

# Service – Lord Help me to Dare to be Different

(all from Songs of Fellowship)

79

## DEAR LORD AND FATHER OF MANKIND,

Forgive our foolish ways;  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;  
In purer lives Thy service find,  
In deeper reverence, praise,  
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word  
Rise up and follow Thee,  
Rise up and follow Thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
Where Jesus knelt to share with  
Thee  
The silence of eternity,  
Interpreted by love,  
Interpreted by love.

## Prayers

120

## FROM HEAVEN YOU CAME,

Helpless babe,  
Entered our world,  
Your glory veiled;  
Not to be served  
But to serve,  
And give Your life  
That we might live.

*This is our God,  
The Servant King,  
He calls us now  
To follow Him,  
To bring our lives  
As a daily offering  
Of worship to  
The Servant King.*

There in the garden  
Of tears,  
My heavy load  
He chose to bear;

With that deep hush subduing all  
Our words and works that drown  
The tender whisper of Thy call,  
As noiseless let Thy blessing fall  
As fell Thy manna down,  
As fell Thy manna down.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and  
stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace,  
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our  
desire  
Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind  
and fire,  
O still small voice of calm,  
O still small voice of calm!

His heart with sorrow  
Was torn,  
'Yet not My will  
But Yours,' He said.

Come see His hands  
And His feet,  
The scars that speak  
Of sacrifice;  
Hands that flung stars  
Into space  
To cruel nails  
Surrendered.

So let us learn  
How to serve,  
And in our lives  
Enthroned Him;  
Each other's needs  
To prefer,  
For it is Christ  
We're serving.

## Reading - 1Thessalonians 5

### The Day of the Lord

**5** Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, **2** for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

**4** But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. **5** You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. **6** So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. **8** But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. **9** For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. **10** He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

### Final Instructions

**12** Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. **13** Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. **14** And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. **15** Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

**16** Rejoice always, **17** pray continually, **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**19** Do not quench the Spirit. **20** Do not treat prophecies with contempt **21** but test them all; hold on to what is good, **22** reject every kind of evil.

**23** May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **24** The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

**25** Brothers and sisters, pray for us. **26** Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. **27** I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.

**28** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

## 51

### BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD,

Fill me with life anew;  
That I may love what Thou dost love  
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure;  
Until my will is one with Thine  
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine;  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life  
Of Thine eternity.

## The Message

Called to be different from the world around us, we are given practical instructions on how to do this. Paul writes, 'Let us not be like others' (v.6). dare to be different. Paul uses four metaphors to describe the difference:

### 1. LIGHT not darkness

The world around us is living in darkness (v4). Don't run away from the darkness, rather, shine in it. 'You're all children of the light(v5a). Darkness implies ignorance and sin. You were in darkness. Jesus shines His light into your life. You are a child of the light. to be a child of something is to be characterized by that thing. When Christians are spoken of as 'children of the light', it means that 'light' is your distinguishing characteristic.

### 2. DAY not night

Paul writes, 'you are children of the day. You do not belong to the night' (v.5). as well as the previous point about light and darkness, this refers back to 'the day of the Lord' (v.2). we are children of the day of The Lord, with all that this means in terms of anticipation and participation in rthe triumph of that great day when Jesus returns.

### 3. AWAKE not asleep

Paul writes, 'Let us not be like others, who are asleep... for those who sleep, sleep at night' (vv6-7). He goes on 'whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him' (v.10). Jesus is with you now. Jesus himself used this same language of keeping watch and being awake (Mathew 24:42, and 25:13). Don't go to sleep spiritually. Be prepared for the Lord's coming – awake and watchful.

### 4. SOBER not drunk

Paul writes, 'Let us be self-controlled' (1 Thess.5:8). This word literally means 'not intoxicated with wine'. Like the other metaphors it speaks of both a physical state and a spiritual reality. Drunkenness arises from a lack of self-control and an indulgence of the senses in order to escape reality. Seek to be self-controlled in every area of your life. Put on the clothing of faith, love and hope (v.8).

**Your lifestyle is to be totally different from those around you.** You are to honour your leaders: 'we ask you to honour those leaders who work to hard for you, who have given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love. (vv12-13a, MSG).

"He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him". These are such comforting words to know that we never stop living with Jesus. There is a continuation between this life and the next. Life on earth, as we know it, will come to an end, but the life we live with Jesus Christ will go on forever.

**You are called to a life of respect(v12).** Always treat people with respect. Always stay peaceful (v13): 'Gently encourage the stragglers, and reach out for the exhausted, pulling them to their feet. Be patient with each person, attentive to individual needs. And be careful that when you get on each other's nerves you don't snap at each other. Look for the best in each other, and always do your best to bring it out' (vv14-15MSG). if you want to bring out the best in people you must see the best in them.

**Be kind to everyone.** Kindness should be a distinguishing feature of your life: 'Always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else' (v15). Even little acts of kindness are so powerful that they can change the world around you.

**You are a citizen of a different world.** You have to learn a new language. What Paul describes here is effectively the grammar of a new language: 'Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances' (v16). Prayer should be like breathing – something we do continually, but often unconsciously. Instead of always complaining 'give thanks in all circumstances' – expressing your thanks to God and other people – in little things as well as big things.

**'Do not put out the Spirit's fire;** do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.' (vv19-22)

**All this can seem a very daunting prospect.** But you are not on your own. Paul prays, 'May God Himself, the God of Peace, sanctify you through and through' (v23, and he finishes on a resounding note of hope and help – 'He who calls you is faithful and He will do it' (v25).

**Let's Pray:** Lord, help me to dare to be different. Thank You that You died for me that I may live together with You (v.10). help me to avoid every kind of evil (v22) and live a life of love, kindness, joy and peace, Amen. (Source Bible in One Year, Day 285).

## **480 – Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is in you,**

**REJOICE!** Rejoice!

*Christ is in you,*

*The hope of glory*

*In our hearts.*

*He lives! He lives!*

*His breath is in you,*

*Arise a mighty army,*

*We arise.*

**Now is the time** for us

To march upon the land,

Into our hands

He will give the ground we claim.

He rides in majesty

To lead us into victory,

The world shall see

That Christ is Lord!

**God is at work** in us

His purpose to perform,

Building a kingdom

Of power not of words,

Where things impossible,

By faith shall be made possible;

Let's give the glory

To Him now.

**Though we are weak,** His grace

Is everything we need;

We're made of clay

But this treasure is within.

He turns our weaknesses

Into His opportunities,

So that the glory

Goes to Him.

## THE GRACE

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all for ever more, Amen.

This Service has been prepared by: Christopher Stirling of West End Congregational Church, Haverhill, UK.  
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