

LESSON 8

ASSURANCE AND CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST

THE CHURCH STANDS FIRM
AND THE GOSPEL GOES FORTH

ACTS 4:1-31



A CHURCH
UNDER PRESSURE



A FAITH
THAT DOES NOT
WAVER



A PRAYER
THAT MOVES
HEAVEN



A GOSPEL
THAT CANNOT BE
STOPPED



A WITNESS
THAT REACHES
THE WORLD



BOLD FAITH. SURE HOPE.

PETER & JOHN BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

ACTS 4

When the world questions,
we stand on unshakable truth.

“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” — Acts 4:12

THIS WEEK'S SONGS: OUR HOPE IS BUILT ON HIM



**MY HOPE IS BUILT
ON NOTHING LESS**

*A sure foundation
that won't be moved.*



**BLESSED
ASSURANCE**

*Assurance of salvation
in Christ alone.*



**STANDING ON
THE PROMISES**

*God's promises
never fail.*



**HIS EYE IS ON
THE SPARROW**

*He cares for us—
every moment.*



**YET NOT I,
BUT CHRIST IN ME**

*My hope is found in
His life, not mine.*



**IN CHRIST
ALONE**

*My hope is found
in Christ alone.*

UNSHAKEABLE TRUTH. UNWAVERING HOPE. UNSTOPPABLE WITNESSES.

MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS



A SONG OF FOUNDATION AND FAITH
IN CHRIST ALONE

Edward Mote

1834



My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Words by Edward Mote • 1834

*“On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground
is sinking sand.”*

— MATTHEW 7:24-27




TUNE BY
WILLIAM B. BRADBURY

— 1863 —



CABINETMAKER
BY TRADE



PASTOR.
PREACHED CHRIST,
NOT HIMSELF.

A SIMPLE MAN. A STRONG FOUNDATION. A SONG THAT ENDURES.

MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

Edward Mote, 1834 | Traditional Hymn

1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

2 When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

3 His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.



*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.*

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Brentwood Baptist Church



BLESSED ASSURANCE



A SONG OF COMFORT AND
OUR SECURE HOPE IN CHRIST

Fanny J. Crosby

1873





PHOEBE KNAPP
— COMPOSER

FANNY CROSBY
— HYMN WRITER
BLIND SINCE INFANCY

*“The first face that shall ever
gladden my sight will be that
of my Savior.”*

— FANNY CROSBY

WRITTEN IN
1873

BLESSED ASSURANCE

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

In 1873, Phoebe Knapp played a new melody for her friend Fanny Crosby and asked,

“WHAT DOES THIS TUNE SAY TO YOU?”

Without hesitation, Fanny Crosby replied,

*“Blessed assurance,
Jesus is mine!”*

The hymn was born.



TWO FRIENDS. ONE MELODY. ONE MOMENT. A HYMN THAT ENDURES.



BLESSED ASSURANCE

FANNY CROSBY / PHOEBE KNAPP • 1873

VICTORIAN & GOSPEL HYMNS

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Blessed Assurance

Celtic Worship



STANDING ON THE PROMISES

A SONG OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS
AND OUR SURE CONFIDENCE

R. Kelso Carter

1886

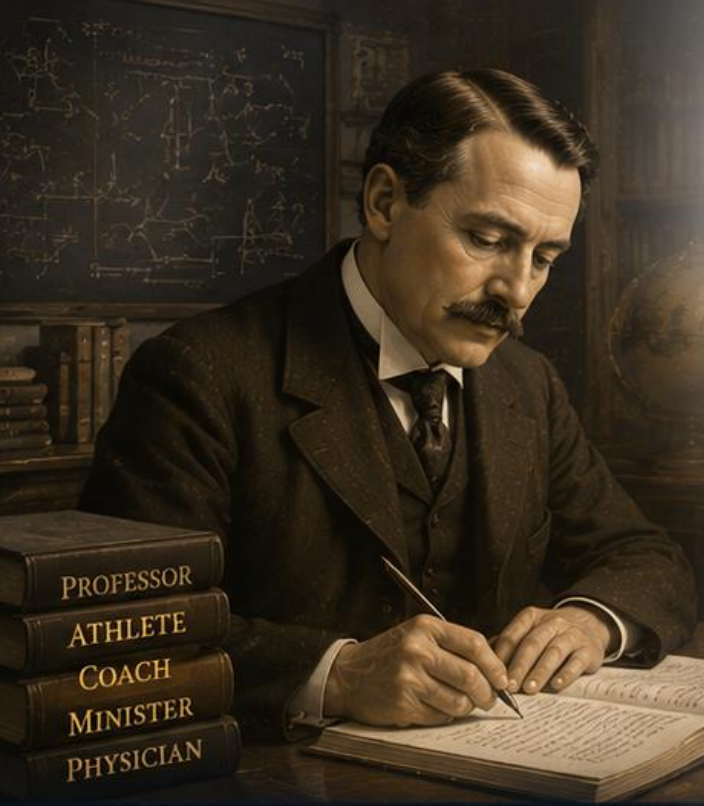


STANDING ON THE PROMISES

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

FACING A SERIOUS
HEART CONDITION,
CARTER CHOSE TO
TRUST GOD'S WORD
ABOVE HIS
CIRCUMSTANCES.

HE RECOVERED.
HE WROTE THIS HYMN
TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS
TO DO THE SAME.

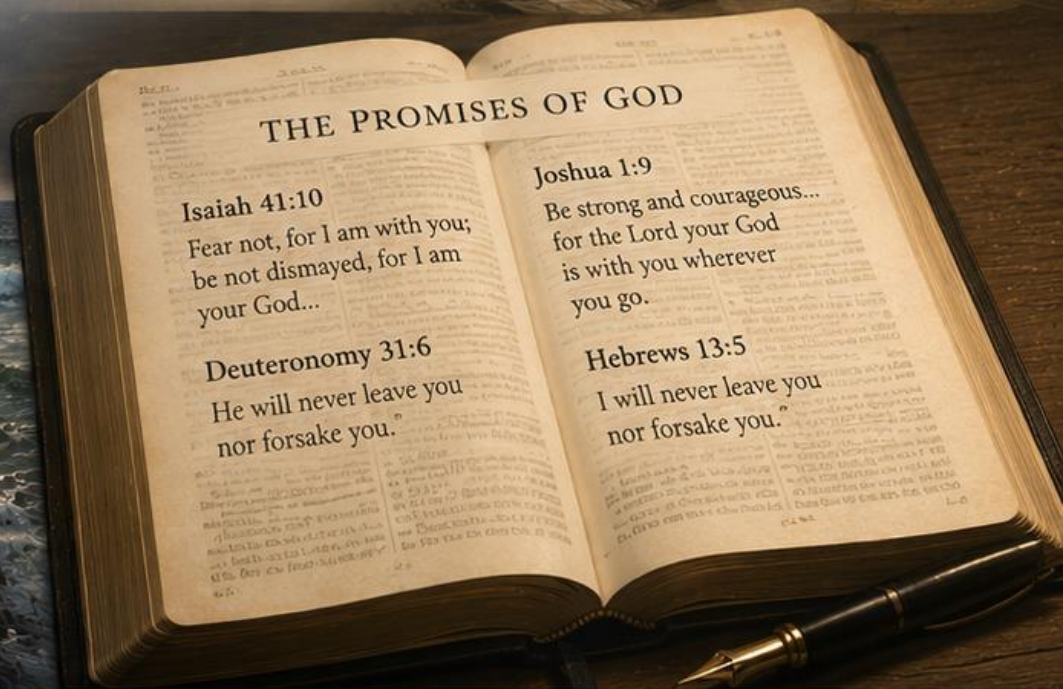


R. KELSO CARTER
1872-1948



A MAN OF MANY GIFTS.
A MESSAGE FOR EVERY BELIEVER.

NOT ON FEELINGS.
NOT ON CIRCUMSTANCES.
NOT ON SELF.
ON HIS PROMISES.



GOD'S PROMISES NEVER CHANGE. WE CAN STAND ON THEM.

STANDING ON THE PROMISES

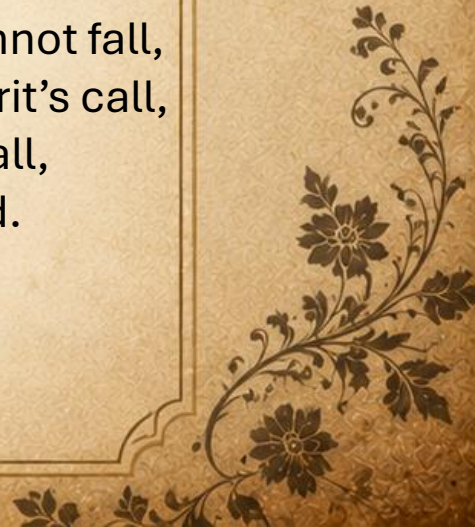
RUSSELL KELSO CARTER • 1886

1 Standing on the promises of Christ, my King!
Through eternal ages let His praises ring.
"Glory in the highest!" I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:
Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of God, my
Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail!
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God.

5 Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
list'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God.



Standing on the Promises

First Baptist Church, Atlanta



HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

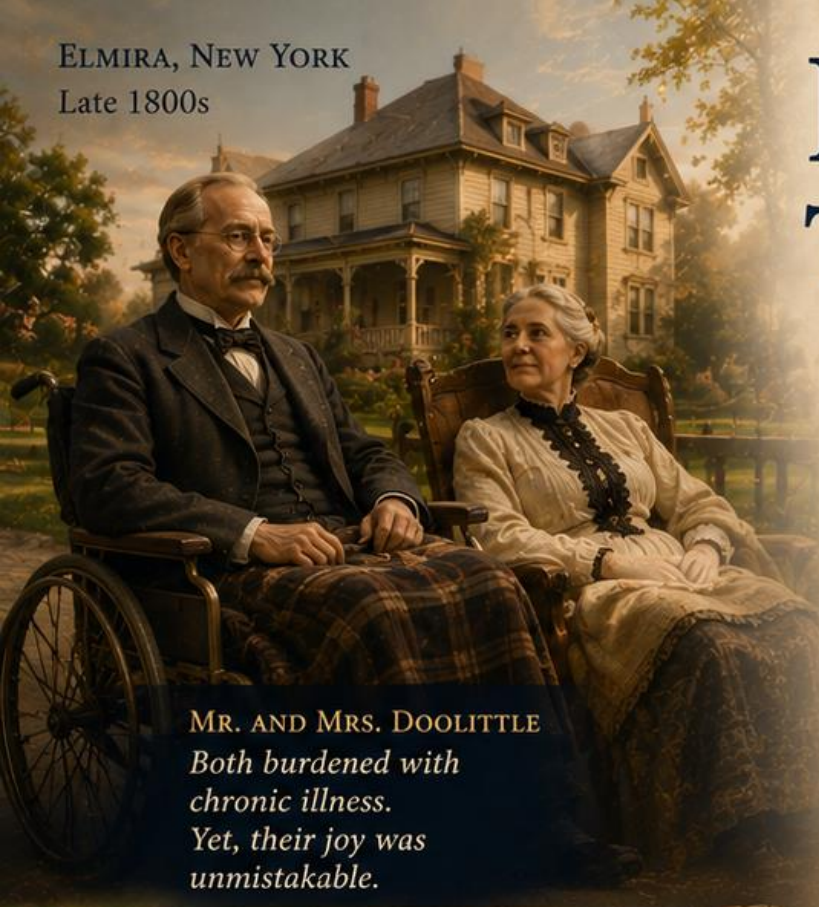
A SONG OF GOD'S TENDER CARE
FOR EVERY BELIEVER

— *Civilla D. Martin* —

— 1905 —



ELMIRA, NEW YORK
Late 1800s



MR. AND MRS. DOOLITTLE
Both burdened with chronic illness. Yet, their joy was unmistakable.

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

When hymn writer Civilla Martin visited the Doolittles, she asked how they could remain so joyful despite their suffering.

Mrs. Doolittle's answer stayed with her forever:

"His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me."



CIVILLA MARTIN
Hymn Writer

Inspired by their faith, she wrote the poem that would encourage generations.

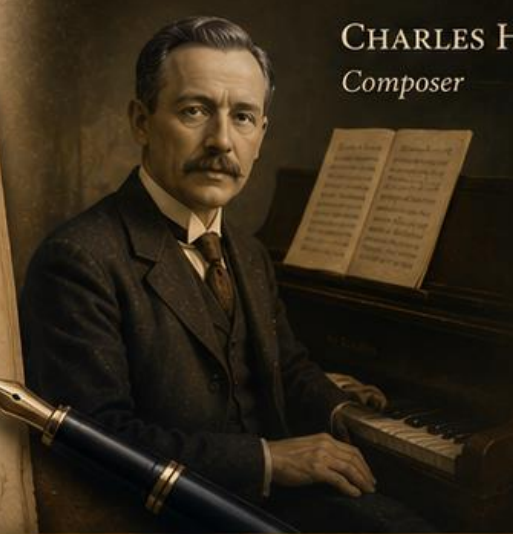


"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered."

MATTHEW 10:29-31

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Why should I feel dis - cour - aged? Why should the
shad - ows come? Why should my heart be lone - ly
and long for heav'n and home, When Je - sus is my por - tion?



CHARLES H. GABRIEL
Composer

A SIMPLE TRUTH.
A POWERFUL PROMISE.
A SONG THAT
STILL COMFORTS
THE CHURCH.

HE SEES. HE KNOWS. HE CARES. HE WATCHES OVER ME.

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

CIVILLA D. MARTIN • 1905
VICTORIAN & GOSPEL HYMNS

Why should I feel discouraged?
Why should the shadows
come?
Why should my heart be lonely
And long for heav'n and home,
When Jesus is my portion?
My constant Friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me;

I sing because I'm happy—
I sing because I'm free—
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.



His Eye is on the Sparrow

Maggie Beth Phelps



MODERN WORSHIP MOVEMENTS

Different Expressions. Same Gospel.



GLOBAL ANTHEMS

Hillsong



Big. Anthems.
Built for stadium singing.



CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

Passion
Chris Tomlin
Matt Redman



Singable songs.
For the whole church.



INTIMATE ENCOUNTER

Bethel Music
Elevation Worship



Personal encounter.
Atmospheric.
Worship as response.



MODERN HYMNS

Getty
CityAlight
Sovereign Grace



Doctrinally rich.
Multi-verse.
Timeless truth.



ONE GOSPEL. MANY VOICES. ONE CHURCH.

GLOBAL ANTHEMS

HILLSONG (SYDNEY, EST. 1983)

Big songs. Global reach. One voice lifted together.



WHAT DEFINES THIS MOVEMENT



GLOBAL REACH

Songs sung in churches and stadiums around the world.



ANTHEMIC & UPLIFTING

Built for large congregations. Big melodies. Big moments.



SIMPLE, REPEATABLE CHORUSES

Easy to learn. Easy to sing. Made to unite the church.



FOCUSED ON GOD'S GREATNESS

Songs of praise, majesty, and identity in Christ.

SONGS IN OUR SERIES



CORNERSTONE

Hillsong Worship



WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME

Hillsong Worship



WHO YOU SAY I AM

Hillsong Worship



SHOUT TO THE LORD

Darlene Zschech



WORTHY IS THE LAMB

Hillsong Worship



HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD

Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Ed Cash

WELL-KNOWN ARTISTS



DARLENE
ZSCHECH



REUBEN
MORGAN



BROOKE
LIGERTWOOD



BEN
FIELDING



STRENGTHS

- ✔ Unites people across cultures and generations.
- ✔ Easy to learn and sing together.
- ✔ Focuses hearts on God's greatness and faithfulness.
- ✔ Powerful in large gatherings and evangelistic settings.



WEAKNESSES

- ✘ Can feel formulaic or repetitive.
- ✘ Sometimes emphasizes emotion over depth.
- ✘ Production can overshadow substance.
- ✘ Risk of performance mentality in the church.



ONE GOD. ONE SONG. ONE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD.



CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

PASSION • CHRIS TOMLIN • MATT REDMAN


Singable songs. Simple words. One church together.



WHAT DEFINES THIS MOVEMENT

-  **SINGABLE & ACCESSIBLE**
Melodies and lyrics that are easy to learn and made for everyone.
-  **WRITTEN FOR THE CHURCH**
Songs crafted to be sung by congregations, not just performed.
-  **BIBLICAL & CLEAR**
Straightforward, Scripture-saturated truths we can sing with confidence.
-  **UNITY ACROSS GENERATIONS**
Songs that connect young and old in the same worship.

SONGS IN OUR SERIES

-  **HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD**
Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Ed Cash
-  **10,000 REASONS (BLESS THE LORD)**
Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin
-  **HERE I AM TO WORSHIP**
Tim Hughes
-  **AT THE CROSS (LOVE RAN RED)**
Chris Tomlin
-  **GOOD GOOD FATHER**
Chris Tomlin, Pat Barrett

WELL-KNOWN ARTISTS



CHRIS TOMLIN








MATT REDMAN







PASSION

*Rooted in the Passion Movement and global worship gatherings.
A generation of songs that equip the whole church to sing.*

STRENGTHS

-  Highly singable and easy to learn.
-  Theologically sound and Scripture-rich.
-  Connects all ages in one voice.
-  Works in churches of any size.
-  Proven to endure and travel across the world.

WEAKNESSES

-  Some lyrics can feel simplistic.
-  Risk of repetition in themes and language.
-  Can lean toward predictability in melody.
-  May lack the depth of traditional hymnody.



SIMPLE WORDS. STRONG TRUTH. ONE VOICE TOGETHER.

Songs that bring the church together to sing the greatest truths of our faith.



INTIMATE ENCOUNTER

BETHEL MUSIC • ELEVATION WORSHIP

*Worship as encounter. Deep, atmospheric, Spirit-led.
Creating space to meet with God.*



WHAT DEFINES THIS MOVEMENT



PERSONAL ENCOUNTER

Worship creates space for deep connection and transformation.



ATMOSPHERIC & SPIRIT-LED

Extended songs, repetition, soaking, and room for the Spirit to move.



RAW & AUTHENTIC

Real, vulnerable expressions of dependence and devotion.



TIMELESS MOMENT

Not focused on performance—focused on His presence.



GENERATIONAL IMPACT

Empowers worshippers and equips worship leaders worldwide.

SONGS IN OUR SERIES



NO LONGER SLAVES

Bethel Music



IT IS WELL (DI MARCO)

Bethel Music



GOODNESS OF GOD

Bethel Music / Jenn Johnson



BUILD MY LIFE

Pat Barrett

WELL-KNOWN ARTISTS



BETHEL MUSIC

Redding, CA



ELEVATION WORSHIP

Charlotte, NC

Global influence. Raised up a generation of worshippers and leaders focused on encounter with God.



STRENGTHS

- ✓ Creates space for real encounter with God.
- ✓ Lyrics express dependency, surrender, and intimacy.
- ✓ Encourages hearts to linger in worship.
- ✓ Deep, meaningful, and Spirit-sensitive.



WEAKNESSES

- ✗ Songs can be long and repetitive.
- ✗ May lack clear structure familiar to hymn tradition.
- ✗ Risk of subjectivity over doctrinal clarity.
- ✗ Not always easy to sing congregationally.



BE STILL. DRAW NEAR. ENCOUNTER HIS PRESENCE.
NOT ABOUT US. ALL ABOUT HIM.



WHAT IS ATMOSPHERIC WORSHIP?

In the context of modern worship music, “atmospheric” refers to music that is designed as much to **create a mood or worship environment** as to convey lyrics.



THE GOAL:

To create a sense of

- ☀️ AWE
- 👤 REFLECTION
- ❤️ INTIMACY
- 🕒 ANTICIPATION
- 👑 TRANSCENDENCE

CHARACTERISTICS OF ATMOSPHERIC WORSHIP

- 🎹 Sustained keyboard pads
- 🔄 Repeating instrumental patterns
- 🕒 Long instrumental sections
- 📊 Gradual musical builds
- 🔄 Repeated bridges or choruses
- 🌊 Emotional crescendos
- 🔊 Spacious, reflective arrangements

LANGUAGE WE CAN USE

- 🧠 Reflective
- ❤️ Experiential
- 🌿 Meditative
- 🌊 Emotionally immersive
- 🎵 Built around extended musical reflection

“

For example:
“Bethel and Elevation often use longer, more reflective arrangements that create space for personal response and meditation.”

TWO DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO WORSHIP MUSIC



TRADITIONAL HYMN

The music primarily serves the lyrics.

- 📖 Clear structure
- 💬 Every verse advances the message
- 👥 Designed for the congregation to sing
- ✅ Lyrics are the focus



ATMOSPHERIC WORSHIP

The music and the mood become *part of the message*.

VS.

- 🔊 Designed to create an environment
- ❤️ Invites reflection and response
- 🕒 Music carries emotional weight
- 👤 The experience is the message

HYMN:
Lyrics
Lead

SAME HEART. DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS.

One proclaims the truth. The other creates space to encounter the truth.

ATMOSPHERIC:
Atmosphere
Leads



MODERN HYMNS

GETTY • CITYALIGHT • SOVEREIGN GRACE

*Doctrinally rich. Poetically beautiful.
Written for the church to sing for generations.*



WHAT DEFINES THIS MOVEMENT



MODERN HYMNS

Written in the tradition of historic hymns—multi-verse, theologically rich, and built to last.



FOR THE CHURCH

Crafted for congregational singing, not performance.



THEOLOGICAL DEPTH

Rooted in Scripture and historic Christian doctrine.



TRADITIONAL FORMS

Often in traditional meters (3/4, 4/4) with strong melodic lines.



BUILT TO ENDURE

Intended to be sung faithfully for generations to come.

SONGS IN OUR SERIES



IN CHRIST ALONE

Keith & Kristyn Getty

A celebration of Christ's work, sufficiency, and lordship.



YET NOT I BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

CityAlight

A modern hymn of gospel grace and the believer's identity in Christ.



STRENGTHS

- ✓ Deeply biblical and doctrinally sound.
- ✓ Beautifully written with lasting theology.
- ✓ Easy to teach, memorize, and pass down.
- ✓ Connects today's church to the historic faith.
- ✓ Designed for the whole church to sing.



POTENTIAL WEAKNESSES

- ✗ Less familiar melodies may take time to learn.
- ✗ Poetic language can feel dense at first.
- ✗ Not always as emotionally immediate as simpler choruses.
- ✗ May seem "old-fashioned" in style to some.

WELL-KNOWN ARTISTS / WRITERS

the Gettys

KEITH & KRISTYN GETTY

Northern Ireland

Pioneers of the modern hymn movement. Committed to Scripture, doctrine, and the church.



CITYALIGHT

Sydney, Australia

Writes modern hymns that are theologically rich, musically strong, and church-centered.



SOVEREIGN GRACE MUSIC

USA

Produces hymns and songs rooted in Reformed theology for the local church.

“

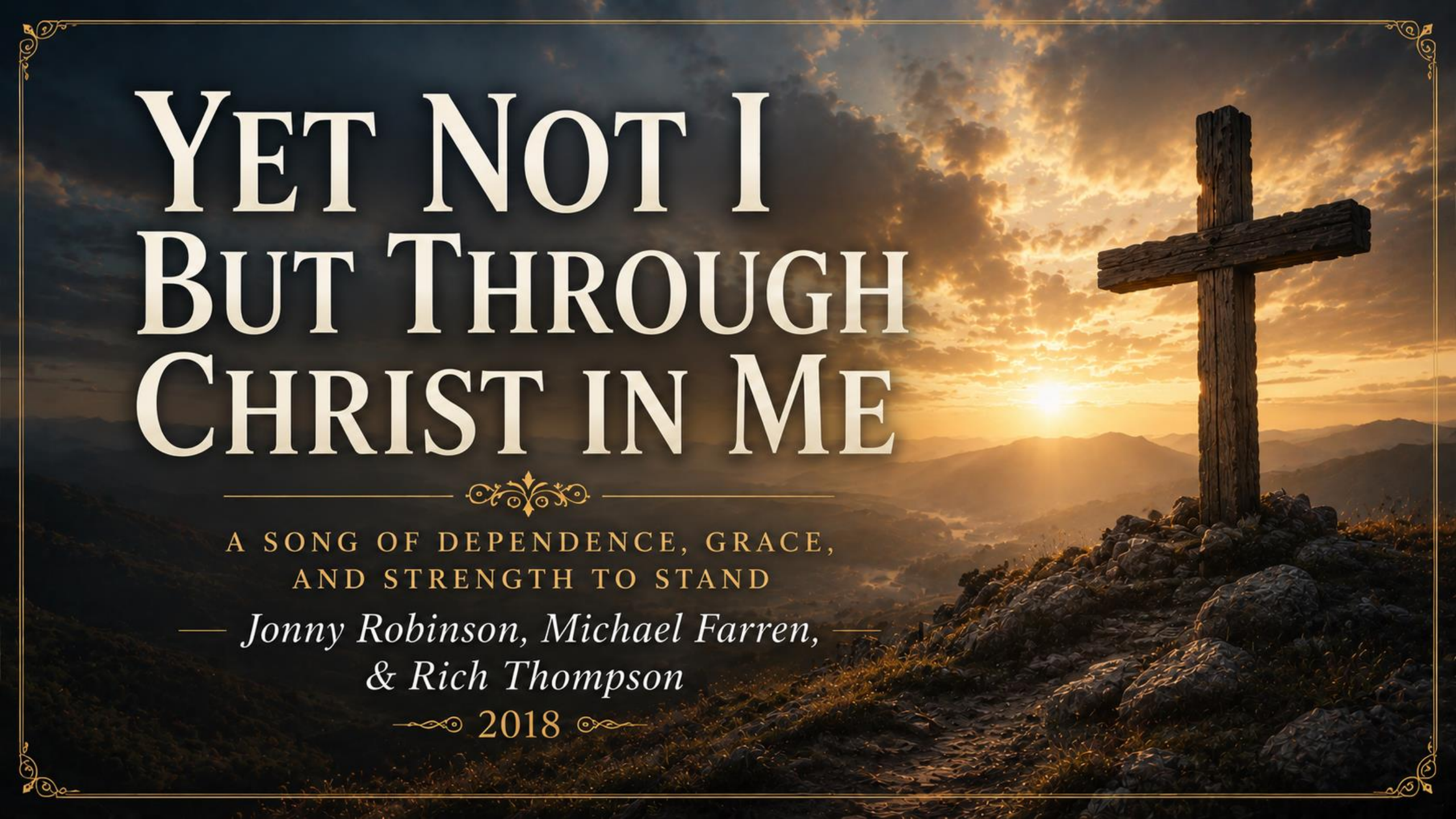
*The same gospel.
New words.
Old faith.
For generations
to come.*



SAME TRUTH. STRONGER WORDS. FOR GENERATIONS.

MODERN HYMNS. TIMELESS GOSPEL.



A wooden cross stands on a rocky hilltop, silhouetted against a dramatic sunset sky with golden light and scattered clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the landscape. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under the twilight sky.

YET NOT I BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

—  —
A SONG OF DEPENDENCE, GRACE,
AND STRENGTH TO STAND

— *Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren,*
& Rich Thompson —

—  2018  —

WRITTEN IN 2018

by CityAlight,
a worship ministry
from Sydney,
Australia.



CITYALIGHT

WRITING SONGS FOR
THE CHURCH TO SING

YET NOT I, BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG

A DELIBERATE PURPOSE
To write modern hymns filled with
Scripture, theology, and truth—
songs the whole church
can sing together.



INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE

Galatians 2:20 • Philippians 2:13 • Colossians 1:29

*The Christian life is not lived by our strength,
but by Christ's strength within us.*

THE HEART OF THE SONG

In every season,
the conclusion
is the same:

*"Yet not I,
but through
Christ in me."*

SAME GOSPEL. NEW VOICE.



FANNY CROSBY
1873

"Jesus is mine."



CITYALIGHT
2018

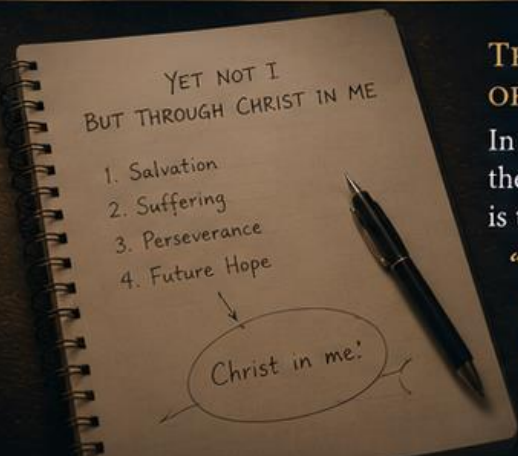
"Christ in me."

THE CHURCH IS STILL SINGING THE SAME TRUTH.



A SONG FOR EVERY BELIEVER

Not by might.
Not by power.
But by Christ within me.



FROM WHAT CHRIST DOES FOR US → TO WHAT CHRIST DOES WITHIN US



MY HOPE
IS BUILT
Foundation



BLESSED
ASSURANCE
Certainty



STANDING ON
THE PROMISES
His Word



HIS EYE IS ON
THE SPARROW
His Care



YET NOT I,
BUT THROUGH
CHRIST IN ME
His Strength



IN CHRIST
ALONE
Our Hope

ANCIENT TRUTHS.
CHANGING VOICES.
ONE FAITHFUL GOD.



YET NOT I, BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

JONNY ROBINSON, MICHAEL FARREN & RICH THOMPSON • 2018

CURRENT CONTEMPORARY

1 What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer
There is no more for Heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and
freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless
peace

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete,
still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

2 The night is dark, but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Savior, He will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed

3 No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave

4 With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

CityAlight



SONGS THAT SHAPED OUR FAITH
TIMELESS TRUTHS ACROSS CHANGING VOICES

IN CHRIST ALONE

THE GOSPEL STORY IN FOUR VERSES
Ancient Truth. New Voice. Same Hope.



OUR HOPE
IS FOUND
IN HIM ALONE.



HE IS MY LIGHT,
MY STRENGTH,
MY SONG.

1. THE BEGINNING

Keith Getty, a young musician from Northern Ireland, longed to see a new generation of biblically rich hymns.



IN CHRIST ALONE

THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG

In the late 1990s, Keith Getty wanted to write modern hymns that were theologically rich and meant for the whole church to sing.

He and Stuart Townend set out to write a hymn that would tell the whole gospel story.

2. THE PARTNERSHIP

He shared a melody with Stuart Townend. Together they wrote words worthy of the tune—telling the entire gospel.



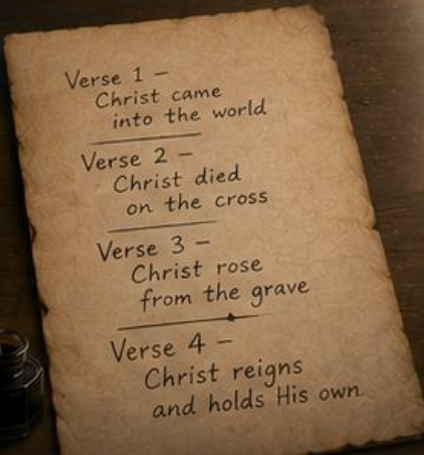
3. THE GOAL

A hymn that would walk through the entire gospel:

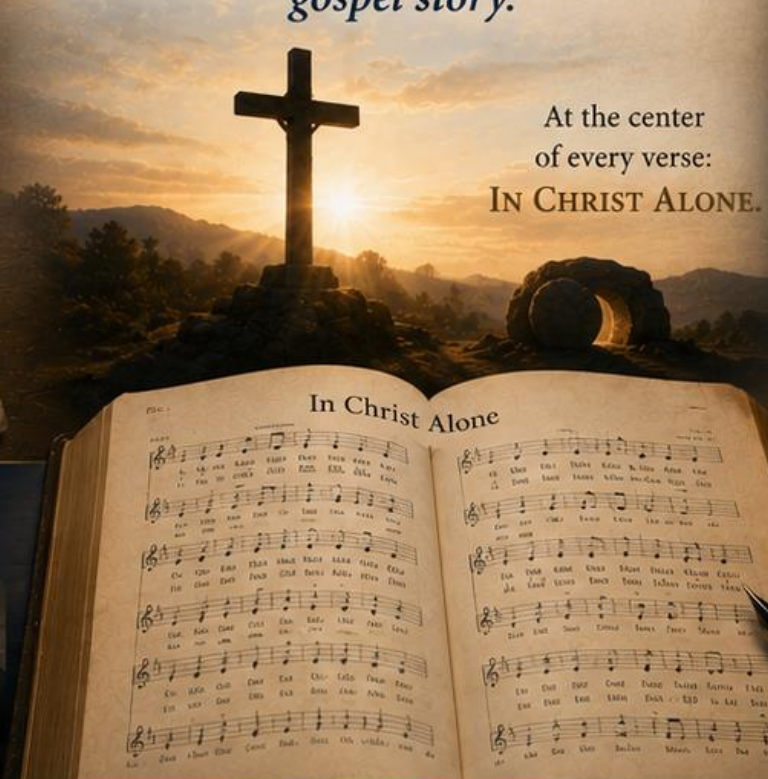
- The incarnation
- The cross
- The resurrection
- Our hope in Christ

Four verses. One message.

The whole gospel from start to finish.



At the center of every verse:
IN CHRIST ALONE.



4. AN UNEXPECTED IMPACT

Released in 2001, the hymn spread around the world, uniting churches across denominations and generations.

It sounded modern, but it behaves like a hymn.



1834
Edward Mote



MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

"On Christ the solid Rock I stand."

THE PAIRING

↓
167 YEARS APART
↑

2001
Getty & Townend



"In Christ alone my hope is found."

THE LEGACY


Ancient truth.
New voice.
Same hope.

THE CHURCH IS STILL SINGING THE SAME TRUTH.


NOT IN OUR STRENGTH, BUT IN HIS. NOT IN OURSELVES, BUT IN CHRIST ALONE.

IN CHRIST ALONE

LYRICS




1 In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.




2 In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.

IN CHRIST ALONE

LYRICS



3 There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.



4 No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of
man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll
stand.

In Christ Alone

Keith and Kristyn Getty, Travis Cottrell



ASSURANCE AND CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST



My Hope Is Built

—

Christ is my foundation.



Blessed Assurance

—

Christ is my certainty.



Standing on the Promises

—

Christ keeps His word.



His Eye Is on the Sparrow

—

Christ watches over me.



Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

—

Christ is my strength.



In Christ Alone

—

Christ is my hope.

CHRIST
THE SOLID ROCK

LESSON 8

ASSURANCE AND CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST

THE CHURCH STANDS FIRM
AND THE GOSPEL GOES FORTH

ACTS 4:1-31



A CHURCH
UNDER PRESSURE



A FAITH
THAT DOES NOT
WAVER



A PRAYER
THAT MOVES
HEAVEN



A GOSPEL
THAT CANNOT BE
STOPPED



A WITNESS
THAT REACHES
THE WORLD

