

Songs to Edify the Church: Lyrics to Songs by Bobbee Pennington, 1982-2020

My Hope is the Anchor
Clean from the Unclean
The Pearl
The Wings of His Hope
Water Torrents
Patiently Endure
Forgiveness
Divorce Recovery
Stones in Antimony
Nehemiah Song
Jewels Upon my Heart
The Harvest
Hiding Place
True Worship
Send Us
The Race

These songs came from verses in God's word that comforted me and gave me joy, admonition, rebuke and encouragement throughout all of the circumstances which the Lord has brought me through since 1980 when I became a follower of Jesus Christ. I hope these songs comfort and encourage you.

I would like to dedicate this book of songs to my dear Father in heaven. He has taken such good care of me and has taught me so many things. I would also like to dedicate this book to my dear husband Jim, who has been such an encouragement to me and has shown a love towards me like Christ's love for His Church. Finally, I dedicate this book to the pastors who have faithfully taught the word of our Lord to me. May God bless them.

My Hope is the Anchor (D modal tuning:DADGAD)¹

My hope² is the anchor, the anchor for my soul,
So breathe Your wind into my sails and set my course for home.
My hope is the anchor for my soul, and my hope is set on Jesus Christ:
That whoever believes on Him will have eternal life.

Waves and weather rise up fast and many drift off course.
God's word is the light unto our soul to guide us home to heavenly shores.
God is calling us from the darkness into His marvelous light,
So we must cast off the works of darkness and let God set our course back right.

Many ships have gone their own way and refused God's word and failed.
How can they find the way back home with no wind to guide their sails?
How can we see the kingdom of God unless we exchange our lives with Him?
Holy Spirit please set our course and fill our sails with wind...

¹ Hebrews 6:19 John 3:16 Psalm 119:105 IPeter 2:9 Romans 13:12 IITimothy 4:3-5 John 3:36 Galatians2:20 Matthew 10:39

Clean from the Unclean

Who can bring the clean from the unclean?
Who can teach me how to fly; I only know how to fall?
Who can take the precious from the vile?
Who can transform me to His glory of which so short I fall?
Only Christ, only Christ; He is the way and the truth and the life.

Other idols had dominion over us; they are dead, they will not rise.
There shall be no end to His government and its increase.
He has gone before us like a Shepherd goes before the sheep.
But if we continue in His Word and hope we shall be released.
By Christ, only Christ; He is the way and the truth and the life.

Through many trials and tests we will come forth like fine gold
As every worldly hope and dream will be exposed and revealed.
One by one, the inner chambers are conquered under Him.
But first we must be torn in order to be healed.
By Christ, only Christ; He is the way and the truth and the life.

He will lead the blind and the lame.
He will march His rag-tag army through the fire and the floods and death.*
We can do all things through Christ Who strengthens us.
And His strength is made perfect in our weaknesses.
The strength of Christ (2X); He is the way and the truth and the life.

He'll break our fallow ground, no stone will be left unturned.
Like gold through the Master's fire, our faith must be refined.
How does the Master know when the gold is finished and pure?
When He can see His Face reflected in the shine.
The Face of Christ (2x); He is the way and the truth and the life.

When light shines on a dark place, the rats run but the birds begin to sing!*

His Spirit moves like a candle; His Word cuts to the bone.
Trying the reigns and the thoughts and intents of our sick hearts,
But the truth shall set us free each time His light is shone!
The light of Christ, the light of Christ: He is the way, the truth, the life.

For our country is in heaven from whence we wait
For our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ
Who will transform our vile body into one like His own
By the same power He is able to subdue all things beneath His might.
The might of Christ(2X); He is the way and the truth and the life.²

* From a sermon by Art Spomer, a Missouri Synod Lutheran pastor who led me to the Lord. (Summer'81). Pastor Art currently ministers in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

²Job 14:4b Job 15:15,16 I John 1:6-10 II Corinthians 5:17 Isaiah 40:28-3 Psalm 143:2 Romans 3:23 II Corinthians 3:18 John 14:6
Isaiah 26:13,14 Isaiah 9:6,7 Psalm 23 John 10:11,27 John 8:31,32 IPeter 1:6-9 Proverbs 20:27,30 Philippians 4:13 II
Corinthians 4:7 Jeremiah 4:3 Hebrews 4:12 Jeremiah 17:9 John 8:12

The Pearl³

There once was a pearl of great price.
Don't you know that pearl is you; Jesus bought you with His life.
He set you free to worship Him; to worship Him in spirit and truth.**
He placed you in His plan, He wants to make His dream come true in you.
Jesus wants you to worship Him, draw near to His throne.
Our Father is constantly calling you home.
He set you free from sin
Because He wants you free to worship Him.
Jesus said, "It is finished" complete, then He bowed His head and died.
You are complete in Him, and this can never be denied.
And when we come to worship Him it will get easier and easier to obey
For your old self will die and the inner man will be renewed day by day.
Jesus wants you to worship Him, draw near to His throne.
Our Father is constantly calling you home.
Daily, He'll set you free from sin
Because daily, He wants you free to worship Him.
We fall so short of God's glory, have you been ashamed to approach His holiness?
Just turn around and ask Him to forgive; He'll cleanse you from all unrighteousness.
Then, lay aside that sin that so easily besets and run His race.
It's through beholding Him in worship we'll be changed to one day see Him face to face.
Jesus wants you to worship Him, draw near to His throne.
Our Father is constantly calling you home.
Moment by moment He'll set you free from sin
Because moment by moment, He wants you free to worship Him.
You are a new creature: worship Him in joy and fear!
You are a new creature; worship Jesus, just draw near!
Allelujah, allelujah, allelujah!

Philippians 3:20,21 The might of Christ: see- "mighty God" (Isaiah 9:6,7 Jeremiah32:18)-same Hebrew word.

* From a sermon by J.Vernon McGee broadcast around Fall/83 or Spring/84.

3

Exodus 3:12; Exodus 3:16b; Exodus 6:6; Matthew 13:45,46; I Peter 2:9; Romans 6; Colossians 2:10;
II Corinthians 3:17,18; Romans 3:23; I John 1:9; Hebrews 12:1,2; Psalm 34:5; II Corinthians 5:17;
Psalm 2:11; Matthew 11:28-30.

The idea for this song is based on a sermon given by Mike Knight in around Spring of 1983.

The Wings of His Hope⁴

I am not a man of circumstance; I am a man of hope
And I will learn to take hold of God's strength
As I exchange my life for His own, (2X)

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."
Our hope rests on these seven short words.
So count up the cost and run God's race
And rise upon His hope like a bird. (2X)

Chorus:

And we will rise upon the wings of God's hope
Far above our circumstance.
We will rise upon the wings of God's hope
For somehow He'll turn our mourning into dance.

You may go forth weeping bearing precious seed.
But you'll come forth rejoicing bringing in the sheaves,
The fruit of His precious seed.

Weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning.
And you can go from strength to strength
Turning the valley of tears into a spring,
In Jehovah, strength everlasting!
(chorus)

Through trials God has given me hind's feet to walk on places on high.
And through every circumstance He has led me
To the Rock that is higher than I (2X).

Through trials, God is training your hands to war
So that you break even a bow of steel.
He tears down the enemy stronghold;
Just walk by faith and not by what you feel;
God is our rock and our sword and our shield!
(chorus)

⁴Romans 5:1-5 IIThess. 5:18 John 12:24,25 Matt. 25:21 Luke 14:28 Hebrews 12:1 Isaiah 40:28-31 Psalm 30:11 Ps. 126:5,6 Ps. 30:5 Ps. 84:5-7 Ps. 18:33 Ps. 61:2 Ps. 18:34 IICorinthians 10:3-5; 5:7 Ps. 18:35,2 Ephesians6:17

Water Torrents⁵

Water torrents wash away the dusty earth
Water wears away the stone;
Yet though the mountains be removed and the hills shake,
God will never forsake you or leave you alone.

“Don’t be scared, fall into God’s arms,
Trust Him- He won’t mistreat you.”*⁶
Lean on the everlasting arms.

We have this treasure in earthen vessels
That the surpassing greatness of power
May be of God and not ourselves.

So I will boast in my weaknesses, for when I am weak then I am strong
For the power of God is perfected in me
And He turns every tear into a song, a song.

Through many tribulations, the light of our true hope
Must overpower the darkness of our ignorant wanderings
After false hope.

God consumes as a moth that which is precious to us,
So that we trust in nothing less,
Trust in nothing less than Jesus, Jesus.

The falling mountain crumbles away and the rock moves from its place;
So God destroys our earthly hope to replace it with the true hope
Of His grace.

(repeat first stanza)

⁵ Job 14:19 Isaiah 54:10 Hebrews 13:5 Deut. 33:26,27 II Cor. 4:7; 12:9,10 Job 35:10 Acts 14: John 1:4 Psalm 39:11 Exodus 20:3
James 1:1-12 I Peter 1:3-9,13 Job 14:18 Ephesians 1:18 I John 3:3

* Patrick Johnstone, author of “Operation World” at Operation Mobilization’s 1984 mission conference in Toronto Canada.

Patiently Endure⁷

Patiently endure suffering
And bear up under sorrow,
For this momentary light affliction will be
An eternal weight of glory tomorrow.

At the revelation of Jesus Christ
When He comes in a flame of fire
You will exult as you behold His eyes
And you'll know you chose one above Whom no value is higher..

Chorus:
And we will show forth
The praises of God's excellence,
And one by one, appear before Him as
They tear down our earthly tents.

Keep entrusting yourself
To the One Who judges righteously
And you will rejoice when He comes
At the revelation of His glory

Do not revile when reviled
But give a blessing instead.
Glorify God and keep on rejoicing
And follow in His steps.
(chorus)
Cast all your anxiety on Him
For He cares for you.
And accomplish these sufferings
And along with your brethren, He will establish you.

Suffer according to God's will and entrust your soul
To a faithful Creator in doing what is right.
Coming to Him as a living stone, rejected by men
But choice and precious in His sight.
(chorus 2X)

⁷ I Peter 2:20,19 II Cor.4:17 Rom.8:17 II Peter 2: 10-15, 7 Rev.1:14 Psalm 34:5 I Peter 4:13 II Chron.16:25
I Peter 2:9 II Cor. 5:1-10 I Peter 2:23; 4:13; 3:9; 2:21; 5:7, 9, 10; 4:19; 2:4

Forgiveness⁸

Cruelty and unkind words and
Angry actions,
You can rise above these by
Christ-like reactions.

You've become a prisoner
Of your bitterness,
But you can be set free
By your forgiveness.

Chorus:
Saying:
Father forgive them
For they know not what they've done
And I forgive them too,
For I've been loved by Jesus Your Son.

Don't refuse the grace
That Jesus gives.
He's given you the love to forgive
As He forgives.

We've all rebelled against God
And made His world a mess,
Yet God desires none to die
But all to come to repentance.

(chorus, 2X)

⁸ Luke 23:34 Luke 6:27-38

As our Lord gave Corrie Ten Boom the grace to forgive a former Nazi officer who had harmed her sister, Betsie, the Lord can grant each of His own the grace to forgive (from "The Hiding Place", by Corrie Ten Boom). As Elizabeth Elliot shared on her "Gateway to Joy" broadcast in October of 1998, forgiveness is not something you have to "work through". Elisabeth Elliot said that you just have to make up your mind to obey the Lord in this matter and that's that. I will strive to imitate her faith, as she forgave the Auca people who murdered her husband, Jim Elliot and truly demonstrated this forgiveness by living and working among them and bringing many of these people of the Auca tribe to the Lord.

Romans 3:23 II Peter 3:9 Ezekiel 18:20-23, 27-28, 30-32 Luke 15:7, 10, 20-24 Luke 19:10

Imprisoned in Divorce

**When all your dreams lay scattered in the streets like shards of broken glass
And your life falls apart like petals of a faded rose;
And you wake up empty and go to sleep early because you have no plans,
And you're too numb to cry, but God only knows.**

**Imprisoned in divorce but you keep telling yourself you're free,
Somehow, through this rejection you've just got to keep your dignity.**

**He found me crying and unloved, thrown out on the open field.
Yet He lifted me up from the gates of death like a burning branch snatched from the fire,
And He said "Child, live!", and God's love was revealed.**

**Behold, the Lord is the glory and the lifter of my head,
And He lifted me up when I was once dead.**

**And it's not that I first loved Him, but that He first loved me.
I used to believe you were born and you died alone,
But now I've come to know and believe the love that God has for me!**

**And only Jesus Christ can satisfy that lonely need in your heart;
That seemingly bottomless empty hole⁹
For don't you know, you were first a concept
Conceived in love in God's mind long ago!**

**Behold, the Lord is the glory and the lifter of your head
And He can lift you up when you were once dead.**

**Behold, the Lord is the glory and the lifter of our heads,
And he lifts us up when we were once dead.**

**When all your dreams lay scattered in the streets like shards of broken glass
And your life falls completely apart.
Just turn to Jesus in repentance and faith
And He'll forgive you and heal your broken heart!**

⁹ from C.S. Lewis in "Mere Christianity"

Bible verses: Ezekiel 16:4-6 Amos 4 Zech. 3 I John 4:16 Psalm 3

Stones in Antimony¹⁰

**O, forsaken one,
So in your spirit grieved,
God, Himself, will be your husband now,
He'll continually meet your need.**

**O, afflicted one,
Storm tossed,
Refusing to be comforted,
Feeling so unloved and lost.**

Chorus:

**You will be a royal crown of beauty
In the hand of your God.
He'll rejoice over you with shouts of joy,
You'll be renewed in His love.**

**When the fires of loneliness surround your heart
God will be with you in the midst of the fire.
When temptation comes to sift you like wheat, God's Word
Will continually restore your desire.**

**I know, He is a God Who sees,
He is a God Who hears.
And one day the Shepherd will lead your to the water of life
And God, Himself, will wipe away all of your tears.**

(chorus 2X)

¹⁰ Bible passages for this song: Isaiah 54:6,5,11 Isaiah 62:1-5 Zephaniah 3:17 Daniel 3 Isaiah43:2 Luke 22:31 Psalm 19:7 Gen 16:13,14 (the Hebrew word "see" in this passage comes from the root word for "provide" in Genesis 22:14 and "seen" in Ps.31:7) II Kings 20:5 Revelations 7:17

Nehemiah Song¹¹

**This song came easy
Riding into Indiana in the night.
Train whistle sang to the stars above
In this cold and clear, winter moonlight.**

Chorus:

**And as this train moves on,
Can't look to the past-
It's not where we belong,
But as you listen, you must realize
That over the years it took some pain and tears
To learn to sing this new song.**

**A new song, a dream come true,
A provision of new light;
An epiphany of new song on this
Indiana winter's night.**

**Out of death came hope,
Out of the past came transformed dreams;
Your path'll shine brighter until the full day;
Nothing is so final as it seems.**

(chorus)

**Eye's not seen nor ear's heard
The things God has prepared for those who love Him.
He holds the plans and reveals by His Word
Beyond anything we could ask or imagine.**

Bridge:

**Wait patiently for Him, He'll incline to you,
He will hear your cry.
And out of destruction you'll learn to sing
A new song given from His life!**

(chorus 2X)

¹¹written 1/95 words from Jesus and the "Nehemiah Divorce Recovery Group" of E. 91st St. Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. Dedicated to Chuck and Maryanne and Diana Pitcher and Clyde and all of the dear people of this group. Isaiah 43:18,19 Psalm 40:1-3 II Corinthians 1:3,4 John 12:24,25 Proverbs 4:18 I Corinthians 1: 9 Ephesians4:20.

Jewels Upon My Heart¹²

**My brothers and sisters; God's family,
The dear ones I need to love.
The people the Lord has entrusted to me,
The ones God will teach me to love.**

**Like jewels upon our hearts, we bring
One another before the Lord,
For we are His inheritance,
His dream, His hope, and reward.**

**Using a light and fire,
Hammer and a sword as tools,
Polish and shine, protect and guard
And treasure them as jewels.**

**Chorus:
For we are what God has
To help find the way back home;
Like children on a storm,
We must help guide one another home. ***

**The Spirit of the Lord indwells you.
He has anointed you to bring them good news.**

**So carry the lamp and shine a light on their path
And pick up your cross and guide these dear children back.
(chorus)**

**Look around the room at the "perfections and the lights"
In the faces of your brothers and sisters now.
And behold the beauty and the love of Christ
In the faces of your brothers and sisters now.**

**Using a light and fire, hammer and a sword as tools,
Polish and shine, protect and guard and treasure them as jewels.
(chorus)**

**As those chosen of God, holy and beloved,
Put on a heart of compassion and kindness,
The heart of a servant, give,
In humility, gentleness, patience and forgiveness,
Just as God forgave you so also forgive.**

**And rejoice in your sufferings
For the Body,
And put on love which is
The perfect bond of unity.**

¹² see footnotes on the following page

The Harvest¹⁴

Chorus:

**When the harvest comes, will He find you awake?
Or find you asleep in worry and drunkenness, taking His Name in vain?
When the harvest comes, will He find you awake?
Men should pray always, so as not to faint.**

**Little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears
You won't have to shrink away from Him in shame.
Don't be like the five foolish bridesmaids, instead,
Fill yourself with the oil of God's Name.**

(chorus)

**Are you maintaining that love relationship with the Son?
Are you falling more in love so as to be His constant companion?
Isn't it Jesus Whom you want to become like supremely?
What else could you follow that would be more worthy?**

(chorus)

Bridge:*

**Those who look to the Lord will renew their strength.
They'll mount up on wings of eagles.
They'll run and not grow faint,
They'll walk and not grow weary.**

¹³ * from the book by Dick Wulf, "Find Yourself, Give Yourself", where he describes the importance of our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ to care for one another and help each other see the truth based on the Word of God.

John 13:34,35 I Peter 1:22, 4:8 I Timothy 1:5 I John 1: 6-10, 2:9-11, 3:14, 16-18, 23 4:7, 10-12,16-21 5:1-3

Ephesians 1:18 Psalm 16:3 Ephesians 3:14-21 4:11-16 Colossians 1:24-2:3 3:12-14 Exodus 28:29,30, 11,12

Isaiah 61:1-3 (speaking of the ministry of Christ- yet a secondary application is that we are to proclaim good news and be His Hands and His Feet to carry on the ministry of His Body in this world). The Word of God is a hammer: Jeremiah 23:29 sword: Hebrews 4:12 light and lamp: Psalm 119:105 The concept of guarding: I Timothy 1:14 because of--- John 10:10 (the thief). Exodus 35: 31-35, 25,26 31:3-6 I Thessalonians 2:19,20

3:12,13 4:9 Romans 4:17,21(God causes the love into existence, just pray for them in intercessory prayer and love will follow).

¹⁴I John 2:28 Luke 21: 34-36 I Thessalonians 5:2-11 Luke 12:35-37 John 15:1-5 Taking His Name in vain: Exodus 20:7 Many of my pastors have said that taking God's Name in vain goes beyond words- it can be a so called "Christian" who lives in apathetic disregard of the cause and Person of Jesus Christ and bored disinterest in the things which God passionately cares about. I John 2:6 Isaiah 40:28-31 Luke 18:1-8 Matthew 25:1-13

Song of Solomon 1:3 Luke 8:14 Mark 4:18,19 Revelation 14:14-20

* on the tape, the bridge's new tune hasn't been written yet.

Hiding Place¹⁵

I

You will guide me
With Your eye upon me.
With Your counsel, You will guide me
With Your eye upon me.

Thou hast taken hold
Of my right hand.
And when my foot has slipped,
Thy lovingkindness, thy lovingkindness made me stand,
Made me stand.

II

There will be a shelter to shade from heat by day,
A refuge and protection from the storm and rain.
God will be our shelter to shade from heat by day,
Our refuge and protection from the storm and rain.

Musical Break: flute, cello, guitar

III

You are my hiding place,
You hide me in the shelter of Thy presence.
In Your secret place,
You surround me with songs of deliverance.

Hide me in the shadow
Of Thy wings
Let me dwell in Thy tent forever taking refuge
In the shelter of Thy wings,
Of Thy wings,
Of Thy wings.

(repeat I)

¹⁵ Psalm 32:7, 8 Psalm 31:19,20 Psalm 61:3,4 Psalm 94:18 Psalm 27:4,5 Isaiah 4:6

True Worship¹⁶

**True worship is defined
By the sacrifice.
When Abraham offered Isaac
He was laying down his life.**

**Chorus:
And we will be changed
From glory to glory,
With unveiled face, time after time
Transformed by the renewing of our mind.**

**With humility of mind,
Lay your privileges aside,
Being a bondservant, obedient
To the point of death, the sacrifice.**

(chorus)

**Bridge:
That I may know Christ,
And the power of His resurrection,
In fellowship with His sufferings;
Conformed to His death and risen again.**

(chorus)

¹⁶ Genesis 22:5, 1-19 I Chronicles 16:29 Psalm 96:8 Romans 12:1,2 Philippians 3:10,11 2:1-8
Romans 8:29 II Corinthians 3:18

Send Us¹⁷

**Called out together with Him in Spirit to serve the Lord.
United by His Spirit, through His blood, sealed by His Word.**

**Lord, we give up our own plans, desires and dreams
On the altar of living sacrifice.
To live no longer for ourselves
But for Jesus Christ.**

**Chorus:
As You will, use us.
Where You will, send us.
With Your Holy Spirit
Seal us, fill us.**

**As God restores us and helps us live for Him,
We'll have the word of reconciliation.
Ambassadors for Him, we want our family to shine
Like bright stars among the nations.**

**We accept Thy will for our lives.
Make us completely Thine.
We give ourselves, our all, our lives
Utterly to Thee, forever to be Thine.**

(chorus)

**Bridge:
Work out Your whole will for our lives, now and forever at any price.
O, Jesus Christ, we worship You in joyful and adoring sacrifice!**

(chorus 2X)

¹⁷ Based on the following prayer of Betty Stam, a missionary to China in the 1930's who was beheaded for her faith along with her husband, John, in the Anhwei province of China in 1934 (Christian History 1-800-873-6986). Here is Betty Stam's prayer as copied by Elisabeth Elliot on the back of Mrs. Elliot's Bible at 16 years of age:

"Lord, I give up all my own plans and purposes, all my own desires and hopes, and accept Thy will for my life. I give myself, my life, my all, utterly to Thee to be Thine forever. Fill me and seal me with Thy Holy Spirit. Use me as Thou wilt, work out Thy whole will in my life at any cost, now and forever."

-Betty Scott Stam

Elisabeth Elliot writes that the cost, for her (Betty Stam), was quite literally her life only a few years after she had prayed that prayer (from: "These Strange Ashes" by Elisabeth Elliot). In May of 1994, my dear and godly friend, Jennifer Martelli got married and she asked me to write a song based Betty Stam's prayer and II Corinthians 5:18-21.

So this song was my wedding gift and prayer for her marriage and every Christian marriage that I attend. The Lord used this song to encourage me at my own wedding to Jim in August of 1996.

*Philippians 2:15 context: Philippians 2. Also see: Ephesians 4:17-6:18 Romans 12:1,2 Col.3:10
John 13:34,35

The Race¹⁸

Chorus:

**My mind is stayed, my hope is fixed.
The goal is set, so let the race begin.
I present my body a living sacrifice,
And I will run in such a way as to win.
I will run in such a way as to win.**

**Lord, I want to be Your bondservant,
To accept every circumstance with no complaint.
Those who look to the Lord will renew their strength;
They will fly on wings of eagles, they'll march on and not grow faint.**

(chorus)

**You poured out Your soul unto death,
You were broken and You gave your Body as bread.
Now, when I see my Master hungry,
I want to care for You and to see that You are fed.**

**Be not conformed to this age,
But be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Now, when we see our Master thirsty
Unto Thee we want to be poured out like wine.**

(chorus)

Bridge:

**Let us lay aside the sin that so easily besets
And run with patience the race set before us.
Looking to the Captain of our salvation,
The Author and perfecter of our faith,
Christ Jesus.
Who died for us.
Who rose for us.
Who prays for us.
Who runs with us.**

¹⁸ Romans 12:1,2 Hebrews 12:1-3 Col. 3:1-4 I Cor. 9:23-27 Matthew 25:35 Philippians 2:17 Is.40:28-31

The concept of "bondservant" was really brought to life for me by the wonderful little book called "Calvary Road" by Roy Hession.