



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1) Clay to The Potter
- 2) Lord, Do You Weep?
- 3) This Present Darkness
- 4) So It Begins
- 5) Be Still
- 6) Dimming the Brilliance of God
- 7) When Will You Be Free?
- 8) Caravan
- 9) Desperation
- 10) The Story of Man
- 11) Mised
- 12) Redeeming the Time
- 13) Emily's Song
- 14) Heart of Stone
- 15) When You Were My Son
- 16) Lift The Veil
- 17) Garden of Guilt
- 18) Prodigal
- 19) You Will Never Love Me More
- 20) Deep Waters
- 21) Where The Good Way Is (Jeremiah 6:16)
- 22) Never Alone
- 23) After All
- 24) Recovery
- 25) God's Numbers
- 26) God's Glory
- 27) Speak to Me
- 28) Things Above
- 29) Take Back the Ground
- 30) Would You?
- 31) Grief (Dawnya's Song)
- 32) Gardens of the King

## PROLOGUE

In late Autumn of 2021, on the heels of a tragic family development that had me shaken to the core, I was abruptly awakened during the waning hours of the darkest part of the night with an unusual song streaming through my consciousness. There was a distinct melody and detailed words to match, seemingly flowing outward from my heart, almost plaintively, toward God. It was a song I had never heard before and it was in the form of a querying prayer; a prayer of heartbreak, sorrow, and yet hope – a prayer that somehow expected an answer and yet, I already knew the answer. I was so struck by the words and melody, I felt I ought to arise and quickly write it all down before I forgot it – mainly because my memory is downright deplorable, generally speaking.

However, I was still quite drowsy in my befuddled and perplexed state, and the dawn had not yet broken. So, I did what most people would do and returned to the more inviting task of sleeping; telling myself if this song was really an important thing, God would be sure and cause me to remember it clearly in the morning. Sure enough, I eventually woke up at a much more reasonable hour, with the early morning sun already beaming down through the trees in the backyard, and as I tentatively searched my thoughts, it became apparent I still knew the song – both the words and melody. It was at that moment I then honored what was happening and shuffled to the office downstairs in order get this unexpected song written into a file on my computer.

“Lord, Do You Weep?” was this very first work, and it signaled the beginning of a creative mass exodus which poured out from my soul, spirit, and fingertips over the next seven months. Soon after came “Clay to the Potter” which would eventually become the inspiration for the title of the entire collection which I was mysteriously moved to compile. The process was totally organic. I would only write when a song or poem came to me, but when one did, I feverishly worked it out until it was finished. At times, I would literally be relaxing and watching the television with my husband and a singular, meaningful word or maybe a specific phrase would pop into my head, and I intrinsically knew it was to become another poem or song. In many instances, if the hour was late, I simply texted the word or phrase to myself so I would not

forget it, and then obediently worked on it the next day. Not all of the pieces came to me in the same manner. For example, one day, my mother told me of a dream she had in which one statement crystalized quite plainly in her mind: "Satan seeks to dim the brilliance of God." Thus, another song was quickly birthed. Many of the writings I was given were fostered by several different sorrowful and deeply unfortunate events of which I was either an eye witness to or heavily involved in that year. But then there were songs like "Garden of Guilt" which actually came from a disturbing and yet revealing dream of my own. Whatever the impetus, the results continued to be steadily forthcoming for the duration of what became one of the most amazing, fulfilling, prayerful, and spiritual phases of my life to this point.

Poetry is a funny animal, in that not all poems are songs, yet all songs are poems. For me, many verses came without related melodies, while others arrived with very clear and distinct ones. Since I am only a very amateur and tinkering "hobbyist level" guitar musician, I have chosen to simply put the entirety of these works into a book format - something I am comfortable and experienced with - rather than attempting to create actual chords for the musical portions. All of that to say, this little book is the culmination of a strange, heady, oftentimes deeply emotional and artistic period of my life. I can only believe the whole situation was Holy Spirit-led, and thus I trust the results will sufficiently accomplish God's purposes, whatever they may be, since I personally have never harbored any intentions to write poetry or songs - especially not in these dark and confusing days. Therefore, I pray these unusual pieces of my heart will somehow bless you as much as I have been blessed by the experience of writing them. All the glory goes to God and God alone!

~ Miranda A. Darling

*Shall the Potter be esteemed as the clay;  
For shall the thing made say of Him who made it,  
"He did not make me"?  
Or shall the thing formed say of Him who formed it,  
"He has no understanding"?*

*Isaiah 29:16*

## CLAY TO THE POTTER

*From clay to the Potter  
A whisper often heard  
Why did You make me like this?  
My task is not preferred*

*Weary is my service and burdened with hard use  
Cracks are threaded through my soul, my handle has grown loose  
Would that I was resting safe and high upon a shelf  
Beautiful simply to behold and used for nothing else*

*From clay to the Potter  
A whisper often heard  
Why did You make me like this?  
My task is not preferred*

*Saddled with the needs of those who daily benefit  
The service of my attributes You alone did give  
But I wish the load was lighter, I wish my road less hard  
My features would stay sharper, my appearance much less marred*

*From clay to the Potter  
A whisper often heard  
Why did make me like this?  
My task is not preferred*

*The Potter's loving Word replies with patience and great care  
This service is for you alone, I've given you to bear,  
No other path refines you to this perfection I've designed  
Your calling sure, rejoice in Me, rest in knowing you are Mine*

*From clay to the Potter  
A whisper sometimes heard  
Thank You for creating me  
And thank You for the promise of Your Word*

**LORD, DO YOU WEEP?**

*Like Job I find I'm wholly stunned  
My world entirely undone  
A storm of life came crashing  
I'm twisting and I'm thrashing*

*I feel so all alone and lost  
Deserted at such terrible cost  
My heart is shattered to the bone  
I am Joseph as he groans*

*Lord, do You weep  
When my sorrow runs deep  
Jesus, do You cry  
When I'm begging You why  
Lord, are You near?  
Will You calm all my fears? Dry all these tears?  
Can You give me back the years I've lost?*

*With David I am hidden  
A fog of haze and pain unbidden  
Wilderness surrounds me  
Rocky caves and desert found me*

*Just as Jonah fears his calling  
To my knees I'm quickly falling  
For I am drawn to flee and hide  
From my hurt and broken pride*

*Lord, do You weep  
When my sorrow runs deep  
Jesus, do You cry  
When I'm begging You why  
Lord, are You near?  
Will You calm all my fears? Dry all these tears?  
Can You give me back the years I've lost?*

*I lay before You my life's letter  
Like Hezekiah's threat of fetters  
Knowing You and You alone  
Are reigning mighty on Your throne*

*In the raging sea of my own grief  
You are in the rocking boat with me  
And this is all that really matters  
With You I'll cross these troubled waters*

*Lord, do You weep  
When my sorrow runs deep  
Jesus, do You cry  
When I'm begging You why  
Lord, are You near?  
Will You calm all my fears? Dry all these tears?  
Can You give me back the years I've lost?*

*Oh yes, I know You will give me back the years I lost*

## THIS PRESENT DARKNESS

*In this present darkness, no one sees the hidden war  
The battle is not of flesh or blood, and we don't hear the devil's roar  
Where no light shines, only chaos reigns, souls falling in defeat  
Hungry for every human life, Satan's sifting us like wheat*

*In this present darkness, hope and joy seem futile dreams  
Happiness sought in wickedness is never what it seems  
Hiding true revelation, this world wears a darkened cloak  
Distracted by our busy lives, hell and heaven seem a silly joke*

*In this present darkness, understanding is destroyed  
Wisdom's candle sparsely burns, while blindness fills the void  
Selfishness reigns as king, upon countless dreadful thrones  
Ruling without truth or vision, ever weary we shall become*

*In this present darkness, we must awaken from the night  
Cast off all our burdens and equip ourselves to fight  
We are wounded warriors, struggling for our very souls  
Giving ourselves up to God; through Christ we reach the goal*

*In this present darkness, the only ones who remain standing  
Are those who wear the Lord's armor and the Holy Spirit's branding  
Where illumination falters, at gloomy shadows cast from hell  
We soldier on with the lamp of God and living water from His well*

*In this present darkness*

*Find the Light*

*In this present darkness*

*Shine the Light*

*In this present darkness*

*Abide in the Light*

## SO IT BEGINS

*And so it begins  
Another long hard journey of a thousand sins  
Narrow path of beauty, I stumble to the side  
Drifting off Your way, oh God, in stubbornness and pride  
Your Spirit is alive in me, but my flesh so often wins  
The road grows wide, the light grows dim  
And I must struggle back to You ...once again*

*And so it begins  
Another lost, slow wandering into the wilderness  
Egypt on trial, I needed God all the while  
Muttering at my manna like an ill-tempered child  
Your Spirit is alive in me, but my flesh so often wins  
The road grows wide, the light grows dim  
And I must struggle back to You ...once again*

*And so it begins  
Another road to Damascus, breathing threats for the lives of men  
Falling to the ground I see, my way was not of You  
Humbled and with broken heart I ask what I must do  
You say "Find the road less traveled, Child, and listen to My Word,  
My yoke is light, My Way is bright  
Beloved, come back to Me ...again and again"*

## BE STILL

*Busy is the world  
Hectic is the day  
Sleepless is the night  
Too many thoughts get in the way*

*Frantic is the pace we set  
Pressure flows inward as we fret  
Fraught with too much phone time  
Where is our alone time?*

*Be still, and know, I AM  
Measure your time with Me  
It is My countenance you seek  
Lay your troubles at My feet  
and just Be still, and know, I AM*

~

*Anxious is the soul of man  
Bearing burdens solely our God can  
Demanding our way kills us  
Only the love of God can fill us*

*What is it we are chasing?  
Precious is the life we're wasting  
Climbing all our contrived ladders  
Missing out on all that matters*

*If only we could Be still, and know, I AM  
Can we measure our time more carefully  
with Him Whose countenance we seek?  
Lay down our troubles at His feet  
May we Be still and know the great I AM!*

## DIMMING THE BRILLIANCE OF GOD

(1)

*The enemy whispers softly, miracles are just coincidence  
And nature's beauty is not planned - seeking to dim God's brilliance  
It's the devil's tool, in a constant plague, of all humanity  
Smoky mirrors reflecting partial truths and cloaking His Majesty  
Erasing heaven's rare glimpse from mankind's reality*

*Ocean waves pounding sandy shores, given boundaries we cannot see  
The glory of each rising sun is beyond man's capacity  
To rationalize and quantify, so we attribute all to chance  
Playing games with the facts, we hold the devil's hand in dance  
Endless attempts to avoid our Maker's wondrous brilliance*

~

*Oh, the dimming of the brilliance of God!  
Blinding man from the Holy Spirit's prod  
Hiding from our eyes His Glory  
And His faithfulness in our lives  
Satan seeks to dim the brilliance of God*

(2)

*Fate is given as the cause for our opportunities  
Yet it's God Who opens all our doors in His Sovereignty  
Evil tries to cast a shade upon Jehovah's Almighty Hand  
Healings, blessings, broken chains, and the gifts given to man  
Become human accomplishment when the devil plies his brand*

*Righteousness and justice are purported to be wrong  
God's truth and honor twisted, as Satan's lies reign strong  
Our vision remains veiled to the wonders of our Maker  
His dazzling love offered ceaselessly but there are so few takers  
The enemy of our souls, the ultimate faith breaker*

~

*Oh, the dimming of the brilliance of God!  
Blinding man from the Holy Spirit's prod  
Hiding from our eyes His Glory  
And His faithfulness in our lives  
Satan seeks to dim the brilliance of God*

(3)

*Troubler of God's children, always fading the Lord's light  
Making crooked what the Lord built straight, and blurring our clear sight  
Dulling hearts while warping minds, the devil prowls the earth  
Stealing joy and piling sorrow, he destroys all human worth  
We must see past the murkiness of Satan's deceiving mirth*

*The battle is the Lord's, demons rage behind the scenes  
Disguised and evil angel of light, we fall for the devil's schemes  
Let's rise and wield the Sword of Truth, the Word written long ago  
God's ancient ways and righteous paths we must choose not to forego  
Nor let the darkness have its way, hiding radiance in a shadow*

~

*Oh, the dimming of the brilliance of God!  
Blinding man from the Holy Spirit's prod  
Hiding from our eyes His Glory  
And His faithfulness in our lives  
Satan seeks to dim the brilliance of God*

(4)

*Holiness a strange fallacy we no longer comprehend  
Prayer downplayed, hungry souls waylaid, hope tossed into the wind  
Eyes darkened to God in front of us, He stretches out His loving arms  
To rebellious hearts walking unlit paths, all leading to eternal harm  
Let us shake away hell's cobwebs, and sound a rousing alarm*

*Tearing down the shrouded coverings from all that shines God's glory  
Discovering His buried treasures, may we rewrite our story  
No more hazy vision, no Scriptural revision, no more damning blatant lies  
Blink away the dross, Gehenna's ugly moss, obscuring Jehovah's dazzling skies  
Shekinah Glory's light reflecting, Holy, Holy, Holy is our heart's cry!*

~

*Oh, the dimming of the brilliance of God!  
Blinding man from the Holy Spirit's prod  
Hiding from our eyes His Glory  
And His faithfulness in our lives  
Satan seeks to dim the brilliance of God*

*Don't let him hide from you the everlasting brilliance of God*

## WHEN WILL YOU BE FREE?

*Is your soul swallowed up in darkness?  
Keeping company with the living dead  
Shackles of rebellion's bondage  
Hell's blindfold tied around your head*

*Pacing steps in your own dungeon  
Dormant angst steeped a tepid brew  
Washing shame with a dirty sponge  
Don't you know your Creator died for you?*

*When will you be free?  
Tear off the veil and try to see  
When will you be healed?  
By the love God has revealed*

*What seems right is so very wrong  
You're a victim of the popular spell  
You've been under water far too long  
Gasp for air and find the holy well*

*Keys of life jingle in the hand  
Fear of repercussion resonates  
Are you willing to take God's stand?  
Open all the locks on heavens gates*

*When will you be free?  
Tear off the veil and try to see  
When will you be healed?  
By the love God has revealed*

*Be prepared to give an answer  
For the hope and joy within  
Our stories are not of fate or chance  
Let's share the bread we've been given*

*Vast and deep are the hungry masses  
Parched and weary with dusty feet  
Set out the plates and God's wine glasses  
Bring them to heaven's glorious feast*

*When will you be free?  
Tear off the veil and try to see  
When will you be healed?  
By the love God has revealed*

## CARAVAN

*You in the city of Haran, get up and leave all behind,  
Abram, take your stock and treasure, bow to My promises divine  
Dusty feet and weary bones, I will bring you to My chosen place  
Fiery sun and frigid nights, Fear not, I AM with you. Seek My face.*

*Copper bells and thundering sand  
A Middle Eastern caravan  
God's people crossing desert land  
Obedience to His Mighty Hand*

*Moses, Moses, see My bush of flames and listen to My Word  
Gather up My people, all their families, goods, and herds  
Be freed from Egypt's tyranny, and pass through My divided Sea  
You'll be wilderness-bound and desert-worn, until they trust in Me*

*Copper bells and thundering sand  
A Middle Eastern caravan  
God's people crossing desert land  
Obedience to His Mighty Hand*

*Pass through camp, oh Joshua, and ready your kin to cross,  
The Jordan River, great and wide, not one of you shall be lost,  
Make your way into the land I give, where both milk and honey flow  
Load your spices, pots, and blankets bright; time to travel foreign road*

*Copper bells and thundering sand  
A Middle Eastern caravan  
God's people crossing desert land  
Obedience to His Mighty Hand*

*Joseph, Mary, do not tarry, make your way to My Jerusalem feast  
Bring the price of your sacrifice, snow white dove or unblemished beast  
Wash yourselves in water pure, eat bitter herb and unleavened bread,  
Worship Me in My holy temple, then rest in peace your weary head*

*Copper bells and thundering sand*  
*A Middle Eastern caravan*  
*God's people crossing desert land*  
*Obedience to His Mighty Hand*

## DESPERATION

*Face upon on the ground I lay broken  
Hot tears of pain and sadness, a mere token  
Of what my life has thus far offered  
Where is the joy, why do I not prosper?*

*I've wrestled with some terrible choices  
Dark is the void where I hear voices  
Where can I turn, what should I learn?  
Why do I struggle, why does my spirit yearn?*

*Deep within and subconsciously  
I know there must be a truth offered me  
I cry out for help to quickly find it,  
because time hurts and I cannot unwind it*

*In my final desperation  
My heart slowly starts to awaken  
Feeling new awareness, I pray toward the sky  
God, if You are there, please open my eyes*

*Rushing through my inner man  
Paradigm shift, a new life began  
Hope I had not formerly known  
Blossoms as though carefully sown*

*To my feet I am standing strong  
Wishing knowledge had not taken so long  
I needed a Savior and a second birth,  
As I learn how much God sees my worth*

*Opening the One Book He wrote to man  
Like a starving child eating every Word I can  
Kindred Spirit draws new family to me  
Now is my abundant life and peace!*

## THE STORY OF MAN

*The world does not know that it is lost  
No, the world does not know that it is lost  
Denying God and His creation, His Son is what it cost  
The world does not know that it is lost*

*The pride of life hides from our eyes the Truth  
Yes, the pride of life hides from our eyes the Truth  
Empty spirits, conscience hidden, self-serving from our youth  
The pride of life hides from our eyes the Truth*

*The Enemy of our souls does not sleep  
No, the Enemy of our souls, he does not sleep  
Like a prowling lion he slaughters time, and tries to steal the sheep,  
The Enemy of our souls does not sleep*

*The seeker asks the meaning of this life  
Yes, the seeker asks the meaning of this life  
Ancient Scripture gives the answer, cutting like a knife,  
The seeker asks the meaning of this life*

*The Father draws our discontented hearts  
Yes, the Father draws our discontented hearts  
Weary, worried, walking wrongly, lives falling apart  
The Father draws our discontented hearts*

*We must respond to the Holy Spirit's call  
Yes, we must respond to the Holy Spirit's call  
Divine intervention offered, and to our knees we fall  
We must respond to the Holy Spirit's call*

*The Lover of our souls is Jesus Christ  
Oh, the Lover of our souls is Jesus Christ  
Atoning for all human sin, was His great sacrifice  
The Lover of our souls is Jesus Christ*

*So this is the story of man  
Yes, this is the story of man  
Created, fallen, called to salvation, all before time began  
This is the story of man*

## MISLED

*Hey, weary traveler  
I see you've journeyed far and wide  
Thirsty for adventure  
Foreign cultures and countryside*

*Lifelong explorer,  
Buddha, Hindi, Kabbalah  
Experience adorer  
Philosophies and strange mantras*

### **Chorus:**

*Cast your sights upon the heavens  
Don't you know there's a lot of leaven  
Trying to fill a soul that's yearning  
Always seeking, ever learning  
But never coming to the knowledge of the Truth*

*New Age embracer  
I see you think you're finding peace  
Without your Maker  
Don't you know your soul's on lease?*

*He's a clever deceiver  
The devil's loaning out some power  
He's the great distracter  
His disguises rob your every hour*

### **Chorus:**

*Cast your sights upon the heavens  
Don't you know there's a lot of leaven  
Trying to fill a soul that's yearning  
Always seeking, ever learning  
But never coming to the knowledge of the Truth*

*Hopeful meditator  
Opening highways in your soul  
To the instigator  
Traveling your wide road is Satan's goal*

*Inner power seeker,  
Spirit guides are not the answer  
Religion tweakers,  
At his beck and call, the devil's dancers*

**Chorus:**

*Cast your sights upon the heavens  
Don't you know there's a lot of leaven  
Trying to fill a soul that's yearning  
Always seeking, ever learning  
But never coming to the knowledge of the Truth*

*New believer,  
Give yourself to your Creator  
Humble kneeler,  
Find the truth in the Holy Scriptures*

*Your only Savior,  
Jesus Christ offers God's greatest gift  
Faithful receiver,  
No longer is your soul adrift*

**Final Chorus:**

*Cast your sights upon the heavens  
You now know there's a lot of leaven  
Only God can fill a soul that's yearning  
Seek His ways, never stop learning  
Finally coming to the knowledge of the Truth*

## REDEEMING THE TIME

*None of us can stop the clock from ticking  
Like a candle burning low the hours are wicking steadily away  
And I can't help but think I should be doing more with my day*

*None of us can keep the night from falling  
Like a father loves the prodigal God is calling down our pride  
And I can't help but realize time is not on our side*

*Redeem the time more wisely, Child, God tells us with a loving smile  
Are you known by your love for others, do you go the extra mile?  
Be about your Father's business and your life will truly be worthwhile*

*None of us can halt the earth from turning  
Devouring days and hours the planet's spin is burning up our lives  
And I can't help but feel I should be doing more than just survive*

*None of us can prevent our last day's arrival  
Wasting so much time caring about survival and happiness  
And I can't help but know this life is more than selfish excess*

*Redeem the time more wisely, Child, God tells us with a loving smile  
Are you known by your love for others, do you go the extra mile?  
Be about your Father's business and your life will truly be worthwhile*

## EMILY'S SONG

*Lying to my face  
Your heart is out of place  
Your love no longer true  
Now what am I to do*

*Like a bird you've taken flight  
When you should have stood to fight  
As the door closed, we were through  
Now what am I to do*

*Soul torn and shattered  
I've lost everything that mattered  
At the hands of your marriage coup  
Now what am I to do*

*Lying on the bathroom floor  
Can't seem to function anymore  
Arrows of pain, my heart pierced through  
Now what am I to do*

*Stranger to me is my sleep  
Morning finds me shaking like a leaf  
Somehow a new life I must pursue  
Now what am I to do*

*Many hours of prayer I have found  
God's quiet embraces me all around  
Learning to walk again, it's true  
I'm finding out what to do*

## HEART OF STONE

*Wielding power and self-glory  
Tragedy is Pharaoh's life story  
Hard-hearted master of Egypt's land  
Much cruelty is suffered at his hands  
God's people have one remedy  
His burning bush blazes, "Set them free"*

*"Who is the Lord that I should abide?"  
Asks Pharaoh with a derisive smile  
Increase instead Israel's hard labor  
Deny straw for bricks and give no favor  
Allow no time to make these pleas  
Yet the Lord demands, "Let them worship Me"*

*Thus began the plagues God did send  
Heart of stone, Pharaoh refused to bend  
Blood and frogs the magicians did mimic  
Lice and flies far beyond their limit  
"Three day's distance let My children journey"  
Said the Lord, "So they may seek Me"*

*But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also  
And neither would he deign to let those people go  
Egypt's livestock soon were all dead  
Boils festered; hail struck Egyptian heads  
Hungry locusts swarmed crop and tree  
Still God commanded Pharaoh, "Let them serve Me"*

*Obstinate Pharaoh refused obedience  
God's great darkness smothered the land  
Egypt's firstborn did God fatally smite  
Passing doorposts of faithful Israelites  
"Be gone!" cried grieving Pharaoh finally  
Yet he pursued Israel right to the Red Sea*

*No repentance was found in Pharaoh's heart  
So his army drowned in a Sea not parted  
Pharaoh's life and chariots destroyed  
While Israel rested on the other side  
What can we learn from Pharaoh's story?  
Obey God's voice and give Him the glory!*

WHEN YOU WERE MY SON

(1)

*You strode into our family's song  
Adding to our melody  
You fit right in with the noisy throng  
Like a son you were to me*

*Accepted with our open arms  
Loved unconditionally  
We trusted you would never harm  
The daughter we gave so free*

*Chorus:*

*Like a bullet breaking glass  
A broken promise meant to last  
You fled, your word undone,  
No more a husband, no more my son*

(2)

*In the hours, the days, the months that followed  
Your rash flight a bitter pill we forced down  
Shocked disbelief not easily swallowed  
No more prince charming, you've lost your crown*

*Like a sword drawn through her beautiful heart  
Our girl you've left, love bleeding  
A cunning rose, your thorns tore apart  
Her innocent soul flayed and pleading*

*Chorus:*

*Like a bullet breaking glass  
A broken promise meant to last  
You fled, your word undone,  
No more a husband, no more my son*

(3)

*How did this happen, what is the reason?  
You've halted all forever vows  
What causes you such careless treason?  
What strange path are you walking now?*

*In my mothering heart a shadow lingers  
An empty place you once occupied  
No longer a joy, just a sorrow bringer  
Regret whispers where your song did abide*

*Chorus:*

*Like a bullet breaking glass  
A broken promise meant to last  
You fled, your word undone,  
No more a husband, no more my son*

## LIFT THE VEIL

*Too often in this world, the loving arms of God  
Seem only to the average man, a restrictive iron rod  
Unwanted scathing sun, shining on lost and desperate masses  
Don't they know they're fading blooms, withering in the grasses?*

*Oh, Holy Spirit, lift the veil, lift the veil  
Blast away the blindness, clear the crooked trails  
Give them true sight  
Show them Your light  
And save all seeking souls, before the day turns into night*

*Minutes, hours, days, life is truly a vapor drifting  
Knees must fall to the ground, eyes to heaven we must be lifting  
Surely time on earth my friend, unfolds like a worn-out blanket  
Take heed there is a cup of judgment, too many already drank it*

*Oh Holy Spirit, lift the veil, lift the veil  
Blast away the blindness, clear the crooked trails  
Give them true sight  
Show them Your light  
And save all seeking souls, before the day turns into night*

## GARDEN OF GUILT

*You've got to tear down, the devil's garden of guilt  
This pale and hidden kingdom, of self-hating silt.*

*No fruit can grow,  
No light can glow,  
when the roots cannot be fed.*

*Don't agree  
with the enemy,  
you must attack him back instead.*

*Dig up your seeds and find the good soil tilled by the Father's hand,  
Fruits of faith, without guilt's toil, will thrive on all you plant.*

*Fallout from every failure, chokes your grace like ash.  
Shading God's light from your crops, faith's confidence is dashed.*

*Your guilty dirt  
Deepens the hurt,  
fighting Holy Spirit's drench.*

*Oh, troubled soul,  
That's the devil's goal,  
Desert lands God's rains don't quench*

*Dig up your seeds and find the good soil tilled by the Father's hand,  
Fruits of faith, without guilt's toil, will thrive on all you plant.*

*You've sown a field in rotten flesh, oh child, what is the reason?  
No condemnation is found in Christ; anything less is Satan's treason.*

*Where's your peace?  
Jesus gave release  
He knows we are made of dust.  
Your guilt sacrifice  
Is not required  
Only in Christ do you need to trust*

## PRODIGAL

*What is this strange trail  
You are now walking?  
At the crossroads, you left God's will  
A new road promising*

*The Lord's scrolls taste like honey,  
But churn bitter in the gut  
Wisdom ditched for Satan's cunning  
Don't you see what you gave up?*

*The Holy Spirit tells the way  
To the left or to the right  
But winds of change led you astray  
You now travel without God's light*

*Rebellion is feigned freedom  
With rusty chains all its own  
Imprisoned heart indwelling  
Lacking peace your soul will groan*

*Before your spirit starves to death  
Run to the Father's arms  
To Him Who gave you life and breath  
And Who keeps you safe from harm*

*The best road in life is narrow  
And the Way is sometimes hard  
But in faith, our unfailing arrow,  
Leads us straight to the gates of God!*

*Won't you come back, oh, come back, prodigal child?*

## YOU WILL NEVER LOVE ME MORE

*In putting my hand to the plow, sometimes the grip grows loose  
Straying from those fields of promise, the world draws me in its noose  
Forgotten for a moment, furrows stand barren and halted  
Indulging in temporary pleasures, I know God is not exalted*

*Yet, You will never love me more  
Than You love me right now  
Neither yesterday nor tomorrow  
Can change Your heart for me somehow*

*I so often let my guard down, by that which is corrupted  
Forgetting that I wear Your crown, my peace with You interrupted  
Sin so easily snags at my heels, like an unseen, ragged rug  
Tripping I fall down again, looking up with a weary shrug*

*You will never love me more  
Than You love me right now  
Neither yesterday nor tomorrow  
Can change Your heart for me somehow*

*Those of us who are redeemed in Christ, we must never forget  
The weakened spirit of a stricken conscience, is the devil's easiest target  
Whether floundering in lowest valley, or climbing the highest mountain  
The love of God washes over me, endless holy streaming fountain*

*You will never love me more  
Than You love me right now  
Neither yesterday nor tomorrow  
Can change Your heart for me somehow*

*No matter what the temptations are, of any given day or hour  
neither death nor life, nor angels fallen, nor principalities and powers,  
nor things present nor those to come, nor height, depth, or created thing,  
shall separate us from the love of God, for in Christ we are all clean*

## DEEP WATERS

*Resting still and fallow  
Inside the heart of every man  
Lays a dry creek bed shallow  
Craving touches from God's hand*

*A lifetime of tilling soil  
in each one of our own souls  
Holy Spirit digs a deeper ground  
Making room for refreshing flow*

*All that is truly needed  
For heaven's rains to burst forth  
God's Word must be humbly heeded  
Releasing living water's course*

*That shallow bed becomes as full  
As God's hand is allowed to carve  
Rippling streams filling the soul  
No longer parched, no longer starved*

*Each of us can become an ocean  
Teeming with God-given life  
Submitting to the Lord's holy motions  
Christ's rolling waves of light*

*How deep can I be filled with Jesus?  
How vast can my soul be flooded?  
Seas of love wash sin's diseases  
Springing endlessly from His blood*

*God's living waters will fill our hearts  
The more we give ourselves to Him  
Heaven's gates standing wide apart  
Rivers overflow our soul's brim*

*How deep will you let God excavate?  
How high shall His waves crest?  
A thirsty soul deeper waters sate  
Sea of Christ in me, I am blessed*

WHERE THE GOOD WAY IS (JEREMIAH 6:16)

(1)

*Veering off the narrow path of Christ,  
Choosing a trail without God's light  
Lonely, wandering, seeking selfish gain  
What looked like freedom has only bought a chain*

*Stand in the ways and see,  
Ask for the paths of old,  
Where the good way is walk after Me  
And you will find rest for your soul*

(2)

*Pursuing our dreams is one of Satan's lures  
But it's just the devil's all-deceiving cure  
Hell's medicine offered for what we think ails us  
With a side-effect, a guilt that impales us*

*Stand in the ways and see,  
Ask for the paths of old,  
Where the good way is, walk after Me,  
And you will find rest for your soul*

(3)

*Self-rule only makes our hearts more bitter  
Ruined consciences are Hades' castoff litter  
Let us return, to the easy yoke of Christ  
True repentance will find His burden light*

*Stand in the ways and see,  
Ask for the paths of old,  
Where the good way is, walk after Me,  
And you will find rest for your soul*

(4)

*Wicked is the heart of man, misleading the elite  
Don't be carelessly waylaid; watch the ways of your feet  
Heed instead the voice of God; how to win the fight  
This is the way, so walk in it, to the left or to the right*

## NEVER ALONE

*I could travel far and wide, and I know I'm never alone  
You are always hidden inside, and I am seated near Your throne  
I could journey up a soaring mountain and find you at the peak  
You are with me night and day, I'm a child upon your knee*

*My Father has told me with these lovely words  
"I will never leave you nor forsake you"  
His vow through Christ my heart has often heard  
"I am with you always, to end of ages true"*

*I could suffer deeply troubled times, yet I know You are so near  
Close to the contrite and broken hearted, whomever shall I fear?  
You have taught me of a heart content, whether abased or abounding  
Tragedy or heights of glory, my eyes on You forever ground me*

*My Father has told me with these lovely words  
"I will never leave you nor forsake you"  
His vow through Christ my heart has often heard  
"I am with you always, to end of ages true"*

## AFTER ALL

*After all You've done for me  
Why can't I know my boundaries?  
After all You've put into place  
Why don't I daily seek Your face?*

*Sins still hidden in my closet  
Disregarding Your blood deposit  
I must learn faith in its entirety  
Allows for no unseen inequity*

*Why do I have rooms in my soul  
Where You don't rule or play a role?  
Small territories stubbornly claimed  
I must let them go for You to reign*

*Holy Spirit, breathe a fire in me  
Give me a thirst for You, a desire to be free  
Release the chains that are so binding  
Your awesome love I'm so slow at finding*

*I present myself as a living sacrifice  
Acceptable to God, this will suffice  
No longer conformed to this world  
My heart transformed by His Holy Word*

*After all...ohhhh-oh. After all You've done for me...*

## RECOVERY

*Sifting through the rubble, of what's become my life  
Trying not to let past shards stab me like a knife  
There are fragments of great value that I'm searching for  
I put them in my pocket in hopes of learning more*

*How did I get here, and what moment stopped the clock?  
Looking in a blackened mirror, my face stares back in shock  
What day did time stand still, and my whole life start to bleed?  
Yet it surely must be God's very best will for me  
~And in faith, I'll begin a recovery*

*Now I stand with empty hands, trying to move forward.  
A truth my heart clings to, of second chances God has great stores  
Wiping sorrow's ashes, off the surface of my soul  
Jesus pulls me from the pile, of disaster's smoking coals*

*How did I get here, and what moment stopped the clock?  
Looking in a blackened mirror, my face stares back in shock  
What day did time stand still, and my whole life start to bleed?  
Yet it surely must be God's very best will for me  
~And in faith, I'll begin a recovery*

*Turning my weary eyes, to the bright and blazing sun  
Feeling heavens rays of God's countenance shining down.  
Thrown aside are the tattered rags, that I wore yesterday  
There's a brightly lit and narrow path, I'm walking and on my way.  
~ Because of faith I am recovering*

## GOD'S NUMBERS

*Is there a great stone wall you're facing?  
Do you have an evil giant pacing?  
What Jericho lies in your path?  
Who is your blaspheming Goliath?*

*If you want to see that fortress tumble  
to God submit and let your heart be humble  
His commands, endeavor to obey  
7 times around crumbles the clay*

*The way to overcome all foes  
By the Holy Word faith must grow  
Written laws harsh upon the stones,  
5 in David's slingshot, evil overthrown*

*Just when all your hope is lost  
Realization sinks in you can't afford the cost  
But God swept in and gave us His Son  
3 days in the ground, and He rose again*

*Times of testing, times of trial  
Jesus Christ is with you all the while  
His Spirit strengthens in your duress  
40 days in the deserts of wilderness*

*You may be weary, work so hard wrought  
Faith stretched thin, from battles fought  
Don't forget, believer, you are promised heaven  
6 days you will travail, rest is found in 7*

## GOD'S GLORY

*Reckless speech darkens life  
When careless comments tear down  
Reckless thinking breeds a bitter drink  
Pass the cup of God's wrath around  
Reckless actions lead to injury  
The fallout tosses us to the ground*

*Where is the glory of God?  
Oh, Where is the glory of God?*

*Mistaken purpose gives a twisted goal  
And the end justifies any means  
Mistaken theories shade the human soul  
Blocking light, the truth of God unseen  
Mistaken self-rule takes its anxious toll  
Only the Word of God makes us clean*

*Seek out the glory of God  
Yes, seek out the glory God*

*Hidden words can be magnified,  
By the Spirit and passage of time  
Hidden thoughts are often revealed,  
when God's light is allowed to shine  
Hidden feelings increasingly unraveled,  
as Jesus opens this heart of mine*

*All to the glory of God  
Yes, all to the glory of God*

## SPEAK TO ME

*A ton of bricks can fall quickly  
All my foundations shake and rattle  
Too often Satan seeks to get me  
And I'm ill-prepared to wage a battle*

*Tell me of a world without pain  
Show me one thing that promises not to change  
Share the Word of God with me so I never fear again  
Speak to me of the Lamb that was slain*

*What is there in this life I'm living  
That can equip me for the war  
What great weapon can I wield  
And land me safe on a peaceful shore?*

*Tell me of a world without pain  
Show me one thing that promises not to change  
Share the Word of God with me so I never fear again  
Speak to me of the Lamb that was slain*

*What deceitful lies from the devil's lair  
Succeed in dragging me so low?  
And sap the strength from my own faith  
What speech can open the Spirit's flow?*

*Tell me of a world without pain  
Show me one thing that promises not to change  
Share the Word of God with me so I never fear again  
Speak to me of the Lamb that was slain*

## THINGS ABOVE

*Ragged rips and dangling threads often decorate the soul  
Like a pair of well-worn blue jeans, we wear life's stains and holes  
Making our way in this world, jaded hearts put to the test  
Yet in the care of God, we're clothed anew and find our spirit's rest*

*I must set my mind on things above, not on things of this earth.  
Where treasure is, my heart will be; heaven's such a greater worth  
Dying wholly to my selfish path, for a life hidden with Christ  
Fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, whoever captures souls is wise.*

~

*My wide eyes gaze 'cross horizons, looking for what cannot be seen  
I crane my neck to twinkling night skies, amazed at what it all means  
All creation shouts Your glory and there are none who have excuse  
You are Creator and my Savior; I'll keep my hold on this world loose*

*I must set my mind on things above, not on things of this earth.  
Where treasure is, my heart will be; heaven's such a greater worth  
Dying wholly to my selfish path, for a life hidden with Christ  
Fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, whoever captures souls is wise.*

~

*I know the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to compare  
To the glory soon revealed in us, when every secret is laid bare  
Subject to a futile fate, and for the hope of reconciling man  
The expectation of this world, awaits God's final plan*

*I must set my mind on things above, not on things of this earth.  
Where treasure is, my heart will be; heaven's such a greater worth  
Dying wholly to my selfish path, for a life hidden with Christ  
Fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, whoever captures souls is wise.*

~

*You're the portion of my inheritance; my over-flowing cup  
The lines have fallen in pleasant places; at a table we'll one day sup  
I have set the LORD before me; and I shall not be moved  
At my right hand, and my only strength, His Word's the only Truth*

## TAKE BACK THE GROUND

1

*Take back the ground  
Only you can shine the light, a lost sheep Jesus found...  
Your time stands still  
Yet this sin-darkened world keeps spinning like a wheel  
Walk a path to glory  
Stepping straight toward Eden's gate, share your story*

*Faith professed, sin confessed,  
Washed in water and white robe-dressed  
Bride of Christ, with your life,  
Take back God's ground*

2

*Give a cup of water  
To a thirsty child in need, and you serve the Father  
Wash the weary feet  
Humble service, caring hands, give out food to eat  
Like a twinkling star  
In the darkness shine the love of God, no matter where you are*

*Faith professed, sin confessed,  
Washed in water and white robe-dressed  
Bride of Christ, with your life,  
Take back God's ground*

3

*Abide in Christ  
Death has no victory when the sinner is born twice  
Share the journey  
In fellowship and unity, commit to godly learning  
Grow a deeper faith  
Strong in the Lord, of one accord, demons tremble in your wake*

*Faith professed, sin confessed,  
Washed in water and white robe-dressed  
Bride of Christ, with your life,  
Take back God's ground*

## WOULD YOU?

*If you had the chance, to feel freedom's dance, would you take it?  
If peace was offered up, in a humble wooden cup, would you drink it?  
If life's meaning written down, so all could be known, would you read it?  
If joyous eternity, was given out for free, would you receive it?*

*I took the chance, I drank the cup, I read the book, opened my gift  
Now I am free, I have my peace, now my true aim; for God, I live  
No longer do I wear the chains, of guilt, regret, and former pain  
Joy is mine, like royal wine, and riches from our King*

*If you could be a hero, in a war between good and evil, would you fight?  
If your soul could fly, soar with God on high, would you take flight?  
If given a remedy, to relieve anxiety, would you be healed?  
If you were offered love, from heaven above, how would you feel?*

*I've fought the war, I soar with God, my anxiousness is gone  
Now I am loved, like a spotless dove, and the walls are all torn down  
No longer am I walking, in the darkness of sin mocking  
God's light is mine, on my path it shines, ever making my heart sing*

*Would you, would you, do the same?  
Every single day, God offers you The Way  
Would you, would you, seek His Name?  
And find Him, while the time yet remains?  
Would you?  
Would you?*

## GRIEF

(Dawnya's Song)

*All too suddenly, it is a quiet life I live  
And my eyes are straining endless tears, like a worn-out metal sieve  
Grief travels through my soul, on a never-ending journey  
I was not ready for this pain, nor my heart, this ceaseless burning*

*Please someone tell me, why you are gone  
What reason could exist, for me to be alone?  
Silence is my only answer, and hurt is my only throne  
And it's here that I must sit and reign  
Until hope and healing are my own*

*Morning breaks once again, as I awaken without you  
Try to figure out my day, not really knowing what to do  
People try consoling me, but nothing hides the truth  
That you've been taken from me -not sure how I'll get through*

*Please someone tell me, why you are gone  
What reason could exist, for me to be alone?  
Silence is my only answer, and hurt is my only throne  
And it's here that I must sit and reign  
Until hope and healing are my own*

*Days turn into weeks, and I start sorting through your things  
It's difficult to concentrate, with all the memories it brings  
Certain rooms just have your stamp, and now they seem so foreign  
I wander aimlessly wondering how, this sadness can be borne*

*Please someone tell me, why you are gone  
What reason could exist, for me to be alone?  
Silence is my only answer, and hurt is my only throne  
And it's here that I must sit and reign  
Until hope and healing are my own*

*God states there is a higher reason, for all life's incidents  
If we learn to trust His Word, our lives will start making sense  
Seek to grow deep faith in Him, and our spirits will become strong  
And finally, we'll realize He's been with us all along*

## GARDENS OF THE KING

*Garden of the King, was Eden so lush and fair  
How do I imagine what beauty flourished there?  
Fruit in great bounty, varieties I've never seen  
Vines heavy laden, with olives and grapes to glean  
Brilliant flowers chase along endless winding trails  
Herbs, spices, and vegetables inhabiting every vale  
A Tree of Life and rushing rivers speak of holy grail*

*Garden of the King, was Gethsemane on the hill  
Beneath aging olive trees, Christ prayed for the Father's will  
Agony filled Him up inside, washing through His heart  
Dripping great drops of sweat, Jesus faced His part  
In the quiet darkness, a different beauty shone  
My Savior wrestled desperately in that garden alone  
Accepting the cup of wrath, for all mankind has done*

*Garden of the King, will be the New Jerusalem  
Coming out of heaven, shining brightly like the sun  
A pure and crystal river, flows straight from a divine throne  
Only those in the Book of Life will enter this heavenly home  
Blazing gems and streets of gold will flank the River of Life  
Fruit will heal the nations; God's glory will provide light  
A second Eden it will be, no more curse and no more strife*

*Is it any wonder then, we love bringing life from soil?  
Trees, plants, and flowers are deemed worthy of our toil  
Imprinted on our eternal spirits are gardens of the King  
Embedded in our hopes is the garden He'll one day bring  
Shadows of Eden rest, in the hidden corners of our souls  
Leading us to seek the joy in tending nature as it grows  
Quiet reminders of what we lost, so many generations ago*

*~ AMEN ~*