# **God Gives Himself**

A tapestry of hymns, prayers, and reflections for public worship and personal devotions

from the series:
Fresh Views of
Timeless Truths

Ken Bible

LNWhymns.COM

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#### God's Gift to Us

Living as needy creatures

in this world so infected by evil,

our desires are pulled in many directions.

We want peace of mind.

We want security from the unknowns that loom ahead of us.

We want wholeness and health – physically, mentally, and emotionally.

We want close relationships with our dear loved ones,

and we don't want them to die.

We find ourselves scrambling for these things throughout this life, and

we project those desires into our picture of the next life.

So in our minds heaven becomes

peace,

freedom from trouble,

freedom from sickness, pain, and death,

complete peace and security,

an endless, happy reunion with dearly-loved people

death has ripped away from us.

All these hopes are valid and scriptural.

But remember that God's real gift to us is this:

Though He was living in heavenly perfection,

He willingly became like us

in all our pain

so that we could become fully like Him.

That's who we were created to be and

that's who we long to be -

we long to be like Him.

God's gift to us is not just to

change our circumstances, but to

change *us*.

His gift to us is

not something we hold or

a circumstance we experience.

His Gift to us is becoming like Him,

sharing all that He is.

God's gift is Himself.

Hymn recording: **Eternal Life Is Knowing You** 

# **Eternal Life Is Knowing You**

TUNE: What Wondrous Love Is This (WONDROUS LOVE)

Genesis 2:7; Psalm 63:1-8; Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 1:23; John 17:3;

1 Corinthians 13:9-12; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Philippians 3:7-11;

Colossians 1:9-10; 2:1-3, 9-10; Hebrews 2:11; 2 Peter 1:2-3, 5-8; 3:18

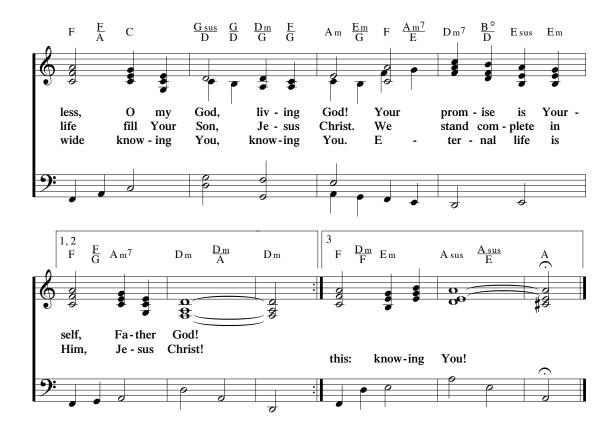


WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. by Ken Bible

WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.6.6.12.9.

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#### All He Is

```
Peace,
love,
wholeness,
joy,
holiness,
fullness of life -
      As wonderful as these are,
      they are simply partial descriptions of
             our magnificent God.
He has given us
      ALL He is!
He has given all He is in
      Jesus Christ.
God's gift
      to each of us personally,
      to our society,
      to all creation
is His Holy Son
in all His beauty and
       glory.
We will be like Him.
The whole human race will be like Him.
All creation will be like Him.
YOU will be like Him!
Praise God!
Thank You, Father!
```

Hymn recording: Christ in Psalm 67

### **Christ in Psalm 67**

Job 26:11-14; Psalm 67; Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 2:1-3, 9-10; Hebrews 2:11



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

PSALM 67

#### The Surpassing Value of Knowing You

Transcendent Father,
You long for us to know You.
You immerse us in a physical world that sings unceasingly of You.
You call.

You whisper.

You bless.

You teach.

You draw us to Yourself.

You make promises –
promises so rich and deep that
we cannot fully grasp them,
much less fully desire them.
But gradually we begin to realize that

all Your promises are really one promise.

You promise Yourself.

You promise Yourself

in Your Son, Jesus Christ.

He is exactly like You and

exactly like us,

but whole and

pure.

He is the embodiment of all You are and all You created us to be.

As You draw our eyes more and more to Him, our minds, our hearts, and our deepest desires are filled with the growing discovery and deepening mystery that is Your holy, human Son, Jesus.

The eternal life we long for is knowing Him.

The grace and peace we crave is knowing Him.

All that we need for holy and fruitful living is knowing Him.

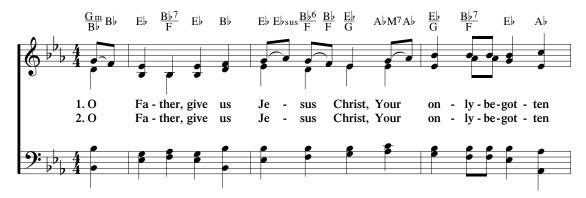
O Father, we set aside
all other goals and
all other desires.
We want only to
know You in
Jesus Christ.

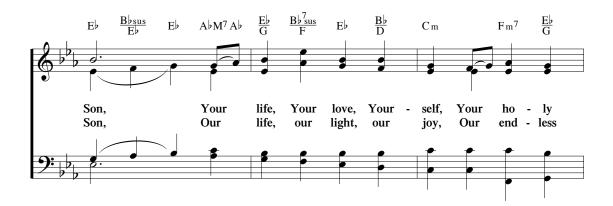
Hymn recording: O Father, Give Us Jesus Christ

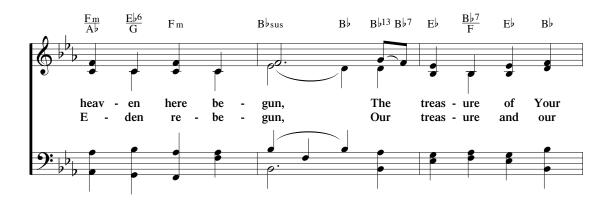
# O Father, Give Us Jesus Christ

Matthew 7:11; 13:44-46; Luke 11:13; John 1:14-18; 6:53-58; 10:9; 14:6; Acts 17:28; Colossians 2:2-3, 9-10









WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Jean-Joseph Mouret and Ken Bible MOURET 8.7.6.8.D.w.Bridge



#### **Father, Give Me Jesus**

Father, Jesus is all Your holiness,

Your wisdom,

Your purity and love.

He is all Your truth,

Your completeness,

Your perfection.

As I know Him,

I want to know Him more.

As I want Him,

I gladly release everything else.

Father, You eagerly give me everything good.

Give me Jesus.

Give me His Spirit,

His mind,

His beautiful, unbroken relationship with You.

Give Him to every individual I love.

Give Him to Your Church,

to our entire race.

Father, for every hunger,

every need,

every day,

give us Jesus.

Hymn recording: Father, You See Our Need

**Hymn recording:** The Only Good Is Jesus

## Father, You See Our Need

John 14:6, 19; 15:5, 11; 20:19-20; Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 2:16



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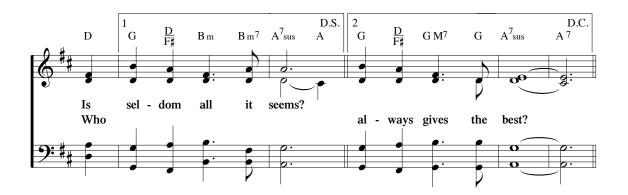
# The Only Good Is Jesus



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Irregular

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#### **Jesus Christ, Our Completeness**

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (Psalm 73:25-26, NIV)

Loving Father, You let us feel and experience our profound neediness for Jesus Christ.

Our gnawing inadequacies, our disappointments and pain, our restless, unfulfilled longings bind us to this truth:

Jesus Christ alone is our holiness, our peace, and our completeness.

In Him You have left
no need unmet,
no thirst unsatisfied,
no hunger unfilled.
He alone is the life and love we crave.

**Hymn recording: All We Need** 

## All We Need

ALTERNATE TUNE: Sweet Hour of Prayer (SWEET HOUR) 2 Peter 1:3-4; 3:3-14



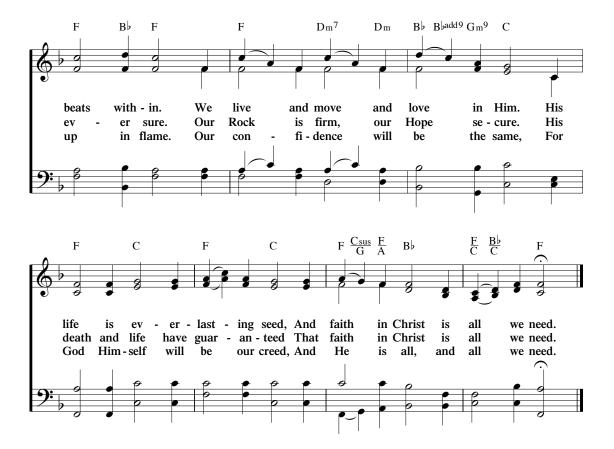
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L.M.D.



#### In Christ

Salvation is not so much what Christ does as what He is. All the blessings that come to us through Him love, joy, peace, and more are His own personal characteristics. They do not come to us as a "something," wrapped up and handed to us. They come to us as *He* comes to us. They come to us in His Spirit. We don't become more Christ-like, more holy, more consistent, more adequate for life's challenges by trying harder. Such personal efforts are useless and frustrating. God shares with us His own life and His own holiness by sharing His own Spirit. As we share God's Spirit, we live in His purity and His complete sufficiency. We just have to trust Him, step by step, need by need. Following rules doesn't make us holy. Trusting Jesus Christ makes His holy. The process of holy living is the process of trusting God.

Holiness is God's free gift to us in Jesus Christ. It really is that simple!

His Spirit is everything we need to

As we trust Him step by step,

live a holy life.

Hymn recording: It's a Gift

## It's a Gift

TUNE: 'Tis a Gift to Be Simple, alt.



WORDS and MUSIC: Ken Bible, based on a Shaker Hymn

IT'S A GIFT Irregular



#### **Freedom Is Jesus Christ**

```
The freedom God gives
       is not the freedom to
       simply please myself.
His freedom is not wallowing in the
       smallness,
      ignorance, and
      selfishness
of my own desires.
His freedom is the privilege of living in
      all the richness,
      all the joy,
       all the glorious sufficiency
of Jesus Christ.
Almighty Father,
today, I am
      holy and
      completely free
in Him!
```

Hymn recording: Freedom in You

### Freedom in You



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

FREEDOM IN CHRIST 9.9.9.7.7. w. Bridge

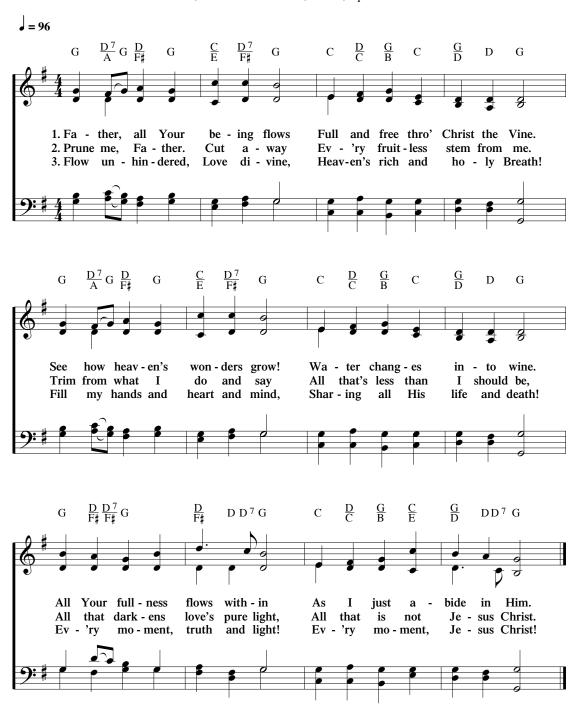
#### **Prune Me**

```
Father,
Creator,
Source of all that is good,
       all life and fruitfulness flow
              from You
              through Jesus Christ.
He is the Vine, and
       I am a branch in Him.
All that is
       good and
       beautiful and
       life-giving,
all that is You in me,
       flows through my connection with Him.
Prune me, Lord.
Clean away all that fruitlessly drains Your life-giving sap.
Cut off all that hinders the flow of the Spirit between
       Christ and
       me.
Remove all that clutters my
       mind,
       heart, and
without connecting me closer to Him.
Strip away
       all that is not love.
       all that is not Christ.
O merciful, all-wise, all-loving Lord,
       prune me
that more of You
might flow freely
through me.
```

Hymn recording: Life in the Vine

### Life in the Vine

TUNE: For the Beauty of the Earth (DIX) *John 15:1-8; 1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23; Ephesians 3:14-21* 



WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Conrad Kocher

DIX
7.7.7.7.7.

#### NOTE:

# To hear a recording of both the prayer and the hymn below, click this title link:

**UPWARD CALL Devotional Tapestry** 

#### I Press Ahead toward Christ

Success and failure are just words,

spoken from our small-minded ignorance.

Money and respect are simply mediums of human exchange.

They can only give what other humans have to give, creatures who share our own deep neediness.

Glory and gold are too shallow to provide what we truly need and crave.

Physical comfort is an imposter,

pretending to be lasting peace.

In the end, death shows them all for what they are: empty delusions.

Jesus Christ is the eternal, holy, glorious God made fully human.

In Him, my Father, I can

know You and

love You and

become like You.

In Him all my goals,

all my expectations,

all life's possibilities are raised and reset.

In Him I am becoming more than I ever dreamed I could be.

Jesus Christ is my desire.

I trust HIM.

I press ahead toward HIM.

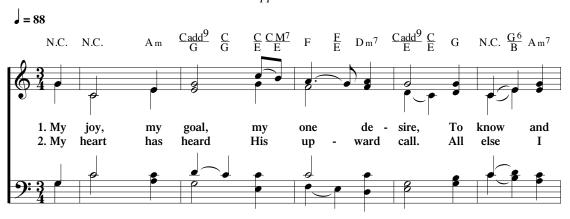
For in Him, Father,

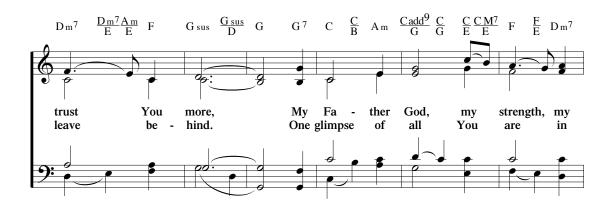
I become one with You completely and forever, in all Your holiness and love.

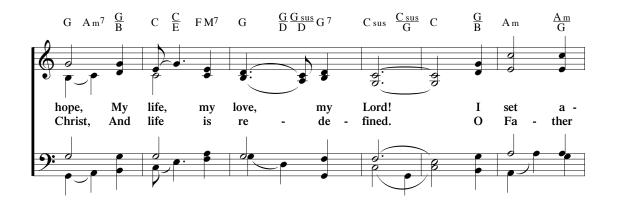
**Hymn: The Upward Call** 

# The Upward Call

Philippians 3:7-14







HAZELGREEN C.M.D. WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

Alt. Tunes: CLEANSING FOUNTAIN; CAROL

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#### **One with Your Creator**

As you thank your Father for all He is doing in you,

look ahead.

Imagine being one with Him.

The relationship He intended is complete and constant.

His power has done all its work.

His wisdom has had its way.

His love is satisfied and smiling.

You are forever united with Him.

The glory of the Living Christ is shining from every corner of your being,

with no shadows and

no hidden places.

You are one with Jesus Christ.

We are all one with Him.

His beautiful creation is complete.

Jesus Christ,

the sovereign Word of God,

is recreating us into His own perfect image,

the image of our Creator Himself.

Our future is in Him.

Our destiny is in Him.

You can be absolutely certain of this:

He who began a good work in you

will finish all He has started (Philippians 1:6).

He will make you

complete in Him.

Hymn recording: Imagine Your Creator's Breath

# **Imagine Your Creator's Breath**

Tune: LAND OF REST

Genesis 2:7; Isaiah 11:6-9; 35; John 15:5; 20:22; Ephesians 3:14-19; Colossians 2:9-10; 3:1-4; Revelation 21:1-7



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