

Spiritual Songs of Faith

- Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go
- God will take care of you
- If Jesus goes with me I'll go anywhere
- He leadeth me O blessed thought
- Jesus Savior pilot me
- Shelter in the time of storm
- Be with me Lord I cannot live without Thee
- I know Whom I have believed
- Guide me O Thou great Jehovah
- I need Thee every hour
- How firm a foundation
- ***Does our heart make melody with them?***
- ***Do they give us comfort?***

Confident Expectation of God's Care

- Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther all teach it.
- God's intervention in the events of a life to bring about His will.
- We hope for Providence when we pray:
 - For a safe journey
 - For a good outcome in an operation, job interview, or any other need.
 - For opportunities to preach or do good works.

Can we Be Confident?

- *And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God**, to those who are called according to His purpose. Rom 8:28*
- *The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man **avails much**. Jas 5:16-17*
- ***For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."** 6 So we may boldly say: **"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"** Heb. 13:5-6*

Normal Operation of this World

- *I returned and saw under the sun that —
The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle
to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor
riches to men of understanding, Nor favor
to men of skill; But time and chance
happen to them all. Eccl 9:11-12*

Three Kinds of People

- (1) Those who do not know or care about God. They will never obey the gospel. God simply allows time and chance to work.
- *Therefore **God also gave them up** to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, Rom 1:24*
- During the cycles of the Judges and Kings, God many times gave his people up to time and chance.

Three Kinds of People

- (2) Vessels of wrath fitted for destruction.
- Rom 9:14-18
- *I will have mercy on whomever I will*
- *I will have compassion on whomever I will*
- *For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth."*

Three Kinds of People

- (2) Vessels of wrath fitted for destruction.
- Rom 9:22-23
- *What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the **vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,***
- *and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the **vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory***

Providence Overrides Time/Chance

(3) For the **vessels of mercy** God's providence can and does override time and chance.

*And we know that **all things work together for good** to **those who love God**, to those who are the **called according to His purpose**. Rom 8:28-29*

Are we Vessels of Wrath or Mercy?

- If we want this providence we must become a “**vessel of mercy.**”
- Ps 11:4-6; Jer 17:9-10
- Vessels of Wrath Rom 2:1-5; 8-9
- Vessels of Mercy Rom 2:6-7; 10-11
- **NO PARTIALITY WITH GOD!**

Vessels of Honor / Dishonor

- *Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "**The Lord knows those who are His,**" and, "**Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.**"*
- *20 But in a great house there are not only **vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.** 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be **a vessel for honor,** sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. 2 Tim 2:19-22*

Sanctified, Useful, & Prepared

- If we want God to override time and chance with His providence, we must be sanctified, useful and prepared.
- If we do not, we become vessels of wrath fitted for destruction.
- Nothing worse than a Christian who breaks faith with God and doesn't keep his good confession.

From Time and Chance to Vessel of Wrath

- *For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, **the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.** 21 For it would have been **better for them not to have known** the way of righteousness, **than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them** 2Pet. 2:20-21*

Vessels of Mercy

- Noah found favor; time and chance(the flood) were overridden for him.
- Abraham the friend of God
- Joseph, first dreams then providence
- Moses – meekest man in all the earth
- Job – I have no one like him in all the earth
- David – The man after God's own heart
- Isaiah – Here I am send me
- Esther – How do you know you have not come into the kingdom for such a time as this

Sung in Spirit only by Vessels of Mercy

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