

# **A Study in Failure**

**My “Success” Story**

**by Ken Bible**

**with new hymns**

**from the series:**

**Fresh Views of  
Timeless Truths**

LNW *hymns*.COM

Copyright © 2020 by Ken Bible, [LNW@LNWhymns.com](mailto:LNW@LNWhymns.com)

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*® (NIV®). Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica. All rights reserved worldwide. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked (NASB) are from the *New American Standard Bible*® (NASB), © copyright The Lockman Foundation 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995. Used by permission.

For more hymns by Ken Bible  
and for free printed music for the hymns in this book, visit

[LNWhymns.com](http://LNWhymns.com)

For free books and to subscribe to Ken's free blog,  
*Nurturing Your Creativity & Your Life in Christ*,  
visit

[KenBible.com](http://KenBible.com)

## **Contents**

Chapters and *Hymns*

Chapter 1	4
<i>Here I Am</i>	6
Chapter 2	7
<i>Open Hands</i>	9
Chapter 3	10
<i>Lead Me On</i>	11
Chapter 4	12
<i>Speak Your Word, My Father</i>	14
Chapter 5	16
<i>In Your Steps</i>	17
Chapter 6	19
<i>Lord, Draw Me On</i>	20
Chapter 7	21
<i>God's Mysterious Ways</i>	23
Chapter 8	25
<i>Glorify Your Name</i>	27
Reflecting Back	28
<i>Come and Follow Me</i>	29

# Chapter 1

I had worked for a denominational publisher for many years. The work was challenging, and the Lord was blessing it.

But in my worst moments, I saw the denomination as a big machine that was more concerned with itself than it was with the massive world outside. And I saw myself as a mechanic that spent my life just servicing the machine, keeping it running. I didn't feel I was doing all I should do or wanted to do or needed to do in the human world in which I lived.

The more meaningful and satisfying my own relationship with Christ became on a moment-by-moment basis, the more I realized that Christ could bring a perfectly satisfying life to absolutely everyone around me. Age didn't matter. Intelligence and educational level didn't matter. Personality didn't matter. Culture, financial status, none of that mattered. Christ could be personally, completely fulfilling to each and every individual around me.

I would go out in public, to shopping malls, sporting events, and craft shows, and realize that Christ could bring peace and meaning to absolutely everyone there. Yet I had no way to tell them, and I was repeatedly frustrated.

Then one Saturday in February, 1995, my wife, Gloria, and I went shopping on Metcalf, a main thoroughfare in Johnson County, Kansas, one of the wealthier areas in the Kansas City metro. I left her at a home decorating show. It was crammed wall-to-wall, elbow-to-elbow with people shopping for nothing but ways to make their homes more pleasing.

As I drove out, I passed a huge store on the right—nothing but sporting goods; people seeking leisure for the physical body.

On the left was an electronics super-store; nothing but electronic entertainment.

I drove north to a large bookstore, overflowing with people looking for intellectual stimulation.

And the road in-between was crowded with people as well, all looking, all shopping, all willing to spend their living for things to make their lives better. The frustration returned.

But on this day, something happened.

I've never heard God speak audibly. Usually He speaks to me through impressions on my mind and heart. But on this occasion, as I pulled into the parking lot of the bookstore, it seemed like God was speaking to me in my mind, using these very words: "What could you do if nothing else mattered?"

That question stopped me short. I didn't know the answer. Still, I felt that because God asked the question, He was getting ready to do something. A seed of anticipation was planted.

Hymn recording: [Here I Am](#)

# Here I Am

1 Samuel 3:4, 10

♩ = 76

C  $\frac{G^7_{sus}}{C}$   $\frac{E}{C}$  C  $\frac{E}{A}$  G<sup>7</sup> C  $\frac{E}{A}$  F  $\frac{C}{E}$  Dm<sup>7</sup>  $\frac{A^m}{E}$   $\frac{A^m}{F}$  G<sup>sus</sup> G

Speak, my Fa - ther; here I am. As Your child, Lord, here I am.

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time. The treble staff contains the melody, and the bass staff contains the accompaniment. The melody starts with a half note C4, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note E4, and a half note C4. The accompaniment consists of a steady bass line of quarter notes: C3, F2, C3, F2, C3, F2, C3, F2. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

C  $\frac{G^7_{sus}}{C}$   $\frac{E}{C}$  C F  $\frac{G}{F}$   $\frac{C^{add9}}{E}$   $\frac{C}{E}$  A<sup>m</sup>  $\frac{E^m}{B}$   $\frac{A^m}{C}$  E<sup>m</sup> F G A<sup>m</sup> A<sup>m7</sup>

When I work and when I rest, Lord, Your will is al - ways best, And I

The second system of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment. The melody features a half note C4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note E4, and a half note C4. The accompaniment continues with the same bass line of quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Dm<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>9</sup>  $\frac{C}{E}$  F<sup>6</sup> G  $\frac{E}{G}$  G<sup>7</sup> 1 C  $\frac{E}{C}$  2 C

ask for noth - ing less. Here I am. am.

The third system of the musical score concludes the piece. The melody features a half note C4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note E4, and a half note C4. The accompaniment continues with the same bass line of quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

HINENI  
7.7.7.7.3.

Copyright © 2000 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved.  
Administered by Music Services.  
CCLI Song #3250440. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

## Chapter 2

I had long felt helpless at having so little impact on the needy world around me. Finally, one day in the middle of that frustration, God confronted me with a question: “What could you do if nothing else mattered?”

His question started me on a search. I came across 1 John 2:6:

*Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. (NIV)*

So I started a study of the gospels, looking for answers to these questions:

- How did Christ walk?
- And therefore, how should I walk?

I noticed in the gospels that to reach people, Jesus didn’t build a church and invite people to come. He ministered *among* them. He took whatever opportunities afforded Him to speak to people where they were: in the marketplace, in the streets, over meals, in homes, in chance personal encounters.

I began to think how I might communicate with people. I looked at the major means of communication in our society. We have a large, well-developed Christian media, but secular society generally ignores it. And we have a large, well-developed secular media, but they usually want little to do with the gospel.

So I thought about “underground” ways of communicating. A newsletter? Tracts left in restaurants, doctors’ offices, etc.?

About that time our local church put out a call for people interested in joining a task force – a task force with the job of reaching the community around our church for Christ. To make a long story short, my wife, Gloria, and I became part of Neighbor to Neighbor Ministries, a systematic, non-invasive way of drawing people, not necessarily to our local church, but to Christ Himself.

I became the writer for the ministry. I wrote a series of 12 monthly mailers that went out to each home in our community under the non-threatening name, *For Your Consideration*. As a sequel to that, I wrote another 12-month series titled *Living the Natural Way*, dealing with life issues from a Christian perspective.

Those pieces became the starting point for *Living the Natural Way*, our own publishing ministry. That will be the subject of the coming chapters.

But here, the point is this: It’s easy for us to continue to talk just to evangelical believers because we’re comfortable with them. We share a common viewpoint and a common language. We tend to forget about the rest of the world. But God doesn’t forget.

We can let the walls of the church circumscribe our efforts at drawing people to Christ. But that's not the way Jesus worked, and it's not the way God continues to work.

We cannot make the same mistake that ancient Israel did, forgetting that our calling and our chosen-ness is not to the privileges of a small, elite group. It's a calling to be His light to the entire world.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus often answered a question with a question, drawing people into a discovery of faith. That's what He did with me. I was asking, "What can I do?" He turned the question back on me: "What could you do if nothing else mattered?" His question led me to realize that my inability to impact my world with the truth about Christ resulted from my own lack of commitment and faith.

**Hymn recording: [Open Hands](#)**



# Open Hands

Romans 12:1

♩ = 100

C  $\frac{G^7_{sus}}{D}$  C  $\frac{C}{E}$  F  $\frac{F}{G}$   $\frac{C_{sus}}{G}$  C G sus G

O - pen hands- What - ev - er pleas - es You.

C  $\frac{G^7_{sus}}{C}$  C F  $\frac{A_m}{F}$   $\frac{D^7}{F\#}$  G sus G G<sup>7</sup>

O - pen heart- Do all Your love would do. O

C  $\frac{G^7_{sus}}{D}$  C  $\frac{B\flat}{C}$   $\frac{C M^7}{E}$  C  $\frac{F_{sus}}{E}$  F Dm<sup>7</sup> C  $\frac{C}{G}$  A m F M<sup>9</sup>

Sov-'reign God, So high, so pure, so true! I bow, my Lord- What - ev -

F M<sup>7</sup> G  $\frac{G^7_{sus}}{C}$   $\frac{F}{G}$  C 1  $\frac{F}{C}$  2 C

er pleas - es You.

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

OPEN HANDS  
3.6.3.6.4.6.4.6.

Copyright © 2005 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved.  
Administered by Music Services.  
CCLI Song #4592530. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

## Chapter 3

As Neighbor to Neighbor Ministries wound down, the Lord began speaking to me about continuing to draw people to Him. My training, gifts, and God-given interests are in writing and publishing. Yes, I want to stay available to God in all areas, and He does sometimes lead me into unfamiliar and uncomfortable territory. I thank Him for that. Life in God is an adventure, and I don't want to fearfully draw borders around where I'll follow Him. But I do find that the bulk of the work He leads me to do is in areas where He has called and prepared me. For me, that means writing and publishing.

So at this point, He had me thinking about how I could write and publish materials to draw people to Him. I thank God for Christian publishers and all the suppliers, distributors, and stores who work with them. I've spent my life in this field. But I also know that Christian bookstores effectively reach only a tiny part of the population. Over time, it became clear that God was calling me to provide materials for people who wouldn't walk into a Christian bookstore and buy and read a book. He was calling me to start my own specialized publishing venture.

I am not an entrepreneur by nature! Some people are energized by the process of starting and building their own companies. Not me! Give me a steady job and a predictable routine.

What's more, I know that publishing is a hectic business. Wow, do I know that! I've spent my life in a publishing office. You're constantly loaded with more work than you can possibly handle. And by the time you have one success, you're already late for the next one. Publishing programs are voraciously hungry and must be fed more often than a newborn. The pressure is relentless.

Add to that the demands of starting a new business, and I just didn't see how I could possibly do it. What's more, I had gone through a serious burnout less than ten years before. If you've ever had that experience, you know that once is enough. I simply couldn't make myself face all that stress and overload again. I couldn't! It's like lying down in a blazing fire. You just can't force yourself to do it.

I told the Lord that He had the wrong person. I told Him that I wanted to obey Him, but I just didn't see how I could possibly start my own publishing company.

Then came another of those communications from the Lord that were crystal clear. He plainly spoke these specific words in my heart: "Do what I tell you to do one day at a time, and leave everything else to Me."

I've tried to live by that wisdom ever since.

**Hymn recording: [Lead Me On](#)**

# Lead Me On

*Philippians 3:12-14*

♩ = 100

Lead me on; I will fol - low. Lead me up - ward; I will go, Stand-ing

strong in the con - fi - dence That on - ly faith can know, Step by

step, ev - er trust - ing, With e - ter - ni - ty in view, Not in

fear but re - joic - ing, For I'm walk - ing, Lord, in You.

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

UPWARD  
7.7.8.6.7.7.7.

Copyright © 2003 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved.

Administered by Music Services.

CCLI Song #4171968. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

## Chapter 4

God had called me to start my own specialized publishing company, growing out of our involvement in evangelism at our local church. We were to focus on reaching people who wouldn't walk into a Christian bookstore and buy and read a book.

How do you get Christian materials into the hands of people who aren't looking for them? One way is to provide such materials to Christ's followers and partner with them in reaching the people they know. That's the approach I felt led to take.

I wanted to provide more than a tract. If I were a non-believer, I wouldn't be interested in catchy come-ons or scare tactics. Tracts are doubtless very effective with some, but I felt they wouldn't work with me. I wanted to provide something more thought-provoking, something interesting and reasonable that would engage the mind.

So after much thought and prayer, Gloria and I came up with an idea for pocket-size books. Their trim size would be 3" X 4.5", small enough to fit in a man's shirt-pocket or a lady's purse. Each book would be 64 pages—long enough to provide information and reasoning, but short enough to be easily and quickly read. We worked with an artist friend of mine, Paul Franitza, who gave them very attractive, full-color covers.

We priced them for quantity sale. We offered them in lots of 12, 40, and 100, with the price dropping to \$1.00 per book for the 100-packs. Our plan was to market them to pastors, chaplains, and missionaries, as well as to interested individuals.

As I explained earlier, I am not an entrepreneur by nature. So having firmed up our idea, I approached my employer, a Christian publisher. I thought perhaps they might be interested in working with me on these books. I got a meeting with the president of the company, explained what I had in mind, and gave him everything in writing. Weeks of waiting turned into six months, and still no response whatsoever, despite reminders. Finally, I saw the handwriting on the wall and wrote him again, this time pulling the proposal off the table. In the end, however, they did agree to handle order fulfillment for us, and at a reasonable cost. They proved to be a real God-send in that area.

We needed a company name, and I was extremely conscious about finding one that would speak to non-believers picking up the books. I was determined to avoid anything like "Bible Thumpers International". So we decided to use the name of the second series of mailers we had written for our local church evangelism program. "Living the Natural Way" thus became the name of the company. In daily usage, it was often shorted to "LNW", which is the reason the book line eventually took the name "LNWbooks" and later, our hymns were published under "LNWhymns.com".

To clarify the overall intent of our materials, we started using this phrase beneath the company name: "Innovative Resources for Drawing People to Christ".

God had faithfully led us through the planning stages—concept, product, incorporation, order fulfillment, phone lines, pricing, and more. But the battle was just beginning.

**Hymn recording: [Speak Your Word, My Father](#)**

# Speak Your Word, My Father

TUNE: Like a River Glorious (WYE VALLEY)  
1 Samuel 3:10; John 16:13; Ephesians 4:15; James 1:19

♩ = 104

F C E F F<sup>7</sup>/A B<sup>b</sup> C F

1. Speak Your Word, my Fa - ther, Speak Your Word through me.  
2. Help me hear Your whis - pers, Help me know Your best,  
3. You are grace and good - ness, You are all I seek,

F C E F F<sup>7</sup>/A C G D<sup>m</sup>/G G<sup>7</sup> C

Qui - et all my strug - gle. Let Your Spir - it lead.  
When to press with cour - age, When to wait and rest,  
You the lov - ing wis - dom I would al - ways speak.

F C<sup>7</sup>/G F<sup>7</sup>/A B<sup>b</sup> F<sup>7</sup>/A G<sup>m7</sup> C<sup>7</sup>/G F C

You are per - fect wis - dom. You know ev - 'ry heart.  
Mov - ing to Your rhy - thms In Your Spir - it's ease,  
Make my whole am - bi - tion Not the things I do,

F C<sup>#</sup>°7 D<sup>m</sup> G B F C G<sup>m</sup>/C C<sup>7</sup> F

As I trust and fol - low, I will play my part.  
Light - ly as a feath - er Float - ing on a breeze.  
But Your - self, my Fa - ther, Al - ways on - ly You.

WORDS: Ken Bible  
MUSIC: James Mountain

WYE VALLEY  
6.5.6.5.T.

Copyright © 2009 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved.  
Administered by Music Services.  
CCLI Song #5610095. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

F                      C<sup>7</sup>   F                      B $\flat$                       F                      G $\flat$ m<sup>7</sup>   C<sup>7</sup>   F                      C  
 G   A                      A                      A                      G                      G                      F                      C

Speak Your Word, my Fa - ther,      Speak Your Word through me.  
 Help me hear Your whis - pers,      Help me know Your best,  
 You are grace and good - ness,      You are all I seek,

F                      C $\sharp$ <sup>7</sup>                      D $\flat$ m                      G                      F                      G $\flat$ m                      C<sup>7</sup>                      F  
 B                      C                      C                      C                      C                      C                      C                      C

Qui - et all my strug - gle.      Let Your Spir - it lead.  
 When to press with cour - age,      When to wait and rest.  
 You the lov - ing wis - dom      I would al - ways speak.

## Chapter 5

In the fall of 1998, we released our first two pocketsize books, *Knowing God* and *Simple Prayers*. The following February we released *For Servants of God* and *The Satisfied Life*, then another two in August, *The Most Beautiful Way to Live* and *Step by Step*. In 2000 through 2002, we published six more: *Seeing God in the Darkness*; *Christmas Is Jesus*; *Your Will Be Done*; *Daily Love*; *Make Music to the Lord*; and *Help Me Pray*. These twelve included evangelistic books and devotional books, both seasonal and non-seasonal, touching a variety of topics and uses.

In spring, 2000, we published the first issue of a free quarterly newsletter, *Knowing Christ*. Then in late 2001 we launched our website, LNWbooks.com, containing only the 12 pocketsize books. A fellow employee named Ross Kimbrough built that first edition of the website. It was soon taken over by my daughter, Kindra Bible, then a young computer programmer.

My wife, Gloria, my partner in the business, helped as much as her time allowed, primarily taking care of our mailing list.

People seemed to love the product. It was meaningful, fresh, attractive, and very practical. The website gradually built up good traffic.

But the company was only a few years old when I began to realize that I couldn't make it profitable. Running my own business, being responsible for most of it by myself, had brought me face-to-face with my own weaknesses and limitations. It was only me, and even with my years of experience, there were important publishing functions I couldn't do well. I'm weak in marketing, and in sales I am the world's worst! That's right: THE worst. In high school I couldn't even sell band candy, and who doesn't love a chocolate bar?

The product was beautiful and had great content, but I lacked the ability to get the circulation up to profitable levels. Hiring someone was out of the question.

After 12 books, we quit releasing new titles. We let the program continue for several years after that, and we did our best. But we knew that a difficult decision was coming. Without God's miraculous intervention, the company could not survive.

Hymn recording: [In Your Steps](#)



# In Your Steps

John 13:15; 1 Peter 2:18-25; 1 John 2:6

♩ = 58

F G7 C Dm7 Dm9 F6 F C/G G

1. In Your steps— You call me, and I fol - low  
 2. In Your steps— A ser - vant of Your mer - cy,  
 3. In Your steps— I'm watch - ing and I'm read - y.

E/A G7 C Dm7 Dm9 F G sus

In Your steps. Lord, how can I re - fuse?  
 Need by need To all who come my way.  
 I am Yours, So lead me out to - day.

G G9 G7 Am Am9 Am Am7 F FM7 C/E C6/G C/G

For no mat - ter where You lead, I know how much You  
 For no mat - ter what they say, I'll show Your gen - tle  
 Lord, You gave Your life for me. I'll give my - self for

G#°7 Am Am7 Dm7 Dm9 F6 F C/G G/F Cadd9/E C/E

love me. What a joy to sim - ply walk with You!  
 kind - ness. In com - pas - sion I will walk with You.  
 oth - ers. Ev - 'ry mo - ment help me walk with You.

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

IN YOUR STEPS  
 3.7.3.6.7.7.9.

Copyright © 2004 by LNWymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved.  
 Administered by Music Services.

CCLI Song #4314567. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

C Dm7 Dm9 F6 F C/G G 1, 2 Am Am G D.C.

What a joy to sim - ply walk with You!  
 In com - pas - sion I will walk with You.  
 What a joy, my Lord, to walk with

3 Am Am G F6 rit. Am7 G C

You In Your steps.

## Chapter 6

Our financial concerns about our struggling young company grew to a crushing certainty: it would not be profitable. Indeed, it would not be sustainable at all. From the beginning, my wife and I had been supporting it from our personal incomes, but we simply couldn't continue. The financial load was too heavy.

By early 2008, the company was hundreds of thousands of dollars behind and bleeding more red ink every month. The time had come. We set August 31, 2008 as the date we would quit selling any physical product, then spent most of 2008 selling off as much product as possible at a huge discount. After that, for two months we tried donating product to selected ministries if they would simply pay shipping cost. At the end of October, it was all over but the nagging questions.

Fortunately, the company had no debt. It had never taken out any loans. Gloria and I had always taken a "pay as you go approach". But there was no hope of recouping the mountain of money we had poured in. And the book publishing ministry to which God had called us was no more. We had to give up.

Had I mistaken God's call to this publishing ministry? Had I let my personal desires cloud my judgment?

Or had I simply been a personal failure?

Hymn recording: [Lord, Draw Me On](#)

# Lord, Draw Me On

Psalm 63

♩ = 92

Gm Gm<sup>9</sup> Cm C<sup>sus</sup> Cm Gm D<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> Gm  $\frac{Gm}{F}$  E<sup>b</sup>M<sup>7</sup>

1. Lord, draw me on through the dark - ness of life,  
2. Lord, draw me deep through the shal - lows of life,  
3. Lord, draw me near, though the dark - ness in - crease,

Gm D Gm D A Gm B<sup>b</sup> D Gm Cm E<sup>b</sup> Cm F<sup>7</sup> E<sup>b</sup> F<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup><sub>sus</sub>

On through this weak - ness and fear To a place I can  
Down past the cur - rents of change Till the wa - ter is  
Though less - er com - forts be few, Till my soul is at

E A D<sup>7</sup> F<sup>#</sup> D<sup>7</sup> Gm  $\frac{Gm}{B<sup>b</sup>}$  Cm<sup>6</sup>

stay In Your joy through the day, Where the face of my  
still, All at peace in Your will, All con - tent on - ly  
rest, I am free, I am blest, Till my life is all

1, 2  $\frac{Gm}{D}$  D<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> Dm<sup>7</sup> Gm  $\frac{Gm}{D}$  Gm 3 D<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> Dm<sup>7</sup> G

Fa - ther is clear. heav - en in You.  
know - ing You reign.

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

RALPH  
10.7.6.6.9.

Copyright © 2009 by LNWymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved.  
Administered by Music Services.  
CCLI Song #5627741. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

## Chapter 7

I had felt a definite call from God. But after ten years of mounting red ink, we had to throw in the towel. Had I failed? Had I not truly heard God's call? Or had I simply not carried it out well? The result had been limited sales, a ministry with a short life, and a huge financial loss.

But there's more to the story than I've told you. Consider these additional factors:

### Outreach to Soldiers

While LNWbooks was operating, we had stumbled across a market we had never intended: the U.S. military. We had learned that military chaplains absolutely loved our books because they were perfect for soldiers: small enough to easily slip into their pockets, yet substantial enough to offer thought-provoking substance.

While John Ashcroft was a senator from Missouri (before he became Attorney General under George W. Bush), we had written to him asking for the addresses of U.S. military bases. We were residents of Missouri at the time, so he was our senator. His office diligently worked with the Pentagon to get us such a list.

The result was that during our few years of operation, we had shipped thousands of books to military bases all around the globe. We got emails from chaplains telling us how popular the books were and how much they meant to the soldiers.

### Outreach to Prisoners and Their Families

At the very end of our company's life, we had offered our remaining books to selected ministries for shipping costs alone. We got one big response: Prison Fellowship, the charity founded by Chuck Coleson. They took over 15,000 of our books to put into the hands of inmates and their families.

### Outreach Around the World

When all other outlets had been exhausted, we learned about a charity called Love Packages. They take donations of religious books and ship them all around the world to people hungry for such literature. We were donating over 100,000 books, so they sent a truck from Butler, Illinois, to Kansas City, Missouri, to pick up the books. A bit later we got an email from the head of the organization, which read:

*Just a note to let you know that we have been shipping your books out every week. Tanzania, India, Philippines, Ghana, and South Africa have gotten some so far.*

God had called us to provide Christian literature to people who wouldn't walk into a Christian bookstore and buy and read a book. Due to no brilliance of our own, He gotten them to many ministries, but especially into the hands of soldiers, prisoners, and hungry readers in numerous economically-disadvantaged countries. In fact, God had fulfilled His purpose through us in a greater way through our company's death than He had through its life. Not until we had completely turned loose of all income from the books did He fully accomplish all that He had intended.

Isn't God good...and utterly amazing?

*It is exciting when God uses  
our energies and abilities to glorify Himself.  
But we are reduced to  
humble, awe-struck silence  
when He displays His glory  
through our weakness.*

Hymn recording: [God's Mysterious Ways](#)

# God's Mysterious Ways

TUNE: When Johnny Comes Marching Home

*John 14:20-23; Romans 8:28; 12:1; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; 2 Corinthians 5:20; 6:1*

♩ = 54

Chords: Fm Fm C<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> C<sup>7</sup> Fm A<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>/<sub>E<sup>b</sup></sub>

1. Our Al-might - y God will do His work Through us, through  
 2. For all who o - bey, our Fa - ther works His will, His  
 3. O Fa - ther of love, we give our - selves To You, to

Chords: A<sup>b</sup>/<sub>C</sub> A<sup>b</sup> Fm C<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub> C<sup>7</sup> Fm D<sup>b</sup>/<sub>E<sup>b</sup></sub> E<sup>b</sup>7

us. Our Fa - ther de - lights to bless the world Through  
 will. Through joy and through pain He kind - ly weaves His  
 You. Com - plete - ly, O God, we live our lives To

Chords: A<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>/<sub>C</sub> C<sub>E</sub> C C+ Fm Fm D Fm<sup>7</sup>/<sub>D</sub> Fm D

us, through us. Through all who hear and o -  
 will, His will. The sweet sur - prise and the  
 You, to You. So give the joy that You

WORDS: Ken Bible  
 MUSIC: Traditional Irish Folk Song; arr. by Ken Bible

MARCHING HOME  
 9.4.9.4.9.5.7.

Copyright © 2013 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved.  
 Administered by Music Services.  
 CCLI Song #6474481. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

$\frac{C^7}{E}$        $C^7$        $C$        $F_m$        $D^b$        $\frac{G^\circ}{B^b}$        $C^7$        $C^+$        $\frac{E^\circ}{B^b}$

bey His call, The child, the lead - er, the great and small, He will  
 long de - lay, The weird, the wild, and the ev - 'ry - day, God will  
 long to share, Our deep - est hun - ger, our high - est prayer, That for -

$\frac{F_m}{A^b}$        $B^bm$        $\frac{F_m}{C}$        $C^7$        $F_m$        $B^bm^6$        $\frac{E^b7}{B^b}$        $F_m$

help and heal, Ex - press - ing His love through us.  
 use them all To lov - ing - ly work His will.  
 ev - er - more We draw ev - 'ry breath in You.



## Chapter 8

The company that God had called us to start, Living the Natural Way, didn't die when we stopped selling physical product. We simply switched our focus to online resources, especially hymns. Back when I was still in my twenties, God had called me to write hymns. Throughout all the seasons of my life, He had kept His thumb in my back regarding that call. Now, with the pocketsize books having run their course, He had freed me to focus on my first love: hymns.

Today, the website that started as LNWbooks.com is now LNWhymns.com. It currently offers nearly 700 of my hymns. Most are recorded, and most come with a companion devotional reading. A variety of worship resources are also offered, and everything on the site is free. We have visitors from all fifty states and 135 countries.

In spite of all the red ink generated by the pocketsize books, God was faithful to supply all our needs. We've never missed paying a bill. We've never even been late, as best I remember.

During those years, we had refinanced our house in order to support the publishing ministry. But a few years ago God directed us to a beautiful, spacious house here in Olathe, Kansas, just five minutes from a Christian college. I'm sitting here in a comfortable, roomy study where I'm blessed to sit and write all day, every day. Our publishing ministry still isn't self-supporting. But God is generously meeting our needs, primarily through my wife, who is a successful real estate agent.

Have I answered my earlier question—did I fail? If my goal was profit, I certainly did. If it weren't for my weaknesses, perhaps our publishing ministry would have been profitable as well. But I'm encouraged by this verse:

*We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (2 Corinthians 4:7, NIV)*

Like Paul, I had prayed that God would take away my weakness and make me "successful" as a publisher. But His response was, and is:

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9, NIV)*

Remember, God spoke our entire physical reality out of nothing. He never runs low on resources. What He wants, what He is constantly seeking, is people who will love Him, trust Him, and obey Him, people who will do what He says one day at a time and leave everything else to Him. Weak people. Ordinary people. Human people. Obedient people.

Lord, I'm available! Count me in!

Hymn: [Glorify Your Name](#)

# Glorify Your Name

John 12:23-28

♩ = 108

1. Lov - ing Fa - ther, I re - lease my - self to You. All that  
 2. I am just a child- I can't know what is best, For Your  
 3. Je - sus, all my gains may change to grief and loss As I

lies a - head I leave for You to choose. I know that free - dom from all  
 wis - dom has so man - y ways to bless; So I trade all my dreams and  
 bow here day by day and take Your cross; But I'm re - joic - ing as I

trou - ble Is a free - dom I can't claim, So my Fa - ther, sim - ply  
 wish - es For the life Your love or - dains, As my heart is pray - ing:  
 fol - low That our hearts now sing the same: (D.S.) Ab - ba, Fa - ther, on - ly

glo - ri - fy Your name.  
 glo - ri - fy Your name.  
 glo - ri - fy Your name. name. name.

WORDS: Ken Bible, inspired by Lawrence Tuttiatt  
 MUSIC: Ken Bible

SCOTT HUSTON  
 11.11.9.7.11.

## Reflecting Back

What is it like to follow God?

When we respond to His call and follow Him, we are saying “Yes!” to His invitation of love. We are fully embracing a love that never quits, that gladly sacrifices itself completely for those it holds dear.

If you’ve loved a spouse or raised children, you’ve had a taste of what love requires. But look at the life of Jesus, or the Apostle Paul, and you’ll get a fuller idea of what it means to follow God and live His all-giving love.

It’s demanding. Often draining. Sometimes frustrating...and overwhelming.

It lays bare your every weakness, every vulnerability, every failure.

It is a tornado that catches you up and spins you helplessly around. It seems to threaten all you hold dear.

It’s heart-wrenching. At times it dangles you over the brink of despair.

But following God unites you with Him. And in that union, your life becomes infinitely more than it ever could have been. Now you walk as a full-fledged citizen in realms higher and holier than you know you deserve.

When you look back over the years, you see part of what God has accomplished through your stumbling obedience. It’s stunning, and humbling. His grace, operating through your imperfect faith, has made you fellow workers with a God *who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine* (Ephesians 3:20, NIV).

Brothers and sisters, when Almighty God comes to you making lavish demands and lavish promises, follow Him, even at the risk of utter failure. Your failure might become the most important thing you have ever done.

*To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.* (Ephesians 3:21, NASB)

Hymn recording: [Come and Follow Me](#)

# Come and Follow Me

Matthew 4:18-22; 14:22-33; 16:21-28; and parallel passages; John 21:15-23

$\text{♩} = 96$

$\text{E}^{\flat}$   $\text{B}^{\flat} \text{7}_{\text{sus}} \text{E}^{\flat}$   $\text{E}^{\flat}$   $\text{E}^{\flat} \text{G}$   $\text{Fm}^7$   $\text{A}^{\flat}$   $\text{B}^{\flat}$   $\text{E}^{\flat}$   $\text{E}^{\flat}$   $\text{A}^{\flat}$

1. Come and fol - low Me. Joy is wait - ing! Leave all be - hind, and  
2. Come and fol - low Me. Walk on wa - ter! Step out, though all may  
3. Come and fol - low Me. Share My suf - f'ring. Hear now My call to  
4. Come and fol - low Me. Needs are cry - ing. Friend, if you love Me,

$\text{E}^{\flat} \text{B}^{\flat}$   $\text{B}^{\flat} \text{sus}$   $\text{B}^{\flat}$   $\text{E}^{\flat}$   $\text{B}^{\flat} \text{F}$   $\text{E}^{\flat} \text{G}$   $\text{A}^{\flat}$   $\text{E}^{\flat} \text{B}^{\flat}$   $\text{A}^{\flat}$   $\text{B}^{\flat}$

don't de - lay! Hear Me call - ing you. Do you trust Me?  
seem un - clear. Claim My prom - ise and trust My pow - er.  
come and die. Trade what's pass - ing to find what's great - er.  
feed My sheep. Serve the need - y in dai - ly plac - es,

$\text{E}^{\flat}$   $\text{Fm}^7$   $\text{E}^{\flat} \text{G}$   $\text{A}^{\flat}$   $\text{E}^{\flat} \text{B}^{\flat}$   $\text{B}^{\flat} \text{sus}$   $\text{B}^{\flat}$   $\text{Cm}$   $\text{E}^{\flat} \text{B}^{\flat}$   $\text{A}^{\flat}$   $\text{Fm}^7$   $\text{E}^{\flat}$   
rit.

I am the Life, the Truth, the Way. If you be - lieve Me, just o - bey.  
I am I AM! Ig - nore your fear! I am I AM, and I am here.  
Come learn the joy of sac - ri - fice! Lose all the world and gain My life.  
E - ven when none may seem to see. I am your shep - herd - fol - low Me.

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

BONHOEFFER

9.8.9.8.8.

Copyright © 2007 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved.

Administered by Music Services.

CCLI Song #5060315. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.