

Straight from the "Hart"

April 28, 2024

Enemies of Abundant Living (9)

Free to Run



Note: Due to technical difficulties in the recording of this service, we are unable to post pictures this week.

Affirmation (P: Pastor C: Reader with Congregation)

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: We believe in the Most High God who strengthens us and repays us many more times than we expect. We believe in God who gives generously and who expects the same from all creatures God has made. We believe in God whose utmost, loving sacrifice is experienced through Jesus Christ, who paid it all.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

C: We believe that Jesus Christ consciously and lovingly emptied himself so that we may learn to make sacrifice and live joyfully before God. By Christ's impartial love we learn to love all those on the margins.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C: We believe in the Holy Spirit who enables us to represent Jesus to the world. We believe that by the power of the Holy Spirit a new community will be created without labels. We believe all has been accomplished for deliverance and salvation and is now being lived in flesh even as God is glorified in heaven.

Adapted to be responsive, © 2008 T. Anne Daniel
in UM Worship and Song, Leader's Edition (W&S-LE)

Opening Prayer

Lord, the great and complex music of symphonies and simple chirps of birds both remind us of your majesty. Large sums of money and a widow's coins are both honored when given from a willing, loving heart. Use them to tell of your grace, love, and justice. Receive us as a sign that we remember that you are before all, in all, and through all. We gather in worship to say "Thank you, God, for all your mercies in Jesus' name. Amen.

adapted from Herb Mather © 2002 General Board of Discipleship, W&S-LE.

Call to Worship and Music Intro

We have gathered because our hearts are full of praise for God's wonderful works. We come to honor his almighty power, his gracious and just rule over creation. We have come to offer thanks because he prospers us, teaches us, and guides us in the freedom of serving in his kingdom now and forever. We have gathered to be touched by the Holy Spirit, that he may help us worship the Father in spirit and truth through Jesus Christ our Lord.

adapted from © 2011 Constance Cherry, in W&S-LE

All this is possible by God's mercy which overcomes our brokenness. Let's worship him for his saving and renewing grace by singing

Grace Greater Than Our Sin

Words: Julia H. Johnston, 1911 Music: Daniel B. Towner, 1910

1. Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
 grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
 Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
 there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Refrain

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
 grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin!

2. Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,
 threaten the soul with infinite loss;
 grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,
 points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

Refrain

4. Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
 freely bestowed on all who believe!
 You that are longing to see his face,
 will you this moment his grace receive?

Refrain

Bible Reading 1 (R: Reader, P: Pastor)

R: When that grace is bestowed on us, it is not only about forgiveness, it is about receiving gifts and graces – qualities that empower us to live and serve with eagerness and joy. Listen as the pastor and I read...

P: God's Torah came into the picture so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace proliferated even more.

R: Sin ruled by means of death, now grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God so that we might have eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: [From this truth developed a flawed slogan]:

R: "Everything is permitted."

P: Don't delude yourselves. You cannot mock the justice of God. You will always reap what you sow. Those who keep sowing only to satisfy the demands of their own sinful nature will reap ruin. But those who keep sowing to please the Spirit will reap from the Spirit everlasting life. So then, are we to say, "Let's keep on sinning so that God can show us more of his wonderful grace"?

R: Heaven forbid! How can we, who have died to sin continue to live in it?

P: For the sinful nature wants what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite of what the sinful nature desires.

R: We will run our lives as the Holy Spirit guides us. Then we will not do what our sinful nature craves.

P: When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are perfectly evident ... anyone living that sort of life will have no share in the Kingdom of God. But those who belong to Christ have put to death the passions and desires of their sinful nature.

R: Moreover, the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness (or humbleness), and self-control. Nothing in the Torah stands against these things.

P: [So we return to the flawed slogan]: "Everything is permitted."

R: But not everything is good and helpful for us.

P: "Everything is permitted."

R: But not everything is beneficial.

P: "Everything is permitted."

R: But we are not going to let anything gain control over us.

P: "Everything is permitted."

R: We won't be looking out [only] for our own interests, but for the good of others.

P: So let's not grow weary of doing what is good, for if we do not give up, we will in due time reap a harvest of blessing.

R: Therefore, whenever the opportunity arises, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are in the family of faith.

Theme

Once upon a time, a powerful giant named Effort had the job of defending the entrance to the Palace of the Wind, a wonderful place filled with incredible riches.

Many wanted to get the palace's wonders, but they knew they would first have to get by Effort, who had the reputation of being unbeatable.

The story was that when anyone decided to try, they would anticipate the battle, load up with weapons and enter the great garden in front of the palace's entrance. As they moved deeper into the garden, so covered in foliage that even at high noon on a sunny day it was as dark as a heavily clouded night. Torches, flashlights, and any other types of artificial lighting stopped working immediately after entering. Roots, fallen branches, and low limbs made advancement difficult. The thick darkness with many hiding places worried the increasingly less brave souls as they anticipated the giant's attack at any second.

And then there he was -- the giant Effort stood in the way, startling the treasure seeker. At first, Effort looked big, but not all that difficult to handle. But the longer they took to size up the situation, the larger Effort grew, and he became faster and smarter and more ferocious, and it didn't take long for him to dispatch his opponent.

Enter Curious John. He didn't care about riches, but he did hear that the palace of wind had gathered from the four corners of the earth and from the beginning of time all the wisdom and secrets of life and abundant living, and this intrigued Curious John -- because he was curious -- and it drove him to want to learn more and more and more... this was the kind of treasure trove that he couldn't resist. Having heard the legends of previous fails, he knew he could never defeat Effort with the normal strategy of stealth and skill -- he wasn't a soldier and could hardly fight at all. He decided his only chance was to charge headlong and hopefully win by surprise.

The day came and he charged in running - and stumbling - as quickly as he could through the tangled roots and limbs and low hanging branches, wondering if he might get to the doors before Effort even realized he was there.

Suddenly he felt a slippery splat under his foot that sent him to the ground. Fearing the slime would stay on his shoe and make him lose traction -- not good if he came across Effort, he reached for his shoe to clean it off. He realized he had stepped on a big bug. But as he looked closer, he realized it looked a lot like a tiny version of what people had described as Effort.

Curious John proceeded toward the palace doors, waiting for Effort - but the giant never showed. He reached the doors and entered the palace and began to explore its treasure troves of wisdom. He saw in a showcase a piece of paper labeled "Giant Effort".

It explained and John finally realized what had happened. Effort always starts as a small weak creature that gets bigger and better as his foes delayed in time and increased in fear as they thought about him. John's decision to try speed had tackled Effort before he had a chance to grow. He had squashed him like a bug.

But this wasn't the only giant named effort. To this day giants of effort continue protecting most of the good things of life. But now we know the strategy -- all we have to do is attack him instantly to overcome him.

loosley adapted from "Effort, the Infinite Giant", by Pedro Pablo Sacristán, freestoriesforkids.com

Modern example -- from the life of child. Pick a chore, any chore. Ever feel like not doing it? And then we don't, that task looms in the back of our mind, and our parent begin pushing us to do it -- and then we get upset, and the longer we delay, the more stress increases, and the more upset we get, and the more upset the parents get, and we waste so much time and effort in worry and emotional energy and distressing conflict within and without --- whereas if we just did it right away it would be done and over and no one would get grumpy...

Doesn't it make more sense to just tackle it right away and let it remain a small task before we have to add all that extra stress, and depending on the chore -- all the possible additional work and challenges that mount up to accomplish it?

Special Music To be able to have the spiritual strength, the discipline to face first the obligations we fear -- or the most difficult -- frees us from stress and a multitude of . Likewise, the choir is going to sing about how our faith can free us from worldly pursuits that hamper us from -- at least coming closer -- to living lives of excellence. Listen as the choir sings

Glorious Freedom

Words: Haldor Lillenas, 1917 Music: Alfred Judson, 1917

Once I was bound by sin's galling fetters, chained like a slave, I struggled in vain;
but I received thy glorious freedom, when Jesus broke my fetters in twain.

Refrain

Glorious freedom, wonderful freedom, no more in chains of sin I repine!
Jesus the glorious, Emancipator, now and forever, he shall be mine.

Freedom from fear with all of its torments, freedom from care with all of its pain;
freedom in Christ, my blessed Redeemer, he who has rent my fetters in twain.

Refrain

Freedom from all the carnal affections, freedom from envy, hatred and strife;
freedom from vain and worldly ambitions, freedom from all that saddened my life.

Refrain

Freedom from pride and all sinful follies, freedom from love and glitter of gold;
freedom from evil, temper, and anger, glorious freedom, rapture untold.

Refrain

Freedom from fear with all of its torments, freedom from care with all of its pain;
freedom in Christ, my blessed Redeemer, he who has rent my fetters in twain.

Refrain

Music The freedom we experience from our spiritual Emancipator is not because we deserved it, but because of his grace, as is everything he accomplishes through us in his name. Let's prepare our hearts for prayer by singing...

Grace Alone

Text and Music: Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson
© 1988 Maranatha Music, adm. by The Copyright Co.

1. Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith,
Every difference we will make is only by His grace.
Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine,
Every blessing left behind is only by his grace.

Refrain

Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown he will provide.
Christ in us our Cornerstone; we will go forth in grace alone.

2. Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach,
everywhere we share his peace is only by his grace.
Every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away,
every sorrow turned to praise is only by His grace.

Refrain

Prayers Lord, we praise you because your unfailing love never ends! Your mercies keep us destruction. You are always faithful, you offer new and fresh mercies each day, therefore, we will hope in you, for you are unfailingly good to those who seek you. Teach us to wait for your salvation. Help us to cooperate with your discipline.

Let us also remember each other.

Petitions Specifically today we name: * Bill Wycoff who is scheduled for serious back surgery on Monday, We also continue to pray for * Karen Nowak's sister, * for Earl Campbell, * Jim Malott, Cheri Holt's daughter-in-law Stephanie's mom, Lori, * Stephen Brittain, * for Patti and Carl Didomizio, * Ann Martin, * for people having a hard time financially * Wes, * and for Fran Warthman, for countries and families and individuals who are facing challenges.

Lord, sometimes we feel afraid. Give us your spirit of power. Sometimes we feel upset. Give us your spirit of love. Sometimes we feel confused. Give us your spirit of self-control. Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to live in us guiding us to live as you taught us to pray **Lord's Prayer**

portions of the prayer were adapted from a prayer inspired by Lamentation 3:22-26,
by Bob Hostetler, bobhostetler.blogspot.ca
and adapted from a prayer inspired by 2 Timothy 1:7,
by Joanna Harader, practicingfamilies.com

Music As the Spirit lives in us and guides us we find we are better able to serve each other as we travel together on this road to heaven. If comfortable, let's stand before the reading and sermon and sing

The Servant Song

Words and Music: Richard Gillard

© 1977 Scripture in Song, div. of Integrity Music

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on this road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

Intro to and Bible Reading 2

Like the song, Paul was eager to serve God by bringing people to Christ. Skeptics could easily charge Paul with playing unprincipled politics. He talked and behaved in ways that would allow his current local listeners to be more likely to accept him and approve his message. But then he kept changing his lifestyle wherever he traveled and with whomever he was meeting at the time. And to be sure, people

do play that game.

And even though it may look the same on the surface, Paul explains that there is in fact, for him, a deeper, consistent principle that explains his alternating ways of living. The message of Jesus is one of freedom and grace. He did not feel restricted to living in a specific way. So in a desire to not needlessly offend, and out of respect for those he was trying to reach, he would give up his rights and freedoms to things and/or do additional things (if they didn't compromise his core principles) that might help him successfully accomplish his highest calling – which was to encourage people in very diverse cultures and belief systems, to receive God's message in Jesus.

And then to explain this deeper guiding principle, he uses an athletic analogy that his Corinthian listeners were sure to understand. For they were the long-time organizers of the Isthmian games, an athletic, music and poetry competition held every two years, just outside Corinth at Isthmus. It was second in popularity only to the Olympic games. Listen to his explanation.

Am I not a free man? Am I not an emissary of the Messiah? Haven't I seen Jesus our Lord? ... Don't we have the right... [to be supported] ... but we don't make use of this this right. Rather, we put up with all kinds of things so as not to impede in any way the Good News about the Messiah...

For although I am a free man, not bound to do anyone's bidding, I have made myself a workman owned by all in order to lead as many people as possible to Christ. That is, I became as a Jew to the Jews so I might lead them to Christ. There are some who live by obeying the Jewish Law. I became as one who lives by obeying the Jewish Law (even though I am not subject to the Law) so I might lead them to Christ.

There are some who live by not obeying the Jewish law. I became as one who lives by not obeying the Jewish law so I might lead them to Christ. This does not mean that I do not obey God's Law. I obey the teachings of Christ. With the "weak" I became "weak," so I might lead them to Christ. With all kinds of people, I have become all kinds of things, so that in all kinds of circumstances I might lead some of them to Christ. But I do it all because of the rewards promised by the Good News, so that I may share in them along with the others who come to trust.

Don't you know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one wins

the prize? So then, run to win! Now every athlete in training submits himself to strict discipline, and he does it just to win a laurel wreath that will soon wither away. But we do it to win a crown that will last forever. Accordingly, I don't run aimlessly but straight for the finish line; I don't shadow-box but try to make every punch count. I treat my body hard and make it obey me so that, after proclaiming the Good News to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:1,4a,12b, 19-27 (CJB, NLV)

Sermon Free to Run

We've been working our way through a series based on E Stanley Jones' enemies of a full, productive life. There is a side to each of these enemies that in the right context, channeled and directed appropriately, have a helpful and proper place in our life. They become enemies when they get out of balance, out of place and proper priority -- and they begin to hinder what we are created to be. Each of us may suffer from them to different degrees and not from all of them; and for those that do exist in our lives, there are many possible causes.

Nevertheless, when we can restore them to their proper place in our lives, they become helpful tools that will guide us to the abundant life that we desire, and that God has designed for us.

Desire is another God-given, built in drive that helps us dream and pursue both the needs and

DESIRES: shouldn't be denied

the possibilities for our life. Desire is meant for our good, but it too can be twisted toward extremes and bad paths. If we had no desire, our lives would stagnate. Some philosophies and religions try to remove root desires so that we overcome what so easily goes awry. But you cannot remove something that is built in. As Jones implies, it is not wise to get rid of a headache by removing your head. We cannot overcome the potential negative side effects of desire by suppressing or pretending that those desires don't exist.

When we get tired or frustrated or impatient running the marathon toward our highest dreams and deepest

Shouldn't be distorted

desires, we sometimes settle for other venues to reach some more immediate satisfaction. We may end up distorting God's gift of natural desires by using them in inappropriate ways.

Distortions of true desires will, in the long run, end in unfulfillment. And when people experience this

Shouldn't be displaced

dissatisfaction in their lives, they will sometimes use unnatural artificial tools to fulfill desire and mask the emptiness. We take our healthy desire for rest and recreation and instead we seek pleasure in escapism that drains us of life rather than renewing and re-energizing our lives. Some resort to recreational drugs or other vices and negative behaviors that hide or distract us from our unfulfilled desires. We take our appetite, our desire to eat that satisfies our hunger needs, and that is good -- but then sometimes, some of us use that same solution – eating, to fulfill other desires – for security and peace and comfort, for example. We take our appetite for meaningful relationships and try to fulfill it in ways that are not safe and healthy for our body or spirit. We take our desire for social connection and become people pleasers rather than peace makers. We take the desire for independence and distort it into a rebellious attitude. We take the desire for good humor that heals and brings joy, and it gets twisted into a negative humor that belittles and hurts others.

Jones' uses a brush heap versus a tree to illustrate the difference between distorted desires with desires that are fulfilling their God-given purpose. A brush heap has no central organizing principle and is a decaying mass destined for dust, whereas a tree has an organizing principle and aspects of its parts and life fit into that principle and it is destined for the sky. The enemy is not desire.

But negative distortions denial, or substitutes for desire, by their very nature, are self-disintegrating and self-destroying, while proper desires, by their very nature, is self-sustaining and self-perpetuating. To fulfill God given desires God's way is to move toward life.

And the way to move toward abundant life, is to overcome this enemy that Jones' calls "undisc-

UNDISCIPLINED DESIRES

plined desires". He writes that his generation is undisciplined, that it would translate the first line of Psalm 23 into "The Lord is my chauffeur; I shall not walk." Or as someone else put it, "The church faces a generation which is trying to drink its way to prosperity, war its way to peace, spend its way to wealth, and [frivol] its way to heaven." It can't be done. We must be disciplined in everything about our lives.

I should say, this is nothing new -- I think most disciplined people think that of their generation, it is a common complaint throughout history. Probably because it is the consequences of undisciplined desires that usually creates attention and news stories; so it seems like it is all around us, while those who are disciplined lead lives that lead to results that don't normally make the news. And in case you

aren't aware, Jones' book was first published in the early 40s. But to the point – what are some general strategies that will help each of us better discipline our desires?

First: focus. Steven Covey says, begin with the end in mind, and then put first things first. Know what kind of person you want to be and don't ever lose sight of that goal. The challenge is to channel our desires to reach that future goal that helps us become what we know is best when there is a temptation to spend our time filling a more immediate desire that is right in front of us; and then we never get the time for the long-term process...

1) Focus

For example, one I struggle with right now -- I have a desire to get in better shape so I can be healthier and do a better job with the obligations of my life. But the temptation to not make the time for that exercise program, and to not take the time to eat healthily to get there – all because I am striving to fill more immediate short-term deadlines. Somehow, we've got to keep that long term goal in front of us each day so that we can work toward what God is calling us to do and be. Focus.

Second. Combine focus with inner strength. It takes fortitude to be able to act toward an end goal in spite of what currently surrounds us. It takes a lot of strength to do without some things in the present, and to do some extra things in the present, for the sake of submitting to those longer-term goals.

2) inner strength

Jones explains it this way: "Who owns the mountains? Those who have enough money to bring mountains under their control? No. The mountains belong to the geologists who love them, surrender to them, gain their secrets, and are at home with them.

Who inherits the world of the mind? Those who say they are free to do as they like with their minds? No. Such people literally lose their minds! The mind belongs to those who surrender to the laws of the mind, who learn of the mind's ways; they inherit the world of the mind.

A pilot will never master the air unless he learns and carefully and consistently submits to the physical laws of flight.

Inner strength is the result of channeling and prioritizing our desires toward a that God-given goal so that we can fulfill that God-given desire. We bow before it, discipline ourselves to learn it and love it and surrender to it and practice it and dream it and live it and it becomes more and more a part of us, becomes more and more second nature to us. Robert Browning wrote, "Who keeps one end in view

makes all things serve [that end]. It gets complicated by the fact that we aren't necessarily choosing between good and evil. We may well be choosing to say "no" to some neutral or even good things because they keep us from the best things.

As we learn to not just wish for, but truly focus on and stir up that inner strength, we must then find the third step: Energy. We must find **3) energy** the energy to start putting *it* (the "it" is whatever it takes to move us toward the goal) to start putting "it" into action. It includes finding power to eliminate things in our life that are hindering the execution of those actions, and adding things into our life that will move us toward our goal. But if all of this subtracting and adding seems restrictive rather than enhancing; then think of it like this:

Let's say my end goal is to play the piano well. It is my desire and my calling. It isn't, but for illustration, let's say it is. To fulfill this goal, I must restrict other activities so that I can create time to practice and learn to love practice -- in order to become a good player. Is that really restricting my life? If I refuse to restrict my life to empower the discipline of practice, I will never be free to be a good player. But if I do discipline myself, then over time I may become free to fly (over the keyboard) with great skill. The question is, ultimately, which is more freeing? The license to do what you want in the moment, or the freedom of doing something with more excellence and meaning down the road? Without discipline – there is no freedom to grow and fulfill a dream.

It was this kind of attitude that Paul is talking about when he wrote to the Corinthians. His ultimate goal was to connect with and preach the gospel of Christ to all kinds of people; this higher calling led him to willingly give up personal rights in the moment; becoming as a Jew, as under the law, as outside the law, as weak... he wasn't playing a game with them, he was sincerely connecting with them so he could then preach to them.

As we heard, he doesn't choose music to illustrate, but athletics. These Greek athletes went into very strict training for at least 10 months in preparation for the games. The goal of the training is not the training, but so they would not run aimlessly or slowly, or box by swinging wildly; but they disciplined themselves in a way that they could be the one person who could win a celery wreath (at times it was a pine cone wreath) shaped into a crown that went on their head – they didn't last long. Paul describes this training as punishing the body -- not meaning beating up others or yourself physically or emotionally; but a phrase which means self-training and discipline.

To mix it in with another topic: Were the athletes required to train? No, everything is permissible. But not everything is beneficial or constructive to winning. We cannot let the temporary temptations master and enslave us from winning the prize. We must instead seek the higher good, the end goal, or we will be disqualified from winning, from achieving what we desire.

Jones adds practical steps on how to move toward disciplined desires. I'll just draw from them three additional suggestions. The first we heard in the Theme story.

a) Deal with difficult things first. If we start with the easiest first, it will likely lead to settling for getting the easier done and never going on to the more difficult. Plus, if you get the hardest thing done first, everything else is downhill from there. Jesus did not say, "If your right hand causes you to sin, get a manicure"; he said "cut it off" (Matthew 5:30), a hyperbole for sure, but it means to deal with things decisively and not delay or tinker around with it.

a) deal with the difficult first

b) Secondly, develop habits. We all know how bad habits are both detrimental and hard to overcome. But if you can establish good habits, they will stick with you just as powerfully. Develop habits that will cultivate those ultimate goals; and finally,

b) develop habits

c) Don't settle for good enough; always strive for excellence. Don't defeat yourself over small setbacks, but neither should you shrug them off as if they were nothing, or soon they will become more frequent and bigger and you will lose ground. On the other hand, celebrate even the small victories that will move you forward toward your goal. Jones concludes, by lighting small successive candles of will power wins, we generate a beam that becomes a light to the whole of life -- it gets easier and easier as the victories snowball...and we will discover the freedom (to be excellent, mature, skilled) that only comes with true discipline.

c) don't settle

Prayer Let's pray. God, sometimes we get out of focus and life gets blurred and distorted and we aren't sure what to do or do next. Restore our focus, help us to find the strength to free us from the things that hold us back and weigh us down, and the energy to become disciplined; to the point it gets into our pores and becomes second nature to us, so that we can continue becoming the best we can be.

Music It is in our spiritual discipline that we find the freedom to excel as we run this race called life, and if that is true; then it only makes sense that the disciplines be guided by a keen focus on God's will for our life, be it the building of general Christian character traits (Galatians 5:22-23) or specific goals that God has crafted and created for you to pursue in your future and in this church. (Ephesians 2:10) Therefore, if comfortable to stand, let's do that as we sing [Song Title]

Be Thou My Vision

Words: Ancient Irish; trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905;
versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Music: Trad. Irish melody;
harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1963 © Carlton R Young, 1963

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
3. Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Blessing Now go as those who belong to Christ, keeping in step with him and developing within the fruit of the Spirit; consistently making the most of our time to do what is beneficial, what is constructive, never tiring of doing good, but will seek His highest good, and the good of others, bringing glory to the Father, through the Spirit in the name of Jesus.