



**Bicycles,
Roller Skates,
& Peanut Butter**

**Contemplative
Verse #2**

*For Connie, my heart's eternal flame,
In her eyes I found my name.*

*Her gentle touch, a balm so sweet,
In her embrace, my soul's retreat.*

*Jillian and Jayce, my precious stars
You light my path, no matter how far.
In your laughter, pure and bright
I see the dawn, the end of night.
A family forged by heaven's hand,
In faith and love, we firmly stand.*



Squandering Love

Am I the keeper of swine, so base, Squandering love, mercy, and grace? Consumed my father's inheritance dear, In vanity's husks, year after year. With the devil's swine, I feast, Unworthy to be called His least. Not a son, nor Christ's own kin, Lost in the mire of worldly sin. Yet in this loathsome state, I cry, for redemption's light from on high. To cleanse my soul, to make me whole, to restore the love that sin has stole. In humble prayer, I seek His face, to find again His saving grace. To turn from swine, to rise above, and be embraced by endless love.



The Authors Prayer

Heavenly Father,

In humble reflection, I come before You, acknowledging the fair and glorious image in which You created me, in Your own likeness, to dwell with the Holy Angels and Your children, In eternal happiness, power, and glory.

Grant me the patience to enter the Passion and Death of Christ, under the Cross, setting all my hope and confidence Upon the life to come.

In the Spirit and Will of Christ, may I begin and finish all my actions in this world, Guided by Your divine light and love.

Help me to remember the eternal light, the praiseful and melodious harmony of Your angelic and divine kingdom of joy.

With a heart full of gratitude and reverence, I seek Your grace and strength, to live in alignment with Your will, now and forevermore. O God in Christ Jesus! I am blind in myself, and know not myself because of Vanity

Amen

Finding God

Finding God in silence and quiet is deeply resonant. Many spiritual traditions emphasize that the divine presence is often found in stillness and contemplation. In the Bible, for instance, Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still, and know that I am God.” This suggests that in moments of quiet and inner peace, we can connect more deeply with the divine.

In contemplative practices, such as meditation or prayer, the goal is often to quiet the mind and open the heart to experience God’s presence. It’s believed that God is always with us, but we need to create the inner space to become aware of this presence.

Lost point of Christianity

What is the lost point in Christianity that keep us from a relationship with God?

Some might say it's losing sight of the core teachings of love, humility and grace that Christ emphasized. Religion can sometimes get bogged down in rituals and rules, making it easy to forget the essence of a personal, loving relationship with God. It's a call to refocus on the heart of *faith* rather than just its outward expressions.

By living out the principles of love, compassion, and humility in every day actions. It's less about the formalities and more about mirroring the values Christ taught. Engage with your faith through sincere prayer, helping others, and fostering genuine connections within your community. It's about making faith a lived experience, not just a series of obligations.

It's about letting faith infuse every aspect of your life. It means embracing the essence of love, kindness, and humility in how you treat yourself and others. Living your faith is about taking those teachings beyond the church walls and manifesting them in your daily actions, decisions, and relationships.

It's about authenticity and integrity, rather than just checking boxes or following rituals. It's about joining God where God is. It's about aligning your life with Gods will and finding Gods presence. in every part of your journey. It's a way of living that transcends the mundane and transforms the ordinary into something sacred.

A soldier in a foreign land.

I stand, A soldier in a foreign land. My prayer, a report of the day, to my General, I humbly say: "Today I fought with all my might, In the burning sun, through darkest night. These were the battles, fierce and grand, these were the trials I did withstand.

Tomorrow's plan, I lay before, with courage, I will fight once more. Obstacles may block my way, but steadfast, I will not sway.

My God and I, we ride as one, Through pouring rain, beneath the sun. Pale and starving, yet unbowed, In His presence, I am proud.

'Leader!' I cry, with voice so clear, He turns to me, His anguish near. Our love is rough, yet deeply true, in this tavern of life, we renew.

We share the wine, the bread, the strife, In this lowly, humble life. Together, we will ride and fight, In the darkness, in the light." In this bond, so fierce and strong, I find my place, where I belong. A soldier's heart, a prayer's embrace, In my General's loving grace.



In Stillness

In moments hushed, our hearts align, with
the divine, the love divine. In silence, we are
not alone, for in that space, we find our
home.

In stillness, whispers softly speak, of truths
profound, of souls that seek. The gentle
breeze, a sacred sign, that in the quiet, we
entwine.

With every breath, a prayer unfolds, A silent
hymn, a story told. The universe in calm
repose, Reveals the path that spirit knows.

In shadows cast by moonlit beams, we find
the essence of our dreams. A tranquil heart,
a mind serene, in silence, all is felt, unseen.



For God

Oh, my heart, I seek, a whisper of Your presence, meek.

In stillness, let my soul be found, In Your embrace, where love abounds.

No thought or word can bridge the space, 'Twixt my yearning heart and in your grace.

For only You can teach me prayer and lift my spirit from despair.

The world distracts with endless noise, yet in Your silence, I find my voice.

No book or theory can suffice, Without Your touch, my sacrifice.

So, Lord, I wait with patient heart, for You to come and set apart, the walls I've built, the fears I hold, In Your light, my soul unfold.

Teach me, God, to dwell in You, in every breath, in all I do.

Let Your love be my guiding star, in Your presence, near or far.

In the face of wrath

In the face of wrath, in treachery's snare, Love's spirit rises, beyond compare.

Every evil, every foe, Helps Love's triumph, helps it grow.

Perfection, happiness, all reside, In Love's embrace, where God abides.

An unchangeable will to all that's good, In Love's pure light, understood.

No creature can be God's own child, Without His goodness, pure and mild.

Union with the Divine, so sweet, In Love's spirit, we find our feet.

Error, fiction, impurity's stain, must be cleansed, to break the chain.

Only then, in purity's light, can we see God, in His might.

The Spirit of Love, our guiding star, Leads us to God, near and far.

In every heart, let Love's flame burn, To the Divine, our spirits turn.

Discovering God

"You will seek Me and find Me," God says,
"When you search with all your heart, always."

From the depths of your soul, let your spirit rise,
To find the Creator, the One who never lies.

In the pages of ancient, sacred lore,
Deuteronomy speaks of a love so pure.

"Seek the LORD with all your heart and soul,"
And find the One who makes you whole.

Through valleys deep and mountains high,
In every tear and every sigh,

God's promise stands, unwavering, true,
When you seek with all your heart, Christ come to you.

So let your heart be open wide,
In His love, forever abide.

For in the seeking, you will find,

The Creator's love, so pure, so kind.



Surrender to the Divine Dance

In the quiet chambers of the soul, where shadows yield to the Light's embrace, We find a sacred surrender, a cosmic role, As we journey toward the eternal grace.

Surrender to God, the Life unending, Beyond the veil of earthly strife, Where no creature's touch disturbs our tending, And the soul finds rest in the river of life.

With body anchored in this temporal sphere, Reason grapples with the weight of the cross, Our Lord Jesus, both human and divine, draws near, His sacrifice bridging the chasm of loss.

Yet beyond reason's grasp, the spirit soars, Will unfurls its wings, ascending high, in heavenly realms, where eternity pours, we walk with Christ, under the boundless sky.

From the Source, all creatures emerge and return, in this cosmic dance, we glimpse the grand design, reason and mind converge, their secrets discern, And Christ reigns supreme, His power divine.

Not dominion, but love's gentle sway, Christ's authority, a scepter of grace, Over all things, in Heaven's light, we sway, Guided by love's rhythm, we find our place.

Surrender, dear soul, to the Life of God, in quietude and chaos, find your rest, for in this surrender, we tread where angels trod, and become vessels of love, forever blessed.

Dear Heart

Soul's embrace in the quiet depths, Where
self's desires find no place,
A battle rages, unseen, untold,
Between the new and the old.

Resolutions, like fleeting dreams, Shatter in
the light of what it means,
To surrender all, to cease the fight,
And let the Spirit guide to light.

Temptation whispers, soft and sly,
"Take control, don't question why."
Yet wisdom speaks in still, small voice, "Let
go, let God, make this your choice."

For in the yielding, strength is found,
In silence, peace, in stillness, sound.
The self must die, the old must fade, For new
life blooms where grace is laid.

So, rest, dear heart, in love's pure flow,
release the need to always know.
In God's embrace, find your release,
And in surrender, perfect peace.

a gift just for you

The Call of Freedom

In the quiet of our days, when time and fortune pave our ways, we stand with choices vast and wide, to walk with God, or turn aside.

No chains to bind, no toil to bear, yet greater is the call to care, for those who hold their time and gold, must live with hearts both brave and bold.

To serve not self, but higher aims, to kindle love's eternal flames, for much is given, much required, A soul with holy zeal inspired.

The slave in patience finds his grace, in humble tasks, a sacred place, but we, with liberty in hand, must strive to meet God's great command.

To use our freedom not in vain, but seek the lost, relieve the pain, to be a light in darkest night, to turn our strength to what is right.

So let us rise with purpose clear, to live for God, to hold Him dear, in every act, in every thought, to serve the One who life has bought.

For in this path of virtue's way, we find the dawn of endless day, and in our hearts, a peace profound, as we in love and grace abound.

Every Stranger

In the the morning light, we rise to serve, to do what's right. With hands that heal and hearts that care, we spread His love, His grace we share.

Our feet will walk where He would go, to lift the weary, soothe their woe. With eyes that see the world's deep need, we act in love, in word and deed.

No voice but ours to speak His truth, to guide the old, inspire the youth. No hands but ours to bless and give, in every moment, through how we live.

We are His body, here on earth, to show His love, to prove its worth. In every smile, in every tear, His presence felt, His spirit near.

So let us be His hands, His feet, in every stranger that we meet. With hearts of love and eyes that see, we'll be His light, His legacy.

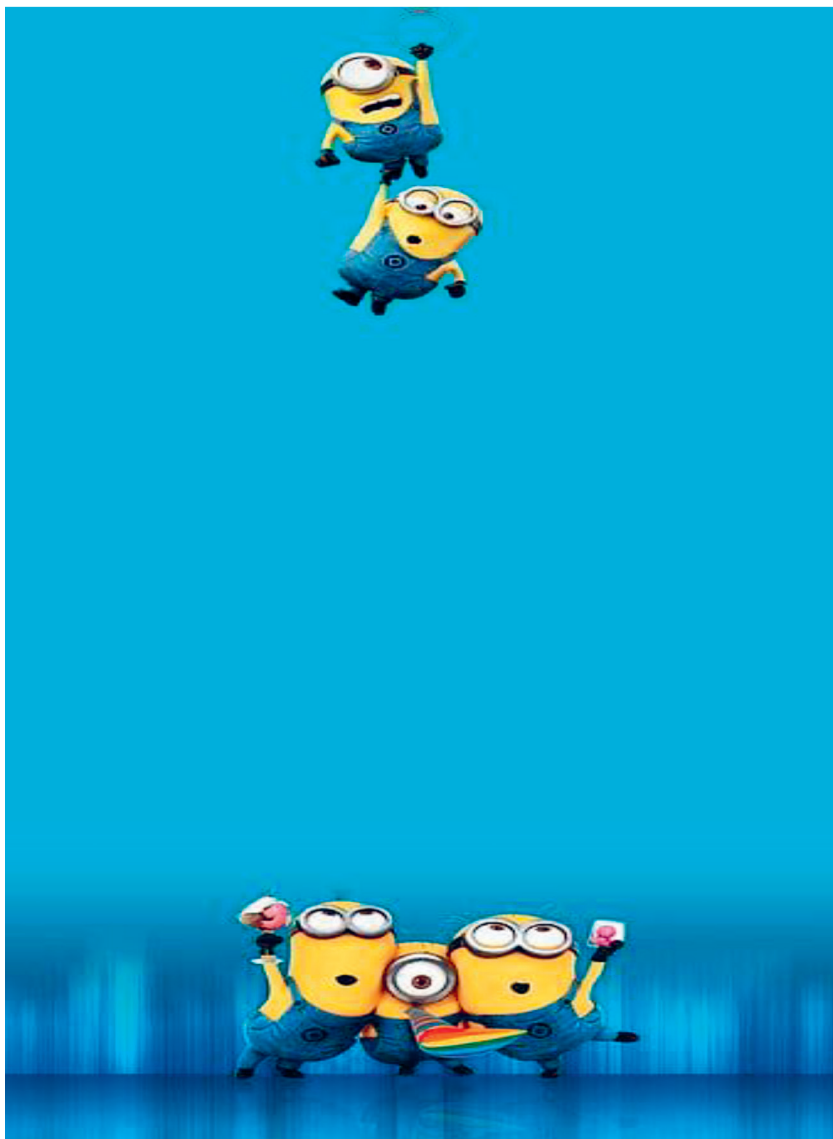
In every act of kindness shown, His love through us is clearly known. With every step, with every prayer, we bring His peace, His tender care.

Through trials faced and joys embraced, His strength within, our fears erased. In unity, we stand as one, Reflecting Christ, God's only Son.

Together, let us shine His light, In darkest hours, in brightest night. For we are called to be His own, to make His love and mercy known.

So let us be His hands, His feet, in every stranger that we meet. With hearts of love and eyes that see, we'll be His light, His legacy.

Friends helping Friends



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