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Smiling at the Storm



Worship in the Wind

By

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*“The LORD has His way
In the whirlwind and in the storm,
And the clouds are the dust of His feet.”
(Nahum 1:3)*

Prologue

Every season brings times of storms and times of peace. There are highs, there are lows. We can experience bursts of energy and visions of promise, or we can fall into tragedy, spiritual assault, sickness, or even tedium and distracted pointlessness. There are unexpected victories and exhilarations, but there are also unexpected losses, battles, and despair. We are not privy to what shall be laid upon our own table each morning when we awaken. It is not important to know the future, but to know the One Who holds time in His hands. When we learn to trust God and His providence from dawn to dusk, season to season, and age to age – that is our first step toward owning peace when storms hit, steadfastness when struggles rear up, calmness when calamity strikes.

In these latter days, I find myself praying God will strengthen my faith in Him so deeply that no matter what foul wind of assault or thundering discomfort might strike the path I am walking, I can gather my wits by the strength and power of His Spirit while looking to Him in unflinching hope. I want to be able to smile at the storms, simply because I know Who is allowing such troubles to unfold. It would seem this is indeed the experience of many faithful men and women who endured extreme challenges throughout the Scriptures, and we must take their examples to heart in our own lives, grasping that same hope, that same trust, that same complete and utter dependence upon God and His goodness.

It is a blessed believer who can learn to face life's severest difficulties while still praising and worshipping His holy Name. Since we know even the seas and wind obey Him, we have every reason to smile despite any ominous storm which might come rolling across the brooding skies of this world. I have committed myself to trusting God has His good reasons for such inclement weather and will walk with us through our darkest days until the sun shines upon us once again. May God bless you through every trial of life and may your days of spiritual peace outnumber the days of spiritual battle. Let us all set ourselves to worship Him even in the harshest winds and to smile at the strongest of storms, knowing we belong to the One Who is on the throne.

~ Miranda A Darling

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Smiling at the Storm

*A timid leaf, I'm driven to and fro
Caught in a whirlwind of harm
But God is allowing these winds to blow
And so, I can smile at the storm*

*Deadly tempest is hovering low
Calamity swiftly rains down
Surely God attends my every woe
He is my peace in the storm*

*Thundering clouds may open and pour
But raindrops do not bother me
In God's strength I'll weather far more
With Him, I can dance in the storm*

*There shall never strike a gale so strong
Or a struggle on this earth so hard
That my Savior is not able to overcome
Thus, I will worship in the storm*

“The LORD has His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet.” (Nahum 1:3)

Galilean Sonnet

*I feel the motion of the wooden boat
And smell the air refreshed by lake and breeze
My gaze is captured by the distant coasts
Quaint seaside towns on hills with peaceful streets*

*To think apostles sailed on these same waves
While casting out their nets and hauling fish
As Jesus traversed oft from bank to bank
Teaching men and healing the lame and sick*

*The clouds then break apart o'er waters deep
As rays of silver light start piercing through
The love of God smiles warmly down at me
I splash my hand in ripples sparkling blue*

*A cry of gulls is heard from high above
Of Galilee my heart can't get enough*



Sea of Galilee, Israel 2019

The Dove

*She found no resting place
The waters were too deep
After seven days
She held an olive leaf*

*With wings like that dove
I'd fly and be at rest
Gliding free and high above
Windy storm's distress*

*Perched on rocky cleft
Hidden by the cliff
Peaceful in the nest
Softly singing hymns*

*Gentle, purest white
Flawless and so clean
A worthy sacrifice
Temple's burnt offering*

*In likeness of a dove
Holy Spirit descended
Seal of God's deep love
Upon the Son extended*

*In the hearts of the faithful
His dovelike Spirit glows
Fashioning so graceful
The godly fruits bestowed*

“Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.” (Psalm 55:6)

Departure

*In the turning away
There is peace
In the leaving behind
I am free
Departing from evil
Eyes will see
The repentant heart
On its knees
Strength to my bones
As the devil flees
A spirit contrite
Draws God to me
The ways of the world
Bring only grief
And ungodly habits
Cause anxiety
Casting these aside
Finds serenity
Health to my flesh
I shall receive
Lord, all Your ways
Help me keep*

“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.” (Proverbs 3:6-8)

Leap of Faith

*Standing on the edge of a cliff
A steep and lonely precipice*

*In taking that first step of faith
Sometimes a leap is what it takes*

*We cannot know where we'll land
Shall it be water, rocks, or sand*

*The path ahead is dark and blind
We grasp in vain how it unwinds*

*Will the road be perilous or strange
The mystery can make us feel afraid*

*But when in Jesus we reside
We know His Word will be our guide*

*It does not matter where I'm led
I trust God holds me in His hand*

*With this knowledge I can stride
Pressing forward in all His might*

*I place one foot into open air
It seems at first there's nothing there*

*But on God alone I'll fix my sight
And find suddenly, I have taken flight*

Joppa

*Ancient port of Joppa
How lovely are your walls
Golden stone ramparts
Aged turrets standing tall*

*Yesteryear it echoes
Ships of Tarshish dock
Awaiting precious cargo
Lebanon's cedar logs*

*Jonah walked this pier
Fleeing from his call
Dwelt the Tanner here
With him Peter lodged*

*Azure seas below
Sparkling in the sun
Every arched window
Viewing waters calm*

*Twisting cobbled streets
Wrapped upon a hill
Flowers tumble sweet
Cascading off the sills*

*Rusty vessels anchored
Old fishing nets galore
No more bustling shipyard
Soft waves lap the shore*

*Tourists wander shops
People sipping coffee
Seaside bistros flocked
Smell of warm falafels*

*I sit in a charming café
Soaking up the past
Picturing yesterday
And hold the image fast*

Joppa (Jaffa), Israel 2016



Liar

*A shadow spoke to me, from a window ledge
Dark and threatening, this is what he said
Your alias, I know, and it is Shame
I'll own your house, I have a claim*

*But I told him he's a liar
And he's slated for the fire
For this house of mine is owned
By God and God alone
A new name I've been given
In heaven He has it written
On a small white stone*

*The night wind seemed to breathe, soft accusation
Speaking in a dream, challenged my salvation
Whispered of my guilt, saying I have holes
Only hell can fill, if I just give up my soul*

*But I say that wind's a liar
And it's slated for the fire
For this soul of mine is owned
By God and God alone
And my guilt has been forgiven
In heaven He has me written
On a small white stone*

*The wicked have one game, just one playing card
The hand is dealt the same, on the table of every heart
Joker points out sin, the jack ever mocks
The evil king lays blame, as chains they try to lock*

*But I know that they are liars
And they're slated for the fire
For this hand of mine is played
By the God Whose Son forgave
And my guilt has been forgiven
In heaven He has me written
On a small white stone*

The Life He Gives

*There is a promise in each day given
A chance to learn and grow deeper our faith
With past, present, and future forgiven
How then shall we live but to seek His face*

*Like branches on vines shall we prosper forth
Fed well on the Spirit and Bread of Life
Bearing much fruit, Living Water the source
Draws souls to God and His great paradise*

*No other purpose soars higher than this
The paths God chooses for us are divine
Tranquil or troubled, to know Him is bliss
Through our broken vessels His love can shine*

*Each day an adventure walking with Him
The life He gives fills my cup to the brim*

“You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

(Psalm 23:5,6)

The Ways of a Fool

*The foolish think stolen water is sweet
And pleasant is bread eaten secretly
Death and folly bound up in deceit
Eroding souls like vinegar on teeth*

*The heart of a fool says there is no God
Despising the instruction of His Word
Walking blind, a wicked road so broad
He trips in his net, hopelessly caught*

*Troubler of the home inherits the wind
By the weight of his err, a man is pinned
He rages on, in vain self-confidence
Spewing rash words he cannot rescind*

*The mouth of the wicked is sore perverse
No wisdom can a fool's lips disperse
And the Lord will shorten all his years
For on the unrepentant is laid a curse*

*Go far from the presence of a foolish man
His squandering, sinful ways won't stand
Flee from him lest you suffer by his hand
He has built his house upon shifting sand*

“The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” (Psalm 14:1)

” Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of hell.” (Proverbs 9:17, 18)

Doors

*Whether a door is closed or open
The Lord determines which and when
He decides when seals are broken
And which opportunities He lets in*

*On the threshold was the pride of Cain
While his sin laid at that door
God said to rule it and not let it in
The door opened as Cain ignored*

*The ark of Noah offered all welcome
Til God shut the hatch as rain began
For the faithful, the door had been open
But for the wicked, judgment had come*

*The door of the house where Lot dwelt
Received the angels God had sent
When violent men tried to assault
God's messengers shut Lot in*

*The tabernacle door faced the east
By many camps of Judah's tribe
For through them came His Promised Seed
The Way to God, for the sanctified*

*At the garden tomb of Jesus Christ
A great stone lay across dark hole
When the Father accepted His sacrifice
By His hand, that stone did roll*

*Now the Lord stands at our doors
And like a gentleman, He softly knocks
His love can open up our souls
To receive His priceless call*

Broken Cistern

*In my careless younger life
Thirst of soul cut like a knife*

*Unaware that I had hewn
A broken cistern; empty tomb*

*This held not a single drop
Like a cracked and useless pot*

*Lifeless spirit yet living flesh
Ignorant of hopelessness*

*God's deep mercy drew me from
The selfish well naively dug*

*From vain darkness into light
Finally, I saw my plight*

*I was parched, my spirit dead
Pled my need, hung my head*

*Now my soul is not forsaken
What was dead He has awakened*

*Today I'm drinking of God's fountain
Flowing from His holy mountain*

“For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.”
(Jeremiah 2:13)

Altar of Incense

*How sacred, the golden bowls
Burning incense, rising smoke
The prayers of the saints*

*Sweet spices, a divine blend
Myrrh, onycha, and cinnamon
Galbanum, frankincense*

*Aroma pleasing to the LORD
Perpetual smoldering glow
Spirit's holy fragrance*

*May the cries of my own heart
Raise up just as high and far
Seasoned heavenly scent*

*Though a vessel broken
Let me be a bowl so golden
Offering prayer's finest incense*

Salvation in His Eyes

*Zaccheus climbed the sycamore
To see the coming of his Lord
Gazing down from a tree so high
He saw salvation in Jesus' eyes*

*Pharisees all plotted to kill
Convinced it was the Father's will
Foolish men claim to be wise
Salvation hidden from their eyes*

*Pontius Pilate washed his hands
Had no quarrel with the Son of Man
Too bad he did not recognize
Salvation was in Jesus' eyes*

*Barrabas, a wicked man chosen
Crowd's consciences lay frozen
In their fervor, failing to surmise
Salvation gleamed in Jesus' eyes*

*Number me not with criminals
Who avoid God's righteous laws
For I know His ways are wise
I've seen salvation in His eyes*

*I'll pick up His wooden cross
Count all other things as loss
To walk with Jesus at my side
I found salvation in His eyes*

Attack

*Ancient serpent stealthily
Tries to wrap around my knees
Stumbling is the sole intent
Accosting til my faith lay spent*

*I lift mine arm and gleaming sword
To smite the beast with holy Word
It flees from me across hard ground
Wincing from the righteous wound*

*Not a moment passes by
When ear hears not a battle cry
This life on earth a secret war
The devil seeking to devour*

*Vigilant I must remain
Dreaded snake will strike again
God's whole armor covers me
Ensuring every victory*

“Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day.” (Ephesians 6:13)

Turn My Eyes Around

*When gaze constantly lingers on myself
When on me, thoughts frequently dwell
All I find is many weaknesses and faults
No answers from within are to be found*

Jesus, take my eyes, turn them around

*When I coddle every fickle feeling
When I do only what I think is pleasing
Balanced on a wire of regret and doubt
Nothing ever seems to really work out*

Jesus, take my eyes, turn them around

*Me, myself, and I will never be content
Such inward focus is spiritually bent
Put me on my knees to surrender this throne
Unseat me, so my Savior rules alone*

Jesus, take my eyes, turn them around

*Lifting eyes to heaven changes everything
Looking upon Jesus, vision widening
I'm now seeing life from mountaintop plains
With sight joined to His, freedom is gained*

Jesus took my eyes and turned them around

“Unto You I lift up my eyes, O You who dwell in the heavens.” (Psalm 123:1)

But Jesus

*Fishing lines cast with no reels
Chariots have lost all their wheels
Fiery darts are stinging Achilles heel
But at His feet everyone will kneel*

*No safety knot at the end of the rope
We're sliding down a slippery slope
In dungeon's darkened cell we grope
But Jesus gave us all eternal hope*

*When every lace has come untied
Armies of heaven and hell collide
The wicked are not breaking stride
But in Jesus Christ we will abide*

*Though the horses are hamstrung
And all the ladders are missing rungs
There's no air left in our lungs
But Jesus has already overcome*

*Pain cuts courage to the quick
As deep in the heart a dagger sticks
Yes, the virgins are trimming their wicks
While the Father's clock softly ticks*

*The warships shall all start to sink
And bitter is the drought we drink
Armor lays bare its broken chinks
But Jesus takes us up in a single blink*

Well Gone Dry

*Where is your watering place
Has the well gone dry
I see your downcast face
And I'm wondering why*

*Have you forgotten love
Did you lose your way
The joy from above
How did you let it fade*

*Come to flowing rivers
And His grassy banks
Drink the living water
For your thirst's sake*

*Sit at the foot of Christ
Replenish faith's stores
He's already paid the price
Let His Spirit pour*

*Soak in lavish grace
Rest in His high will
Stop feeling out of place
And learn to just be still*

*Tap God's reservoir
A fountain endless deep
You may have wandered far
Find His clear springs*

*Shepherd is calling you
Turn toward the sound
Follow His running brook
Prodigal, you'll be found*

No Looking Back

*Its time again for me to travel
These boots must step out the door
Let the wheels roll over gravel
This next road, to me is unknown
But there's no looking back, no looking back*

*Its time again for me to journey
Fill up the tank, pray I go far
Say goodbye, give to God my worries
For it is He Who navigates my course
And there's no looking back, no looking back*

*Its time again for me to be going
Gather up my things, turn the lock
What lies ahead, no way of knowing
I'll trust the Lord with all my heart
Because there's no looking back, no looking back*

*Its time again for me to get rolling
I guess I am called to somewhere else
Feel the air, winds of change are blowing
There's no storing faith upon a shelf
For there's no looking back, no looking back*

*Its time again for me to be leaving
Can't let comfort own my soul
They say the road is a place of freedom
I say liberty is found in the Lord
And I will not be looking back, no I won't look back*

“But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62)

Of All that is Bread

*Of all that is bread on this earth
Spirits are not fed by grain from the hearth*

*Fields of plumpest barley and wheat
Yield fruitful crops well profitable to eat*

*And with plentiful rows of millet and corn
Desperately needed meals are grown*

*Meadows sprouting lentils and rye
Sate our physical hunger for a time*

*Pastures sown with spelt and beans
Bring abundance worthy to glean*

*But there is only one ancient grain
When consumed gives eternal gain*

*How blessed is heaven's sweet manna
God's bounty for the human spirit's famine*

*We must feast upon the Living Word
For this is the food that saves the world*

*Come partake of the only Bread of life
Receive the Son of God, He is Jesus Christ*

“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’” (Luke 4:4)

“For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”
Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” And Jesus said to them, “I am
the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger.” (John 6:33-35)

No Permission for Silence

*I carry the restraint of a hurricane
Not my intent to sweep in so hard
But when the Spirit surges within
It is my duty to speak God's heart*

*If I were to bury the words being formed
My heart would burn to smoke and ash
Thus, faith's speech runs off this tongue
Standing firm, I'll suffer backlash*

*The Lord gives no permission for silence
His message is continually relayed
Though what I utter be met with violence
I cannot hide what His Word displays*

*I must please none but God Himself
Stir the fateful pot, rock the steady boat
Voice not polished, but His truths, I tell
Jesus Christ is the One I promote*

*One day might see me locked away
Those prison bars won't look good on me
But I'll keep speaking night and day
Just to wear His praises in eternity*

How Can I Know

*What proves I am born again
No lightening scored
No thunder roared
When I prayed the prayer
No rushing flames
No revelation came
When I called Your Name*

*What is the test that I believe
No seal was seen
No miracles gleamed
When to You I bowed the knee
No sensations flowed
No tongues I spoke
When baptism waters streamed*

*Two things speak the proof
Your written Word
Your Spirit's work
Both display salvation's truth
Your promise reigns
I am changed
The longer I walk faith's shoes*

*By these You show I'm known
You lift me up
I see Your touch
My weakness You make strong
Releasing chains
Your Spirit reigns
Giving peace in every storm*

*Faith is choice, not feelings
It changes paths
Avoiding wrath
And in Christ, fully believing
The work is done
Death overcome
Your grace, daily receiving*

Spiritual Chloroform

*Today's social norms
Are spiritual chloroform
Putting to sleep the heart
While lies tear life apart*

*Why can't people see
Moral rebellion is travesty
Souls twisted into knots
Truth decays in melting pots*

*Children bought and sold
Rulers seize control
Freedom down the drain
Innocence lies slain*

*Blind eyes claiming sight
Wrong has become right
Self-mutilation reigns
But DNA cannot change*

*Arrows are bound to slay
Those who bow and pray
While the unbelieving feed
On sin and mockery*

*My friend, do not cave
To a life hell has depraved
Wake up, seek God's truth
Lest you choke in Satan's noose*

When the Shadows Flee

*Until the day breathes
And the shadows flee
My Lord has gone to the mountain of myrrh*

*And so, I must wait
Saved by grace through faith
While my Lord finishes His great work*

*Nations' final rage
Will set the stage
In the valley of decision, justice will be served*

*That day shall breathe
The shadows will flee
Riding white horse, my Bridegroom returns*

*Divine wedding feast
Rich wine and fresh figs
Together we'll dwell, in a new heaven and new earth*

“Until the day breathes, and the shadows flee, I will go away to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense.” (Song of Solomon 4:6 ESV)

Whom Shall I Send (Isaiah 6)

*The voice of the Lord is calling
Whom shall I send
For My judgment is soon falling
I'll no longer contend*

*I answered, Lord, Here am I
What must be said
Go tell them, He replied
To put away their sin*

*But they will keep on hearing
And not understand
They will keep on seeing
And not comprehend*

*Their hearts are dull of feeling
Ears heavy like lead
Eyes shut and concealing
So, none can repent*

*For how long, I then queried
To the bitter end
And all laid waste, said He
But I shall leave a tenth*

*Like a tree, I am cutting
A stump left in the land
From barren ground jutting
Holy seed, My remnant*

I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” (Isaiah 6:8)

Safe

*When the clouds have gathered
And the heavy rains come
Droplets begin to scatter
Down the window water runs*

*The winds they whip and blow
And the thunder rumbles
Trees swaying to and fro
Branches creak and grumble*

*I am safe
Shielded by faith
His life in me, no storm can shake
I am safe*

*The lightening ricochets
Air crackling all around
Flashing skies of angry grey
Gales sweep across the ground*

*He is with me in the thunder
He is with me in the rain
He stills my frightened shudders
As I face the hurricane*

*He makes me safe
Shielded by faith
His life in me, no storm can shake
Yes, I am safe*

Lost in the Dark

*So many souls, traveling this life
As if driving cars, cruising through the night
But not bothering to turn on the headlights
There is no destination
Can't see current location
Careening toward the edge of time without any sight*

*Like unwitting shoppers, walking in a store
Aisles black and empty, no way to explore
And having no idea what they're looking for
They are lacking vision
On a pathway to collision
Roaming eerie shadows, they can't find the exit door*

*So many people, are lost in the dark
Because of innate sin, mankind is born marked
Destined for anguish without God's holy spark
Feet are blindly stumbling
To the ground they're tumbling
Understanding shaded, their futures looming stark*

*Some who grow weary, start humbling their pride
Eyes turning upward, they sense God's beaming light
Night then fades away, as Jesus' love does shine
Radiance is streaming
Narrow way is gleaming
Walking up faith's mountain, heaven's gate now beckons bright*

If the Sea Could Speak

*If the sea could speak, of deeds she has absorbed
How many names would spill forth
What lies hidden on ocean's floor
History echoes in her crashing roar*

*If the sea could speak, what stories would she relate
What mysteries has she embraced
And held closely within her waves
What is the number of her watery graves*

*If the sea could speak, and her myriad channels seen
Would there be wisdom in the deep
Surely her waters never sleep
What secrets do the dark depths keep*

*One day the sea will speak, on earth Christ's feet will tread
With His robe dipped in red
Justice will at last be spread
And the sea will give up her dead*

“The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.”
(Revelation 20:13)

Watchtower of Prayer

*I will stand my watch
Setting soul on high rampart
To seek my help from God
And hear from His heart*

*Prayer's stronghold erected
I wait, yes, my soul waits
For in God, I am corrected
And His Word is never late*

*My spirit has believed
In the goodness of the LORD
To His Word I am cleaved
Trusting His rewards*

*Lifting thoughts to the sky
Heart kneels before throne
Stairs to heaven climbed
Waiting on God alone*

*I shall be of good courage,
He strengthens my way
Whatever He determines
I must accept by faith*

*On my watchtower of prayer
I stand in the quiet
His love frees my despair
By His hand, fear is silenced*

“I will stand my watch, and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected.” (Habakkuk 2:1)

Mercies in the Night

*I know You are with me
Because Your Word says its true
Dark hours seem to hide Thee
As shadows threaten cruel*

*Mocking spirits crowding
Beasts of malice pose
Puffing hell's wiles proudly
In Christ's power, I oppose*

*Night assaults increase
I resolve to further grow
More time upon the knees
Open to the Spirit's flow*

*The very highest weapons
Obedience and trust
Praying for God in heaven
To grind evil into dust*

*Confidence must be strong
In His promises and Word
Mercy won't tarry long
I believe my plight is heard*

*Claiming the blood of Christ
As I plead His sacrifice
This torment in the night
Is not God's will divine*

*But there is no victory
If a battle is not waged
Thus, the Lord commands me
In the wars of this age*

Heaven is Given Away

*Paradise timeless
All wickedness gone
City of diamonds
Air filled with song*

*God's love endless
Everlasting dawn
Each soul precious
Held close in His arms*

*Hearts swoon breathless
Peace finally owned
Joy in His presence
And His splendid throne*

*Beautiful horizons
Living river flows
God's light shining
On cobbled streets of gold*

*Abundance matchless
Gardens of grace
Edenic palace
Accessed only by faith*

*Eternity priceless
No cost to attain
By the One Who is righteous
Heaven is given away*

Shine Like a Star

*Shimmering stars blinking bright
Celestial flickers soothing the night
So are the wise ones who doth shine
God's wisdom in these crooked times*

*Message of love they do speak
Burning with God's holy flame
Glowing comfort for those who seek
Salvation from these wretched days*

*Lamps illuminating the world
Are those who turn many to heaven
The glimmer of knowledge is unfurled
Shining like the stars forever*

*The righteous shall beam forth as the sun
In the kingdom of their Father
All whose lost souls were won
By light of His Word and living water*

“Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.” (Daniel 12:3)

Prayers from the Cave (Taken from Psalm 142)

*When all refuge fails me
No one seems to care for my soul
I cry to God, spirit wailing
As my heart is brought very low*

*Complaints I have poured
To the One Who sees my path
Through the snares I walk toward
May He grasp me in His hands*

*For I have found many troubles
In following His holy Word
My persecutions double
As they kick at heaven's work*

*In the maelstrom of my fears
I pray for endurance to fight
Then realize amidst the tears
My prayers alone will smite*

*We wrestle, with much distressing
To accomplish a mighty deed
But prayer itself is the blessing
The greatest work done on our knees*

*And in this, the battles are won
Mighty foes are thrown to the ground
Opposition is overcome
In supplications, all power is found*

*Out of prison the soul is led
God's light streams into life's caves
Revealing the enemy has fled
As pleadings turn into praise*

God is in the Midst

*He is in the midst of the Holy City
For He is Israel's mighty God*

*He is in the midst of the tabernacle
Accepting what the faithful brought*

*He is in the midst of the throne
As from heaven His eyes ever watch*

*He is in the midst of the camp
Wherever we've been cast life's lot*

*He is in the midst of blistering fires
Though we may see Him not*

*He is in the midst of our spirits
Changing attitude and thought*

*He is in the midst of our prayers
And every combat we've fought*

*He is in the midst of our worship
Raising high every joyful heart*

*God is in the midst of His people
And by His Word we are taught*

*He dwells in the midst of our lives
And thus, we ought to fear not*

Speak to Me

*Oh God, won't You speak to me
I am already speaking, says He
Lord, I do not hear Your voice
He says my problem is too much noise
I wished He would just talk louder
But instead, I found a quiet hour
Read His Word and sat silently
Through Scripture He did speak
Felt a pressing inside my heart
A deeper longing not to be apart
Another hour I then carved
Realizing my spirit was starved
I heard Him speaking even more
Into my soul, His voice poured
Spilling His love into my life
Truths cutting sharp like a knife
I hadn't known enough to listen
Oblivious to all I'd been missing
Now He fills my cup beyond edge
Faith alive, which was near dead
God speaks loudly to us every day
We've fallen deaf to what He says
Worldly clamor reigns so strong
His voice lost in deafening throng
Return to private times of praise
Abide in Him by Spirit and grace
Look for every moment spare
You'll find the Lord awaiting there*

Amen

Day by Day

*Day by day
Believers are kept
By the Lord's own design*

*Faith is the way
We learn to step
Along His path divine*

*All God says
Will slowly be set
Into the fabric of our minds*

*As we pray
Christ's Spirit affects
Each branch upon His vine*

*If we will stay
And not forfeit
The light our Lord shines*

*Seek His face
And He will protect
As up His mountain we climb*

*Our price He paid
Settled our debt
His righteousness now mine*

Patience of the Saints

*How long, O Lord, holy and true
Until You judge and avenge the slain
The faithful who've given all to You
Blood in the ground cries out their names*

*Heinous fount of abuse so savage
Perpetrated upon Your people
Women and babes grievously ravaged
Men suffering monstrous evil*

*Their only crime was owning Your Name
Faith held fast in trembling hearts
As violent men with hatred inflamed
Rip countless innocent lives apart*

*Give us Your strength not to fall faint
As we keep to Your ways and will
Here indeed is the patience of the saints
While prophecies are being fulfilled*

*God's vengeance will be appeased
The vision is ever becoming clearer
As the seals of His Word are released
The promised end is drawing nearer*

*On a mighty horse Jesus shall ride
Countenance shining bright like the sun
Accompanied by His redeemed bride
Sword in His mouth, the war is won*

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” (Revelation 14:12)

My Gideon Tale

*The Angel of the LORD must have come to rest
Beneath the terebinth tree of my life
At the time, I was feeling richly blessed
For faith had made my spirit come alive*

*My heart began desiring to go forth in valor
And write for His kingdom and His Name
But this I delayed, in disbelieving pallor
Like Gideon, asking God to make it plain*

*I reminded Him of my weak, timid manner
How my own family won't hear my voice
Surely, I will be with you, was His answer
By My Spirit you shall fight the devil's ploys*

*I wondered had I really found such favor
And thus, sought to test and seek a sign
Before long, pen and ink were put to paper
As people asked for counsel, by God's design*

*Many questions I have studied and labored over
Day and night, year by year, I do read the Word
His Spirit instills the hunger and gives exposure
Creating understanding, the more I've learned*

*Decades have passed, I'm still in the battle
Trumpet in the right hand, His torch in the left
Shining truth in the dark like a candle
Writing for heaven's gain leaves no regrets*

“Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree...So Gideon said to Him, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? I am the least in my father’s house.” And the LORD said to him, “Surely I will be with you.” (Judges 6:11-16)

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The End

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