

Dear Friend,

Following are a few songs and poems that have been an encouragement to me or a reason for reflection. The songs and poems are from a broad range of artists and styles. The purpose of the collection was two fold. First I was simply collecting some songs that appealed to my taste. Second I was also collecting songs that I felt contained a message that could be used to promote the good news of Jesus Christ in a unique way. In some cases I have followed the song or poem with a few of my own reflections or relevant Bible verses. All the songs were culled from musical groups that are not Christian at all or are not typically Christian. I am certainly not endorsing anyone's sinful lifestyle or testimony by including their music in this project. Nor is this a blanket endorsement of American Pop music. However, I am using selected music to make a point about Christ. I hope that this collection may be used of God to demonstrate to you that if God can use these people to make at least one positive point that he can also use you as well to testify to the goodness of Christ. God bless and I adjure you to be saved by the grace of Jesus Christ alone from your own sinful condition, to become an unlikely preacher yourself, and to prepare to join the joyful fellowship of Christ's family in heaven. This is my copy of copyrighted material so please return it after you have been sufficiently encouraged or challenged.

Your friend because of Jesus Christ,

Jeff Martin

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Songs

A01. Show Me The Way

by Styx

Every night I say a prayer
in the hope that there's a heaven
And every day I'm more confused
as the saints turn into sinners
All the heroes and legends I knew as a child
have fallen to idols of clay
And I feel this empty place inside
so afraid that I've lost my faith

Show me the way, show me the way
Take me tonight to the river
And wash my illusions away
Show me the way

And as I slowly drift to sleep,
for a moment dreams are sacred
I close my eyes and know there's peace
in a world so filled with hatred
That I wake up each morning and turn on the news
to find we've so far to go
And I keep on hoping for a sign,
so afraid that I just won't know

Show me the way, Show me the way
Take me tonight to the mountain
And wash my confusion away

And if I see a light, should I believe
Tell me how will I know

Show me the way, show me the way
Take me tonight to the river
And wash my illusions away
Show me the way, show me the way
Give me the strength and the courage
To believe that I'll get there someday
Show me the way

Every night I say a prayer
In the hope that there's a heaven...

Friend there is a heaven. And Jesus said this to his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God ; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." John 14:1-3.

A02. Something To Believe In

by Poison

Will I see him on the TV
Preachin' 'bout the promised land
He tells me to believe in Jesus
And steals the money from my hand

Some say he was a good man
But Lord I think he sinned, yeah

Twenty-two years of mental tears
Cries a suicidal Vietnam vet
Who fought a losing war on a foreign shore
To find his country didn't want him back

Their bullets took his best friend in Saigon
Our lawyers took his wife and kids, no regrets
In a time I don't remember

In a war he can't forget

He cried "Forgive me for what I've done there
Cause I never meant the things I did"

Chorus:
And give me something to believe in
If there's a Lord above
And give me something to believe in
Oh, Lord arise

My best friend died a lonely man
In some Palm Springs hotel room
I got the call last Christmas Eve
And they told me the news

I tried all night not to break down and cry
As the tears rolled down my face
I felt so cold and empty
Like a lost soul out of place

And the mirror, mirror on the wall
Sees my smile it fades again

Chorus

Sometimes I wish to God I didn't know now
The things I didn't know then
Road you gotta take me home

Solo

I drive by the homeless sleeping on a cold dark street
Like bodies in an open grave
Underneath the broken old neon sign
That used to read JESUS SAVES

A mile away live the rich folks
And I see how they're living it up
While the poor they eat from hand to mouth
The rich is drinkin' from a golden cup

And it just makes me wonder
Why so many lose, so few win

Chorus

You take the high road
And I'll take the low road

Sometimes I wish to God I didn't know now
The things I didn't know then

And give me something to believe in

Do you want something to believe in? Many have trusted in the best of leaders, even Christian leaders, but God himself warns, "Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save." Psalm 146:3 Instead Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me," John 14:1

A03. Youth Of The Nation

by P.O.D.

Last day of the rest of my life
I wish I would've known
Cause I didn't kiss my mama goodbye

I didn't tell her that I loved her and how much I care
Or thank my pops for all the talks
And all the wisdom he shared

Unaware, I just did what I always do
Everyday, the same routine
Before I skate off to school

But who knew that this day wasn't like the rest
Instead of taking a test
I took two to the chest

Call me blind, but I didn't see it coming
Everybody was running
But I couldn't hear nothing

Except gun blasts, it happened so fast
I don't really know this kid
Even though I sit by him in class

Maybe this kid was reaching out for love
Or maybe for a moment
He forgot who he was
Or maybe this kid just wanted to be hugged
Whatever it was
I know it's because

chorus: We are, We are, the youth of the nation

Little Suzy, she was only twelve
She was given the world
With every chance to excel

Hang with the boys and hear the stories they tell
She might act kind of proud
But no respect for herself

She finds love in all the wrong places
The same situations
Just different faces

Changed up her pace since her daddy left her
Too bad he never told her
She deserved much better

Johnny boy always played the fool
He broke all the rules
So you would think he was cool

He was never really one of the guys
No matter how hard he tried
Often thought of suicide

It's kind of hard when you ain't got no friends
He put his life to an end
They might remember him then

You cross the line and there's no turning back
Told the world how he felt
With the sound of a gat

chorus

Who's to blame for the lives that tragedies claim
No matter what you say
It don't take away the pain

That I feel inside, I'm tired of all the lies
Don't nobody know why
It's the blind leading the blind

I guess that's the way the story goes
Will it ever make sense
Somebody's got to know

There's got to be more to life than this
There's got to be more to everything
I thought exists

chorus

For many the world still makes sense and they have found satisfaction in their idols, however for those who have given up all hope Jesus has an answer. Bring your prayer to Him! "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, "Even though I don't fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him

day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:1-8.

A04. Nightmare #71

by Larry Norman

last night i had that same old dream it rocked me in my sleep, and left me the impression that the sandman plays for keeps, i dreamed i was in concert in the middle of the clouds, john wayne and billy graham were giving breath mints to the crowds, i fell through a hole in heaven i left the stage for good, and when i landed on the earth i was back in hollywood

the california earthquake it tore the land in half, while san andreas cleared her throat i heard tsunami laugh the ground began to tremble the land began to sway and people in the other states they were glad they'd moved away, but suddenly california just floated in the breeze, while every state that wasn't sank down into the seas

and soon i saw atlantis rumble and rise high, and the great egg of euphrates came down out of the sky, and out stepped shirley temple with guy kipee who was dead, and that communist bill robinson whom shirley called black red, they have a marionette of harpo marx they said it was an inside joke, but when i honked his horn he came alive and these were the words he spoke

"with the continents adrift and the sun about to shift will the ice caps drown us all or will we burn, we've polluted what we own will we reap what we have sown? are we headed for the end or can we turn? we've paved the forest killed the streams, burned the bridges to our dreams, the earth is bursting at the seams, and in pain of childbirth screams, as it gives life to what seems to either be an age that gleams, or simply lays there dying, if this goes on will life survive how can it, out of the grave oh who will save our planet?"

i said i'm pleased to meet you i always thought you were a scream, he said "have you ever thought of having helen keller in your dreams, i said errol flynn dropped by but he tried to steal my girl, the she ran off with ronald colman said something about a new world, now i'm stuck with my own cooking hey i'm lonely can't you see, well he grabbed my leg and said exactly eighty nine words to me, count them

"let the proud but dying nation kiss the last generation it's the year of the pill, age of the gland, we have landed

on the moon but we'll clutter that up soon, our sense of freedom's gotten out of hand, we kill our children swap our wives, we've learned to greet a man with knives we swallow pills in fours and fives, our cities look like crumbling hives, man does not live he just survives we sleep till he arrives, love is a corpse we sit and watch it harden, we left it oh so long ago the garden"

the strings snapped briskly then went slack the marionette lay dead, while hoover played with the motorcade the body slumped and bled, the man who held the camera disappeared into the crowd, i said the hope of youth, fictitious truth, lays covered in a shroud then up walked elmo lincoln and he said i beg your pardon, but we left it oh so long ago, the garden

Sin sure has screwed up this world, but it wasn't that way from the beginning in the garden. Do you know your history? God has placed mankind out of the Garden of Eden because of our sin. "And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life." Genesis 3:22-24.

A05. Wondering Where The Lions Are

by Bruce Cockburn

Sun's up, uh huh, looks okay
The world survives into another day
And I'm thinking about eternity
Some kind of ecstasy got a hold on me
I had another dream about lions at the door
They weren't half as frightening as they were before
But I'm thinking about eternity
Some kind of ecstasy got a hold on me

Walls windows trees, waves coming through
You be in me and I'll be in you
Together in eternity
Some kind of ecstasy got a hold on me

Up among the firs where it smells so sweet
Or down in the valley where the river used to be
I got my mind on eternity
Some kind of ecstasy got a hold on me

And I'm wondering where the lions are...
I'm wondering where the lions are...

Huge orange flying boat rises off a lake
Thousand-year-old petroglyphs doing a double take
Pointing a finger at eternity
I'm sitting in the middle of this ecstasy

Young men marching, helmets shining in the sun,
Polished as precise like the brain behind the gun
(Should be!) they got me thinking about eternity
Some kind of ecstasy got a hold on me

And I'm wondering where the lions are...
I'm wondering where the lions are...

Freighters on the nod on the surface of the bay
One of these days we're going to sail away,
going to sail into eternity
some kind of ecstasy got a hold on me

And I'm wondering where the lions are...
I'm wondering where the lions are...

Ecstasy is coming! Consider the joy to be God's son or daughter in place with absolutely no sin in heaven. I am ready to go there this instant! "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son." Revelation 21:1-7.

A06. Soul Of A Man

by Bruce Cockburn

I'm going to ask the question
Please answer if you can
Is there anybody's children can tell me
What is the soul of a man?

Won't somebody tell me
Answer if you can

Won't somebody tell me
Tell me what is the soul of a man?

I've travelled different countries
Travelled to the furthest lands
Couldn't find nobody could tell me
What is the soul of a man

Won't somebody tell me
Answer if you can
Won't somebody tell me
Tell me what is the soul of a man?

I saw a crowd stand talking
I just came up in time
Was teaching the lawyers and the doctors
That a man ain't nothing but his mind

Won't somebody tell me
Answer if you can
Won't somebody tell me
Tell me what is the soul of a man?

I read the Bible often
I try to read it right
As far as I can understand
It's nothing but a burning light

Won't somebody tell me
Answer if you can
Won't somebody tell me
Tell me what is the soul of a man?

When Christ taught in the temple
The people all stood amazed
Was teaching the lawyers and the doctors
How to raise a man from the grave

Won't somebody tell me
Answer if you can
Won't somebody tell me
Tell me what is the soul of a man?

Scripture declares that the soul of a man is darkness without Jesus Christ and blazing light with Jesus Christ. Matthew 6:22-23 says, "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" And Philippians 2:14-15 says, "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe." So what are you? Light or darkness?

A07. Desperado

by The Eagles

Desperado, why don't you come to your senses,
You've been out ridin fences for so long now,
Oh and you're a hard one,
 but I know that you've got your reasons,
The things that are pleasin you can hurt you somehow.

Don't you draw the queen of diamonds boy,
 she'll beat you if she's able.
You know the queen of hearts is always your best bet.
Now it seems to me some fine things
 have been laid upon your table,
But you only want the ones you can't get.

Desperado, you ain't gettin no younger,
Your pain and your hunger, they're drivin you home,
And freedom, oh freedom,
 well that's just some people talkin.
Your prison is walking through this world all alone.

Don't your feet get cold in the wintertime,
The sky won't snow and the sun won't shine,
It's hard to tell the nighttime from the day.
And you're losin all your highs and lows,
Ain't it funny how the feelin goes away?

Desperado, why don't you come to your senses,
Come down from your fences- open the gates.
It may be rainin, but there's a rainbow above you.
You'd better let somebody love you,
LET SOMEBODY LOVE YOU.
You'd better let somebody love you,
before it's too late

Let God love you before it is too late! "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" Matthew 23:37-39.

A08. Hole Hearted

by Extreme

Life's ambition occupies my time
Priorities confuse the mind
Happiness one step behind
This inner peace I've yet to find

Rivers flow into the sea
Yet even the sea is not so full of me

If I'm not blind why can't I see
That a circle can't fit
Where a square should be

There's a hole in my heart
That can only be filled by you
And this hole in my heart
Can't be filled with the things I do

Hole hearted
Hole hearted

This heart of stone is where I hide
These feet of clay kept warm inside
Day by day less satisfied
Not fade away before I die

Rivers flow into the sea
Yet even the sea is not so full of me
If I'm not blind why can't I see
That a circle can't fit
Where a square should be

There's a hole in my heart
That can only be filled by you
And this hole in my heart
Can't be filled with the things I do
There's a hole in my heart
That can only be filled by you
And this hole in my heart
Can't be filled with the things I do

Hole hearted
Hole hearted
Hole hearted
Hole hearted

We have a very serious choice before us! Will we know God as our boss, policeman, or harsh task-master or will we know God as He is, our friend and companion? Isaiah 28:10-13 says, "For it is: Do and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule; a little here, a little there." Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people, to whom he said, "This is the resting place, let the weary rest"; and, "This is the place of repose"-- but they would not listen. So then, the word of the LORD to them will become: Do and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule; a little here, a little there-- so that they will go and fall backward, be injured and snared and captured. Luke 10:38-42 says, "As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that

my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

A09. The Messenjah

by P.O.D.

I message, written in rhyme, prophetic
Teachers amongst the skeptics and
 guiding the misdirected
Infected with their lies and their alibis
With their third eye blind, out of line,
 they try to prophesy
I and I unfold the mysteries told
From the futuristic realms to the days of old
Make straight through the path of the one voice calling
Truth shines, back again two times
 in the Second Coming

b-section:

I am the Messenjah x 4

chorus:

This I pledge, and I'll take it to my death
I'll lay my life down for you and die over again
I and I, I'm not ashamed of the Most High
Even if I die tonight, if I die tonight
This I pledge, and I'll take it to my death
You can bet your life on my words and everything I said
You can't take away my love for this sacrifice
Even if I die tonight, if I die tonight

True king descendant, master to the apprentice
Pleased to release and reveal in me His presence
Forever blessed, I believe if Jah said it
The word of life came alive in the scriptures "C I read it
All hail, we prevail, the Tribes of Israel,
 flow through ya
We pursue the conquering lion of the Tribe of Judah
Don't let 'em fool ya, before this, the foolish get rushed
So don't slip, you never knew us

b-section

chorus

This is a passionate song from followers of Christ who claim that they are willing to lay down their lives for Christ. The apostle Peter, Christ follower, said the exact same thing in Matthew 26:35, "But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same." Read the gospel of Matthew or John to learn about the

rest of the story, how Peter failed, and how Christ deepened the faith of Peter and all the disciples to the surest foundation.

A10. My Sacrifice

by Creed

Hello my friend we meet again
It's been a while where should
we begin...feels like forever
Within my heart are memories
Of perfect love that you gave to me
I remember

When you are with me
I'm free...I'm careless...I believe
Above all the others we'll fly
This brings tears to my eyes
My sacrifice

We've seen our share of ups and downs
Oh how quickly life can turn around in an instant
It feels so good to reunite
Within yourself and within your mind
Let's find peace there

When you are with me
I'm free...I'm careless...I believe
Above all the others we'll fly
This brings tears to my eyes
My sacrifice

I just want to say hello again

I don't know what brand of Christianity you have been introduced to, but beware of false teachers! True Christianity sets a person free. The love of God poured into a forgiven sinner will set a person free to fulfill every good work for which God has created them. Galatians 5:1 says, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

A11. Cry Of A Tiny Baby

by Bruce Cockburn

Mary grows a child without the help of a man
Joseph get upset because he doesn't understand
Angel comes to Joseph in a powerful dream
Says "God did this and you're part of his scheme"
Joseph comes to Mary with his hat in his hand
Says "forgive me I thought
 you'd been with some other man"
She says "what if I had been?"

but I wasn't anyway and guess what
I felt the baby kick today"

Like a stone on the surface of a still river
Driving the ripples on forever
Redemption rips through the surface of time
In the cry of a tiny babe

The child is born in the fullness of time
Three wise astrologers take note of the signs
Come to pay their respects to the fragile little king
Get pretty close to wrecking everything
'Cause the governing body of the whole land
Is that of Herod, a paranoid man
Who when he hears there's a baby
born King of the Jews
Sends death squads to kill all male children under two
But that same bright angel warns the parents in a dream
And they head out for the border and get away clean

Like a stone on the surface of a still river
Driving the ripples on forever
Redemption rips through the surface of time
In the cry of a tiny babe

There are others who know about this miracle birth
The humblest of people catch a glimpse of their worth
For it isn't to the palace that the Christ child comes
But to shepherds and street people, hookers and bums
And the message is clear if you've got ears to hear
That forgiveness is given for your guilt and your fear
It's a Christmas gift you don't have to buy
There's a future shining in a baby's eyes

Like a stone on the surface of a still river
Driving the ripples on forever
Redemption rips through the surface of time
In the cry of a tiny babe

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:13-19.

A12. Freedom Fighter by Creed

The mouths of envious
Always find another door
While at the gates of paradise
they beat us down some more
But our mission's set in stone
'Cause the writing's on the wall
I'll scream it from the mountain tops
pride comes before the fall

So many thoughts to share
All this energy to give
Unlike those who hide the truth I tell it like it is
If the truth will set you free
I feel sorry for your soul
Can't you hear the ringing 'cause for you the bell tolls

Chorus:I'm just a freedom fighter
No remorse
Raging on in holy war
Soon there'll come a day
When you're face to face with
Face to face with me

Can't you hear us coming?
People marching all around
Can't you see we're coming?
Close your eyes it's over now
Can't you hear us coming?
The fight has only just begun
Can't you see we're coming?

I'm just a freedom fighter
No remorse
Raging on in holy war
Soon there'll come a day
When your face to face with me
Face to face with me

"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18.

"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses." 1 Timothy 6:12.

B01. When Love Comes To Town by U2

I was a sailor, I was lost at sea
I was under the waves
Before love rescued me
I was a fighter, I could turn on a thread
Now I stand accused of the things I've said

Love comes to town I'm gonna jump that train
When love comes to town I'm gonna catch that flame
Maybe I was wrong to ever let you down
But I did what I did before love came to town

I used to make love under a red sunset
I was making promises I was soon to forget
She was pale as the lace of her wedding gown
But I left her standing before love came to town

I ran into a juke joint when I heard a guitar scream
The notes were turning blue, I was dazing in a dream
As the music played I saw my life turn around
That was the day before love came to town
When love comes to town I'm gonna jump that train
When love comes to town I'm gonna catch that flame
Maybe I was wrong to ever let you down
But I did what I did before love came to town

[Repeat Chorus]

I was there when they crucified my Lord
I held the scabbard when the soldier drew his sword
I threw the dice when they pierced his side
But I've seen love conquer the great divide

When love comes to town I'm gonna catch that train
When love comes to town I'm gonna catch that flame
Maybe I was wrong to ever let you down
But I did what I did before love came to town

Consider the line in this song, "I did what I did before love came to town." BUT just suppose there was even a few people who's sin was so disgusting that they did what they did AFTER love came to town? I testify that the love of Christ is so strong that there is hope even for the perpetual sinner. There is hope even for the confused Christian who is so discouraged with the tangled messy knot of their own disgusting crimes that they have given up on God. There is hope because God has not given up with them or you! Read Romans chapter 8! "What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? Roman 8:31-25.

B02. Righteous Rocker #1

by Larry Norman

You can be a righteous rocker,
you can be a holy roller
You could be most anything,
You could be a Leon Russell,
or a super muscle,
You could be a corporate king,
You could be a wealthy man from Texas,
or a witch with heavy hexes,
But without love, you ain't nothing without love
Without love you ain't nothing, without love.
You could be a brilliant surgeon,
or a sweet young virgin,
or a harlot out to sell,
You could learn to play the blues,
or be Howard Hughes
or the scarlot pimpnelli,
Or you could be a French provincial midwife,
or go from door to door with a death-knife,
But without love you ain't nothing, without love,
Without love you ain't nothing, without love.

You could be a woman feeler,
or a baby stealer,
you could drink your life away,
Or you could be a holy prophet,
get a blessing off it,
Or you could fast for fifty days,
You could shake hands with the devil,
or give your life to God on the level,
But without love you ain't nothing, without love,
Without love you ain't nothing, without love.

Larry Norman was the first artist to combine rock and roll and the Christian faith. He is also my favorite. Above is his version of 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I

thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

B03. Wayward Son

by Kansas

Once I rose above the noise and confusion
Just to get a glimpse beyond the illusion
I was soaring ever higher, but I flew too high
Though my eyes could see I still was a blind man
Though my mind could think I still was a mad man
I hear the voices when I'm dreamin', I can hear them say

Carry on my wayward son,
For there'll be peace when you are done
Lay your weary head to rest
Now don't you cry no more

Masquerading as a man with a reason
My charade is the event of the season
And if I claim to be a wise man,
 it surely means that I don't know
On a stormy sea of moving emotion
Tossed about I'm like a ship on the ocean
I set a course for winds of fortune,
 but I hear the voices say

Carry on my wayward son,
For there'll be peace when you are done
Lay your weary head to rest
Now don't you cry no more

Carry on, you will always remember
Carry on, nothing equals the splendor
Now your life's no longer empty
Surely heaven waits for you

Carry on my wayward son,
For there'll be peace when you are done
Lay your weary head to rest
Now don't you cry no more

Kerry Livgren wrote this piece on the way to the Christian faith. Here is his encouragement to carry on and not give up despite of our battles with sin and ruined dreams. There is a promised rest, for the Redeemed. The Scriptures themselves exhort in Hebrews 3, "See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is

called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief. Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it."

B04. Everything's Still True

by The Beginners

hello how ya been
i heard about that trouble you're in
did your season of doubt turn to a season of sin
and are you ever coming back again

i remember when you were strong
i don't believe you're to far gone

everything everything's still true
everything that you led me to
everything everything's still true
nothing's changed but your point of view
everything is still true

forgetting time for the chapter and verse
sooner or later your vision gets blurred
the money was a blessing
but now it's a curse
can you remember who loved you first

Jesus still loves you Jesus still forgives
Jesus still keeps calling your name
again and again and again

Scripture warns that the deceitfulness of sin in the last days will be so bad that even the elect of God may be lead astray. Matthew 24:24-25 says, "For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect--if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time." And so if you have been among those lead off the path, this song from my own cousin's husband has some encouragement for you. Namely, every thing about the forgiveness and love of God is still true!

B05. Renegade

by Styx

Oh Mama, I'm in fear for my life
from the long arm of the law
Law man has put an end to my running
and I'm so far from my home
The jig is up, the news is out
They finally found me
The renegade who had it made
Retrieved for a bounty
Never more to go astray
This'll be the end today
Of the wanted man
Oh Mama, I've been years on the lam
and had a high price on my head
Lawman said 'Get him dead or alive'
and it's for sure he'll see me dead
Dear Mama I can hear you cryin',
you're so scared and all alone
Hangman is comin' down from the gallows
and I don't have very long
The jig is up, the news is out
They finally found me
The renegade who had it made
Retrieved for a bounty
Never more to go astray
The judge'll have revenge today
On the wanted man
Oh Mama, I'm in fear for my life
from the long arm of the law
Law man has put an end to my running
and I'm so far from my home
The jig is up, the news is out
They finally found me
The renegade who had it made
Retrieved for a bounty
Never more to go astray
This'll be the end today
Of the wanted man

Who knows why this song was really written? But for a moment consider the song from the vantage point of one who has transgressed the law of God being pursued by a religious lawman or worse yet by Satan the accuser of the brethren! This song could be used to express what I feel is perhaps the biggest misunderstanding about Christianity. The unbeliever imagines that to be a good Christian they must attempt to please God through their obedience to the laws of God such as do this, don't do that, and go to church on Sunday. But where would we draw the line on such a list? Or to what degree would we have to obey the list in order to be good? We all

know that Santa Clause has his list and he gives gifts to all the good children. Jesus Christ, however, also has a list and it names everyone a sinner, yet he gives good gifts anyway! Folks, Santa may be a neat fellow, but Jesus has a much better deal. He offers hope even to those who have royally screwed up. Many have a false understanding that the Christian is one who has submitted to obeying a short list of do's and don't's. This false Christianity disgusts me, but regretfully only because I have been guilty of this attitude myself. Rather than being a brother with others in the fight against sin and the pursuit of Christ, I have hunted down sinners hoping to save them from their sin, while I practiced my own sin in the secrets of my closet. By the grace of God I will learn to be a brother with others in the fight against sin. Consider this CD project my hand held out to you in Christian brotherhood. The Bible itself declares in Galatians 2:16 that absolutely no one will be or can be justified before God by obedience to the law! Why? Because Romans 3:23 declares that all have sinned. It is too late! No amount of goody-two-shoes can undo the deeds we have done. What is left? Trust in the already finished work of Jesus Christ. If you are standing for the first or tenth time by faith in Jesus Christ surrounded by heaps and mounds of your sin, you may appreciate why I included this song. Your shame for deeds done may have left you fleeing for your life, hiding your eyes from loved ones, welcoming callouses over your conscience, or weighing the advantages of suicide itself. You may have dread fear of what the self-righteous religious lawman would do to you would he know about all your sin, or worse fear over Satan's ultimate schemes for your demise. It is the purposeful design of Satan to tempt, seduce, and trap God's people in their sin and then once he has them there to accuse them until they have lost all hope and given up completely on God. Satan can leave people incapable of serving the Lord as they are paralyzed by facing their sin day in and day out. Satan's grip can only be loosed when the good news breaks through. Christ loves you dearly and through faith you can know you are forgiven forever! I pray that you will exercise your weak knees of faith and believe 1 John 4:18, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." Now is the time to fight Satan with the gospel, to show compassion to the religious lawman trying to be saved by the law, and to say that Jesus saved a sinner like me and he has redeemed you too!

B06. With Arms Wide Open

by Creed

Well I just heard the news today
It seems my life is going to change
I closed my eyes, begin to pray
Then tears of joy stream down my face

With arms wide open
Under the sunlight
Welcome to this place
I'll show you everything
With arms wide open
With arms wide open

Well I don't know if I'm ready
To be the man I have to be
I'll take a breath, I'll take her by my side
We stand in awe, we've created life

With arms wide open
Under the sunlight
Welcome to this place
I'll show you everything
With arms wide open
Now everything has changed
I'll show you love
I'll show you everything
With arms wide open
With arms wide open
I'll show you everything ...oh yeah
With arms wide open...wide open

[Guitar Break]

If I had just one wish
Only one demand
I hope he's not like me
I hope he understands
That he can take this life
And hold it by the hand
And he can greet the world
With arms wide open...

With arms wide open
Under the sunlight
Welcome to this place
I'll show you everything
With arms wide open
Now everything has changed
I'll show you love
I'll show you everything
With arms wide open
With arms wide open
I'll show you everything..oh yeah
With arms wide open....wide open

How would you live your life differently if you truly believed that despite your weakness and sin you are held fast by the strong arms of God himself? "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you, saying, 'Destroy him!' So Israel will live in safety alone; Jacob's spring is secure in a land of grain and new wine, where the heavens drop dew. Blessed are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD? He is your shield and helper and your glorious sword. Your enemies will cower before you, and you will trample down their high places," Deuteronomy 33:27-29.

B07. One Last Breath

by Creed

Please come now I think I'm falling
I'm holding to all I think is safe
It seems I found the road to nowhere
And I'm trying to escape
I yelled back when I heard thunder
But I'm down to one last breath
And with it let me say
Let me say

Hold me now
I'm six feet from the edge and I'm thinking
That maybe six feet
Ain't so far down

I'm looking down now that it's over
Reflecting on all of my mistakes
I thought I found the road to somewhere
Somewhere in His grace
I cried out heaven save me
But I'm down to one last breath
And with it let me say
Let me say

Hold me now
I'm six feet from the edge and I'm thinking
That maybe six feet
Ain't so far down

Sad eyes follow me
But I still believe there's something left for me
So please come stay with me
'Cause I still believe there's something
left for you and me
For you and me, For you and me

Hold me now
I'm six feet from the edge and I'm thinking

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
_____ for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
_____ for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
_____ for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
_____ for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
_____ for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
_____ for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
_____ for they will be called sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted
_____ because of righteousness,
_____ for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 5:3-10.

B08. Stand Here With Me

by Creed

You always reached out to me
and helped me believe
All those memories we share
I will cherish every one of them
The truth of it is there's a right way to live
And you showed me
So now you live on in the words of a song
You're a melody

You stand here with me now

Just when fear blinded me you taught me to dream
I'll give you everything I am and still fall short of
What you've done for me
In this life that I live
I hope I can give love unselfishly
I've learned the world is bigger than me
You're my daily dose of reality

You stand here with me now

On and on we sing
On and on we sing this song

'Cause you stand here with me

"No one will be able to stand up against you all the
days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with
you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." Joshua
1:5.

B09. Pride (In The Name of Love)

by U2

One man come in the name of love
One man come and go
One man come, he to justify
One man to overthrow

In the name of love
What more in the name of love
In the name of love
What more in the name of love

One man caught on a barbed wire fence
One man he resist
One man washed on an empty beach.
One man betrayed with a kiss

In the name of love
What more in the name of love
In the name of love
What more in the name of love

(nobody like you...)

Early morning, April 4
Shot rings out in the Memphis sky
Free at last, they took your life
They could not take your pride

In the name of love
What more in the name of love
In the name of love
What more in the name of love
In the name of love
What more in the name of love...

"Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was
condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act
of righteousness was justification that brings life for all
men." Romans 5:18. Jesus is that one who came to
justify. Brother believe it! Through faith in Christ you
can know that you are totally forgiven before the
Almighty God of the universe!

B10. What If?

by Creed

I can't find the rhyme in all my reason
Lost sense of time and all seasons
Feel I've been beaten down
By the words of men who have no grounds Can't sleep
beneath the trees of wisdom
When your ax has cut the roots that feed them
Forked tongues in bitter mouths
Can drive a man to bleed from inside out

What if you did?
What if you lied?
What if I avenge?
What if eye for an eye?

I've seen the wicked fruit of your vine
Destroy the man who lacks a strong mind
Human pride sings a vengeful song
Inspired by the times you've been walked on
My stage is shared by many millions
Who lift their hands up high because they feel this
We are one We are strong
The more you hold us down the more we press on

What if you did?
What if you lied?
What if I avenge?
What if eye for an eye?

[Guitar Break]

I know I can't hold the hate inside my mind
'Cause what consumes your thoughts controls your life
So I'll just ask a question
A lonely simple question
I'll just ask one question
What if? What if?
What if? What if?
What If I?

What if? What if?
What if? What if?
What If I?

What if? What if?
What if? What if?
What If I?

What if? What if?
What if? What if?
What If I?

What if you did?
What if you lied?
What if I avenge?
What if eye for an eye?

What if your words could be judged like a crime?
What if? What if?
What if? What if?
What If I?

What if? What if?
What if? What if?
What If I?

What if? What if?
What if? What if?
What If I?

What if? What if?
What if? What if?
What If I?

What if Christ said this to you? "If you are the Christ, " they said, "tell us." Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I asked you, you would not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God." Luke 22:67-69

B11. Hide

by Creed

To what do I owe this gift my friend?
My life, my love, my soul?
I've been dancing with the devil way too long
And it's making me grow old
Making me grow old

Let's leave...oh let's get away
Run in fields of time
Where there's no reason to hide

What are you going to do with your gift dear child?
Give life, give love, give soul?
Divided is the one who dances
For the sould is so exposed
So exposed

Let's leave...oh let's get away
Get lost in time
Where there's no reason to hide

Let's leave...oh let's get away
Run in fields of time
Where there's no reason to hide

There is no reason to hide
No reason to hide

"But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved."
Hebrews 10:39.

B12. I Wish We'd All Been Ready

by Larry Norman

Life was filled with guns and war.
And everyone got trampled on the floor.
I wish we'd all been ready.
Children died the day grew cold.

A piece of bread could buy a bag of gold.
I wish we'd all been ready.

There's no time to change your mind.
The Son has come and you've been left behind.

A man and wife sleep in bed.
She hears a noise and turns her head, he's gone.
I wish we'd all been ready.
Two men walking up a hill.
One disappears and one's left standing still.

I wish we'd all been ready.
There's no time to change your mind.
The Son has come and you've been left behind.

Life was filled with guns and war.
And everyone got trampled on the floor.
I wish we'd all been ready.
Children died the day grew cold.
A piece of bread could buy a bag of gold.
I wish we'd all been ready.

There's no time to change your mind.
How could you have been so blind?
The father spoke, the demons dined.
The Son has come and you've been left behind.

"Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come," Matthew 24:40-42

C01. Are You Ready?

by Creed

Hey, Mr. Seeker hold on to this advice
If you keep seeking you will find
Don't want to follow
Down roads been walked before It's so hard to find
unopened doors

Are you ready? Are you ready?
For whats to come...Oh I said Are you ready?
Are you Ready?...For whats to come

Hey, Mr. Hero Walking a thin, fine line
Under the microscope of life
Remember your roots, my friend
They're right down below
'Cause heroes come and heroes go

Are you ready? Are you ready?
For whats to come...Oh I said Are you ready?

Are you ready? For whats to come

Ten, nine, eight, seven, six,
five, four, three, two, one
Count down to the change in life
that's soon to come
Ten, nine, eight, seven, six,
five, four, three, two, one
Count down to the change in life
that's soon to come
Your life has just begun
Life has just begun
Life has just begun
Life has just begun

Are you ready? Are you ready?
For whats to come...Oh I said Are you ready?
Are you ready? For whats to come
Oh I said Are you ready?
Are you ready? For whats to come
Your Life has just begun
Life has just begun
Life has just begun

I adjure you by the living God get ready for the return of Jesus Christ! "The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers. "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed! Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." Luke 13:42-53

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 7:7-12.

C02. I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For

by U2

I have climbed highest mountain
I have run through the fields
Only to be with you
Only to be with you

I have run
I have crawled
I have scaled these city walls
These city walls
Only to be with you

But I still haven't found what I'm looking for
But I still haven't found what I'm looking for

I have kissed honey lips
Felt the healing in her fingertips
It burned like fire This burning desire

I have spoke with the tongue of angels
I have held the hand of a devil
It was warm in the night
I was cold as a stone

But I still haven't found what I'm looking for
But I still haven't found what I'm looking for

I believe in the kingdom come
Then all the colors will bleed into one
Bleed into one
Well yes I'm still running

You broke the bonds and you
Loosed the chains
Carried the cross
Of my shame
Of my shame
You know I believed it

But I still haven't found what I'm looking for
But I still haven't found what I'm looking for
But I still haven't found what I'm looking for
But I still haven't found what I'm looking for...

"And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated--the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood." Hebrew 11:32-12:4. Brother, we have salvation full and complete right now, but only by faith. Soon we will have it by sight! Is that what you are looking for?

C03. All You Zombies

by The Hooters

Holy Moses met the Pharaoh
Yeah, he tried to set him straight
Looked him in the eye, "let my people go"

Holy Moses on the mountain
High above the golden calf
Went to get the Ten Commandments
He's just gonna break them in half

All you zombies hide your faces
All you people in the street
All you sittin' in high places
The pieces gonna fall on you

No one ever spoke to Noah
They all laughed at him instead
Working on his ark, working all by himself

Only Noah saw it coming
Forty days and forty nights
Took his sons and daughters with him
Yeah, they were the Israelites

All you zombies hide your faces
All you people in the street
All you sittin' in high places
The rain's gonna fall on you

Holy Father, what's the matter
Where have all your children gone
Sitting in the dark, living all by themselves
You don't have to hide anymore

All you zombies show your faces...

"And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature." Romans 13:11-14.

C04. Everybody Plays the Fool

by Aaron Neville

Ok, so your heart is broken
You're sitting around mopin', mopin', mopin',
cryin', cryin'
You say you're even thinking about dying
Well, before you do anything rash, baby,
listen to this

Everybody plays the fool, sometime
There's no exception to the rule, listen baby
It may be factual, it may be cruel, I ain't lying
Everybody plays the fool

Fallin' in love is such an easy thing to do
But there's no guarantee that the one you love,

is gonna love you
Oh, loving eyes they cannot see a certain person
could never be
Love runs deeper than any ocean,
it clouds you're mind with emotion

Everybody plays the fool, sometime
There's no exception to the rule, listen baby
It may be factual, it may be cruel, I ain't lying
Everybody plays the fool

How can you help it, when the music starts to play
And your ability to reason, is swept away
Oh, heaven on earth is all you see,
you're out of touch with reality
And now you cry, but when you do,
next time around someone cries for you

Hey, everybody plays the fool, sometime
Use your heart just like a tool, listen baby
They never tell you so in school, I wanna say it again,
Everybody plays the fool

Everybody plays the fool, sometime
There's no exception to the rule, listen baby
It may be factual, it may be cruel, I ain't lying
Everybody plays the fool
Everybody plays the fool, sometime
There's no exception to the rule, listen baby
It may be factual, it may be cruel,
I wanna say it again
Everybody plays the fool

"If you have played the fool and exalted yourself, or if you have planned evil, clap your hand over your mouth!" Proverbs 30:32.

C05. God Part II

by U2

Don't believe the devil
I don't believe his book
But the truth is not the same
Without the lies he made up
Don't believe in excess,
Success is to give
Don't believe in riches,
But you should see where I live
I...I believe in love

Don't believe in forced entry
Don't believe in rape
But every time she passes by,
Wild thoughts escape
I don't believe in death row,

Skid row or the gangs
Don't believe in the Uzi,
It just went off in my hand
I...I believe in love

Don't believe in cocaine,
Got a speed-ball in my head
I could cut and crack you open
Do you hear what I said?
Don't believe them when they tell me
There ain't no cure
The rich stay healthy, the sick stay poor
I...I believe in love

Don't believe in Goldman
His type like a curse
Instant karma's going to get him
If I don't get him first
Don't believe in rock 'n roll
Can really change the world
As it spins in revolution, spirals and turns
I...I believe in love

Don't believe in the 60's,
The golden age of pop
You glorify the past
When the future dries up
Heard a singer on the radio late last night
He says he's going to kick the darkness,
Till it bleeds daylight
I...I believe in love

I feel like I'm falling
Like I'm spinning on a wheel
It always stops beside me
With a presence I can feel
I...I believe in love

*"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.
God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God
in him." 1 John 4:16.*

C06. Higher

by Creed

When dreaming I'm guided through another world
Time and time again
At sunrise I fight to stay asleep
'Cause I don't want to leave the comfort of this place
'Cause there's a hangar, a longing to escape
From the life I live when I'm awake

[Chorus]

So let's go there
Let's make our escape

Come on let's go there
Let's ask can we stay
Can you take me higher
To a place where blind men see
Can you take me higher
To a place with golden streets

Although I would like our world to change
it helps me to appreciate those nights
and those dreams
But my friend I'd sacrifice all those nights
If I could make the earth and my dreams the same
The only difference is to let love replace all our hate

[Chorus]

So let's go there
Let's make our escape
Come on let's go there
Let's ask can we stay
Can you take me higher
To a place where blind men see
Can you take me higher
To a place with golden streets

So let's go there
So let's go there
Come on let's go there
Let's ask can we stay

Up high I feel like I'm alive
for the very first time
Up high I feel like I'm strong enough
to take these dreams and make them mine
Up high I feel like I'm strong enough
to take these dreams and make them mine

Can you take me higher
To a place where blind men see
Can you take me higher
To a place with golden streets

Can you take me higher
To a place where blind men see
Can you take me higher
To a place with golden streets

*"The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold,
as pure as glass." Revelation 21:18*

C07. Lullaby

by Creed

Hush my love now don't you cry
Everything will be all right
Close your eyes and drift in dream

Rest in peaceful sleep
If there's one thing I hope
I showed you
Hope I showed you
Just give love to all

Oh my love...in my arms tight
Every day you give me life
As I drift off to your world
Will rest in peaceful sleep

I know there's one thing that
you showed me
That you showed me

Just give love to all
Let's give love to all

C08. Forever Young

by Rod Stewart

May the good Lord be with you
Down every road you roam
And may sunshine and happiness
surround you when you're far from home
And may you grow to be proud
Dignified and true
And do unto others
As you'd have done to you
Be courageous and be brave
And in my heart you'll always stay
Forever Young, Forever Young
Forever Young, Forever Young

May good fortune be with you
May your guiding light be strong
Build a stairway to heaven
with a prince or a vagabond

And may you never love in vain
and in my heart you will remain
Forever Young, Forever Young
Forever Young, Forever Young
Forever Young
Forever Young

And when you finally fly away
I'll be hoping that I served you well
For all the wisdom of a lifetime
No one can ever tell

But whatever road you choose
I'm right behind you, win or lose
Forever Young, Forever Young
Forever Young, Forever Young

Forever Young, Forever Young
For, Forever Young, Forever Young

The Scripture commands us to bless and not to curse. Isn't it encouraging that even Rod Stewart can ask that the good Lord bless you. If he can bless you surely you can bless another! "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked." Luke 6:27-35.

C09. I Hope You Dance

by LeAnn Womack

I hope you never lose your sense of wonder,
You get your fill to eat but always keep that hunger,
May you never take one single breath for granted,
GOD forbid love ever leave you empty handed,
I hope you still feel small when you
stand beside the ocean,
Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens,
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance,
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance.

I hope you dance....I hope you dance.

I hope you never fear those mountains
in the distance,
Never settle for the path of least resistance
Livin' might mean takin' chances but
they're worth takin',

Lovin' might be a mistake but it's worth makin',
Don't let some hell bent heart leave you bitter,
When you come close to sellin' out reconsider,
Give the heavens above more than just
a passing glance,

And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance.

I hope you dance....I hope you dance.

I hope you dance....I hope you dance.

(Time is a wheel in constant motion always
rolling us along,
Tell me who wants to look back on their years and
wonder where those years have gone.)

I hope you still feel small when you stand beside
the ocean,
Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens,
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance,
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance.

Dance....I hope you dance.
I hope you dance....I hope you dance.
I hope you dance....I hope you dance.. (Time is a wheel
in constant motion
always rolling us along
Tell me who wants to look back on their years and
wonder where those years have gone

Whatever trial you are facing I hope, along with LeAnn
Womack, that you would give faith a chance and that
God would bring you through to dancing on the other
side of your trial. Trust in Christ!

C10. Don't Stop Dancing

by Creed

At times life is wicked
and I just can't see the light
A silver lining sometimes isn't enough
To make some wrongs seem right
Whatever life brings
I've been through everything
And now I'm on my knees again
But I know I must go on
Although I hurt I must be strong
Because inside I know that
many feel this way

Children don't stop dancing
Believe you can fly
Away...away

At times life's unfair
and you know it's plain to see
Hey God I know I'm just a dot in this world
Have you forgot about me?
Whatever life brings
I've been through everything
And now I'm on my knees again

But I know I must go on
Although I hurt I must be strong
Because inside I know that many
feel this way

Am I hiding in the shadows?
Forget the pain and forget the sorrows

But I know I must go on
Although I hurt I must be strong
Because inside I know that many
feel this way

Children don't stop dancing
Believe you can fly
Away...away

Am I hiding in the shadows?
Are we hiding in the shadows?

The Lord can bring you back with dancing! Will you
continue to trust Him? At that time, declares the
LORD, "I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and
they will be my people." This is what the LORD says:
"The people who survive the sword will find favor in the
desert; I will come to give rest to Israel." The LORD
appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you
with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with
loving-kindness. I will build you up again and you will
be rebuilt, O Virgin Israel. Again you will take up your
tambourines and go out to dance with the joyful. Again
you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the
farmers will plant them and enjoy their fruit. There will
be a day when watchmen cry out on the hills of
Ephraim, 'Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our
God.'" This is what the LORD says: "Sing with joy for
Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your
praises heard, and say, 'O LORD, save your people, the
remnant of Israel.' See, I will bring them from the land
of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth.
Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant
mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return.
They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring
them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a
level path where they will not stumble, because I am
Israel's father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son. "Hear
the word of the LORD, O nations; proclaim it in distant
coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them
and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.' For the
LORD will ransom Jacob and redeem them from the
hand of those stronger than they. They will come and
shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in
the bounty of the LORD-- the grain, the new wine and
the oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be
like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no
more. Then maidens will dance and be glad, young men
and old as well. I will turn their mourning into
gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of
sorrow. I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and
my people will be filled with my bounty," declares the
LORD. Jeremiah 31:1-14.

C11. Hands

By Jewel

If I could tell the world just one thing
It would be that we're all ok
And not to worry because worry is wasteful and useless
in times like these
I will not be made useless
I won't be idled with despair
I will gather myself around my faith
for light does the darkness most fear

My hands are small, I know,
but they're not yours they are my own
but they're not yours they are my own
and I am never broken

Poverty stole your golden shoes
but it didn't steal your laughter
And heartache came to visit me
but i knew it wasn't ever after
We will fight, not out of spite
for someone must stand up for what's right
cause where there's a man who has no voice
there ours shall go singing

In the end only kindness matters
In the end only kindness matters
I will get down on my knees and I will pray
I will get down on my knees and I will pray
I will get down on my knees and I will pray

My hands are small, I know,
but they're not yours they are my own
but they're not yours they are my own
and I am never broken
My hands are small, i know,
but they're not yours they are my own
but they're not yours they are my own
and I am never broken
We are never broken
We are God's eyes
God's hands
God's mind
We are God's eyes
God's hands
God's heart
We are God's eyes
God's hands
God's eyes
God's hands
We are God's hands
God's hands
We are God's hands.

If you have ever received Christ as Lord and Savior he is truly living in side your life. Believe it! "To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colosians 1:27 If you know anything about the Christ of the Bible you need also to obey Paul's admonition, "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." Philippians 2:12-13.

C12. Will You Be Ready To Go Home?

By Stained Grass Window

POEMS

A. Opportunity

by Edward R. Sill, 1841-1887

This I beheld, or dreamed it in a dream:
There spread a cloud of dust along a plain;
And underneath the cloud, or in it, raged
A furious battle, and men yelled, and swords
Shocked upon swords and shields. A prince's banner
Wavered, then staggered backward, hemmed by foes.

A craven hung along the battle's edge,
And thought, "Had I a sword of kenner steel-
That blue blade that the king's son bears - but this
Blunt thing!" - he snapped and flung it from his hand.
And lowering crept away and left the field.

Then came the king's son, wounded, sore bestead,
And weaponless, and saw the broken sword,
Hilt-buried in the dry and trodden sand,
And ran and snatched it, and with battle-shout
Lifted afresh he hewed his enemy down,
And saved a great cause that heroic day.

B. Charge of the Light Brigade

by Alfred Tennyson, 1809 - 1892

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
"Forward, the Light Brigade!

Charge for the guns!" he said:
Into the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.
"Forward, the Light Brigade!"
Was there a man dismayed?
Not tho' the soldiers knew
 Someone had blundered:
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die:
Into the valley of Death
 Rode the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them
 Volleyed and thunder'd;
Storm'd at with shot and shell,
Boldy they rode and well,
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of Hell,
 Rode the six hundred.

Flashed all their sabres bare,
Flashed as they turned in air,
Sab'ring the gunners there,
Charging an army, while
 All the world wondered:
Plunged in the battery smoke,

Right through the line they broke;
Cossack and Russian
Reeled from the sabre-stroke
 Shattered and sundered.
Then they rode back, but not -
 Not the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon behind them
 Volleyed and thundered;
Stormed at with shot and shell,
While horse and hero fell,
They that had fought so well
Came thro' the jaws of Death,
Back from the mouth of Hell,
All that was left of them,
 Left of six hundred.

When can their glory fade?
Oh, the wild charge they made!
 All the world wondered.
Honor the charge they made!
Honor the Light Brigade,
 Noble Six Hundred!

C. Be Strong

by Maltbie Davenport Babcock, 1858 - 1901

Be strong!
We are not here to play, to dream, to drift;
We have hard work to do, and loads to lift;
Shun not the struggle - face it; 'tis God's gift.

Be strong!
Say not, "The days are evil. Who's to blame?"
And fold the hands and acquiesce - oh shame!
Stand up, speak out, and bravely, in God's name.

Be strong!
It matters not how deep intrenched the wrong,
How hard the battle goes, the day how long;
Faint not - fight on! To-morrow comes the song.

D. How Did You Die?

by Edmund Vance Cooke, 1866 - 1932

Did you tackle that rouble that came your way
 With a resolute heart and cheerful?
Or hide your face from the light of day
 With a craven soul and fearful?
Oh, a trouble's a ton, or a trouble's an ounce,
 Or a trouble is what you make it.
And it isn't the fact that you're hurt that counts,
 But only how did you take it?

You are beaten to earth? Well, well, what's that?
 Come up with a smiling face.
It's nothing against you to fall down flat,
 But to lie there - that's disgrace.
The harder you're thrown, why the higher you bounce;
 Be proud of your blackened eye!
It isn't the fact that you're licked that counts;
 It's how did you fight and why?

And though you be done to death, what then?
 If you battled the best you could;
If you played you part in the world of men,
 Why, the Critic will call it good.
Death comes with a crawl, or comes with a pounce,
 And whether he's slow or sly,
It isn't the fact that you're dead that counts,
 But only, how did you die?

E. If

by Rudyard Kipling, 1865 - 1936

If you can keep your head when all about you
 Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
 But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
 Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated don't give way to hating,
 And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;
 If you can think - and not make thoughts your
aim,

If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
 And treat those two impostors just the same:

If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
 Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
 And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out
tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
 And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings,
 And never breathe a word about your loss:
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
 To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
 Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
 Or walk with Kings - nor lose the common
touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
 If all men count with you, but none too much:
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
 With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
 And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!

F. Keep a-Goin'

by Frank L. Stanton, 1857 - 1927

If you strike a thorn or rose,
 Keep a-goin'!
If it hails or if it snows,
 Keep a-goin'!
'Taint no use to sit an' whine
When the fish ain't on your line;
Bait your hook an' keep a-tryin' -
 Keep a-goin'!

When the weather kills your crop,

 Keep a-goin'!
Though 'tis work to reach the top,
 Keep a-goin'!
S'pose you're out o' ev'ry dime,
Gettin' broke ain't any crime;
Tell the world you're feelin' prime -
 Keep a-goin'!

When it looks like all is up,
 Keep a-goin'!
Drain the sweetness from the cup,
 Keep a-goin'!
See the wild birds on the wing,
Hear the bells that sweetly ring,
When you feel like sighin', sing -
 Keep a-goin'!

G. Crossing the Bar

by Alfred Tennyson, 1809 - 1892

Sunset and evening star,
 And one clear call for me,
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
 When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
 Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
 Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
 And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
 When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of time and place
 The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
 When I have crossed the bar.

H. The Fool's Prayer

by Edward R. Sill, 1841 - 1887

The royal feast was done; the King
 Sought some new sport to banish care,
And to his jester cried: "Sir Fool,
 Kneel now, and make for us a prayer!"

The jester doffed his cap and bells,
 And stood the mocking court before;
They could not see the bitter smile
 Behind the painted grin he wore.

He bowed his head, and bent his knee
Upon the monarch's silken stool;
His pleading voice arose: "O Lord,
Be merciful to me, a fool!"

"No pity, Lord, could change the heart
From red with wrong to white as wool;
The rod must heal the sin: but, Lord,
Be merciful to me, a fool!"

"'Tis not by guilt the onward sweep
Of truth and right, O Lord, we stay;
'Tis by our follies that so long
We hold the earth from heaven away.

"These clumsy feet, still in the mire,
Go crushing blossoms without end;
These hard, well-meaning hands we thrust
Among the heart-strings of a friend.

"There ill-timed truth we might have kept -
Who knows how sharp it pierced and stung?
The word we had not sensed to say -
Who knows how grandly it had rung?"

"Our faults no tenderness should ask,
The chastening stripes must cleanse them all;
But for our blunders - oh, in shame
Before the eyes of heaven we fall.

"Earth bears no balsam for mistakes;
Men crown the knave, and scourge the tool
That did his will; but Thou, O Lord,
Be merciful to me, a fool!"

The room was hushed; in silence rose
The King, and sought his gardens cool,
And walked apart, and murmured low,
"Be merciful to me, a fool!"

I. L'Envoi,

by Rudyard Kipling, 1865 - 1936

When earth's last picture is painted, and the tubes are
twisted and dried,
When the oldest colors have faded, and the youngest
critic has died,
We shall rest, and, faith, we shall need it - lie down for
an aeon or two,
Till the Master of All Good Workmen shall set us to
work anew!

And those that were good will be happy: they shall sit
in a golden chair;
They shall splash at a ten-league canvas with brushes
of comets' hair;
They shall find real saints to draw from - Magdalene,
Peter and Paul;
They shall work for an age at a sitting and never be
tired at all!

And only the Master shall praise us, and only the
Master shall blame;
And no one shall work for money, and no one shall
work for fame;
But each for the joy of the working, and each, in his
separate star,
Shall draw the Thing as he sees It for the God of
Things as They Are!

J. Hebrews 13:5-6

from the Christian Scriptures

*Keep your lives free from the love of money
and be content with what you have,
because God has said,
"Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you."
So we say with confidence,
"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?"*