

8

WINNING
WAYS





*I press on toward the goal
to win the prize for which God
has called me heavenward
in Christ Jesus* Philippians 3:14





Running For The Gold

For hundreds of years folks have run for the gold
To win a fine medal to wear and to hold.

They practice and practice day in and day out.
There isn't much else they are thinking about.

Committed, determined, they go on their way
Just hoping and praying they'll make it some day.

It's much like the Christian who runs in life's race:
Committed, determined, to see that great Place

Where not just a medal of bronze or of gold
Is handed the winner, but this I've been told:

Rewards will be given to all who arrive
So send up your treasures while you're still alive.



Better Than Gold

There are some things that we don't need
as we go through this life,
But it would be a dreary world
and filled with lots of strife
If no one loved us as a friend
and we felt all alone
When cares of life press down on us
and tired to the bone.

Some folks may have a lot of cash
to jingle in their jeans,
But if they don't have love and friends,
it very little means.
So keep your bridges well intact
and try to keep in touch
With friends you've made throughout the years,
for they still love you much.

Old Friends Are Best

Old Friends are best you realize,
the ones you've known for years,
For they have stood the test of time
through sunshine and through tears.

It's fun to sit and reminisce
of memories in the past;
Friends really brighten up your day
when skies are overcast.

So keep in touch with folks you love,
don't let them slip away,
They're more important than the gold
you hoard from day to day.

No matter what you own on earth
on this you can depend,
There's nothing that will bring more joy
than having a good friend.



The Low-down

I wonder when we tell someone
we'll try to find out stuff
About another person
and can tell it 'off the cuff';
We say we'll get the low-down
and I wonder what that means--
Does that suggest we'll dig up dirt
so we can 'spill the beans?'

I wish we'd use another word
and say we'll try to find
The many things that one does well
and how they're good and kind.
So if you're getting all the scoop
and looking all around,
Just see the good that others do
and tell folks what you found.





When life gets so hard that you're ready to wilt
And folks would harass you and fill you with guilt,

Do you find a place you can be all alone
And pour out your heart to our God on the Throne?

Back two thousand years when Christ Jesus was here
He knew we'd have problems, and troubles, and fear;

He told us a way we could manage that stuff,
No matter what happens when living is tough.

He said if we'd seek Him we'd have peace and rest,
For He has the answer, whatever the test.

So don't try to carry your burdens alone,
The Lord sure can help when you're tired to the bone.

Sometimes he sends angels to help us a bit
So we'll keep on trying and not up and quit.

He has special love for the hurting and sad,
And He'd like to help you and make your heart glad.

The Finest Whisper

Do you miss God's finest whispers
because the world is loud
And its hard to hear His still, small Voice
while busy in a crowd?
You may be doing lotsa' stuff
to while your time away,
But if you're finding peace with God
you give Him time each day.
God has a lot of secrets
that He'd like to share with you,
But if you're always on the run
there's not much He can do.
It says to me quite loud and clear
He gives each one a choice
To either be too busy
or to listen to His Voice.



*Be joyful always;
pray continually;
Thessalonians 5:16*

The Successful Man

A lot of people think success
is having lotsa' dough,
Though dollars are quite nice to have,
there's more to life, ya' know.
If you have gold deep in your jeans
but not a happy wife
Your life may send out signals
that show pain and even strife.

If you've no kids to watch and wait
beside an open door
Till you come home from work each day
miss love and so much more.
Don't worry 'bout what others have--
enjoy your kids and wife
And you will find you've peace of mind
and true success in life.

It's not your money or your fame
or feats your tongue can tell;
It's rather how you live your life
and if you finish well.

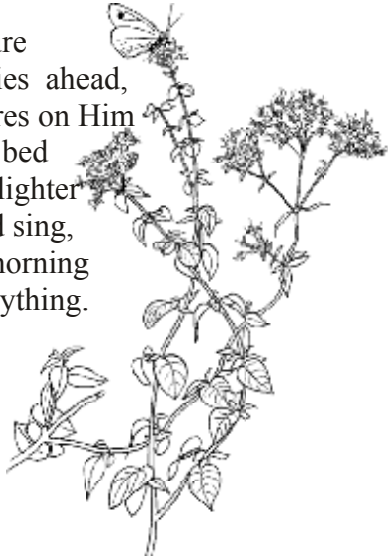


Meet God In The Morning

If you meet God in the morning
when the day is at its best
And put your hand in His big Hand
you'll find your life is blest.
The problems that may irk you now
and seem so tough to bear,
Could be resolved, or cut in half
if God is there to share.

Because He sees the future
and knows well what lies ahead,
If you'll but cast your cares on Him
when you crawl out of bed
You'll find your heart is lighter
you may even hum and sing,
If you meet God in the morning
He'll help care for everything.

*Cast your cares
on the Lord and
he will sustain you
Psalm 55:22*



The Listener

Have you ever wondered just how many prayers
ascend up to Heaven each day
From hearts that are troubled, and lonely, and sad,
and folks wanting help for today?
I've wondered how God can hear millions of prayers
and keep every one sorted out--
No matter what language ascends to His Throne
He knows what the prayer is about.

He doesn't just answer the prayers of the great,
ignoring the prayers of the small,
His heart is so big for the whole human race
He listens to any who call.
When I try to figure how God handles this
it simply just boggles my mind;
Amid all this volume God hears every day
a wonderful thing do I find:

God's never too busy to hear when I pray
and give me an answer that's best.
To have a great God take an interest in me
sure gives to my heart peace and rest.

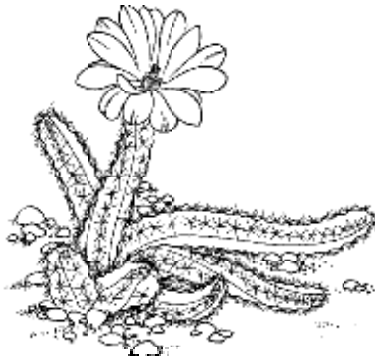


*In the day of my trouble
I will call to you,
for you will answer me.
Psalm 86:7*

Dear God...

Do I bother you too often
 when I talk to you a lot?
I hope my frequent coming
 doesn't interrupt your thought.
It seems I want to talk to You
 a bit throughout the day;
A lot of it is small talk,
 will you listen anyway?

Sometimes the days are kinda' tough,
 some nights get pretty long,
So I need someone just like You
 to help restore my song.
I kinda' think You hear me, God,
 when I take time to pray,
So while you're watching sparrows,
 will you care for me today?



Forgiveness

If you're pushed beyond your limits
and you've kinda' lost your song
Do you steal away to Jesus
and ask Him what is wrong?
He's good at solving problems
if you open up your heart;
To hide your troubles deep inside
is really not too smart
For some day they'll catch up with you
in many different ways--
You'll find you're living in the pits
and not a life of praise.
Forgiveness can work miracles,
it kinda' set you free;
Forgive the folks who've done you wrong.
I know it worked for me.
So keep in touch with Jesus,
He'll have something to suggest
And if you do the things He says
He'll give you peace and rest.



Share That Load

Some folks may have a heavy load
stacked high upon their heads,
While others hold within their hands
what feels to them like lead.
And some folks use a shoulder,
or the middle of their back.
And I s'pose some use other ways--
I've really not kept track.

But these are not the only loads
that mortals lug around,
Some people's hearts have heavy loads,
too often I have found.
So listen well to what you hear
and keep a watchful eye;
It may be you can share that load,
At least, it's worth a try.



God's Amazing Book

It's really quite amazing, folks,
the Bible is so great
Though it was written years ago
it's never out of date.

No matter where you go on earth
it fits their culture, too,
God knew just what mankind would need
so they'd know what to do.

There's not a section just for blacks,
or those with almond eyes,
His Truth is for the whole wide world
and to us all applies.

No other book stays up to date
while centuries have passed;
But God in Love gave us this Book
with wisdom that will last.



Looking ahead

God made the earth so beautiful
with trees, and birds, and such,
Creating not just earth and sun,
but things we love to touch.
And, He gave folks a lot of smarts
to make things while they're here,
And so we have just lots and lots
to put us in high gear:
Like cars, computers, radios,
TV's, and other stuff,
The Internet, and E-mail, too,
makes living not too tough.
The cell phone also makes it nice
so folks are not alone;
It matters not where you're on earth
you always have the phone.
So we enjoy a lot of things
our parents never had
And people keep inventing things
to upgrade just a tad.
And though we think our life down here
is good as it can get,
St. Peter just may say to us,
"You ain't seen nuthin' yet."



*We have a building
from God, an eternal
house in heaven, not
built by human hands.
2 Corinthians 5:1*

Story Time

I had a thought the other day
that I'd not had before,
About the things we'll do in Heaven
where time will be no more.

One thing I'd like to do up There
is listen to a bunch
Who sat down on a hillside there
where Jesus gave them lunch,

And hear them tell of how they felt
when Jesus broke the bread,
And thousands ate till they were filled,
and hear what people said.

Another thing I'd like to do
is sit at David's feet,
And hear just how Goliath looked
when he fell in defeat.



I think that Moses, too, could tell
some things while on the go;
Those forty years in desert sand
were pretty hard, ya' know.

To think their clothes did not wear out,
nor did their ankles swell,
Those folks who wandered all those years
must have a lot to tell.

And there are other stories, too,
like Jonah and the whale,
I'll bet he'd have a lot to say
on under-water sail.

I know I could add to the list
of folks I hope to see,
I'd also guess a lot of folks
would listen There with me.





Thinking About Our Heavenly Home

Sometimes I kinda' muse about
 what I think Heav'n will be;
I know I cannot picture it
 as you will plainly see.
But things will be so different there
 (and I am glad they will),
A lot of things we have down here
 up there will just be nil.

I'm sure we won't need plumbers there
 for what would those folks do?
The things God makes won't need repairs,
 they'll always look brand new.
The doctors and the nurses, too,
 will not a patient find,
For all the folks who live up there
 are well, and none are blind.

Psychiatrists and counselors
will have no work to do,
For no one there will be depressed
and no one will be blue.
Mechanics will be out of work
for cars are there passe,
We won't need travel visas
for we're in that place to stay.

No global warming will take place,
No floods or famine there,
The streets of gold will ne'er erode
and be in disrepair.
No TV ads will rankle us,
no junk mail in our box,
And as there'll be no crime or sin
we'll have no need of locks.

continued



*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 have passed away. Revelation 21:4*



No congress will convene up there,
for God will be in charge
And He knows how to run the Place
although it's super large.
Another thing I think is neat,
there'll be no monthly rent,
Nor will we have to pay a bill
AT&T has sent.

No self-help books are on the shelf;
No cash will needed be--
There'll be no need of earthly stuff,
we'll be completely free.
And this I often think about--
what will we do up there
For nothing will be breaking down
in need of quick repair.

Do you suppose we'll use our time
in fellowship and praise,
And maybe even join a choir
and joyful voices raise?
It seems to me we'll have the time
to talk with friends we've known
And arm and arm stroll down a path
where flowers have been sown.

The Bible says we folks down here
don't know what Heav'n will be,
So we will have to bide our time
Till Jesus' face we see.
But one thing sure when I am done
with living here below
I'll trust in God with all my heart
so that's where I will go.

