

INSPIRATION FROM GOD

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The bible has proven to be a source of inspiration to more people over time, than any other source. Aside from the salvation message, the concept of an all powerful, creative and loving God; provides inspiration to everyone, everywhere; no matter what their life's circumstances. Most people rightly understand that there is much more to life and living than just their own allotted portion. It is very humbling to realize that God has far more influence on those who are suffering than on those who enjoy the benefits of a good life. Thus we find that humility and inspiration go hand in hand with grief and trials. The following list of well known hymns/choruses come from moments of utter despair, simple humility and joyful hope.

Many of these hymns were poems, before being turned into inspirational tunes.

*Sometime in 1857 Joseph Scriven received a letter from his family in Ireland advising him, "Your mother is gravely ill." ... he had no money to return having already lost his fiancée to a tragic accident. In his despair he wrote... **What a friend we have in Jesus,***

*Horatio Spafford... In 1870, his 4-year-old died of scarlet fever, and in 1871 the Great Chicago Fire destroyed most of his investments (Chicago real estate). In 1873, his family sailed to Europe for much-needed holiday, but on the day of departure, Horatio had a last-minute business emergency. He sent the family on ahead planning to follow later. But their ship was struck by another ship and sank in 12 minutes—the remainder of his four children died and only his wife was saved and brought to England. He immediately set sail to be with his wife, and as his ship passed the place where his daughters drowned, he penned... **It Is Well***

*Carl Bobert, a Swede, was walking home from church and listening to the church's bells in 1885. A sudden, awe-inspiring storm gripped his attention, and then just as suddenly as it arrived, it subsided back to calm. After watching this display of nature, he went home and penned this poem. **How great thou art.***

*Fanny Crosby... When she was 6 weeks old, she caught cold and had inflamed eyes. The family doctor was away; another country doctor was called in to treat her. He prescribed hot mustard poultices to be applied to her eyes, which destroyed her sight completely. It was later learned that the man was not even qualified to practice medicine. Fanny never felt any resentment against him, but believed it was permitted by the Lord to fulfill His plan for her life. This is what she said to her mother one day: "Mother, if I had a choice, I would still choose to remain blind ... for when I die; the first face I will ever see will be the face of my blessed Saviour. Some of her songs are... **Blessed Assurance... Praise him, Praise him... To God Be the Glory.***

*John Newton, was both a slave-owner and atheist. He trafficked slaves from Africa to the auction block for many years before facing a violent storm in which his ship almost sank. Being virtually helpless, he fell to his knees and prayed for God's mercy on him. Miraculously, Newton was saved. He went on to become a preacher and hymn-writer. The song **Amazing Grace** was written in 1772, and probably remains the most inspirational hymn ever written.*

*Civilla Martin was inspired by a husband and wife, who were friends of hers. The husband was a cripple who used a wheelchair and the wife was bedridden. Despite that, the two lived happy lives, bringing comfort to each other and their friends. When Civilla asked the wife what her secret was, the wife replied, "His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me." The words are inspired from scripture found in the Psalms and in Matthew. This song was written in 1905, **His Eye Is On the Sparrow***

*Both **David** and **Solomon** wrote songs and proverbs that have become some of the most inspirational of all times. **Solomon... 1KIN 4:32** And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five. **David... he is credited with writing 75 (half) of the book of psalms. **The Lord is My Shepherd... O For A Thousand Tongues... Rock Of Ages... What A friend we have In Jesus... By The Waters Of Babylon.*****

10 Recognised benefits of singing... increases happiness, improves performance, decreases stress and depression, improves sleep, limits hunger, elevates positive moods, strengthens learning and memory, increases verbal intelligence, IQ and academic performance, builds faith and confidence in God.

Some obvious scriptural references to singing from the largest book in the bible (a book of psalms/songs).

PSA 89:1 I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.

PSA 96:1 O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth.

PSA 98:1 O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.