Magnificent Faithfulness

Readings, prayers, and hymns

Ken Bible

Copyright © 2023 by Ken Bible. All rights reserved.

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 taken from the (NASB®) New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved. lockman.org

Contents

Reflections, Prayers, and *Hymns*

God of Jacob God of Jacob	5 7
Reflection on the Book of Exodus A Hymn for the Wilderness	8 10
Reflection on Psalm 78 Psalm 78	11 13
Hope That Does Not Disappoint We Have a Hope	14 16
How to Be Sure About God <i>Transcendent God</i>	17 19
Secure In Your Presence, God Almighty	21 23
A Glance Backward We Look Behind at All You've Done	24 26
The Faces of Fear Blind Faith	28 29
Trust Your Father <i>When I Am Afraid</i>	30 32
Divine Coincidence God's Mysterious Ways	33 35
God Is Always Working God Is Working All Around You	37 38
An Adventure of Faith Come and Follow Me	39 40
Resting in You Peace in Christ	41 42

Magnificent Faithfulness

~

Know...that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His faithfulness to a thousand generations for those who love Him and keep His commandments. (Deuteronomy 7:9, NASB)

Father,
Your wisdom is perfect,
unswayed by the ignorance of lesser beings.
Your faithfulness is timeless and unhurried.
Your power is immovable.

God of Jacob

Most of Genesis is devoted to the stories of three people, Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph. Each has a unique, life-long walk with God, and Genesis takes us along on their journeys. Abraham's journey is a story of persevering faith and rich blessing. Joseph foreshadows Jesus Christ, with his unjust suffering, his exaltation, and his role in the salvation of his people. But perhaps we identify the most with Jacob. Even from his mother's womb, his life was struggle. And a good deal of his struggle was his own doing. The younger of twins in a society that heavily favored the eldest son, he schemed. he cheated, he fled, and he wrestled even with the angel of God. But throughout his tumultuous life, God stayed with him. God guided, assured, blessed, and delivered Jacob over and over again. The God of Jacob is our God as well. He is faithful, faithful, faithful. even when we are not.

~

Father, You were faithful to
Abraham,
giving him a child at age 100.
You were faithful to
Joseph,
delivering him from slavery and prison
to become prime minister of Egypt.
And despite whatever setbacks or obstacles I encounter,
You will be faithful to me.

_

Hymn recording: **God of Jacob**

God of Jacob

Genesis 25:21-34; 27:1 - 35:29; 48



WORDS Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible GOD OF JACOB 9.8.9.8.

Copyright © 2022 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved.

Administered by Music Services.

CCLI Song #7201991.

Reflection on the Book of Exodus

Question: Why would God send His people out

for forty years into a a dry, barren land that

lacks provision for even the necessities of life?

Answer: He doesn't send them out.

He leads them out. He goes with them and

before them.

Why does He lead them into such places?

He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord (Deuteronomy 8:3, NASB).

God let them feel each need,

then waited for them to turn to Him before He

graciously, miraculously, abundantly

met each need.

So don't be surprised when He

allows you to feel your need,

then waits for you to

wait on Him and

trust Him.

He is not being

stubborn or

unfeeling.

He is giving you what you

need most

in all the world:

the firm, personal assurance,

based on repeated, first-hand experience, that

He Himself is

all you want and

all you need.

He is proving that

He can and will be your Pillar of Cloud by day,

leading you certainly and consistently,

though you won't always understand His reasons or methods.

He can and will be your Pillar of Fire by night,

providing light for all your darkest places.

He can and will be Living Water springing up during your driest times.

He can and will be Living Bread, daily bread, nourishing not only your body, but your entire being.

He can and will be a movable tabernacle, His tangible presence going with you everywhere you go.

Your loving Father is teaching you to know Him, trust Him, and treasure Him through absolutely everything that life brings.

~

Abandon the notion that you have things all figured out.
You don't.
But God knows all and always does what is right.
Trust Him.

~

Hymn recording: A Hymn for the Wilderness

A Hymn for the Wilderness

TUNE: The Wabash Cannon Ball (alt.) Exodus; Deuteronomy 8:1-10; Psalm 105:37-45



Copyright © 2020 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved. Administered by Music Services.

MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

Reflection on Psalm 78

```
Father,
all creation is
      a hymn to Your faithfulness.
All history sings of Your
      unfailing love and
      absolute dependability.
Your faithfulness overwhelms
      our brief and fragile memories.
Your goodness overflows
      our limited minds and senses.
You are constantly blessing us!
Yet how quick we are to
      forget!
How easily we return to
the puny resources we can
      touch and
      control.
How prone we are to
      doubt You and
      find false security in our material world.
O Magnificent God,
In You Yourself are
      all the power,
      all the wisdom,
      all the wonder,
      all the mystery,
      all the discovery,
      all the deep, unshakable peace our hearts could ever want!
Help us to
      look up,
      look back, and
      look around.
Help us to remember and rejoice in
      all You are and
      all You have done.
```

Father, through all our neediness, ignorance, and faithlessness, how faithful You have been!
We love You!
Help us to trust You more simply and constantly.

~

Hymn recording: Psalm 78





WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: African-American Spiritual and Ken Bible DON'T BE WEARY, TRAVELLER 2 6.6.6.6.w.Ref..

Hope That Does Not Disappoint

We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God...And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts. (Romans 5:2, 5, NIV)

I have tasted it--that pain, that sense of loss when hopes fail. I have known disappointment.

But as false foundations give way, we are forced to dig deeper, to reassess, to refocus and refine our hope by remembering what is Rock and what is not, what will hold firm and what time will wash away.

God's people in Old Testament times learned about such disappointment. They trusted many things: their promised homeland; their financial and military resources; the Temple, their symbol of status in God's sight. They hoped in His blessings rather than in Him. But as all these were burned away in the fires of judgment, the hopes of the faithful were purified and refocused. Their eyes were lifted higher and higher until finally fixed on One Man--the Chosen One, the Servant of God, the Messiah--who would fulfill all God's plans for His people and the hopes of all the ages.

I have shared their disappointment, and their sin. In times of prosperity I have gradually grown to look in other directions for security, meaning, and hope. Resting in success, a comfortable lifestyle, and familiar relationships, I have clung to God's blessings rather than to Him. Taking gifts He intended as means to glorify Him, I have made them ends, glorifying myself. They have become convenient substitutes for depending on Him day by day.

But when one such substitute crumbles, or even wavers, I sense my vulnerability. I feel my foolishness and turn again to my Father--He who so patiently and fervently pursues my deepest affections and my trust.

Father, forgive me. Purify and refocus my hopes--not just the big ones, but the small ones that drive my daily energies. Remove the distractions and substitutes from my eyes, from my heart, until my hopes are fixed on You--You, my Everlasting God, my Patient Forgiver, my Creator, my Companion, my Sovereign Lord.

Those who hope in me will not be disappointed. (Isaiah 49:23, NIV)

~

Father, my Father, save me from lukewarm self-satisfaction. All we desire – true riches, true glory,
true health –
comes from You alone.
Keep me constantly coming to You.

~

Hymn recording: We Have a Hope

We Have a Hope

Romans 15:13; 2 Corinthians 4:6; 1 Peter 1:3



Copyright © 2007 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved. Administered by Music Services.
CCLI Song #4911513. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

Irregular

How to Be Sure about God

Genesis 1; Psalm 8; Isaiah 40:12-31

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval.

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.

And without faith it is impossible to please Him. (Hebrews 11:1-6a, NASB)

We cannot have a casual relationship with God. He claims to be Creator, sovereign Lord of all reality, Father, Redeemer, and Fountain of Life. If His claim is false, we should ignore Him along with all the other fakes and fictions in our world. If He is who He says He is, He is the reality that shapes every other reality. We owe Him everything, and more. There is no halfway. He is All-in-all, or He is nothing.

Since God is the ultimate question, how can we know that He exists? How can we be sure about Him? Our entire lifespan is a mere moment in time. We perceive and understand so little of reality, and He is by His very nature beyond our senses and imaginings. If we could completely encompass Him with our perceptions and expectations, we would be God, not Him.

Any objective observer of the human situation would come to this conclusion: understanding all reality is beyond human ability. It is beyond our perspective, beyond our brevity, beyond our wisdom, beyond the blindness and smallness of our self-centered pride. We can only know a Sovereign, transcendent God as He intentionally reveals Himself to us and as we respond by trusting Him.

That is the path to knowing God that is laid out in His Word, the Bible. What is our proof or evidence for the things we cannot see? Faith is our proof. Faith is our evidence. Faith is our assurance (Hebrews 11:1).

Creation itself nurtures this faith in what is beyond our senses. All its vastness, its matter, its detail, its pattern and order, came from nothing. It truly is a *creation*. Everything we see came from what we cannot see (Hebrews 11:3). Creation is but one

of many testimonies God has provided, one of many signposts pointing to His reality (Other signposts include His written Word, His Spirit speaking within, the testimony of other human beings, and the man Christ Jesus).

But there is no objective proof that makes faith unnecessary. Our ultimate decision is always this: do we trust God or not? That decision is God's design. To come to Him, we must realize our smallness and dependence, then trust Him as our Creator, Father, and Lord. To know Him, we must humbly acknowledge Him for who He is and acknowledge ourselves for who we are. Until then, we are foolishly exalting our small selves above the greatness displayed all around us. That can never lead us to the truth. The truth begins with God, not with us. Certainty requires our humble, trusting commitment to Him.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Proverbs 9:10, NASB)

But further, how can we frail and flawed creatures ever hope to please such a God or fellowship with Him? We please Him the same way we come to know Him: by faith—that is, by humbly, simply, actively trusting Him (Hebrews 11:2, 4-6a).

~

We are blind until we trust God.

He works His mightiest wonders right in front of us—
creation,
Jesus Christ, and
the glories of life in Him—
and we see nothing.

Trusting Him opens our eyes to His magnificence.

~

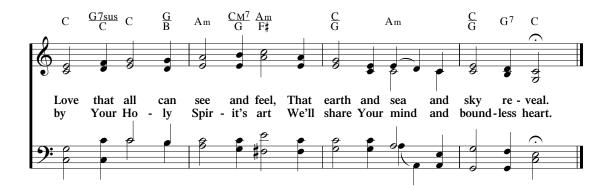
Hymn recording: Transcendent God

Transcendent God

TUNE: Sweet Hour of Prayer (SWEET HOUR) Psalm 14:1; 19:1-4a; Isaiah 40:18-28; Luke 10:21-22; 1 Corinthians 1:18 - 2:16



Copyright © 2011 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved. Administered by Music Services. CCLI Song #6125125. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446. L.M.D.



Secure

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. (Deuteronomy 33:27, NIV)

We go our own way.
We make our own plans
for our own reasons,
pursuing our own goals.
Then we build walls, protecting ourselves from every interference.
We are secure.
We are self-sufficient.
We can handle whatever comes.

But the unforeseen happens—it always does and we discover that no walls can keep out the evil that floods this world. No matter how strong we are, we are vulnerable. No matter how watchful we are, we are insecure. We cannot control the reality that engulfs us.

But when our false security is stripped away, we can rediscover the security on which creation itself rests—the security that keeps the days and seasons revolving, untouched and unthreatened by human hatred or pride. We can rediscover that no matter what knowledge we accumulate, God is our only wisdom. No matter much power we try to harness, God is sovereign.

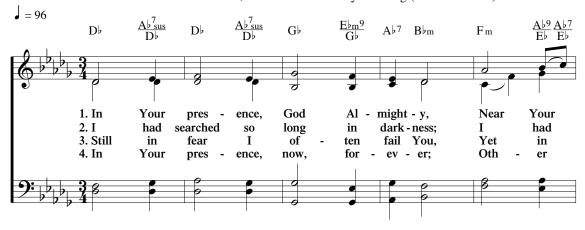
He is love, and we are His children. That is the only security we will ever have and the only security we will ever need.

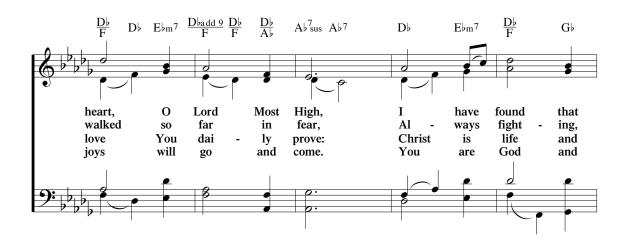
Father,
salvation is always something
You do.
All I do is bow and allow
God to be God in me.

Hymn recording: <u>In Your Presence, God Almighty</u>

In Your Presence, God Almighty

ALTERNATE TUNE: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (NETTLETON)







WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Daniel Read; arr. by Ken Bible CHARLESTOWN 8.7.8.7.

Copyright © 1993 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved. Administered by Music Services.

CCLI Song #2921677. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

A Glance Backward

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9, NIV)

Faithful, Faithful, Faithful.
I look back over my life, and
I am startled by the love I thought I knew.
You pursued me when I couldn't see You in my darkness.
You whispered in my ear,
You clutched my heart,
then stood in front of me and declared that
YOU were God.
I knew it was true.
As I bowed, You gave me new life—
Your life.
I was warmed by the fire of Your love,
and in its light, I saw Your glory all around me,
leading me on.

You've taught me that
Your deliverance, Your forgiveness,
are daily gifts,
flowing from the fountain of Your eternal love.
Viewing my past journey,
I see only Your hand
guiding, teaching, holding me,
giving my life a consistency that is Yours, not mine.
The power of Your presence has
always, always, always been there,
though I only glimpse it now and again.

Father,
Eternally Faithful One,
make our bond of love and trust
as iron.
Make it a living cord from Your heart to mine.
Draw my eyes constantly to You,
making simple faith my every breath.
Great God of power and tireless love,
in every situation,
with every desire,

with all my energies, be my God.

~

When we sense God's
presence and
goodness
in a special way,
we are simply glimpsing
the unchanging God who is
always fully with us,
always good,
always working for our best
beyond what we can imagine.

~

Hymn recording: We Look Behind at All You've Done

We Look Behind at All You've Done

TUNE: All Creatures of Our God and King (LASST UNS ERFREUEN)



WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesange, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams

LASST UNS ERFREUEN L.M. w. Alleluias

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

CCLI Song #3982512. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.



8

Fa alt

The Faces of Fear

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear. (1 John 4:18, NIV)

```
anger,
selfishness,
jealousy,
greed—
these, and many more, are the faces of fear.
Fear and all its fruit grow from our doubt
      that God is God,
      that He is always able,
      always wise,
      always good...
      always!
Father, You are love.
      I will trust You.
You are power.
      I will rely on You.
You are wisdom.
      I will follow You gladly and with confidence.
```

Worry,

Fear of anything but God will always lead in the wrong direction.

~

Hymn recording: **Blind Faith**

Blind Faith

Deuteronomy 7:17-19; 8:2-4; Psalm 42:4-5; 77:8-13; 143:3-6; Hebrews 13:8



Copyright © 2013 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved. Administered by Music Services.

CCLI Song #6548458. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

Trust Your Father

When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. (Psalm 56:3, NASB)

Have you ever listened to children when they're on an outing? It doesn't matter what magnificent sights they could be seeing. Their requests are, "I'm thirsty...," "Do we have to...?" "I'm tired...," "I wish we could..." They react out of temporary desires. They speak out of pain, fatigue, or false expectations. They don't know what's best for them. They can't see the whole picture.

I think about our Heavenly Father listening to our desires and requests. He's listened for thousands of years. He knows that what we want often has nothing to do with our happiness. We react out of pain or fatigue or false expectations. We don't know what's best. We can't see the whole picture.

No wonder God sometimes seems to ignore our fervent requests and desires.

Think of it this way:

If you're married, you know what it takes for two very-different people to live happily together.

So imagine what is necessary for beings like us - who are focused on the moment and on our own comfort - to have a long-term relationship with a Being like God, who sees all of time at once and is all-wise and all-loving.

For such a relationship to endure the hard times, we must keep trusting Him. We must keep our hands in His and stay committed to Him, no matter what. For it's inevitable that much of the time, we won't understand where He is leading or how He is working.

We are His children. We can't see the whole picture. We don't know what's best. We must keep trusting our Father's love.

~

Sometimes faith leads us to patiently stand back and let God do what only He can do.

~

Hymn recording: When I Am Afraid

When I Am Afraid

Psalm 56:3



WORDS and MUSIC: Ken Bible

CHILDLIKE FAITH 5.5.5.5.6.5.5.

Copyright © 2000 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved.
Administered by Music Services.

CCLI Song #3250990. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

Divine Coincidence

"Speak, for Your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:10, NASB)

Have you discovered that Almighty God wants to take part in your daily work? Here's one example from my own experience.

Matching a hymn text with the right tune can be tricky, painstaking business. But years ago I began receiving tune ideas from the Lord. Sometimes I would hear an original tune in my head. Other times I would feel prompted toward a folk or classical tune in one of my sources. I would set the tune aside in my "pending" pile, put it out of my mind, and go on with my work.

Then within days the Lord would give me a lyric idea separately, from my Bible study or from an audio book I was listening to. Sometimes it happened the other way around. The text idea would come first, then the tune.

What was amazing was how often I'd find the perfect match for the text or tune there near the top of my "pending" file. I had forgotten about the first one until the second showed up and I went looking for a mate. The two had come to me entirely separately, though in the same time frame.

At first, I considered it mere coincidence. But it began to happen so regularly that I coined a term for it: divine coincidence.

But it wasn't just texts and tunes that came together so marvelously. Often a thought or scripture would come to me from my daily reading or listening that was exactly what I needed for some current writing endeavor. I hadn't gone looking for it. It just jumped out at me.

Some would explain such phenomenon as the subconscious working of the mind. And I can't claim to explain all the workings of this amazing brain the Lord has given us.

But God regularly uses divine coincidence to remind me that He deeply, personally, constantly cares about my daily activities. My work is His work, and He doesn't abandon me to it. He works beside me all day, every day. The Spirit of the sovereign, almighty, universal God works *through me*. He will work through you as well. How wonderful is that!

Father, all our work is Your work. Keep us open. Keep us listening. Keep us dependent on You.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21, NASB)

~

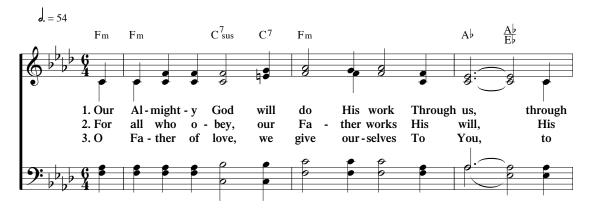
Father, though I am small,
weak, and
O so brief,
You are almighty,
all-wise, and
all-loving.
As I trust You,
You accomplish Your beautiful purpose
through me.

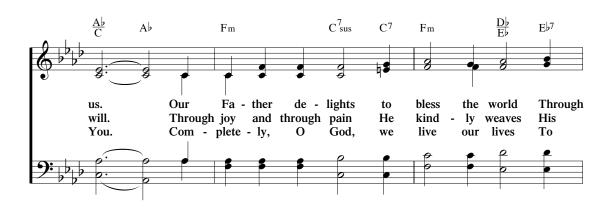
~

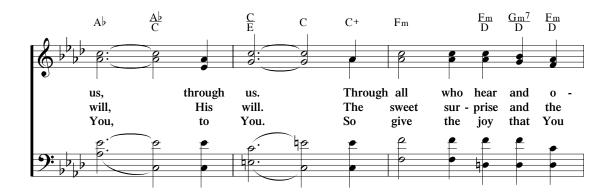
Hymn recording: **God's Mysterious Ways**

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



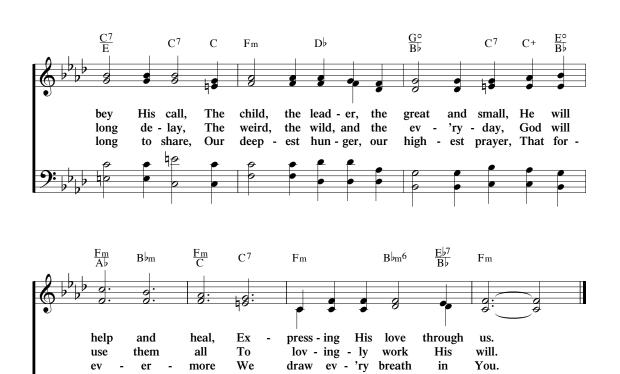




WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Irish Folk Song; arr. by Ken Bible MARCHING HOME 9.4.9.4.9.9.5.7.

Copyright © 2013 by LNWhymns.com (ASCAP). All rights reserved. Administered by Music Services.

CCLI Song #6474481. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.



 $\mathbf{e}\mathbf{v}$

er

more

God Is Always Working

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all. (Psalm 104:24, NIV)

I sail through so many daily activities with boredom or indifference. When tough experiences come, I greet them with fear or resentment.

Lord, I assume the meaninglessness of life as You have allowed it to come to me. I believe I'll recognize the significant when I see it, but much of the time, life seems either mundane or unkind.

But then, Lord, I catch a glimpse of beauty, or I see deep meaning in some common event I've witnessed a thousand times. I look back and realize tremendous value in some trial about which I complained so bitterly.

Lord, You are always working! I will keep my faith awake and my eyes fixed on You.

~

Despair of yourself as much as you want,
but do not despair of God.
He is always loving,
always powerful,
always wise, and
He will reward you according to your faith in Him.
(paraphrased from Francois Fenelon)

~

Hymn recording: God Is Working All Around You

God Is Working All Around You

Romans 8:28



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Song and Ken Bible LULLABY 3.3.8.3.3.6.3.3.8.

An Adventure of Faith

All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant. (Psalm 25:10, NIV)

God, You are God. Your ways are always loving. Your ways are always wise. The way You lead me is always the best way.

You are

always, always, always

faithful.

So, Lord, help me to trust You boldly and gladly. I will not shrink from tasks to which You have called me. I will accept them as an adventure of faith, as a chance to discover more about You, to experience

Your guiding,
Your power,
Your blessing and providing;
as a chance to glorify You.

Lord, I accept this challenge as an adventure of faith.

~

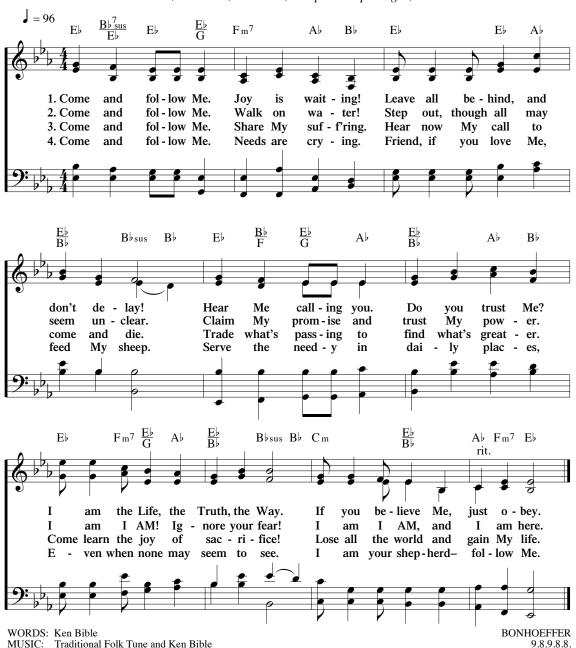
Father, it frightens us
when You send us out with
no support and no resource
but Your promise.
But those experiences bind us to You
and prove that
You are who You say You are and
will do all You say You will do.

~

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



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

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

Resting in You

There remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. (Hebrews 4:9, NASB)

Father, You are wisdom.
Your working is deeper,
higher, and
more far-reaching than I can imagine.

You are absolute power. You do what pleases You. No one challenges Your mighty arm. Nothing stops Your purpose.

Father, You are love. Nothing exhausts Your gentle compassion. Nothing strains Your joyful self-giving.

So when You whisper, I will listen.

When You lead, I will follow wherever You go.

When Your will brings me
delay or
sorrow or
sacrifice,

I will love You and
trust You and
rest in the rightness of all You do.

The best place to be is
where God has put you.
Do not look beyond it, and
be content there
moment by moment.
(paraphrased from Francois Fenelon)

Hymn recording: Peace in Christ

Peace in Christ

TUNE: 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus (TRUST IN JESUS)

John 14:27; Philippians 4:4-7; 2 Thessalonians 3:16



MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick ${\it Copyright @ 2005 \ and \ 2009 \ by \ LNWhymns.com \ (ASCAP). \ All \ rights \ reserved.}$

Administered by Music Services.

CCLI Song #4583752. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

8.7.8.7.D.