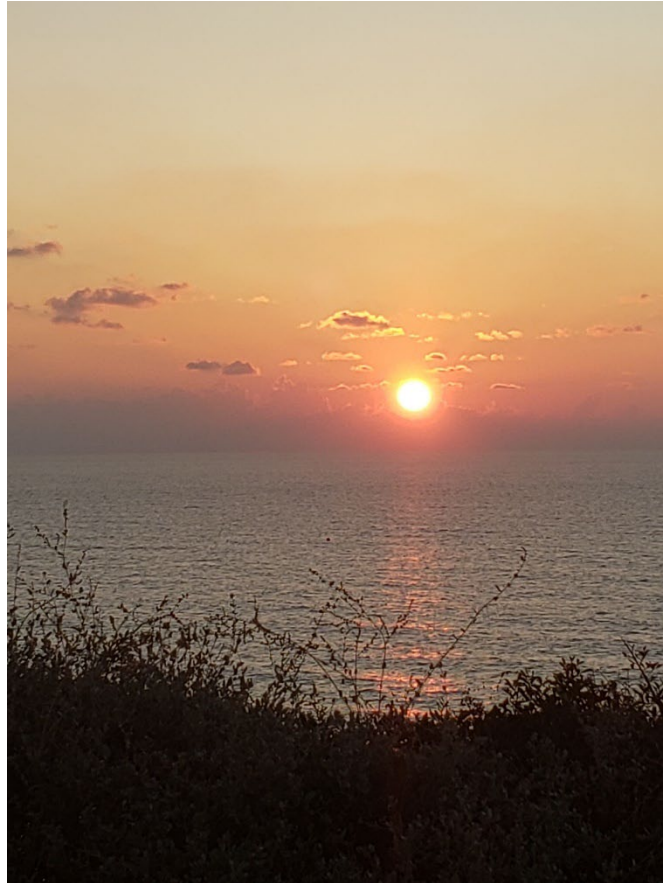


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Times of Fire



Poems that Overcome

by

Miranda A. Darling

~

*"That the genuineness of your faith,
much more precious than gold that perishes,
though it is tested by fire,
may be found to praise, honor, and glory
at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
whom having not seen you love."*

(1 Peter 1:6-8)

Prologue

As a Christian author facing the end times, much of what I write tends to focus on God's holy war, as the forces of good and evil wage their battle right in front of my eyes on a daily basis. The combat of the spiritual realm is not hidden – though many are blinded to its existence. The fires of hell rage strong and proud across the earth in these latter days, primarily in the form of drastically increasing lawlessness, destruction, division, deception, hatred, violence, immorality, human arrogance, and oppression.

The believers who overcome the world are those who stand firm in the love of Jesus Christ, despite the depravity, persecution, and wickedness surrounding them. They will keep themselves grounded and rooted in Scripture, prayer, fellowship, worship, and a whole-hearted, trusting faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit of God will pour out His strength on the faithful; on those who steadfastly go about the Father's business in the face of threat, oppression, and the fast-growing arm of corrupt governing forces.

It is my prayer for the poems written in this book to strengthen the reader in their faith by way of turning their thoughts and hearts toward the coming triumphant reign of Jesus Christ and the rewards He promises to give those who are His. The collection is meant to artfully remind believers in these last days of God's promises, prophecies, and ultimate victory - all which He will fulfill regardless of how desperate these times of fire can often seem, as cities burn, and hatred burns hotter. This season will not last forever. Eternal joy is just around the corner! Let's hold fast to our faith in Jesus until He comes. God bless, and stay strong in Christ! Maranatha!

~ Miranda A. Darling

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The Power of My Voice

*It is not a sound for ear to perceive
But a small spark the heart receives
Beginning so faint it is hardly noticed
Budding over time to a thoughtful focus*

*Without His touch there is no stirring
Step forth in faith, timid venturing
If God's Spirit didn't flow beneath
I'd never have taken sword from sheath*

*It is His own glory I yearn to shine
And though the words I write are mine
Trust and faith have placed them there
It's on His wings my thoughts are shared*

*Without His strength to lead me through
I'd be too weak to speak His truths
Nary a whisper could cross these lips
If the power of my voice was not His*

Amen

Times of Fire

*Seething beneath this world's skin
A heated pulse, Satan's desire
Embers of hell flicker within
And the flames are reaching ever higher*

*These are the times of fire
Burning streets
Running feet
I'm living in a time of fire*

*Lobster pots are getting hot
Masses boiling in their ire
Truth forfeit, they're casting lots
Righteous scales long ago retired*

*These are the times of fire
Rulers cheat
Nations bleed
I'm living in a time of fire*

*Strangers' greed devours the land
And perverse deeds have transpired
Leaders toppling freedom's stand
As cities burn like funeral pyres*

*These are the times of fire
Faith asleep
Souls sold cheap
I'm living in a time of fire*

*Society strikes the lawless match
Each politician is a liar
The Lord will soon release His wrath
Punish the wicked who conspire*

*God will have His time of fire
His anger stirred
Engulfs the earth
But I'll be safe from His time of fire*

Fill My Lamp

*Though a broken vessel
I stand, a useless temple
If there is no oil*

*Though a city on a hill
From it, light won't spill
If there is no oil*

*Though there may be grain
Bread I cannot bake
If I have no oil*

*Jesus, fill my lamp with oil
Let it ever after remain full
The wick at midnight trimmed
Prepared to meet my Groom
A flame, a flame, in the dark*

*Though a golden lampstand
Fires will not dance
If there is no oil*

*A mighty God we serve
But anointing won't occur
Without His oil*

*Holy Spirit must reside
Within us, deep inside
He is our oil*

*Jesus, fill my lamp with oil
Let it ever after remain full
The wick at midnight trimmed
Prepared to meet my Groom
A flame, a flame, in the dark*

“The wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps... at midnight a cry was heard:
‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’” (Matthew 25:4-7)

Psalm 35

*Fierce witnesses rise up
Making queries I do not know
They reward evil for good
To the sorrow of my soul.*

*In my hardship they rejoice
As they gather together
Rage is in their voice
All my freedoms tethered*

*They tear and do not cease
Hate without a cause
Mouths gnashing teeth
Their malice has no pause*

*Planning deceitful matters
Against the quiet ones
It is their hope to scatter
With chaos and destruction*

*They do not speak peace
But wink the eye at sin
Mockers as they feast
Thinking they will win*

*All this You have seen
O Lord do not keep silent
And be not far from me
Save me from these lions*

*Bring them to their shame
Who rejoice at my hurt
Put out their wicked flame
And the evil they have worked*

*We will shout and be glad
When the Lord is magnified
In righteous robes we're clad
Through Christ, we stand justified*

When God Sings Over Me

*You Whose voice is as the sound of thunder
How can You sing a song over me
What will be the words, I sit and ponder
Is each child given a unique melody*

*You Whose voice is of many rushing waters
How magnificent a song You would sing
Like a gentle Father soothing His daughter
One day I am told, You'll rejoice over me*

*You Whose voice commands sun, moon, and stars
Conducting fierce storms and vast raging seas
How I long to hear Your song in my heart
The very thought, is such a wonder to me*

*You Whose voice created the whole world
How impossible that mighty voice shall bring
A ballad of love, joyful gladness unfurled
As You quiet my soul through all eternity*

“The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”
(Zephaniah 3:17)

Black Train

*There is no prophecy which can be stopped
Black train of great trial, roaring down the track
Tied up on the railroad, by faith I am caught
In persecution's web, as governments attack*

*The darkness of the night fast overtaking
The light of all God's goodness and His love
In this blindness, laws and truth are forsaken
But the rails of Satan's commerce will run out*

*Heaven's holy war, quickly escalating
Battle lines are drawn, I fight on God's side
The Bible tells me, of everything I'm facing
Nonetheless, perdition's train I'll not ride*

*If I do not love my life unto the death
I've already overcome these wicked days
Should frightful noose wrap 'round my neck
Lord, please give me strength to be brave*

*I must bear these things until His return
Claim victory in the blood of the Lamb
The word of my testimony, thus hard-earned
And I'll escape; hell's passengers be damned*

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony,
and they did not love their lives to the death.” (Revelation 12:11)

Only You

*You place Your hand beneath my chin
And gently lift it high
Encourage me from deep within
Giving me Your smile*

*Only You can raise my head
And clothe me with resolve
Refine my faith to steely edge
Train my soul for war*

*You give my hand your Sword to wield
The weapon of Your truth
And with Your Spirit I am sealed
A soldier on the move*

*The enemy would have me slayed
By sting of lying tongue
I shall not rest, both night and day
Until Your will is done*

*Only You can wage this war
It is far above my skill
Not by might nor by my power
But by the Spirit-filled*

*Your reach is long and infinite
I trust Your outstretched arm
Eternal love that never quits
Keeping me from harm*

*My heart awaits the day You stand
On Mount of Olives split
From east to west, a valley formed
The prophecy is fixed*

*Only You shall judge the earth
And sit on the White Throne
Throwing hell in the lake of fire
Rebellion is struck down*

Platitudes of the Arrogant

*Haughtiness mounting to the heavens
Oppression races in every direction
Mongering fear and heaping deception
Cursing the sheep whenever they question*

*Miserable comforters speak words of wind
Troubling souls while flattering their sin
Worthless physicians with remedies thin
Their cure is a weapon with fatal sting*

*The platitudes of the arrogant will soon fade
As proverbs of ashes and defenses of clay
The rains of truth wash their vanity away
Nothing will be left for the godless to say*

*The triumph of the wicked is but for a moment
The justice of our God will not remain dormant
His wrath shall awaken like the bane of an omen
Judgment cast swiftly on all who oppose Him*

“Your platitudes are proverbs of ashes; your defenses are defenses of clay.” (Job 13:12)

Treasuring Today

*Sun shines through my window
Everything seems okay
Flowers wave, breezes blow
A pleasant, restful day*

*I'll float in calm waters
While the weather stays fine
Find joy in what matters
Be thankful for the time*

*Rest in what is lovely
Venture out while I can
Feed on milk and honey
Share all that's in my hand*

*His bounty I will treasure
Before it goes away
Momentary pleasures
Are slated soon to fade*

*Embrace all my loved ones
Tell them they're adored
Speak to them of God's Son
And the ransom He bore*

*I will give God the glory
As the hour sparkles bright
Scripture tells the story
How it shall soon be night*

*Days of peace cannot last
So, value every morning
Build up a faith steadfast
Heeding godly warnings*

*Keeping eyes on Jesus
A grateful heart He gives
I'll love today's sweetness
For it will soon be missed*

Writing in the Sand

*I hear the news each day and can only think
This world's tottering, precariously on the brink
Smug, unruly people have made a willful stand
Reinventing truth, they're just writing in the sand*

*Winds blow, sands flow, their words will be gone
Smoke rises in the air, God's fist is swinging down
And, the only words, that can possibly withstand
Are inside the ancient Book, written by His hand*

*The burden of the Lord lays heavy on the heart
As I look around and see families torn apart
Wickedness prospers, the poor don't understand
And new narratives are just words in the sand*

*Waves churn, cities burn, their words will be gone
Smoke rises in the air, God's fist is swinging down
And, the only words, that can possibly withstand
Are inside the ancient Book, written by His hand*

*I try to warn the masses, of their soon demise
But the ears are stopped, claiming to be wise
This nation they are carving, into hell's wasteland
As every godless law is being written in the sand*

*Earth quakes, hearts shake, their words will be gone
Smoke rises in the air, God's fist is swinging down
And, the only words, that can possibly withstand
Are inside the ancient Book, written by His hand*

*I ponder and consider, asking is it all too late
Wish there could be a way to change this earth's fate
If nations called on God, and bowed to His commands
Would He still wipe them out, like words in the sand*

*Wars drum, life succumbs, empty writings gone
Smoke rises in the air, God's fist is swinging down
Know the only words, that can possibly withstand
Are inside the ancient Book, written by His hand*

Do Not Fear

*Do not fear or be dismayed
The Lord goes before you
Though the path may be waylaid
Your God above adores you*

*Should the mountains ever tremble
And fall into the sea
He is sitting in heaven's temple
With eyes set upon thee*

*Don't let your heart shudder
When enemies surround
God's hands steer the rudder
His ship won't run aground*

*Don't be scared of walking
With Jesus in this world
Despite the devil stalking
Your victory is assured*

*Do not fear the wicked
The Lord is always with you
Though you be afflicted
Hold tight the faith He gives you*

*Don't ever shrink in terror
When the unjust triumph
You're Christ's banner bearer
Heaven is on the horizon*

*Don't be frightened, little flock
For Jesus is your shepherd
Stand firmly on the Rock
He is your constant shelter*

*Though life may seem to slay
Yet you must trust in Him
There's purpose to His delay
In the end, He always wins*

When God Writes

*Tablets of stone engraved
Laws of the promise land
Were chiseled by His Hand
As the sacred dust scattered*

*Parchment inscribed the same
Approved by the Spirit's Amen
With ink and inspired pen
Divine scrolls were gathered*

*Tablets of flesh ingrained
His Word in the heart of man
Faith in God's atoning Lamb
The Holy Spirit captures*

*And the Book of Life contains
Those loyal to God's commands
One day at the gates they'll stand
Embracing eternal rapture*

*But on earth are written the names
Of the godless judged in sand
The wall's finger reprimands
And the ground spoke Christ's answer*

A Scripture Study of God Writing

On Stone:

“And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.” (Exodus 31:18)

On Scrolls Through Men of Faith

“No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” (2nd Peter 1:20,21) “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” (Romans 15:4)

On Flesh/Heart:

“You are an epistle of Christ...written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.” (2nd Corinthians 3:3)

In the Book of Life:

“But there shall by no means enter it [New Jerusalem] anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” (Revelation 21:27)

In the Earth, On a Wall, On the Ground:

“Those who depart from Me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.” (Jeremiah 17:13)

“They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone. In the same hour the fingers of a man’s hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king’s countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened, and his knees knocked against each other.” (Daniel 5:4-6)

“This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear...being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last.” (John 8:6,9)

Mere Edges of His Ways ~ taken from Job 26

*He stretches North over empty space
With the clouds He covers His throne's face
Draws the horizon as a circle round
Where the light and the darkness bound*

*These are but the mere edges of His ways
Worthy of all honor, glory and praise
Thunder of His power, who can ever understand
Yet how faint His whisper reaches man*

*Pillars of heaven tremble and shake
All are astonished at His anger's wake
Stirs up the sea with His awesome power
His understanding breaks up storming showers*

*These are but the mere edges of His ways
Worthy of all honor, glory and praise
Thunder of His power, who can ever understand
Yet how faint His whisper reaches man*

*By His spirit He adorned the heavens
His hand pierces the fleeing serpent
Sheol lies bare and naked before Him
Hell's destruction has no covering*

*These are but the mere edges of His ways
Worthy of all honor, glory and praise
Thunder of His power, who can understand
Yet how faint His whisper reaches man*

“Indeed, these are the mere edges of His ways, and how small a whisper we hear of Him!
But the thunder of His power who can understand?” (Job 26:14)

Cast Me on Your Shore

*Let the winds of distress
Drive me to Your harbor
Let the waves of my sin
Cast me on Your shore
Forcing me to sit
At the feet of my Father
So I don't sink to ocean's floor*

*Let the desert sands of time
Bring me to Your waters
Let me slake the thirst within
As divine Spirit pours
May the blazing hot sun
Lead me to Your altar
And I'll find shade in Your arms*

*Let the wounds from my falls
Cause me to be cautious
Let me learn from where I've been
And draw from Your stores
So I can fight and win
Much better and stronger
Bravely enduring this holy war*

*Let the ghosts of my past
Torment me no longer
Let the storms of this life
Not upset me anymore
I will always rise again
For in You I find shelter
And there'll be peace forevermore*

The Beginning of Wisdom

*From the call of Abraham and his son's near sacrifice
To climbing Jacob's ladder in the middle of the night
The beginning of their wisdom was a holy fear of God
His divine revelation paved the paths those men trod*

*From the burning bush of Moses, blazing with God's light
To people living in darkness who have seen a great light
Wisdom springs from reverence planted in the heart
Increasing with obedience and deep, prayerful thought*

*From Joshua's great bravery and Gideon's trembling
To the loyalty of lady Ruth and David's deadly sling
Monumental moments placed throughout history
Show us the fear of God is wisdom's true beginning*

*From the request of Solomon when he first became king
To Hezekiah's plight, in the Lord's house he did bring
Humble hearts and faithful deeds achieve God's victories
Knowledge of the Holy One deepens understanding*

*From Ezra's reconstruction and Nehemiah's walls
To the stunning tragedy of Job's terrible downfall
It is faith and reverence which pleases the Lord
And godly fear, the only way wisdom is outpoured*

*From Daniel's steadfast prayers despite the king's new law
To the power of the prophets and apostles' wherewithal
Only fear of the living God instills spiritual triumph
Let's live in profound awe, walking wisely in His guidance*

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10)

Daughter of the King

*O my Father, what vows You have spoken
Promises too great to understand
You embrace the humbled and the broken
Who by faith inherit Your promise land*

*I was a stranger and pilgrim on the earth
Looking for far-off heavenly home
You gave to me Your own eternal worth
And now my feet no longer have to roam*

*You will bring me in and plant my soul
In the mountain of Your inheritance
A kingdom of fine glory prepared of old
My salvation, You long ago planned*

*I'm given a new name upon a white stone
While justice, peace, and joy shall reign
At Your table I will feast, I'm finally home
No more tears, no more sorrow, no more pain*

*For I am a daughter of the King
He sought my heart with love undeserved
On my head, life's crown encircling
Forever in royalty, my soul preserved*

“You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, in the place,
O LORD, which You have made.” (Exodus 15:17)

“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10)

Downcast

*My soul is cast down, disquieted within
Heavy are the burdens I often let in*

*Outside are conflicts, inside are fears
I wrestle with both, aging my years*

*Fists discouraged, beat on the chest
Flesh often mocks what God has blessed*

*Chastening holds no joy in its midst
But yields peaceful fruit of righteousness*

*God shall comfort His child downcast
With mercies eternal and grace so vast*

*Strengthening the hands that hang weak
I shall make straighter paths for my feet*

*And firming these frail, feeble knees
What was made lame can then become healed*

*I set myself to pursue peace with all
And holiness, without which, none see God*

*Take great care, don't fall short of His grace
Or let bitterness rise and etch the face*

*I must stand firm, laying hold of His cross
And shed the weight of yesterday's wrongs*

“Therefore, strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.” (Hebrews 12:12,13)

Third Watch of the Night

*Aloft shaded vale, third watch of the night
The midnight hour, rings change of shift
Visions menace, a dream's fearful flight
Disrupting sleep, as restless minds drift*

*Why do these hours claim haunted time
Countless sufferings and vicious dismays
Nightmares hold us captive by sheer design
Spirit realm leads all perceptions astray*

*Combat waged during nighttime slumber
Victims are so helpless, when lying prone
Principalities rage their great thunder
As dreamers tread shadowland zones*

*One Name spoken, will bring sure relief
Eyes shall blink open on dawn's welcome light
Jesus Christ, Son of God, will come rescue thee
Guarding each one through the blackest night*

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12)

Wandering Tracks

*How many times must my angst run severe
For in a single moment, I have fallen again
Caught in distraction, I lost godly fear
Strolled off the path of God's promise land*

*These feet wandered Egypt's wilderness
I must climb back, into the Father's hand
And plead for mercy, as sins are confessed
Ever forgiving, He will pull me back in*

*Time to stop making tracks with my tears
And instead make tracks, out of desert's sand
By His grace, the narrow road reappears
Journey resumed, I'm in His will again*

*In all our failures, we must not run away
Simply turn around, and seek His kind face
God never left us, it's only we who stray
He'll redirect us back into His ways*

*The longer we walk next to our Savior
The better we will be, at restraining our feet
Less and less, He will be called to gather
Wayward pilgrims wandering in defeat*

*This world's roads are paved in sin's filth
Yet our sandals must touch the fallen ground
Take great care to wash the layers that build
Lest covered in shame, our faith is drowned*

The Ties that Bind

*I always thought blood
was thicker than water
Turns out that's not as true as it sounds*

*Memories can flood
Making my steps falter
Over loved ones no longer around*

***But the Lord, He is good, He is good
He knows love truly matters
His ties to me will last forever
The Lord, He is good, He is good***

*My family is not gone
But the times grow darker
And our paths were divided long ago*

*Last days have come
Love is grown colder
Just as the Lord Jesus Christ did expound*

***But the Lord, He is good, He is good
He knows love truly matters
His ties to me will last forever
The Lord, He is good, He is good***

*God's people I trust
A bond far stronger
Brothers and sisters, all surround*

*I've more than enough
A household without number
The blood of Christ, a tie forever bound*

~

“...lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.” (Matthew 24:12).

The Sword that Divides

*The kingdom of heaven suffers violence
For the enemy would take it by force
But the faithful shall refuse to be silenced
Enduring hell's attacks, in rapid course*

*Jesus proclaimed He brought no peace
Offering instead, discernment's Sword
War forever follows the bended knees
Of those who embrace the Living Word*

*A man's own household shall betray
For the cross of Christ seems foolishness
But each one is free to choose their way
Leaving behind, love's shattered rudiments*

*Sword not only divides soul and spirit
But tears all asunder when truth offends
Eternally blessing those who hear it
Yet the deafened ear, its stab condemns*

*Believers shall be hated for His holy Name
Delivered to tribulation and to prison
But persevering, they'll not be ashamed
As the rest vainly fight He Who is risen*

*The eyes of our Creator see two races
One accepts His Son, the other scatters
Eternity is a realm each of them faces
Our existence on this earth, a tiny chapter*

*Kneeling at His cross brings heaven's joy
Anything less, a pledge to hell's deceit
Sitting on the fence seems a harmless ploy
But without a 'yes', souls suffer in defeat*

You Show Me the Way (Psalm 16:11)

*When I don't know what to do
And I kick against the truth
Lord, You show me the way*

*When faithfulness subsides
And my flesh overrides
Lord, You show me the way*

***You show me the path of life
Reign me in to walk Your light
You give fullness of joy
Keep me forevermore
Lord, You show me the way***

*When ungodliness floods
And pangs of death surround
Lord, You show me the way*

*Strong is the enemy
In the day of calamity
Lord, You show me the way*

***You show me the path of life
Reign me in to walk Your light
You give fullness of joy
Keep me forevermore
Lord, You show me the way***

*Some trust in chariots
But only You can carry us
Lord, You show me the way*

*Your Words are fine gold
To keep them brings reward
Lord, You show me the way*

I Am All You Need

*My peace I leave with you, He says
You don't have to worry anymore
Wait on My promises, they'll come to pass
As sure as the ocean rolls to shore*

*My peace, My peace I leave, if to My heart you cleave
Rest your spirit in My hand, for I am all you'll ever need
My peace, My peace, I leave*

*My strength I bring to you, today
You don't have to be weak anymore
Cast your cares upon Me, I will sustain
My Spirit preserves evermore*

*My strength, My strength I leave, if to My heart you cleave
Rest your spirit in My hand, for I am all you'll ever need
My strength, My strength, I leave*

*My light I'll shine along your way
No need to fight darkness anymore
My Word a lamp of truth, as bright as day
I'll make your crooked pathways straight*

*My light, My light I leave, if to My heart you cleave
Rest your spirit in My hand, for I am all you'll ever need
My light, My light I leave*

*My love I give to you each day
You will not be lonely from now on
I'm with you always, in your spirit I'll stay
Wherever you go, I'll come along*

*My love, My love I leave, if to My heart you cleave
Rest your spirit in My hand, for I am all you'll ever need
My love, My love I leave*

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27)

Psalm 22

*My God, my God, why have You forsaken
My soul so empty, Your Spirit has been taken
My cries day and night You do not seem to hear
All those who see My plight ridicule and sneer*

*O My Father please be not far from Me
Trouble is near, Bashan's bulls surround Me
I am poured out as water, bones out of joint
My heart is like wax, all strength is destroyed*

*You have brought Me to the dust of death
Tongue clings to jaw, I cannot take a breath
Dogs all around, they pierce hands and feet
I count my ribs; they look and stare at Me*

*Divided are My garments as men cast lots
I ask You to hasten, take Me far from this cross
Deliver Me from sword, power of the hounds
Save Me from the horns and the lion's mouth*

*And Father, I know You have answered Me
I will praise You in the midst of the assembly
I will declare Your name to all the brethren
All who fear the Lord, gather and praise Him*

*For He has not despised the afflicted and poor
He did not leave My soul wasting in Sheol
By His living power I have been raised again
Glorified and exulted for the sake of faithful men*

*On the wooden cross, cleansing blood did run
But I now mediate at My Father's right hand
My torment and suffering were of infinite pain
Yet worth reconciling all who are born again*

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

Keep Me Small

*Lord, keep me small
A lamb at Your bidding
To never rise up tall
With ego so fast gripping
Lord, keep me small*

*Lord, keep my eyes
Set firm upon Your will
Lest selfishness and pride
Both trip me and I fall
Lord, keep me small*

*Lord, keep me weak
Then I will be strong
Use my mouth to speak
Your salvation song
Lord, keep me small*

*Lord, keep my soul
From vanity's strong pull
Fill me with Your oil
A lamp entirely full
Lord, keep me small*

*Lord, keep me meek
To inherit Your new earth
Your countenance I seek
In You I find my worth
Lord, keep me small*

*Lord, keep me small
A shadow in Your hand
Serving heaven's call
A tiny grain of sand
Lord, keep me small*

The Voice of the Lord

*The voice of the Lord thunders from heaven
Roars from on high, in every direction
How can it be, man pays no attention*

*The voice of the Lord like great rushing waters
Riotous torrents from earth's four corners
Even so, the rebellious give Him no honor*

*The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness
Repays His foes with force beyond matchless
Yet the godless reject Him in their selfishness*

*The voice of the Lord makes deer give birth
And with His Words, in the end, melts the earth
The wise will revere He Who spoke the universe*

*The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees
Brings wind and lightening, from His treasures
But the nations stand against God's majesty*

*The voice of the Lord strips the forest bare
And speaks His commands from the midst of fire
Yet creature and creation are what man admires*

*The voice of the Lord utters hailstone and coal
Gives divided flame to the regenerated soul
The wicked believe not, refuse to be made whole*

*The voice of the Lord will be heard from the grave
And all will listen, whether lost or saved
To sceptic's great dread or believer's great praise*

*The voice of the Lord is heard by His sheep
Glory hidden in a whisper; still, small and sweet
Leading to calm waters and pastures of green*

Amen

Our Creator Reigns (Isaiah 40)

*“Have you not known, Have you not heard
God is Creator of the ends of the earth
He does not faint, His ways we can't search
His kingdom reigns over the whole wide world*

*He gives power to the weak, increases their strength
Though they were weary and so prone to faint
Whoever will wait, shall mount up with wings
And be like eagles flying high and straight*

*He brings princes to naught, and judges He wastes
Behold our God, His strong arm shall rule
Nations weighed as dust, on His righteous scales
He lowers hills, while making rough roads smooth*

*All flesh is as grass, a flower in the field
The breath of God blows on both in due time
Each withers and fades, to His will we yield
But His own glory shall eternally shine*

*And with Him we'll be, the faithful in Christ
Having good tidings, lifting voices so high
With crowns on our heads, robes of pure white
Heaven's revelation, shining love so bright*

Alleluia!

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength.”
(Isaiah 40:28,29)

For the Ephesus Believer

(Loveless)

*Some of the Lord's faithful children
Ought to pause and read what's written
Though your works are done in patience
As you persevere for My Name's sake*

*Not accepting plots of evil
You've tested false and lying people
Yet My voice says from above
You've left behind the joy of love*

*For in your labor of the Lord
You've cast aside a loving heart
Please recall your faith's beginning
Restore the love that is now missing*

*Renew delight in My salvation
Godly love is the only foundation
Though your faith may move a mountain
When there's no love, it profits nothing*

*Your true love is My priority
Take care to avoid religiosity
Rekindle what you used to feel
Initial faith's delighted zeal*

*I pledge to those who overcome
The tree of life shall be eaten from
He who has an ear, draw near
For the Spirit sayeth, let him hear*

“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”
(Revelation 2:4)

For the Smyrna Believer

(Persecuted)

*To the church in Smyrna write
I am He Who rose back to life
I know your work and tribulation
I know the blasphemes of Satan*

*Persecution is your path
Sore afflicted by hell's wrath
Satan's synagogue will fail
But for now, you must travail*

*Do not worry how to speak
When they snatch you from your sleep
The Spirit shows you what to say
As you are hated for My Name*

*Do not fear what you will suffer
Though you sit in prison gutters
Just ten days shall you be tested
Hold your faith even to the deathbed*

*I will imbue you with My power
Passionate faith to the final hour
Turning hearts to full repentance
Though you may receive death's sentence*

*I'll give to thee a crown of life
You'll not have to see death twice
He who has an ear draw near
The Spirit sayeth, let him hear*

“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10)

For the Pergamos Believer

(Compromised)

*Thus says He of the two-edged sword
You that dwell near Satan's throne
Holding fast to My great Name
Though you have seen My martyrs slain*

*But against you I hold this
Worldly things are the feet you kiss
Stumbling blocks to faith in Me
Causing sexual immorality*

*Mixing government with faith
Manmade rules have taken My place
Indulgent sin entered holiness
Balaam's ways so erroneous*

*Compromising My pure truths
Paganism beneath My roof
You have one foot in the world
The other stands on My threshold*

*Ruling in church laities
Is uncommanded hierarchy
Repent or I will fight against
All whose knees refuse to bend*

*Toss the robes, the priestly collars
Shepherds must not crave such honor
My grace is offered equally
All sheep are loved the same by Me*

*To My overcomers I will give
Hidden manna, you'll receive
And I'll write upon white stone
A new name that no one knows*

“You dwell where Satan's throne is...” (Revelation 2:13)

For the Thyatira Believer

(Corrupt/Pagan)

*Those in the church who worship Mary
Your faith is hijacked and miscarried
She's not your Savior but a fellow saint
Deaf to prayers and your complaints*

*Your Redeemer, there is but One
I am the Christ, God's only Son
Naively some are serving idols
Seduced by the spirit of Jezebel*

*While you are known for righteous acts
Works and patience there's no lack
But rituals are where faith strays
For I am the Truth and the only Way*

*Water sprinkled does not save
Nor do bread and wine forgive
Sacraments do not trump faith
In the holy blood I so freely gave*

*Doctrines banning certain food
Celibate is your priesthood
Leading to such perverse needs
While misled folks rub rosaries*

*This is Babylon, my friends
Come out of her before the end
Lest you suffer in her fate
Receiving all My wrath and plagues*

*I'll cast this church on a sickbed
Unless it learns to be born again
I will search each mind and heart
And judge who gets the morning star*

“You allow that woman Jezebel to teach and seduce My servants” (Revelation 2:20)

For the Sardis Believer

(Dead in Spirit)

*Popular is this church today
Who think they have a living name
But they are dead, no Holy Spirit
He who is willing let him hear it*

*Living with My Spirit quenched
Scripture taught via dead man's lens
Catechisms are not My Word
Manmade doctrines, uninspired*

*Your hearts are desperate for Me
But I'm not found in homilies
My holy Word is the living answer
And by it deadened faith can stir*

*Let Me breathe My life in you
The Holy Spirit's power true
Fan the fires of faith aflame
Repent and I'll confess your name*

*Watch and pray to quick revive
Strengthen what is ready to die
I'll come upon you as a thief
If you do not turn and obey Me*

*Yet some have garments undefiled
Whom the Father calls His child
Their names are in the Book of Life
They shall walk with Me in white*

“You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.” (Revelation 3:1)

For the Philadelphia Believer

(Faithful Brotherhood)

*I know your works, you've kept My Word
I've set before you an unlocked door
None can shut what I have opened
And what I close, seal can't be broken*

*Your brotherhood is very strong
Holding fast to your common bond
Loving one another well
In the Scriptures you closely dwell*

*You've spent power standing firm
Abiding in Me as you sought to learn
Faithful is the road you've walked
Spirit-led in the Father's work*

*You have a strength that yet remains
And thus you don't deny My Name
Evil men will one day serve you
I'll show them how much I have loved you*

*You kept my charge to persevere
You won't be tested as the hour nears
I'm coming quickly, hold your ground
That no one else may take your crown*

*In heaven's temple of your God
You'll be a pillar, standing strong
I'll write on you My holy Name
And you'll not need go out again*

“You have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”
(Revelation 3:8)

For the Laodicea Believer

(Lukewarm)

*This believer, neither cold nor hot
Lukewarm faith, it serves Me not
Tepid hearts are lined with doubt
I'll vomit you out of My mouth*

*You think you're rich with godly wealth
Best coat your eyes with healing salve
You're wretched, poor, blind and naked
As many I love, I rebuke and chasten*

*You honor me one day a week
But your heart lacks love for Me
Daily prayers, spiritual thoughts
Have no place in your private walk*

*Living the same as the unsaved
Your narrow road is wide and paved
Indifference marks the fleshly heart
Your lips draw near but we're far apart*

*You love the world at deepest cost
Now repent, and pick up My cross
Set both your feet to follow Me
Before I judge your apathy*

*Buy from Me refiners gold
Garments white, you must be clothed
So nakedness is not revealed
Light the spark of faithful zeal*

*Knocking, I stand at your door
Open wide as My Voice implores
I'll come in and we shall dine
You'll sit with Me upon My throne*

“Because you are lukewarm...I will vomit you out of My mouth.” (Revelation 3:16)

Sonnet of the Saint's Comfort

*Though the world is racing to destruction
A raging sea that spills sin on the deck
Ship condemned to reel in its corruption
Steering a course to doom and total wreck*

*Cast not our eyes upon the roaring waves
Or the beast who rides them, threatening harm
We look unto the One whose blood can save
He'll keep our souls bound tightly in His arms*

*A sea of hellish flame may cover earth
Fiery times cannot consume the faithful
The wicked will receive all they deserve
Those in Christ will feast at heaven's table*

*Let the saints of God be filled with comfort
The dragon's days have already been numbered*

Remembering Daniel

*When famine sweeps the land
Keep the mark from my hand
Frantic hunger, a terrible beast
Fiercely biting, painful teeth*

*Daniel's friends chose not to dine
On enemy's richest food or wine
Can we too eat the barest grains
Or trade our souls to buy meat again*

*Recall the idol set in place
But to God those captives prayed
Refused to bow down willingly
Golden image of an evil king*

*The godly men were gathered up
To drink of persecution's cup
God could deliver if He chose
But if not, to the furnace they go*

*Can we say the same ourselves
Reject compliance to avoid hell
Knowing Christ stood in their fire
Despite the heat, all stayed alive*

*Hold close this lesson every day
Whenever trials cross our way
The Lord is with us in the flames
So we can praise His holy Name*

*Blazing furnace is coming to test
We'll fall or stand in faithfulness
Holy Spirit, please powerfully reign
If burnt to ashes, let me rise unscathed*

“God, whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace...but if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.” (Daniel 3:17,18)

My Great God

*The heavens shine God's mercy day and night
In the brightness of His glory we see true light*

*His children rest trustfully 'neath His wings
The river of His pleasures gives potent drink*

*His righteousness towers like the mountains
The fullness of His house gives all abundance*

*The clouds touch His faithfulness as it rises
His living fountain flows, eternally priceless*

*The judgments of His throne run vastly deep
Through it all He preserves man and beast*

*The heritage of His kingdom stands forever
And His great love for me cannot be severed*

*One day He'll take and lead me to His throne
Show me heaven's kingdom, so I'll feel at home*

*Dwelling in His house, inquiring in His temple
I'll be instructed, knowledge transcendental*

*Celestial library will be my favorite chamber
Ancient books teaching histories of the Savior*

*His lovingkindness to me is better than life
The day I gaze upon Him I will be satisfied*

The End