

His death by crucifixion  
they don't really think about,  
They much prefer the manger scene  
and cheerful things, no doubt.

We all like Christmas with its joy,  
goodwill, and gracious love,  
But had He not both lived and died  
and gone to Heaven above  
We'd never have a Savior  
Who can take away our sin  
And if we give our heart to Him  
we'll have great peace within.



... we have peace with God through  
our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

*Christ Came . . .  
and Will Come Again*

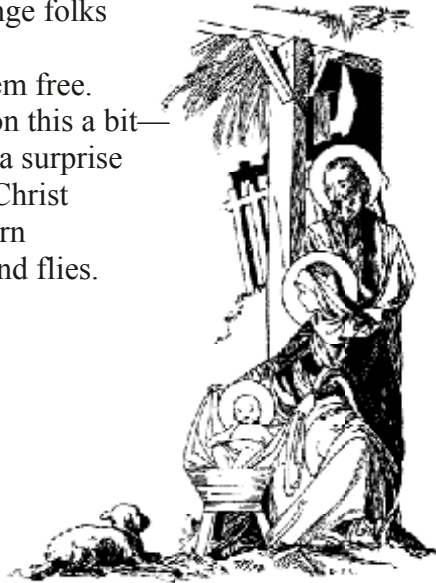
For many years the Israelites  
looked forward to Christ's birth,  
The prophets told long years ago  
that He would come to earth.  
Some may have thought they'd figured out  
quite how he would arrive  
But when He came they knew Him not  
though He was quite alive.

It didn't happen as they thought  
and so their hearts were dim  
But angels told some shepherds  
to make haste and worship Him.  
So after angels sang their song  
and took their upward flight  
Those shepherds took off on the run  
on that most Holy Night.

The angels told them where to go  
to find that tiny Babe:  
A stable with a manger  
was where Jesus Christ was laid.

The common folks and well-to-do  
had filled up every space,  
And so the Keeper of the Inn  
gave them this humble Place.  
I'm sure the folks who filled the Inn  
and roamed about that night  
Knew not the King of Kings was born  
by simple lantern light.

And who'd have thought this little Babe  
would so important be  
That He would change folks  
by His love  
and really set them free.  
Sometimes I think on this a bit—  
how God pulled a surprise  
Of how and where Christ  
would be born  
'midst animals and flies.



continued



Friends, Jesus Christ in coming back,  
it could be night or noon  
And many folks who love the Lord  
hope that it will be soon.  
It seems some folks have figured out  
how they think this will be  
But I would guess they'll be surprised  
when Jesus' face they see.

I know the Bible gives some clues  
of what will come to pass  
Before He calls all Christians Home  
and they will leave en masse.  
But if our Lord comes differently  
than some folks think He might  
We'll find no matter how He comes  
He'll really do it right.

## *The Real Christmas*

Maybe some folks look for Christmas  
inside a shopping mall  
Where there are lots of things to buy  
for both the large and small.  
The merchants have their merchandise  
all gussied up a bit  
In hopes you'll buy a lot of stuff  
before you up and quit.  
You could look through a thousand stores  
in search of special stuff  
And have your shopping bags so full  
it makes you huff and puff.

E'en though you've seen the ornaments  
and tinsel strewn around  
And thought you saw old Santa Claus  
about to leave the ground  
And get his reindeer and his sled  
away up in the sky  
It still would not be Christmas,  
and I'll just tell you why:  
You can't buy Christmas  
anywhere  
though you check every mart--  
The real Christmas comes to those  
who have Christ in their heart.





## *Easter*

When Easter comes around this year  
    I hope you'll think above  
The colored eggs and Easter clothes  
    and think about Christ's love.  
No other person God has sent  
    to live with folks below  
Has taught them how they ought to live  
    and what they ought to know.

It's almost inconceivable  
    that those who knew Him well  
Would hang Him on that cruel Cross  
    before the darkness fell.  
'Twas only just a week before  
    they tried to make Him King;  
Now He's forsaken by the crowd  
    and that changed everything.

Who ever thought one of the twelve  
    would stoop to turn Him in  
To people who believed Him not  
    and really lived in sin.  
But though they hung Him on a Cross  
    He prayed to God above  
To please forgive those sinful folks,  
    now that was perfect love.

The tomb they buried Jesus in  
could not hold Him too long—  
For Sunday morning He arose  
and gave the world a song.  
Although it's been two thousand years  
since He rose from the dead  
The world has never been the same  
that once was filled with dread.

So now when Easter comes this year  
lift up your voice and sing  
For Jesus Christ is Lord of all  
and that's worth everything!

Because I live, you also will live.  
John 14:19



# 8

## Prayer

*Finding Help  
in Time of Need*



## *Israel (he struggles with God)*

*God said to him.*

*'Your name is Jacob,  
but you will no longer be called Jacob,  
your name will be Israel,'*

*Genesis 35:10*

*Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in everything by prayer  
and petition with thanksgiving,  
present your request to God.*

*Philippians 4:6,7*

*Let us then approach the throne of grace  
with confidence, so that we may  
receive mercy and find grace to help us  
in our time of need.*

*Hebrews 4:16*

## *My Prayer*

Sometimes I get a little tired  
As I go through the day,  
I know I'd never make it, Lord,  
If You were far away.  
So let me feel my hand in Yours  
And whisper in my ear  
Important things I need to know  
To bring me hope and cheer.  
Put Your arm around my shoulder  
When my way seems tough and bleak,  
You know how much I need your help  
When I feel tired and weak.  
So bless me with Your Presence, Lord,  
It fills my heart with song  
And life is so much better  
When You're with me all day long.  
Amen



'Call to me and  
I will answer you  
and tell you things  
you do not know.'  
Jeremiah 33:3

## *The Cue*

Don't sit and bemoan  
That you've older grown,  
For what would the alternate be?  
Do you realize  
It is really not wise  
To pity yourself with 'poor me?'

For every long day  
When you feel this way  
You've wasted some valuable time  
To make your life glad  
And improve it a tad  
So you'll have more strength for the climb.

There're things you can do  
If you'll just take the cue  
To start every day with a prayer,  
Then you'll have a Friend  
And your heart He will mend,  
And you'll feel His love and His care.

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



*Job*

I've thought about Job and what he went through;  
With all of his losses he must have felt blue.  
On top of all that he had boils on his skin--  
This went on for weeks, but he still didn't sin.

His friends were no comfort and even his wife  
Told Job to curse God and so end his life.  
But Job knew his Maker. He still would not sin  
And somehow this struggle he knew he would win.

His life changed around when he prayed  
for his friends  
And that's just the way that this true story ends.

Now this makes me wonder if this is a clue  
When we're facing problems just what we should do.  
Job's answer sounds simple, and yet to the point,  
Pray much for your friends when your life's  
out of joint.



Job 42:10

## *Altars*

All altars aren't in churches, friend,  
they're really everywhere  
That someone thinks upon his God  
and breathes a trusting prayer.  
It's nice to go to church you know,  
and worship once a week,  
But God's not just in churches  
where you hear the pastor speak.

God really talks to lots of folks  
above their kitchen sink  
Or while they're riding in their car--  
more places than you think.  
Don't limit God to just one place  
and think that's where you pray,  
No matter where on earth you are  
He hears the words you say.



The Lord is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth. Psalms 145:18



## *The Talkers*

It seems some folks don't say too much  
but others love to talk  
And they have fun just greeting folks  
while on their daily walk.  
Sometimes I wonder, could it be  
the silent folks are sad  
Because they really have no friends  
to love and make them glad?  
Some folks will talk to idols  
but their voice is never heard;  
Some even talk to teddy bears  
that answer not a word.

Some other folks talk to themselves  
and ruminate on stuff  
But all these tactics people try  
don't seem to be enough  
To give a fella' peace of mind  
and satisfy his soul  
Though they have been around the world  
and searched from pole to pole.  
But some have learned a secret  
and they know  
just where to start  
For Jesus is their  
closest Friend  
and they talk  
heart to heart.

Trust in him at all times,  
... pour out your hearts to  
him for God is our refuge.  
Psalm 62:8





## *Runnin' Away*

When you find that life is tough and mean  
and things don't go your way  
I wonder if you're tempted  
to pack up and run away.  
You'd like to stop the world awhile  
and have it let you off  
Because you're tired of aches and pains  
and have a hacking cough.

You're also tired of paying bills  
and fixing stuff that breaks--  
Your family doesn't realize  
just how much grace it takes.  
So when you're in a fix like this  
and feel like giving up  
Tell God what's in your heart and mind.  
He just might fill your cup.

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

## *Speed Bumps*

Sometimes our road is hard and long,  
we're not on Interstate  
Where one can go full speed ahead  
and cruise along just great.  
At times we've speed bumps on the road  
which slow us down a tad;  
It's tough to keep a happy heart  
when things are going bad.

Some illnesses and other stuff  
can throw us for a loop,  
We find we're drinking mostly tea  
and eating chicken soup.  
It's pretty hard to sing and hum  
when things like that go wrong,  
It's then we need a lot of friends  
to help restore our song.

The speed bumps that we hit in life  
are bound to slow us up  
And so we need to ask the Lord  
to please refill our cup.  
So if our road is bumpy  
and we fear we'll fall apart  
We need to pray and trust in God  
and keep a tender heart.



## *Just for God*

It seems there comes to each of us  
a time when we reflect  
On what we want to do in life  
and what we should expect.  
Some fail to come up with a goal  
and kinda' drift, no doubt,  
Because they've not discovered yet  
what life is all about.

Still others seem to plan ahead  
on how to reach the top  
And though the road is sometimes tough  
they do not want to stop.  
And if they have the Lord along  
they'll find when they get there  
A lot of things will turn out right  
because they love and care.

And as I think on this a bit  
I'd really like to say:  
Do something beautiful for God  
today and every day.



## *The Listener*

Have you ever wondered just how many prayers  
ascend up to Heaven each day  
From hearts that are troubled, and lonely, and sad,  
and folks wanting help for today?  
I've wondered how God can hear  
millions of prayers  
and keep every one sorted out--  
No matter what language ascends to His Throne  
He knows what the prayer is about.  
He doesn't just answer the prayers of the great,  
ignoring the prayers of the small,  
His heart is so big for the whole human race  
He listens to any who call.  
When I try to figure how God handles this  
it simply just boggles my mind,  
Amid all this volume God hears every day  
a wonderful thing do I find:  
God's never too busy to hear when I pray  
and give me an answer that's best.  
To have a great God take an interest in me  
sure gives to my heart peace and rest.

If I rise on the wings  
of the dawn, if I settle  
on the far side of the sea,  
even there your hand  
will guide me,  
your right hand  
will hold me fast.  
Psalm 139:9





## *The News*

The news we hear is mostly bad—  
it tells of wars and such;  
There's not a lot to cheer the soul  
if list'ning long and much.  
Some folks might think that God is dead  
and so He doesn't see  
The things that plague us here on earth,  
just kinda' lets us be.

But if you're in that sorry lot  
and think God doesn't care  
I'd say you better change your mind  
for He is everywhere.  
Though tragedy has struck our land  
one thing we know for sure  
Is that our God is in control  
and always will endure.

Sometimes we look for answers  
here and there on planet earth,  
Though some of them are helpful,  
some others have no worth.  
I wonder if we'd pray a lot  
and with our heart look up  
Then God would tell us what to do  
while filling up our cup.

## *Those Wrinkled Days*

Some days are kinda' tough, you know,  
when you crawl out of bed  
You wonder how you'll make it through  
the work that lies ahead.  
You know you've been too busy  
and your body is worn out  
And your soul has been neglected  
by this busyness, no doubt.

It's not too good to live like this.  
It's not good on the heart  
And if you get too busy, folks,  
your friends may soon depart  
For they have problems of their own  
with which they try to cope  
And they need some encouragement  
to give them joy and hope.

So plan those wrinkled days a bit;  
They need not stay like this,  
If you'd take time to sing and pray  
a lot of stress you'd miss.  
Don't carry lots of burdens  
that you well could do without  
Just put your hand in God's  
big Hand,  
He'll take the wrinkles out.

Cast all your anxiety on him  
because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7



## *Answered Prayer*

If God would answer all our prayers  
with a resounding 'Yes'  
I doubt we'd be much happier,  
but this is just a guess.  
If we'd ask God for lotsa' dough,  
a fancy house, and car,  
Designer clothes, a bit of fame  
so folks know who we are;  
And then, of course, we'd want good health  
(we'd want no pain or ache),  
And could there be no problems, please,  
we hate the stress they make.

If God gave all these things to us  
I doubt we'd be content;  
It might just fill our hearts with pride  
because of what He sent.  
I'm sure God knows what's best for us,  
He'd like to hear us say:  
'Lord, You know  
what I need the most,  
please care for me today.'  
God really doesn't need advice  
so He'll know what to do,  
And if you'll trust to him  
your heart  
He'll give what's best for you.

Your father knows  
what you need  
before you ask  
Matthew 6:8





## *God Speaks*

God speaks in lots of different ways  
to folks down here below  
And yet there are some folks who say  
they don't believe its so.

I've read in the Old Testament  
where God spoke in a cloud  
That hovered o'er Mt. Sinai—  
and He spoke really loud.

Black smoke ascended from the top,  
the mountain even shook;  
You'll find this fact in Exodus  
if you'll take time to look.

God also speaks through miracles  
like Jonah and the whale,  
No other man has lived three days  
in under-water sail.

It seems to me when we see stars  
flung far out into space  
We'd know that God was speaking  
when He put them all in place.

I could jot down some other things  
and make a long, long list  
Like birds that sing and flowers that bloom--  
I'm sure you get the gist.

But then God speaks another way  
if we'll take time to hear,  
One has to be quite quiet  
so we'll know that He is near.

He has that still, small Voice that says,  
'I will give you rest.'  
And that's a favorite of mine.  
I kinda' like that best.



## *Thankful Hearts*

If your heart is fixed on money  
and the things that it can buy  
You may not find much peace of mind  
no matter how you try.  
It's nice to have some ready cash  
so when your bills come due  
You'll have enough to pay 'em all  
and save a little, too.

I'm not too sure all wealthy folk  
are happy on this earth  
For they have lots of work to do  
just counting up their worth.  
The Bible says that godliness  
and a contented mind  
Will make you happy in your heart  
and this is quite a find.

So count the blessings that you have,  
don't sit around and stew,  
For God loves thankful people  
and would like to hear from you.

Be joyful always,  
pray continually,  
give thanks  
in all circumstances  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



## *Take Time to Listen*

If you're too rushed to listen  
you may never hear God's Voice  
For God is such a Gentleman  
that He gives us a choice  
Of whether we will worship Him  
and follow Him each day  
Or if we'll turn our back on Him  
and not His Word obey.

If you don't read your Bible, friend,  
and get your facts down straight  
It could be you'll be left outside  
God's great white pearly gate.  
And if you have no Bible  
God created lots of stuff  
So you would see His handiwork  
and that should be enough  
To tell you that there is a God  
Who is in charge of things  
And He would like for you to have  
the joy salvation brings.



So listen to His still, small Voice  
that whispers deep within,  
You'll find that He can  
set you free  
from all your guilt and sin.

Everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord  
will be saved  
Romans 10:13

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*God is Good*

*His Best Gifts  
Are Free*



*John (Jehovah is gracious)  
Matthew (gift of God)*

*The Lord is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and rich in love.  
The Lord is good to all;  
he has compassion on all that he made.  
Psalms 145:8,9*

*The gift of God is eternal life  
in Christ Jesus our Lord  
Romans 6:23*

*Every good and perfect gift  
is from above  
coming down from the Father of lights.  
James 1:17*

## *So Much to Enjoy*

I know some folks aren't happy  
with all the stuff they've got,  
They have a bunch of aches and pains  
and they complain a lot.  
Somewhere along life's winding road  
they got all focused wrong  
And thought if they owned lots of stuff  
their heart would have a song.

Somehow it didn't work that way  
and finally they see  
That God made lots of pretty things  
and best of all, they're free.  
No matter how much gold you have  
you can't create a star  
You simply have to raise your head  
and see them where they are.

You cannot paint a rainbow  
and then show it to your friends  
And sunsets are a work of God  
Whose glory never ends.  
God did not clone the human race  
and make all folks alike;  
He put a lot of beauty  
in some things He thought you'd like.

And if you'd take a little walk  
inside a city park  
And linger there you just might hear  
a singing meadow lark,  
The flowers there would be arrayed  
in coats of blue and pink,  
You'd see so many of God's gifts,  
more than you'd ever think.

So look for good stuff every day,  
don't murmur and complain,  
A happy heart and thankfulness  
might help you with your pain.  
God's given us a lot of gifts  
and if you're really smart  
You'll thank Him for the things He gives  
and love Him in your heart.



God, who richly  
provides everything  
for our enjoyment.  
1 Timothy 6:17b





## *The Amazing Cross*

Some years ago when traveling  
    we saw a special sight  
That could be seen for miles around  
    though it was day or night.  
We took a boat from Hong Kong  
    and headed for Macao  
Which sticks out in South China Sea  
    and I remember now  
This Portuguese Peninsula  
    that juts out in the Sea  
Had buildings large and beautiful  
    for visitors to see.

But that is not the special place  
    I want to tell you of  
The site that I'm referring to  
    tells folks about God's love.  
A church with many steps in front  
    once stood atop a hill  
And on its roof a cross was built  
    that could be seen at will.

In fact the sailors on the Sea  
    could see that rugged cross  
It helped them know right where they were  
    so didn't suffer loss  
If storms were raging round about  
    they seldom lost their way  
Because the cross was visible  
    to them both night and day.

But one day when a tempest came  
    the church came crashing down  
Along with other buildings  
    in that close-to-China town.  
But one amazing thing that stood  
    and did not suffer loss;  
The front wall of the church stood firm  
    which held aloft a cross  
And so that cross stands firm today  
    and lets the sailors know  
If they are where they ought to be  
    and which way they should go.

And so the Cross of Christ still stands  
    and points to us the way  
So we can know the love of God  
    and serve Him every day.  
And though the storms of life blow hard  
    against our heart and soul  
We know that Christ, the Son of God,  
    can help us reach our goal.

## *Never Out of Date*

It's amazing how the Bible  
is never out of date,  
It fits all generations  
because its truth is great.  
It tells us how we ought to live  
and what we ought to do;  
It plainly tells us why we're here  
in words both plain and true.

If folks would do the things it says  
obeying God's commands  
'Twould almost be a heaven on earth  
no matter where one stands.  
If folks would love each other  
and forgive 'em like they should  
There'd be a lot of peace on earth,  
more than you think there would.

The Bible's big on thoughtfulness,  
on mercy, and on grace  
And in its pages it will tell  
how we should run life's race.

It helped the folks of long ago  
and helps us now today,  
Another thing it does for sure:  
it teaches us to pray.

Don't ever think God changed the rules  
since He gave them to man;  
They still are there in black and white  
for every tribe and clan.  
I'm glad God tells us we can live  
some day with Him above,  
I'm also glad He tells us  
of His everlasting love.

Your word is a lamp  
to my feet, and a light  
for my path.  
Psalm 119:105



## *Just Passing Through*

Some years ago there was a song  
that I still like a lot  
That says this world is not our home  
(and really it is not).  
It says that we're just passing through,  
and if you think it through  
I think you will agree with me  
because, my friend, it's true.  
God makes us all to live down here  
a little while you know  
But that is not the end of us,  
there's some place else to go.

And as I watch the rushing throng  
I wonder can it be  
They're only living for today  
and not eternity?  
It seems they work and work to buy  
an awful lot of stuff,  
No matter how much dough they have  
it never seems enough.  
I kinda' think the common folk  
who serve both God and man  
Live happy lives because they live  
according to His plan.

This world is not their final home  
so while they're passing through  
They help the folks who need a lift  
like Jesus told them to.  
It's great to have a caring heart  
that loves and can forgive  
And there's no doubt about it  
it's the only way to live.  
And then when Jesus calls their name  
they will no longer roam  
Because they've just been passing through  
to their eternal Home.

The Lord is my shepherd. . . Surely  
goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life, and I will dwell  
in the house of the Lord forever.  
Psalm 23:1,6





*Things  
We'll  
Miss*

Sometimes we get discouraged  
and we like to reminisce  
On what will be hereafter  
and things that we will miss.  
Our hearts will not be troubled,  
there will be no stress or strain  
For in that heavenly Place up There  
we'll feel no guilt or pain.  
No backaches, toothaches, headaches,  
no arthritis, and no gout,  
And fractures, shingles, cataracts,  
are things we'll do without.

We'll not dread that day in April  
when Income Tax comes due;  
The daily news will be passe  
that could upset us, too.  
We'll not make up a shopping list  
or fill the car with gas,  
And we won't have the monthly bills  
that seem to come en masse.

We won't have programs on T.V.  
that rankle us a lot,  
And junk mail won't be coming through  
with bargains that are not.  
And credit cards that rob the poor  
but make for ready cash  
Won't be in evidence up there  
but left on earth as trash.

No politics will be in Heav'n  
for God's the CEO.  
His rules are in the Bible  
that was written long ago.  
Police cars or an ambulance  
with sirens screaming loud  
Won't rush to pick a person up  
if injured in a crowd  
For there will be no accidents,  
no fighting and no crime  
For former things have passed away  
like when we lived in time.

We'll miss the problems that we have  
down here where humans dwell  
And we'll be glad to leave behind  
some other stuff as well.  
We'll not look for a hole down here  
the day we're called to die  
But rather we will look and find  
a hole up in the sky.

a faith and knowledge resting in the hope  
of eternal life, which God, who does not lie,  
promised before the beginning of time. Titus 1:2





## *Heaven's Windowsill*

I wonder if you've ever thought  
you'd like to take a look  
And see what's inside Heaven  
as recorded in God's Book.  
I like to think there's lots of stuff  
recorded in His Word  
That tells what's in that special Place  
of which we all have heard.

It's kinda' like a windowsill  
where we can gaze awhile  
And when we read the things it says  
it gives our heart a smile.  
For when we stand on our tiptoes  
to see the things inside  
We'll see a lot of happy folks  
all scattered far and wide.

We'll see no beggars on the streets  
we understand are gold;  
We won't see folks with cane or crutch  
and no one will be old.  
No one will have a bunch of keys  
to lock their place up tight  
For there will be no crime nor sin  
in that land of delight.

We're told that many angels  
will be hovering about  
And once a person reaches There  
they never will want out.  
So spend a little time each day  
by Heaven's windowsill  
Not only will it cheer your heart,  
but God your cup will fill.

He (God) will wipe every tear  
from our eyes. There will be no  
more death or mourning or crying  
or pain for the old order of things  
have passed away. Revelation 21:4

## *Some See God Everywhere*

I know some folks do not believe  
that God made all the earth  
And yet the theories that they give  
are really of no worth.  
It kinda' seems a little strange  
these folks see God no where  
And yet a lot of other folks  
will see Him everywhere.

They see Him in the flowers,  
in butterflies, in trees,  
They see Him in the sun and moon  
and feel Him in the breeze.  
They see Him in the flakes of snow  
and in the birds that fly,  
They see Him in the sunset  
and the rainbow in the sky.

They see Him in the mountains  
and in the rushing brook,  
In fact they see God every place  
where human eyes can look.  
I'm glad that I believe in God  
and that He cares for me  
And knowing this within my heart  
I'm happy as can be.



## *Heaven*

Sometimes we get discouraged  
And we feel that life is tough;  
At times we have to ask you, Lord,  
To give us grace enough  
To handle pain and struggles  
That just seem to come our way  
And ask You if tomorrow  
Could be better than today.

And Lord, You seem so far away  
If we don't keep in touch,  
We find that other things in life  
Do not amount to much.  
So take our hands again, dear Lord,  
And overflow our cup,  
We'll thank you for the strength You give  
To keep us looking up.  
We'll do our best to smile a bit  
And even sing and hum;  
We know full well You told us  
That the BEST is yet to come.

*Amen*



We have this hope  
as an anchor for the  
soul, firm and secure.  
Hebrews 5:19