

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.

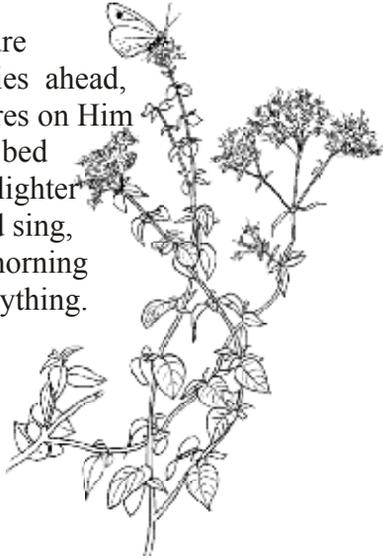


## *Meet God In The Morning*

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.

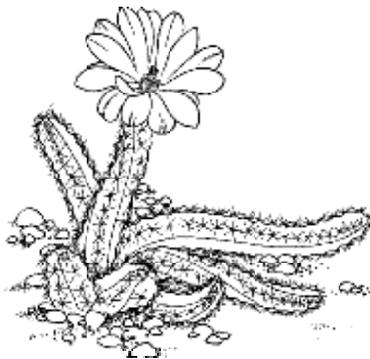


*In the day of my trouble  
I will call to you,  
for you will answer me.  
Psalm 86:7*

## *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.

