

Scripture Songs #4 (2006)

I stand in awe of how much God has done for us. How amazing that the Father *Himself* loves us! How amazing His ability to give new Life through the death, burial and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. How amazing the Presence of His Holy Spirit. How precious is His love, longing and weeping for those who are not yet joined to Him-- in light of the approaching end of the lives of this generation on earth. These songs are simply a few un-produced and rough recordings of some things God has shown me in Scripture and spoken to my heart as I journey with Him. As always, I apologize for the sub-standard quality of this music according to "professional standards", but this music is meant for those who will look not on the outward but on the heart (1 Samuel 16.7).

The burden of my heart today is that we would become like Jesus. That through and through we would become as He is -- a deeply spiritually motivated and spiritually connected being. That our eyes would be opened to the vast spiritual kingdom and area of operation where God is living and active. That we will have sincere love in our heart for Him.

It is not enough to merely "act" like Jesus. We must be changed to become like Him. Jesus said: "If you love me you will keep My commandments." Notice that He did NOT say the inverse: "If you keep my commandment, you will love Me." Love is the key. Love is elusive. Love is not something you "do", it is something that motivates you to "do" (even to the point of throwing away your entire life in this world to save the life of another).

To keep the commandments of God is not the same as loving Him, though it can be evidence of loving Him. Jesus said "many" would come to the great Judgment Day and say, "Did we not DO all kinds of spiritual activities for You?" But Jesus will say, "Even if you did all those things, I never KNEW you -- away from me."

Remember what the Scripture says about love.... you can give your body to the flames -- and it may look pretty spiritual to others -- but if you don't have love, it profits you nothing. (see 1 Corinthians 13)

I have encountered people who have studied and know quite a bit about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Lamb of God. They have a great zeal for knowledge about God. But does HE know them? Has Jesus whispered their name, as He did Samuel's? Have they had a God-initiated encounter with God? Do they ever slow down long enough to give Him a chance to encounter them, as Jesus encountered the men on the road to Emmaus? Do they ever ask God to make Himself known to them?

Some try to be justified by the law ("things I can do for God") even while seeking to be saved by the gracious work of Jesus Christ through His cross, burial and resurrection. Some seek for command after command from God, refusing to take a single step without a profound "word" from God. If a "word" or command does not come, they just sit idly and watch TV, ignoring all they have learned in their zeal to "know" more about God. Meanwhile, the world is going to hell in a hand-basket, as they say, and God has already sent us His Word (i.e. His Message, His Will, His Son Jesus).

Knowing what to do, and not doing it is an indication of dead LOVE. Oh for eyes to see the height from which we have fallen in our LOVE for God!

Followers of Christ today must put on "maturity" which effectively means to "become LIKE Jesus". We do not need more information. We do not need to become like a computer (or a mule) that must receive commands every second to obey. Our love must compel us to act upon what and Who we already know. As Scripture says... for him who knows what is right to do but fails to do what is right, to him it is sin.

YES, we need to seek to hear the Voice of Jesus every moment. YES, we need to respond to EVERY profound word He speaks to us. But even more so..... we need to BECOME like Jesus. And in *becoming* like Him, will be filled with His motivating LOVE for His Father and for people. And then, out of LOVE and the joy of loving God, we will ACT lovingly toward God and people and it will be acceptable to God. To ACT like Jesus, we must BE like Jesus -- this is what it means to be Born Again.

One of the greatest joys a father or mother can have is to see their son or daughter grow up and stand on their own two feet, becoming a mature adult capable of making wise decisions, just as the parents themselves would do. On the other hand, how awkward it would be if children 50 years of age required parents to tell them second by second to clean their room, brush their teeth, pay their bills, go to bed, go to work.

It is the same with God. God's plan is not for us to be like a mule which must be bridled and forced about each second of the day. Rather, He wants us to BECOME dear children who are so in love with their Father that they walk around emulating Him, deeply and spiritually. We must come to His heart and His ways of choosing, without having to be told over and over again in minute detail what to do next. UNLESS He wants to instruct us in such a way to make us more LIKE Himself.

Tender hearted children, born into the Father's family, who have learned to emulate their Father can be entrusted with much responsibility. Such a Father knows what *His* children will do, as much as they know what He will do. His children are KNOWN BY HIM because they are LIKE HIM. When he is away, He knows they will continue to fulfill His desires because they are just like Him.

When Father is with them, He knows they will watch His every movement, imitating Him, becoming more and more like Him. And if Father gives no explicit command, He knows His children remember Him and continue doing according to His good pleasure because they have become like Him and love has bound them deeply and they are never truly apart-- they are one, just as Jesus and His Father are one.

Thus I encourage you to seek maturity, dear brother or sister in Jesus. Grow up in Him in every way. *Becoming* a wise decision maker in the likeness of Christ Jesus.

"But we all with unveiled face beholding in a mirror the glory of the Lord are being changed into the same image from glory to glory as from the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3.18

What you look at, you become like.

Be changed into His likeness and trust in the work of salvation that He has wrought in you thus far.

Trust in the work God has done to transform you into something you are not-- a new species, a new creature in Christ Jesus. Trust that the old has gone and the new has come-- eternally and without end. Humble yourself to become "something you are not" in order to become pleasing to God, because the old you is proud, sinful and selfish (i.e. nothing like God). It's OK to let God change you into something else because He wants only good things for you. He is good (100% perfectly good) and He wants you to become like Himself. Since none of us was *born* like Jesus, God wants to do a work in us to change and re-make us into the likeness of Jesus. It is the most loving thing God could want for us! This alone saves us from eternal separation from God. It is called being "born-again". Made brand new.

How I pray for God to reignite our first love for Him! That we may become like Jesus. O that we may know Him and be known by Him! And by His grace, that we may be changed into His likeness. Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, at all times -- when He is near, and even when we do not "sense" His nearness. God trusts in *His* own work of salvation and transformation. *He* is mighty to save and when *He* acts, who can reverse it? We

must trust in the work *He* as done in us. Let us set our faces like flint to "seek *His* face always", watching and praying. Keeping step with the winds of the Holy Spirit. Let us discover in our hearts a longing to draw near to our Father. And... if we cannot locate such a desire in our hearts...

...dear brother or sister, if you discover that your heart has begun to resonate and move in synchronization to the rhythms of the WORLD, and not the Holy Spirit: DRAW BACK from the world and allow yourself see where momentum is taking you. Take a "time out" and halt the busy activity. Search your heart and allow refreshing times of repentance and godly sorrow to wash over you. Turn aside from trendy but valueless passions of the world and (re)discover the passions of God's heart. God is living and active. He is looking for the tender hearted throughout the whole earth who will respond to Him. Don't miss Him when He calls your name!

God knows that the world is drawing to an end. It is forefront in His mind. Even if the world at large continues for another 10,000 years -- in God's patience and mercy -- for you and for me and for this generation, the world is about to end. Our mortal lives are short. In the blink of an eye we will exit this life. And who can say when? Today? Tomorrow? Next week?

God weeps for the imminent eternal loss of rebellious souls to hell and eternal separation from *Himself*. The lawless hearts of the wicked may or may not change, but God continues in His marvelous patience to call to those with ears to hear: "Will you come over to the place where I am? Will you join Me in this place? Will you come to My table of true goodness and love? Will you come to the work of salvation that I have accomplished through My Son Jesus? Will you participate in high and eternal purposes? Will you come to unknown depths of spiritual communion sweet? Will you be made NEW?"

O how I pray that you would draw aside to Him Who is longing for you! Listen for the sweet resonating sound of the Holy Spirit of Jesus. It may be a small voice, but hear Him. It may be only a momentary sound, but go to Him. The Father Himself loves you. Don't be surprised if He encounters you. Watch for Him. Make your very self available to Him. He longs to wash over you and fill you in every way. Be filled with Him. Let every dark and hidden corridor in the depths of your being open up. Hold up an invitation for Jesus, the King of Glory, to come in! Invite and wait for Him! Open your heart and allow the Holy Spirit to come in and wash you and take up residency in you. Let "Holy Light" flood into every secret and shameful place, cleansing you and renewing you to walk on the True Path.

Jesus gave away His life in this world to save your life. He did this even though He could have had great worldly power, pleasure, and wealth.

Give up your life, in like manner, for Him. Perhaps you are heir to great worldly power, pleasure, and wealth. What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but forfeits his soul? Give yourself away. This the essence of the cross of Jesus. Give away the things that are dear to you in exchange for the things that are dear to God, as Jesus did through great suffering. God is good, He deserves all that He desires -- YOU -- and He has eternally good things planned. He wants to include you in them! Let go of your own life for His sake.

How I pray that as you read this you would feel the yearning of a tender heart within you. How I pray that you would discover the precious and refreshing gift of weeping over sin. And the inexpressible thanksgiving of Jesus personally encountering you and touching you and lifting the weight of your sins away from your soul, separating you from sin as far as the east is from the west. Don't worry about what others will think. Cry out to be restored to Him Who made you. Ask the Holy Spirit to come in and make you *whatever* He wants you to be, even if you don't yet understand what that is. Humble yourself and entrust yourself to His goodness. Entrust your future to Him. God is good and everything He does is good. He does not seek your destruction. Rather He longs to make you truly alive! He will introduce you to true goodness which is found in no one else. God is looking to and fro throughout the earth for those with a tender heart toward Him. Draw near to Him and He will draw near to you because He loves you.

Come Lord Jesus! Come now and pour out Your Holy Spirit on this one as he (or she) opens up and invites You into his heart. Enter the room where he is now and make Your Presence known to him. Put a new heart in him. Envelop him with Your power and set him free from powers of Satan, sin, music, drugs, obsessions, addictions, all kinds of immorality and impurity, secret and shameful things. Teach him how to acknowledge his pride and selfishness and hatred of Your "interference" in His life. Set this one free to know You and be known by You! Set him free forever! Let this one hear Your Voice, Jesus, and call You "Lord": the One who will have the last say in all things. Put a hunger in his heart that will persist into eternity. Make this one a worshiper in Spirit and in Truth. Father, I ask in Jesus' Name.

Thank You Father for the desires and goodness of Your heart! Thank You for sending Your sacrificial Passover Lamb, to be tortured and killed on a Roman cross to bear the sins of all the world-- our sins.

Thank You that when Jesus died, all those who believe in Him died too—forever died to our old wicked and rebellious self that never loved You.

Thank You that when Jesus was buried, we were buried too—forever buried with all our sins and the filth of our past apart from You.

Thank you that when Jesus rose from the dead, we too—forever risen from the dead to brand new Life, having become "New Creatures", new beings, in Christ Jesus.

Thank you that when Jesus ascended into the heavens and sat down at Your right hand, Father, we too ascended and are seated forever in Christ Jesus at Your right hand in heavenly places. Father, please let our thoughts now be on things above and eternal, not on things on the earth that are temporary and slipping away.

Thank you Father for the everlasting Good News in Christ Jesus that came to us because of Your LOVE!!!

Scripture Songs #4 (These songs are always and ever to remain free)

- **O That Men Would Give Thanks! -- see Psalm 107**
- **Let The Peace Of God -- Colossians 3.15,16**
- **Life -- from John 8.1-12; 10.10; 5.39; 6.35**
- **But As For Me -- Psalm 5.7,8,12**
- **Love your enemies -- Luke 6.35,36,45**
- **About To Occur -- Luke 21.36**
- **Needful -- Luke 10.38-42**
- **Plead Your Own Cause -- see Psalm 73.22; Psalm 21.13; John 12.27,28; Zec. 4.6; Acts 17.24,25; Psalm 22.3; John 14.20; Acts 4.12**
- **Do Not Lose Heart -- see Galatians 6.9**
- **The Body Is Christ -- see Colossians 2.16,17**
- **The Living Man -- Isaiah 38.17,19,20**
- **Love -- John 15.13; 1 John 4.10,11,16; Romans 5.8**
- **The True One -- 1 John 5.20**
- **Anointing Oil -- Isaiah 10.27; 11.1,2**
- **Holy One -- Proverbs 30.2,3; John 15.5 & 6.68; Hebrews 6.19,20; Romans 7.18; Ephesians 2.8; Galatians 2.20**