

Poems From The Still Of The Night

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INTRODUCTION

*For in a visitation of the night
You inspected my heart
and refined my soul in fire
until nothing vile was found in me
I will not sin with my words.*

Psalm 17:3 (TPT)

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth,
but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to
do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your
way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Joshua 1:8 (NIV)

Put aside all pretense and make it your goal to be authentic. Taking time to ponder will foster authenticity. A manufactured, false image will only foster incorrect, meaningless, pressure-filled connections with others. If you want meaningful, genuine relationships, you need to be authentic. So, what does the path to authenticity look like in this crazy, fast-paced, noisy world? Only in silence and solitude will you find authenticity. It is in solitude that isolation will

make you stronger. Without silence and solitude, you will be a faint reflection of those around you, not thinking or believing for yourself, a finger puppet of the masses.

Solitude is taking time in a specific place with a deliberate purpose and plan. It is time to ponder and ask questions; it is a place we set aside, discover what we believe and stand for, and develop a plan that is not pressured or forced.

The goal of this time of solitude is to become more authentic. God only made one of you, and you possess unique qualities and purposes. It would be a shame to neglect your uniqueness as you are working to gather appreciation from others, others who do not care.

This solitude is a time of separation from the thoughts, actions, words, and opinions of others. It is time to honestly and humbly evaluate and reevaluate. Take a moral inventory by asking yourself some of the following questions. What are your core beliefs? What do you stand for? Who are you?

Time spent in solitude is not a race; take your time, remain focused but unpressured, and you will find, with God's guidance, that slowly, your resilience, creativity, and authenticity will grow.

David had witnessed God's love, forgiveness, and strength many times in his life by the time he wrote Psalm 139 in his later years. He saw a giant fall with the impact of one small stone, armies defeated, and the wealth of a nation grow. In Psalm 139, David stated how he is aware of God's expansive knowledge and presence. He acknowledged how God had formed us in ways that are beyond our ability to comprehend. Knowing all David knew and experienced from God, he requests just one thing towards the end of his life. He asks that God help him see if he is walking in any path of pain. David asks God for assistance with taking an accurate inventory. *"God, I invite your searching gaze into my heart. Examine me through and through; find out everything that may be hidden within me. Put me to the test and sift through all my anxious*

cares. See if there is any path of pain I'm walking on, and lead me back to your glorious, everlasting ways - the path that brings me back to you." Psalms 139:23-24 (TPT) This should be our prayer as we place our heads on our pillow every night. God, show me the path of pain I am walking and the way back to you.

We should be watching over our hearts and taking moral inventory because this will determine our life's direction and outcome. We only get one life; spend it wisely.

Proverbs 4:23-27 (AMP) "Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life. Put away from you a deceitful (lying, misleading) mouth, And put devious lips far from you. Let your eyes look directly ahead [toward the path of moral courage] And let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you [toward the path of integrity]. Consider well and watch carefully the path of your feet, And all your ways will be steadfast and sure. Do not turn away to the right nor to the left [where evil may lurk]; Turn your foot from [the path of] evil."

This book is the product of this kind of meditative solitude. Most of the verses came to me at night after spending time meditating on the scriptures that appear before each poem.

*Don't be fooled
by those who speak their empty words
and deceptive teachings
telling you otherwise.
This is what brings God's anger
upon the rebellious!*

Ephesians 5:6

Age of Deception

When the days are dark with deception
You will know the end is near,
Listen to the Master
His words are "Do Not Fear!"

Institutions that once were trusted
No longer are the same,
They lost their moral compass
Abandoned guilt and shame.

There is counterfeit salvation
Costly but offered for free,
And all that is required
Is to cast your vote for me.

Follow all my teachings
Watch me on TV,
It will make you very wealthy
For only a little fee.

Confusion and deception
Are both tools that you know,
Used to feed their greed
And to empty your hungry soul.

Remember His words of promise
"Child, Do not fear,"
Bathe daily in His Word
He promised to be near.

*Leave all your cares and anxieties
at the feet of the Lord,
and measureless grace
will strengthen you.*

Psalm 55:22

Baggage

The baggage that I carry
Has started to weigh me down,
Once I had a smile
Now I have a frown.

The baggage that I carry
Gets heavier by the day,
I think I'll need a rest
As I wander on my way.

When the bags began to open
What was it I did see,
But a whole lot of anguish
Looking back at me.

I see the heartaches that I've carried
For much, much too long,
And a satchel of resentment
When others did me wrong.

But, Lord You spoke with kindness
That Your burden would be light,
So, why does all this baggage
Keep me troubled all the night.

Thank you, Lord, for lifting
The baggage off of me,
You bore the weight completely
Hanging on that tree.

*My old identity has been co-crucified with Christ
And no longer lives.
And now the essence of this new life is no longer mine,
For the Anointed One lives His life through me,
We live in union as one!
My new life is empowered by the faith of the Son of God
Who loves me so much that He gave himself for me,
Dispensing His life into mine!*

Galatians 2:20

Belief that Changes You

Faith is a belief that changes you
Transforms you from within,
A work of the Holy Spirit
If you invite Him in.

To believe that God is loving
Merciful and kind,
Frees you from offences
To leave the past behind.

To believe that God is just
And He fights for you,
Should give you peace and comfort
Knowing the enemy isn't through.

To believe that God is righteous
And has a plan for you,
Should make you want to seek Him
Before this day is through.

To believe that God is Almighty
Worthy of worship and praise,
Should destroy all pride and pretense
Wiping away self-centered haze.

If faith is a belief that changes you
What is the change you see?
When the Holy Spirit is working
You should see more of Him and less of me.

*Lay aside bitter words,
temper tantrums,
revenge, profanity, and insults.*

Ephesians 4:31

Bitterness

Bitterness is subtle
You oft don't know it's there,
Until that flame is raging
Licking at your hair.

Let go of all the bitterness
There is nothing you are owed,
That will destroy you more quickly
Than caring that load.

When bitterness exhales
It's best to hold your breath,
Let go of what you're holding
Look to Him for peace and rest.

My pride can do more damage
Than you can wound my pride,
Especially when offended
Or burning up inside.

Guard your words more closely
Bite firmly on your tongue,
Let go of all the churning
There's a new song to be sung.

*Protect me from harm,
keep an eye on me
as You would a child who is reflected
in the twinkling of Your eye.
Yes, hide me within the shelter of Your embrace,
under Your outstretched wings.*

Psalm 17:8

Blurred Vision

I ask you Lord, in earnest
Remove the scales from my eyes,
Help me see more clearly
Through deception and cruel lies.

Fear and worry confuse me
Making it hard to see,
The dangers all around me
And to know when I should flee.

I feel like I am running
With a target on my back,
But I know You go before me
Supplying where I lack.

Outside the storms are raging
Inside I'm tasting fear,
How can I move forward
When my vision is not clear?

I know there are many places
In my heart that are not right,
Remove the self-deception
Equip me for the fight.

Help me see the log of pride
That blinds me to Your will,
Wash me daily with Your Word
Your purpose to fulfill.

*And what is sown among thorns
represents those who hear the message,
but they allow the cares of this life and the seduction of wealth
and the desire for other things
to crowd out and choke the message
so that it produces nothing.*

Mark 4:18-19

Deceitful Riches

The sweet melody of riches
Is another weed I see,
It gives pleasure for a moment
But no security.

It feeds a hungry passion
Always wanting more,
And when I have enough
There is no room on my floor.

So then I must get busy
Build a much, much bigger house,
To store those precious treasures
And chase out every mouse.

But as I sit there quiet
In the midst of all this stuff,
There is a deep and haunting feeling
That there'll never be enough.

The pleasures that are fleeting
Have now just flit away,
And I am left here grieving
With only bills to pay.

The answer is in resting
In the protection of Your hold,
To know that You love me
Is worth more than all the gold.

*But the one whose heart is open,
let him listen carefully to what the Spirit
is presently saying to all the churches.
To everyone who is victorious
I will let him feast on the hidden manna
and give him a shining white stone.
And written upon the white stone is inscribed his new name,
known only to the one who receives it.*

Revelation 2:17

Do You Know Your Name?

Do you know your name?
Not the one used by your mother,
But the one that existed earlier
Declared by your heavenly Father.

This name is not a label
But the essence of your being,
A name describing purpose
A name with eternal meaning.

This name is very special
It applies just to you,
You better pause to find it
Before this day is through.

To live a life that is fulfilling
For the purpose you were made,
Live the name that He has given
And struggles will start to fade.

To find the name He gave you
While He knit you in the womb,
Will fill your life with purpose
And free you from the tomb.

Lean into the Master
Praise Him for He is kind,
And your name He will whisper
And your purpose you will find.

*I, even I, am the Lord,
and besides Me there is no savior.
I have declared and saved,
I have proclaimed,
and there was no foreign god among you;
therefore you are My witnesses,
says the Lord,
that I am God.*

Isaiah 43:11-12

EI Eloah – God the Mighty and Prominent

How can I know You as EI Eloah
God who is prominent,
When all the while I'm living
To promote my own ascent.

My striving for self-importance
Pushes You away,
I feel like I am drowning
Help me, Lord, today.

I know You as creator
I know Your love is real,
Yet, still with my thoughts and actions
Your place of prominence I try to steal.

I know that all my striving
Has only caused me pain,
And to see You in Your glory
Will only bring me gain.

To know You as the Almighty
Not constrained by time or space,
The only One worthy of prominence
Will put me in my place.

To know You as EI Eloah the mighty
I know what I must do,
Seek Your presence daily
Until my life is through.

*God's splendor is a tale that is told,
written in the stars.
Space itself speaks His story
through the marvels of the heavens.
His truth is on tour in the starry vault of the sky,
showing His skill in creation's craftsmanship.*

Psalm 19:1

Eloah – God the Prominent

We have a glimpse of Your prominence
In all that You have made,
The splendor of a sunset
As the light begins to fade.

When I look up to the heavens
Where the moon and stars reside,
I am filled with awe and wonder
That You are by my side.

You are God the Prominent
The creator of the world,
And as the sun is rising
Beauty is unfurled.

Forgive me Lord, I pray
For making You so small,
I cannot capture Your majesty
With just a plaque on the wall.

But to see You in Your prominence
That you reign supreme,
Is to see You as much more
Than just the captain of my team.

Worthy of praise and worship
Just for who You are,
Eloah the prominent
Who does not dwell afar.

*Look! God's tabernacle is with human beings.
And from now on He will tabernacle with them as their God.
Now God himself will have His home with them—
 'God-with-them' will be their God!
He will wipe away every tear from their eyes
 and eliminate death entirely.
No one will mourn or weep any longer.
The pain of wounds will no longer exist,
 for the old order has ceased.*

Revelation 21:3-4

Eternal Perspective

A thousand years into eternity
I'll glance back at today,
And wonder why I worried
Or was tempted to go astray.

Afflictions and achievements
That fired up my core,
Have vanished like a vapor
I'm no longer keeping score.

We'll have wisdom without agony
Walking with the Lord,
In the cool of the evening
Never being bored.

We will arise in glory
On that joyful day,
Sin's curse has been defeated
And on His new earth, we will stay.

When your life on this earth is over
What will become of you?
A question you should ponder
Before this day is through.

*Do not yield to fear,
for I am always near.
Never turn your gaze from Me,
for I am your faithful God.
I will infuse you with My strength
and help you in every situation.
I will hold you firmly
with my victorious right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

Fear

Fear is a bass drum
With a constant robust beat,
It drives me to seek knowledge
Where to safely plant my feet.

But in a world of endless knowing
What knowledge will help me,
Move safely and securely
Without feeling, I have to flee.

So how can I move forward?
Facing all this fear,
When the news is so depressing
And science is unclear.

It's the knowledge that You love me
That brings quiet to my soul,
To rest in that assurance
Is all I need to know.
To know that You love me Lord
When nothing's making sense,
Is to trust in Your protection
Quiet and at rest.

*But hold your hope firmly to the end
and you will experience
life and deliverance.*

Matthew 24:13

Finish Strong

Do not be deceived
Do not be lead astray,
Do not become distracted
No matter what others say.

The days are getting darker
Fear is in the air,
Uncertainty is rising
Nothing seems to be fair.

The earth has started shaking
No solid place to stand,
Reach for the loving Master
He will take you by the hand.

With trust and respect gone missing
It is hard for love to flow,
Abandon selfish ambition
If you want that love to grow.

Run towards the Savior
Bathe daily in His Word,
Praise Him in the moment
Your prayers to Him are heard.

In weakness this journey started
But now you must finish strong,
The Master is returning
And it won't be very long.

*Put your heart and soul
into every activity you do,
as though you are doing it for the Lord Himself.
and not merely for others.*

Colossians 3:23

Fire

I feel the fire within me grow
The flames are getting higher,
I want to serve the Lord my God
His will is my desire,
Whatever you have for me is best
Just put more coals on the fire,
For Lord this day, I want to see
The fire spread because of me.

*My heart burned with a fire within me,
and my thoughts eventually boiled over until
they finally came rolling out of my mouth.
“Lord, help me to know how fleeting my time on earth is.
Help me to know how limited is my life
and that I’m only here but for a moment more.*

Psalm 39:3-4

Flaming Indignation

Flaming indignation
I thought you were a friend,
Standing strong together
Fighting to the end.

Flaming indignation
Oh, I felt so strong,
Standing up to evil
Fighting all day long.

A stalwart guard of justice
Of this, I took some pride,
Alerted to deception
Ready to collide.

Flaming indignation
Now it's gotten hold of me,
I've lost my sense of purpose
No sense of being free.

Indignation is never righteous
It can eat your very soul,
Stand up for what is right
Don't make the fight your goal.

Forgiveness is important
As You have forgiven me,
Lord, give me strength and courage
I need to be set free.

*Join me, everyone!
Let's praise the Lord together.
Let's make Him famous!
Let's make His name glorious to all.
Listen to my testimony.
I cried to God in my distress,
and He answered me.
He freed me from all my fears.
Gaze upon Him, join your life with His,
and joy will come.
Your faces will glisten with glory.
You'll never wear that shame face again.*

Psalm 34:3-5

Focus on the Master

Don't become distracted
By the troubles of the day,
Thank the Lord you're breathing
Humble yourself and pray.

The devil wants your focus
On things you cannot change,
On the fears, the cares, the worries
That are all within his range.

God's Word tells us very clearly
Many, many times,
That we are not to fear
Even when turmoil climbs.

He is our rock and shield
He will keep your fears at bay,
You only have to trust Him
And in His arms, you'll stay.

*Human beings are frail and temporary,
like grass,
and the glory of man fleeting.*

1 Peter 1:24

Frailty

Grounded by our frailty
A vapor in the wind,
A lonely shadow dancing
A song that has an end.

I reach to grab the moment
Just to see it slip away,
Tomorrow I'll try harder
There goes another day.

Each day does have a number
They are quickly marching by,
The pace seems to be increasing
No matter how I try.

I'm a shadow that is rushing
Building what won't last,
The ship is disappearing
It is sinking very fast.

The things that I have gathered
Quickly turn to ash,
As the flames of time keep burning
All of this is grass.

So now I sit in silence
Renew me Lord I pray,
Even if my days are numbered
Don't let them slip away.

Hear me, Lord, I'm calling
To You and You alone,
Lift me for Your purpose
Don't let me turn to stone.

Exhausted by my trying
I'll leave it all to You,
Surrender all my doing
Resting just in You.

*Yahweh, who dares to dwell with You?
Who presumes the privilege of being close to You,
living next to you in Your shining place of glory?*

Psalm 15:1

Full of Yourself

When you are full of yourself
The truth you will hide,
It's not your feelings that hurt
It's a matter of pride.

When you are full of yourself
You see others with disdain,
You will use their fears and faults
To elevate your name.

When you are full of yourself
There is no room for God,
If you claim, He is with you
You are only a fraud.

When you are full of yourself
You will feel alone,
Compassion will fade
As your heart turns to stone.

When you are full of yourself
There is no place for trust,
With selfish ambition
That is fueled by greed and lust.

So, empty yourself
Make room for the Lord,
Dwell in His presence
Place value on His Word.

*So above all,
constantly seek God's kingdom
and His righteousness,
then all these less important things
will be given to you abundantly.*

Matthew 6:33

Get Out Of The Way!

If you want the Lord to use you
Each and every day,
It actually is quite simple
Just stop, and get out of the way.

Your ego is a monster
Demanding to be fed,
It will only become satisfied
When you are cold and dead.

Surrender to the Master
Set yourself aside,
Wash daily in His Word
Let Him be your Guide.

*Worship Yahweh with gladness.
Sing your way into His presence
with joy!*

Psalm 100:2

Gladness

Serve the Lord with gladness
Come before Him with a song,
Lift your hands to heaven
In His presence, you belong.

Gladness is a service
A sign of living faith,
An outward act of worship
Being thankful for this place.

Sacrifice with resentment
Does not please the Lord,
It is an act of self-promotion
Being busy instead of bored.

Do you know whom you are serving
How much do you believe,
That His gift for you this morning
Is the very breath you breathe.

That in times of real danger
He is watching out for you,
To walk you through the trouble
Or be there to pull you through.

*The rarest treasures of life are found in His truth.
That's why God's Word is prized
like others prize the finest gold.
Sweeter also than honey are His living words.
Sweet words dripping from the honeycomb!*

Psalm 19:10

God's Word

His Word is perfect
In every way,
It will revive your soul
And brighten your day.

His Word is sure
It cuts like a knife,
Exposing the places
That will destroy your life.

If you want to be wise
It is found in His Word,
And if you are quiet
His voice will be heard.

Hidden flaws that will harm you
His Word will reveal,
To shelter your soul
That the enemy would steal.

His Word is a light
That will guide your way,
It will keep you safe
When storms fill the day.

His Word was written
For people to see,
The source of their burdens
The path to be free.

*We laughed and laughed and overflowed with gladness.
We were left shouting for joy and singing Your praise.
All the nations saw it and joined in, saying,
“The Lord has done great miracles for them!”*

Psalm 126:2

Happiness

Happiness is a choice
A choice you get to make,
And if you do not choose it
You are making a big mistake.

Happiness is a virtue
You owe to all you meet,
From those who are in your home
To those who are in the street.

Do not seek for happiness
From those who could make you sad,
Or in the pursuit of riches
You will only end up mad.

Your path may be rough and twisted
Full of fear and dread,
So, choose to spread some gladness
Before you go to bed.

Do not stay downtrodden
Look upon the cross,
Lift your eyes to heaven
Don't let sadness be your boss.

To love and serve the Savior
Is the path you want to take,
For His happiness to find you
And for your sadness to escape.

*Little children,
let us not love in word or talk
but in deed and in truth.*

1 John 3:18

His Hands and Feet

My life it flashed before me
What was it I did see,
A lot of wasted moments
Serving only me.

Take some time to ponder
The plight of those you meet,
At times you'll see it clearly
Off, it's more discrete.

Now truly serving others
Is following His lead,
Not picking up their pieces
Or meeting every need.

Do you ever listen
For that sweat and still small voice,
Prompting a direction
That does not seem your choice.

Life can be exciting
If it's Him we seek to serve,
Not bent on our direction
Following the curve.

Embrace each passing moment
As a part of a greater plan,
Don't become impatient
Trust Him all you can.

*Then the Lord put out His hand and touched my mouth.
And the Lord said to me,
“Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.”*

Jeremiah 1:9

His Mouth and Ears

You make a small impression
But leave a memory,
The way you care for others
Will be your legacy.

If others seem downtrodden
Worried or alone,
See their fear and not their anger
Don't pick up a stone.

It's time to be the master
Of all the words you speak,
Not wasting time retrieving
Those that weren't discrete.

Take time to chew them fully
Your thoughts before they flow,
From a mouth with no restraint
Who knows where they will go?

Don't charge ahead with purpose
That you figured out last night,
He will give you guidance
If you're walking in His light.

So don't take off a running
Down the path you think is best,
Take time to pray and surrender
And in Him, you will find rest.

*Keep me safe, O mighty God.
I run to You, my safe place.*

Psalm 16:1

Home

Have you found your way?
Are you now at home?
Or wandering and restless
Continuing to pace and roam.

Oh, weary restless soul
When will you find your home,
A place to rest your head
Besides the Master's throne.

A home is not a house
With a fence and fancy yard,
It's a place of peace and quiet
Even when life is hard.

Home is a place of safety
Tranquility and peace,
In the presence of the Almighty
A place of full release.

It's a place that's found by seeking
The One who knows you best,
Abandoning life's clutter
A place of calm and rest.

*For the Word of God
is living and powerful,
and sharper than any two-edged sword,
piercing even to the division of soul and spirit,
and of joints and marrow,
and is a discerner of the
thoughts and intents of the heart.*

Hebrews 4:12

I Can't Fix It!

To know that what I've broken
I am powerless to fix,
Regardless of my power
Or silly little tricks.

For I'm really good at fixing
The stuff that's barely broke,
Like sorting out my closet
Or buying a brand-new coat.

But with the things that matter
Like issues of the heart,
I trip and fall and stumble
A disaster from the start.

It is time to stop pretending
That everything's okay,
And pause for just a moment
Each and every day.

Dear Lord, I sit before You
I need You in my life,
Do Your work of healing
With Your sharp and steady knife.

For our days on earth are numbered
Our time is very short,
I need Your help and guidance
As my first and last resort.

*He Himself carried our sins in His body on the cross
so that we would be dead to sin
and live for righteousness.
Our instant healing flowed from His wounding.*

2 Peter 2:24

In the Shadow of the Tree

The grace that has full meaning
You'll find up on that hill,
In the shadow of the cross
The price was paid in full.

He bore my pain and burden
Stretched out on that tree,
So I can live with purpose
Strong and fully free.

For the grace that He has given
Gives strength when I am weak,
Courage when I am fearful
And the words that I should speak.

Your voice I hear it calling
"Child you are mine,
I bore your pain and sorrow
You have comfort for this time."

For it's only in that shadow
That grace does freely flow,
Not dependent on my efforts
My goodness or my goal.

So stay true to the savior
Aware that He loves thee,
Never straying from that shadow
Connected to the tree.

*It takes a grinding wheel to sharpen a blade,
and so one person sharpens the character of another.*

Proverbs 27:17

Iron Sharpens Iron

Iron sharpens iron
So, the scriptures say,
The grinding is essential
For you to grow today.

As iron sharpens iron
Don't be frightened by the noise,
Don't go into hiding
Like timid girls and boys.

Iron sharpens iron
We all have separate parts,
When iron sharpens iron
Expect to see some sparks.

As iron sharpens iron
Don't burst into flames,
By thinking you're the better
Or making selfish claims.

God has given you a purpose
And sharp you have to be,
But before it is rewarding
You will want to flee.

Cling firmly to the Master
His path for you is true,
Stay humble as you walk
He is perfecting you.

*And God said to Moses,
"I AM WHO I AM."
And He said,
"Thus you shall say to the children of Israel,
I AM has sent me to you.
Moreover God said to Moses,
"Thus you shall say to the children of Israel;
The Lord God of your fathers,
The God of Abraham,
The God of Isaac,
And the God of Jacob,
Has sent me to you.
This is My name forever,
And this is My memorial to all generations.*

Exodus 3:14-15

Jehovah – God the Infinite

Compressed inside a capsule
That we define as time,
No matter how you fight it
Outside it you can't climb.

With Jehovah, there is no beginning
And no temporal end,
Think on that a while
And your mind will start to bend.

My mind begins to fail me
When I try to comprehend,
The essence of Your Being
With no beginning and no end.

Caught between two forces
Time and eternity,
I need Your loving guidance
And righteous priority.

Lord, help me keep that flame a burning
Of eternity in my heart,
And count each day as precious
With You, a brand-new start.

*Keep cleansing me, God,
and keep me from my secret, selfish sins,
may they never rule over me!
For only then will I be free from fault
and remain innocent of rebellion.*

Psalm 19:13

Just a Glove

I am just a glove
Made from a piece of clay,
Needing to be filled
Only the Master's way.

A glove that He has made
Just to fit His hand,
And not to be filled
With what I have planned.

I've stored inside each finger
What I think I need,
Habits, beliefs, and attitudes
Selfishness and greed.

But if this humble glove
Remains this shameful way,
The stuff I've left inside
Will only cause decay.

This glove must be emptied
Of all this selfish stuff,
For the Master's hand
Is more than enough.

Inhabited by His presence
The glove will finally see,
Its purpose and its meaning
What it was designed to be.

*Let everything that has breath
Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord.*

Psalm 150:6

Keep Praising Him

I am thankful for Your mercies
It shows me who I am,
It plucks me from the fire
Puts me back into the pan.

It teaches me some patience
When what I want to do is run,
In You alone is healing
By the power of Your Son.

Grant me grace and mercy
As I walk this path today,
Not seeking selfish interests
But close to You I pray.

*For everyone who knows Your wonderful name
keeps putting their trust in You.
They can count on You for help no matter what.
O Lord, You will never, no never,
neglect those who come to You.*

Psalm 9:10

Know His Name

More than just a label
On a ledger or a tag,
A name denotes an essence
A unique and colorful flag.

Your name is Lord Jehovah
The giver of all life,
The keeper of Your promises
A comforter amidst all strife.

To know You is to trust You
Keeper of my soul,
A place of peace and refuge
When troubles take their toll.

So now, for just a moment
I'll pause to seek Your name,
And embrace Your holy presence
And ponder on Your fame.

*God, I invite Your searching gaze into my heart.
Examine me through and through;
find out everything that may be hidden within me.
Put me to the test
and sift through all my anxious cares.
See if there is any path of pain I'm walking on,
and lead me back to Your glorious,
everlasting way,
the path that brings me back to You.*

Psalm 139:23-24

Lead Me Back To You

As I pause to look behind me
I see a crooked path,
And the many times I stumbled
Where I was guided by Your staff.

At times Your rod was needed
To get me back on track,
When rebellion was my master
Or my faith began to slack.

I want to be Your vessel
Please shine Your light within,
Exposing what is hidden
The deep and secret sin.

Help me see the path
That will only cause me harm,
And lead me back to You, Lord
Take me by the arm.

Keep me on the path
That leads me back to You,
To grow, to love, to serve
As my days on earth are few.

*Now, because of you, Lord,
I will lie down in peace
and sleep comes at once,
for no matter what happens,
I will live unafraid.*

Psalm 4:8

Lord, I need You!

Covered by a blanket
Weighted down with shame,
There, alone in misery
Embracing all the pain.

On a pillow of self-pity
I will lay my weary head,
But first a cup of worry
Then I'm off to bed.

The burdens that I carry
Are just too much to bear,
Help me Lord, I'm calling
Hear my spoken prayer.

Turn Your gaze towards me
Tell me what You see,
The path that I have chosen
Has become my enemy.

The load that I've been under
I give it back to You,
I'm tired and exhausted
Lord, please pull me through.

My heart it has been hardened
By inadequacy and shame,
I need a holy transplant
Heal me, in Jesus' name.

*Yahweh's Word is perfect in every way;
how it revives our souls!*

Psalm 19:7

More Than a Glimpse

The Master's skill
Is on display,
Just look at the stars
On a cloudless day.

Catch a glimpse of His might
In a fierce summer storm,
Or a glimpse of His mercy
In the sun's rays that warm.

The glimpses are many
They are all around,
And if you look
They are easily found.

For more than a glimpse
Look to His Word,
It was spoken to you
And needs to be heard.

If you want your spirit
To awaken and shine,
Embrace His Word
Give Him some time.

If you are looking for treasure
It's found in His truth,
If you seek Him in earnest
He will give you the proof.

*Nothing makes sense!
Everything is nonsense.
I have seen it all - nothing makes sense!
What is there to show
for all of our hard work here on this earth?
People come, and people go,
but still the world never changes.*

Ecclesiastes 1:2-4

None of this makes Sense

When I awoke this morning
Much to my dismay,
The world was off its axis
Spinning the other way.

Gender's not determined
By the package in your pants,
For with a skillful surgeon
Nothing's left to chance.

A family's not defined
By a shared genetic code,
But a patch sewn on your back
As you drive on down the road.

A fetus of inconvenience
I'd never want to be,
You say your puppy's precious
But what will you do with me?

So if race no longer matters
And gender's obsolete,
Why must I check those boxes?
For this form to be complete.

Dear God, please give us wisdom
Before all hope is lost,
We are here to serve You
No matter what the cost.

*Because of you, I know the path of life,
as I taste the fullness of joy in Your presence.
At Your right side I experience
divine pleasures forevermore!*

Psalm 16:11

Pause in His Presence

In the quiet of the morning
Before the songbirds sing,
I bring my life before You
To give You everything.

Made for just one purpose
To worship at Your feet,
And to bathe in Your glory
Will make my life complete.

To pause in His presence
And whisper a prayer of praise,
To speak words of heartfelt gratitude
Will give strength for troubled days.

*Let everyone everywhere join in the crescendo
of ecstatic praise to Yahweh!
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!*

Psalm 150:6

Praise Him

Awaking full of worry
Lying on my bed,
I turn to You for comfort
No need for fear or dread.

I'm thankful that You placed me
In this place and at this time,
To see Your many wonders
And to know that You are mine.

To praise You is an honor
To call You by Your name,
To know that You are loving
And righteous just the same.

I need You now to guide me
I want to know Your way,
Please guide me with Your Word
Each and every day.

*Confess and acknowledge how you have
offended one another and then
pray for one another to be instantly healed,
for tremendous power is released
through the passionate, heartfelt prayer
of a godly believer.*

James 5:16

Praying for Others

Why should we pray for others?
When their life is such a mess,
They are the ones responsible
For ending up with less.

God gave you the shoes you are wearing
To walk this path of life,
A path that is uncertain
Filled with anguish and with strife.

But if your only focus
Is on the pebble in your shoe,
You will miss the plan and purpose
That He has just for you.

To be part of His earthly kingdom
One thing is a must,
Consider the plight of others
And from your heart remove the crust.

God wants you in their shoes
Just for a little while,
To show that your role in His kingdom
Is not a burden or a trial.

So, pause and pray for others
Spend some time each day,
Consider their joys and struggles
He will guide you in His way.

*Be still,
and know that I am God,
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!*

Psalm 46:10

Press Pause!

As I pause to ponder
The noise inside me grows,
From things I've left unfinished
To nursing all my woes.

It's an effort to be quiet
And sit before the Lord,
With all this noisy clatter
Inside me, I've kept stored.

How will I regain order?
In this growing, noisy mess,
But to spend each waking moment
Never pausing for a rest.

But still, it takes an effort
To keep that noise at bay,
For it screams from every corner
As I wander through the day.

But no matter what's accomplished
By these hands this very day,
It's His voice I need to follow
And in His rest, I need to stay.

*Great sorrow awaits you, religious scholars
and you Pharisees
such frauds and pretenders!
You do all you can to keep people from
experiencing the reality of heaven's kingdom realm.
Not only do you refuse to enter in,
you also forbid anyone else from entering in!*

Matthew 23:13

Pretense

Pretense is a cymbal
That clangs inside my head,
For to be seen as unworthy
This, I fear and dread.

I sacrifice the quiet
Embrace the noise instead,
To project a glowing image
To avoid that awful dread.

But the image isn't perfect
It's full of many holes,
This drives me to work harder
Bragging, buying, primping, clothes.

But I know that the acceptance
I long for, and I seek,
Is only found in you Lord
Given freely to the meek.

So let's pull this weed of pretense
Let meekness grow instead,
And then Your rest and quiet
Will chase out all that dread.

*For He has given us this command:
whoever loves God must also
demonstrate love to others*

1 John 4:21

Relational Consistency

We think that we are different
In how we come across,
To God, ourselves, and others
We think we are the boss.

But we really are consistent
It is not a deceitful game,
Whether God, ourselves, or others
We treat them all the same.

If you're angry or you're bitter
You probably hate yourself,
Believe God is on vacation
And left you on a shelf.

If you're arrogant and boastful
You're most likely insecure,
God cannot be trusted
As you live your life in fear.

Don't get caught up in the moment
Consumed by misery and pain,
Focus on God and others
And you will never be the same.

Our self-evaluation
Does not sit on separate shelves,
For we really do love others
The way we love ourselves.

*But other seed fell on good ground
and yielded a crop that sprang up,
increased and produced:
some thirty fold,
some sixty,
and some a hundred.*

Mark 4:8

Seeds

I know the thorns are many
Growing in my heart,
Dear Lord it's time for clearing
So Your Word can get a start.

Guide me as I ponder
Your precious Holy Word,
May the seeds You are dispersing
Be more than loosely heard.

May they have a chance for growing
Deep within my heart,
Not pulled out by their roots
Before they get a start.

May they grow as they are nurtured
By the Sower and His Son,
To bring a fruitful harvest
Instead of having none.

I'm thankful for the blessing
Of each seed You've thrown my way,
Let's keep this garden weeded
So the seeds can grow and stay.

Teach me to be patient
To let Your seedlings grow,
And produce a great big harvest
For Your purpose and Your goal.

*So above all,
constantly seek God's kingdom and His righteousness,
then all these less important things
will be given to you abundantly.*

Matthew 6:33

Seek Ye First

As I look back on my life
Of nearly seventy years,
I see moments of elation
And spells of bitter tears.

Goals and desires were the drivers
Of what I did each day,
Giving me direction
And what I would have to pay.

With immaturity and selfishness
Pleasures did I seek,
New cars, a house, a cabin
But contentment did not peak.

So, I sought out affirmation
Rewards for a job well done,
Or a simple pat on the head
For being a faithful son.

Affirmation's charms are fleeting
It keeps you working hard,
No time for joy or silence
Playing that A-type card.

So, now that I am older
One desire grips my soul,
To know my Lord and Savior
Can be my only goal.

Pleasures last a moment
Affirmations fade away,
The only thing worth seeking
Is His face this very day.

*So now I live with the confidence that
there is nothing in the universe
with the power to separate us from God's love.
I'm convinced that His love will triumph
over death, life's troubles, fallen angels,
or dark rulers in the heavens.
There is nothing in our present or future circumstances
that can weaken His love.
There is no power above us or beneath us
no power that could ever be found in the universe
that can distance us from God's passionate love,
which is lavished upon us through
our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One.*

Romans 8:38-39

Separated From God's Love

What can separate us from God's love?

There is one thing that can,
The simple act of believing
That you are the great "I AM."

You may have built a fortress
Protecting you from pain,
You think you are invisible
Never taking any blame.

It must be very lonely
Living on your tower,
No one is your equal
No one shares your power.

But when it starts to crumble
As it will for sure,
With charm and favor depleted
You will never find a cure.

Wake up and take notice
It is not too late today,
To set aside your ego
To humble yourself and pray.

*Abandon every display of selfishness.
Possess a greater concern
for what matters to others
instead of your own interests.*

Philippians 2:4

Serving Others

Life would be much fuller
If we took the time to see,
What is going on with others
Not just inside of me.

What do you see inside you?
When you close your eyes,
Is it fear that keeps you moving
Discouragement and lies?

Rest that gives direction
Life instead of loss,
Purpose, and fulfillment
Starting at the cross.

Love like there is no tomorrow
Be generous today,
Don't leave kindness in your pocket
Give it all away.

It's not the speed your going
But the path that you are on,
And the path is always changing
Conforming to His song.

Live a life extended
Beyond your ego's walls,
Take time to think of others
Before your curtain falls.

*But if there is bitter jealousy or competition hiding in your heart,
then don't deny it and try to compensate for it
by boasting and being phony.*

James 3:14

Shameless Self-service

Thank you loving Father
For giving me a glimpse,
Of my path of dark destruction
And saving me in a pinch.

For if I remain focused
On serving only me,
My vision will be clouded
No beauty will I see.

To serve You is why I'm breathing
Not focused on myself,
For in that is rest and purpose
Not sitting on a shelf.

For the shelf of self-service
Lonely it may be,
Will consume every moment
And all your energy.

It's time to take that step
Stop crying like your three,
Live a life of serving Jesus
In light of eternity.

*But instead be kind and affectionate toward one another.
Has God graciously forgiven you?
Then graciously forgive one another
in the depths of Christ's love.*

Ephesians 4:32

Shards of Glass

There are shards of glass
In my stew,
I know they are there
I've bit a few.

Anger and jealousy
To name just two,
Are the shards of glass
In my stew.

I want to be
A friend to you,
So why create
A harmful stew?

Jesus taught us
To forgive,
And to love like Him
To really live.

So, I will eat this stew
And feel free,
Trusting Him
To care for me.

*Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!*

Psalm 46:10

Silent Before the Lord

I know the Lord will call me home
Before my tasks are through,
And so I wait upon Him now
To see what I should do.

In silence and in solitude
Down on bended knee,
Is where you hear Him whisper
“Child, you are free.”

Free from condemnation
The pressure to perform,
To live as He intended
Quiet in the storm.

*A new song for a new day rises up in me
every time I think about how He breaks through for me!
Ecstatic praise pours out of my mouth until
everyone hears how God has set me free.
Many will see His miracles;
they'll stand in awe of God and fall in love with Him!*

Psalm 40:3

Songs in the Quiet

These are my simple sonnets
Sung in monotone,
The words that You have given
When quiet and alone.

They wake me in the morning
With darkness all around,
They call out from the quiet
Simple yet profound.

Your words they give me comfort
Strength and security,
For it is Your words that matter
If there is any hope for me.

So Lord I'll keep on pressing
To get to know You more,
To walk with You more closely
To hear your voice in every chore.

Thank you for these moments
With clarity of thought,
To consider all that matters
And what is easily forgot.

That in Your loving presence
In Your kingdom I will see,
To spread Your love and kindness
More like You I want to be.

*Then Jesus came close to them and said,
“All authority of the universe has been given to Me.
Now wherever you go, make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
And teach them to faithfully follow
all that I have commanded you.
And never forget that I am with you every day,
even to the completion of this age.”*

Matthew 28:18-20

Tell Them About Me

Awash with pain and trouble
Drowning in despair,
Hope is lost or fading
No one seems to care.

This world is getting heavy
Distrust is everywhere,
Where should we turn for answers
Does anyone really care?

God's message to His people
It is time for you to share,
Tell the world around you
That I am present and I care.

Tell them of My mercy
Tell them of My power,
Tell them of My peace
Available this hour.

Tell them of My love
And how I gave My Son,
To save them from themselves
Each and every one.

So, as you live your life
And hurting ones you see,
Be oh so very mindful
To tell them about Me.

*Let joy be your continual feast.
Make your life a prayer.
And in the midst of everything
Be always giving thanks,
For this is God's perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Thanksgiving

As I start each new morning,
May thanksgiving rule my heart,
May Your peace, Your joy, Your blessing,
Be my comfort as I start.

May Your rest be there to guide me,
As I wander through my day,
To return in the evening,
Thankful for today.

*I know all that you do,
and I know that you are neither frozen in apathy
nor fervent with passion.
How I wish you were either one or the other!
But because you are neither cold nor hot,
but lukewarm,
I am about to spit you from my mouth.*

Revelation 3:15-16

The Christian Atheist

Are you a part of the Christian club?
Present for the social hour,
Claiming to serve the Master
Yet denying His essence and power.

Your words claim that you know Him
But your life speaks another truth,
Your words have little meaning
It's your life that's the living proof.

I don't mean to cause you trouble
Or mock you in any way,
So, pause for just a moment
Is this where you want to stay?

Do you love your neighbor?
Or the one who has done you wrong,
If you knew the Master
He would give you a loving song.

Faith that is truly real
Will change your very soul,
The Master will form and mold you
And give you a brand-new goal.

Tell Him you want to know Him
That you want to see His face,
His desire is to love and guide you
He will show you grace.

*For the message of the cross
is foolishness to those
who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved
it is the power of God.*

1 Corinthians 1:18

The Cross

In weakness and in trouble
Down on bended knee,
I look up on that cross
To see He's there for me.

Not tied to my image
So others will only see,
The good I have accomplished
But Him instead of me.

When the storms of life are raging
And confusion is all around,
May I pause in the darkness
To hear that quiet sound.

Of Your voice as it is calling
"Child, you are mine,
I bore your pain and sorrow
And have comfort for this time."

So even if His shadow
Is lost because of fear,
His Spirit it will guide you
To bring you closely near.

So stay in His shadow
Connected to the tree,
His grace is all-sufficient
Available for free.

*For the mystery of lawlessness is already active,
but the one who prevails
will do so until
he is separated from out of the midst.*

Thessalonians 2:7

The Mystery of Lawlessness

Subtle as a serpent
Sliding through the grass,
An appealing sip of water
From a clean crystal glass.

The path looks right and holy
To all who pause to heed,
But underneath the surface
Is self-reliance and greed.

Lawlessness is a mystery
Because it looks sincere,
A path that many follow
Believing its motives are pure.

Self-centeredness clothed in religion
Is evil to the core,
It may soothe you for a while
But will leave you wanting more.

Help me loving Father
Rip the scales from my eyes,
I need Your Holy Spirit
To save me from the lies.

For in You is life eternal
Not in following a creed,
I need You more than ever
In my heart please plant Your seed.

*“These people honor Me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from Me.”*

Matthew 15:8

The Perils of Religion

Religion is a system
Of tightly held belief,
In what can make you righteous
And where to find relief.

With an ascribed code of conduct
Each member knows their place,
Some deserve great honor
Others a slap on the face.

Religion's secret power
Is the pressure to conform,
Walk lockstep with your brothers
Don't go challenging the norm.

Some groups meet to worship
Others meet to plan,
Their political agenda
Working as hard as they can.

God is a loving Father
Who wants to dwell with you,
Not because of your performance
Or because you're sitting in a pew.

So, bow humbly before the Lord
Set religion aside,
Give Him your shattered heart
And with Him you will abide.

*And His fullness fills you,
even though you were once like corpses,
dead in your sins and offenses.
It wasn't that long ago that you lived in the religion, customs,
and values of this world,
obeying the dark ruler of the earthly realm
who fills the atmosphere with his authority, and works
diligently in the hearts of those who are
disobedient to the truth of God.
The corruption that was in us from birth
was expressed through the deeds and desires of our self-life.
We lived by whatever natural cravings and thoughts our minds
dictated, living as rebellious children
subject to God's wrath like everyone else.*

Ephesians 2:1-3

The Power of Sin

Sin is more than action
It comes from deep within,
The delusion of self-centeredness
Is the rebellion behind all sin.

You may be smart and pretty
Exuding grace and charm,
But to live up on a pedestal
Will only bring you harm.

Confident and comfortable
In your knowledge and your power,
No one is your equal
Living in your tower.

Believing you are that worthy
Is giving God a shove,
Proclaiming you are the better
Rejecting His gift of love.

Be silent for the moment
Don't get in the way,
Set aside your ego
Humble yourself and pray.

Praise Him for His mercy
Seek His loving face,
Your life can have new purpose
Living in His grace.

*I'm not telling you this because I'm in need,
for I have learned to be satisfied in any circumstance.
I know what it means to lack,
and I know what it means to experience overwhelming
abundance.
For I'm trained in the secret of overcoming all things,
whether in fullness
or in hunger.
And I find that the strength of Christ's explosive power
infuses me to conquer every difficulty.*

Philippians 4:11-13

The Swirl Cone of Life

A sad/glad swirl cone
The memories of my life,
God knitting something special
From triumph and from strife.

Some times were oh so bitter
Other times were sweet,
No matter what the flavor
The only option was to eat.

Often it was messy
Especially when things got hot,
But God continued knitting
Even when I forgot.

With hands sticky and dirty
I would take another bite,
Move ahead with courage
Or be restless all the night.

Through bitter or sweet You showed me
The path that I should trod,
Though sometimes I faltered
You remained the faithful God.

Now I pause to worship
You oh Lord, alone,
Trusting in Your goodness
Even when I groan.

*Yahweh now reigns as King!
Let everyone rejoice!
His rule extends everywhere,
even to distant lands,
and the islands of the sea,
let them all be glad.
Clouds both dark and mysterious now surround Him.
His throne of glory rests upon
a foundation of righteousness and justice.*

Psalm 97:1-2

The Throne of the Almighty

The throne of the Almighty
Is in all that you can see,
And in all that is invisible
Before time till eternity.

To believe that you are worthy
Is to claim the Master's throne,
Placing yourself above Him
Stealing what you don't own.

Don't let demands and urgencies
Crowd out the presence of the King,
Seek Him first in everything
If you want your heart to sing.

We are all selfish sheep
Who have wandered off away,
And with pride and pretense
Have turned to our own way.

Our sinful nature cries out
"You must put me first,
If something is above me
I think my heart will burst."

But remember lowly pilgrim
With Christ, you are crucified,
To live a life abundant
And your nature be defied.

*Let everyone be devoted to fulfill the work
God has given them to do with excellence,
and their joy will be in doing what's right and being themselves,
and not in being affirmed by others.
Every believer is ultimately responsible
for his or her own conscience.*

Galatians 6:4-5

The World of Should

The world of should
Is where we're at,
You should eat that cake
And not get fat.

You should take that drug
Feel good for a while,
And awake in the morning
With a great big smile.

We should have lots of candles
On our birthday cake,
And get up from the chair
Without an ache.

We should drive the car
That we want to drive,
As fast as we want
And still survive.

If you live this way
You will surely die,
For what you believe
Is a dangerous lie.

Lord, please rescue us now
From our selfish thought,
Put us back on the path
That Your sacrifice bought.

*Don't be pulled in different directions
or worried about a thing.
Be saturated in prayer throughout each day,
offering your faith-filled requests before God
with overflowing gratitude.
Tell Him every detail of your life,
then God's wonderful peace
that transcends human understanding,
will guard your heart and mind through Jesus Christ.
Keep your thoughts continually fixed on
all that is authentic and real, honorable and admirable,
beautiful and respectful, pure and holy, merciful and kind.
And fasten your thoughts on every glorious work of God,
praising Him always.*

Philippians 4:6-8

This World is Insane

When I awoke this morning
Much to my dismay,
The world was off its axis
Spinning the other way.

Disrespect is now a virtue
Learned in all our schools,
No respect for parents
They're just older fools.

Experience that once mattered
Now it's left to rot,
Elders placed in small rooms
Single chair and tiny cot.

Take away their power
Evaporate their will,
Feed them daily meals
Exchange their purpose for a pill.

You can make a lot of money
If you can throw a ball,
Make even more
If you're pretty or you're tall.

But if you're there to save me
From disaster or a crime,
Prepare to work a lifetime
Just to save a dime.

Dear God, please give us wisdom
Before all hope is lost,
We are here to serve You
No matter what the cost.

*But you need to be aware
that in the final days of the culture of society
will become extremely fierce.
People will be self-centered lovers of themselves
and obsessed with money.
They will boast of great things
as they strut around in their arrogant pride
and mock all that is right.
They will ignore their own families.
They will be ungrateful and ungodly.*

2 Timothy 3:1-2

Treachery

The days are ripe with treachery
I thought you were a friend,
Standing close together
Brothers to the end.

Evil's heat is rising
Love is growing cold,
It is hard to show compassion
When the truth is rarely told.

Boundaries have been shattered
We have done away with law,
Facts no longer valued
Doesn't matter what you saw.

The end is getting closer
When no longer will be bear,
The insults and the fury
Of those who do not care.

Hold fast to the Savior
Do not drift away,
He will fuel your passion
If in His arms you stay.

*What can the righteous accomplish
when truth's pillars are destroyed
and law and order collapse?*

Psalm 11:3

Truth's Pillars Destroyed

Truth's pillars have eroded
Some have been blown apart,
Progress is not possible
When blocked at the very start.

Don't be caught in the cellar
As the building starts to fall,
Cry out to the Savior
He will hear your call.

They say there's no creator
We got here with a bang,
A cleverly crafted deception
Promoted by Satan's gang.

Peace is only found
When you follow His command,
Do justly and love mercy
Humbly hang on to His hand.

You will know the Lord is with you
When it's dark and cold outside,
But in you, there's a warmth
And a light you cannot hide.

*And everything I've taught you is so that
the peace which is in Me
will be in you and will give you
great confidence as you
rest in Me.*

*For in this unbelieving world
you will experience trouble and sorrows,
but you must be courageous,
for I have conquered the world!*

John 16:33

It's Upside Down

When I awoke this morning
Much to my dismay,
The world was off its axis
Spinning the other way.

Things were topsy-turvy
Nothing making sense,
Reason showed up missing
Everything was tense.

It's upside down I tell you
The world we are in,
Right and wrong inverted
The abolishment of sin.

It's upside down I tell you
The values we hold dear,
No compassion shown to others
Just uncertainty and fear.

It's upside down I tell you
And the noise is getting loud,
So reach for what is true
Don't get swallowed by the crowd.

Dear God please give us wisdom
Before all hope is lost,
We are here to serve You
No matter what the cost.

*Recognize the value of every person
and continually show love to every believer.
Live your lives with great reverence
and in holy awe of God.
Honor your rulers.*

1 Peter 2:17

We Need Help!

When I awoke this morning
Much to my dismay,
The world was off its axis
Spinning the other way.

Respect is out the window
Now tolerance is king,
Be oh so very careful
Or you'll feel it's bitter sting.

Political correctness
Is not correct at all,
A costume disguising bitterness
So offense can have a ball.

To be offended so easily
Is a way of hiding shame,
A covering for rebellion
Giving sin another name.

Honor's been abandoned
It disappeared with shame,
Both have left the building
No longer in the game.

It's upside down I tell you
But before all is lost,
Let's get this ship a turning
No matter what the cost.

Dear God, please give us wisdom
Before all hope is lost,
We are here to serve You
No matter what the cost.

*Their wicked words are nothing but lies.
Wisdom is far from them.
Goodness is both forgotten and forsaken.*

Psalm 36:3

What Happened?

When I awoke this morning
Much to my dismay,
The world was off its axis
Spinning the other way.

Deception is now expected
From those who are in power,
The truth is getting twisted
More confusing by the hour.

And if you point a finger
Expecting to see shame,
You'll become a target
Devoured by their game.

It's upside down I tell you
I don't know which way to go,
Swim against the current
Or get swept up by the flow.

For what you leave your children
Your true legacy,
Is not counted out in dollars
But in the character they see.

Dear God, please give us wisdom
Before all hope is lost,
We are here to serve You
No matter what the cost.

*And because lawlessness
will abound,
the love of many
will grow cold.*

Matthew 24:12

When Love Grows Cold

Love grows cold
When trust is broken,
And deceit is rampant
When lies are spoken.

Love grows cold
When bitterness rules,
An offense is nursed
And the wise become fools.

Love grows cold
When it's do or die,
But still, you fail
No matter how hard you try.

Love grows cold
When you are tired and worn,
Running on empty
With muscles torn.

My love grows cold
When I live to serve me,
Oblivious to others
Abandoning family.

Holy Spirit breathe
Within this weary heart,
Remove the chilling coldness
To give Your love a start.

*They will become addicted to hateful and malicious slander.
Slaves to their desires,
they will be ferocious, belligerent haters
of what is good and right.
With brutal treachery, they will act without restraint,
bigoted and wrapped in clouds of their conceit.
They will find their delight
in the pleasures of this world
more than the pleasures of the loving God.*

2 Timothy 3:3-4

When Natural Affection is Lost

When natural affection is lost
It is a sign of societal decay,
Self-centeredness on steroids
Each and every day.

Feed the children to the wolves
Torment them just for sport,
Starve the weak and elderly
No one will report.

Society is crumbling
That is plain to see,
With no affection for the weakest
There will be no family tree.

For how you treat the infants
And their eldest kin,
Is how you will be remembered
Defined by your relational sin.

Natural affection you see
Is needed to survive,
God made you in His image
To love, to grow, to thrive.

*And everyone who hears these words of mine
and does not do them
will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.*

Matthew 7:26

Where Did Reason Go?

Where did all the reason go?
It left with common sense,
They wandered off together
Practicing their defense.

A message delivered with passion
They know where to begin,
Confusing all who hear them
By accusing others of their sin.

Actions have reactions
They're called a consequence,
To think you can avoid it
You must be very dense.

The arrogant and boastful
Put on a grand display,
Convincing many others
To follow in their way.

In a sea of endless knowledge
How do we find our way?
Good intentions without wisdom
Will only cause decay.

The wisdom that we long for
It is not hard to find,
It is present in Your Word, Lord
A faithful, trusted guide.

Help, Lord!

Save us!

For godly ones are disappearing.

Where are the dependable, principled ones?

Everyone lies, everyone flatters, and everyone deceives.

Nothing but empty talk, smooth talk, and double-talk.

Psalm 12:1-2

Where have the godly gone?

Where have the godly gone?
The ones who point to You,
Are they shopping at the market?
Or sitting in a pew?

Where have the godly gone?
The ones that hear Your voice,
Have they left their godly calling?
To follow another choice.

Where have the godly gone?
The ones who humbly walk,
Not seeking self-promotion
With pretentious idle talk.

Where have the godly gone?
The ones who are sincere,
Their words and actions matching
With a message that is clear.

Where have the godly gone?
The ones whose compass is true,
Have they wandered off to heaven?
Why are there just a few?

Where have the godly gone?
The ones who really care,
The ones who act with kindness
Whose judgements are right and fair.

Am I a godly one?
Where do I stand with You?
It's time for some reflection
Before this day is through.

*“Great sorrow awaits you religious scholars and Pharisees,
frauds and imposters!
You are nothing more than tombs
painted over with white paint,
tombs that look shining and beautiful on the outside
but filled with rotting corpses on the inside.
Outwardly you masquerade as righteous people,
but inside your hearts
you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”*

Matthew 23:27-28

Whitewashed Pots

Pretense is a pattern
You learn it when your young,
Put your best foot forward
If you want to be my son.

Pretense will get you noticed
In a crowd that is all the same,
Slightly altered stories
Will bring a sense of fame.

When pretense is an art form
The congregation will be wowed,
“He truly must be godly
Not part of the common crowd.”

Pretense and deception
They are the very same,
One takes you to jail
The other brings you fame.

But pretense is a burden
A very heavy load,
I want to appear more prince-like
But know I’m just a toad.

But I know that the acceptance
I long for, and I seek,
Is only found in you Lord
Given freely to the meek.

*I thank You, God,
for making me so mysteriously complex!
Everything You do is marvelously breathtaking.
It simply amazes me to think about it!
How thoroughly You know me, Lord!*

Psalm 139:14

Wonderfully Made

He painted me a picture
When he was only three,
And because of his love
He gave it to me.

The look in his eye
His dimples and smile,
It made me pause
And think for a while.

God's love is much greater
Then I will ever know,
So, why should I scorn
His work here below.

God painted the picture
You see in the mirror,
Painted it with love
So, there is no need to fear.

He knit you together
In His perfect way,
A reflection of His glory
As you live here today.

*You have built a stronghold by the songs of children.
Strength rises up with the chorus of infants.
This kind of praise has power to shut Satan's mouth.
Childlike worship will silence
the madness of those who oppose you.*

Psalm 8:2

Worship as a Child

We must worship as a child
In this dark oppressive world,
Rejoicing in our Creator
As His splendor is unfurled.

From coos of deep contentment
To cries expressing need,
In a language that's universal
The intent not hard to read.

The delightful little giggle
When playing peak-a-boo,
Is how I feel this moment
As I catch a glimpse of You.

The words may not have meaning
But the message still is clear,
Worship is in their music
Knowing You are near.

*But you are God's chosen treasure,
priests who are kings,
a spiritual "nation" set apart as God's devoted ones.
He called you out of darkness
to experience His marvelous light,
and now He claims you as His very own.
He did this so that you would
broadcast His glorious wonders throughout the world.*

1 Peter 2:9

Your Unique Voice

Woven by the Master
Into your DNA,
A silver thread of promise
For you to use today.

The promise He has given
To every willing soul,
Is a plan, a voice, a purpose
An awareness you are whole.

So, how do you find
The voice unique to you?
By being close to your Creator
Not just sitting in a pew.

A life of joy and purpose
A life of peace and rest,
Is only found in knowing
The One who knows you best.

CONCLUSION

In this fast-paced, noisy world, it can be challenging to slow down and quiet your mind, but it will be rewarding. Put the painful sensation of boredom into profitable use and think. Learn to wait and be patient. Ask God to search your heart. Be open to change and new insights. Learn to set aside distractions and focus your thoughts. You are on your own; no one is listening or watching, so strive to be honest and humble. Always remain grateful and avoid guilt, bitterness, anger, and fear. Life is short, and life is precious. Spend the time and energy you have wisely. Determine your solitude time and place, grab a pen and paper and ponder.

Books by this Author

Dismantling Destructive Strongholds

God's Armor For Today's Battles

Our Fractured Image

Godly Grit

Prepared to Stand

Deadly Roots

The Subtle Destructive Power of Bitterness

The Frantic Cry for Comfort

A Christian doctor's look at addiction.

Fodder for Ponder

Poems on pondering.

Stress Undressed

A look at five major causes of stress.

Now I've Gotcha!

A brief overview of the substances causing addiction.