

"Good News of the Kingdom"

Composer's Notes and Scripture References

"Good News of the Kingdom" is a scripture-rich hymn about inner healing. I wrote and composed the original text and music for this hymn in 1991. At that time, I was involved in the Ministry of Intentional Healing at my local church in Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA. I felt then that there were few hymns available about healing or about inner healing in particular. Now in 2016, this is the first time I have published on my website and made available to the public the original words and music as well as the recently created sing-along video.

About Verse 1:

Matthew 9:35 inspired this hymn. "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the *good news of the kingdom* and healing every disease and sickness" (Matthew 9:35 NIV, italics added). "Healing" and "teaching" in verse 1 refer to the Matthew 9:35 scripture.

The phrase, "Souls saved from destruction by God's grace receive" is important and very serious. Persons who turn in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ receive forgiveness of their sins, receive eternal life, and avoid eternal destruction (John 3:16, 5:24). David, the psalmist, also describes how God rescued him from destruction in Psalm 40:2. "He brought me up out of the *pit of destruction*, out of the miry clay; and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm" (Psalm 40:2, italics added).

About Verse 2:

Verse 2 begins with the invitation for Jesus to cleanse us with compassion and touch us with his arms of love. Refer to Mark 1:40-42. In Mark 1:40, a leper came to Jesus, fell on his knees and said, "If you are willing, You can make me clean" (Mark 1:40). The following verse says, "And moved with *compassion*, He stretched out *His hand and touched him*, and said to him, 'I am willing; *be cleansed*' " (Mark 1:41, italics added).

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Verse 2 expresses the heart of this hymn, our prayer to Jesus to “Heal our painful mem’ries; heal our hurts within.” We invite Jesus to work in us to heal our painful memories, including helping us to forgive ourselves and to forgive others.

In the final phrase of verse 2, we ask Jesus to cleanse us from our guilt and sin. Refer to Psalm 51:2, “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.” Also refer again to Mark 1:41, where Jesus says, “I am willing; be cleansed.”

About Verse 3:

In the first phrase of verse 3, the words, “purity divine” are attributes of Christ and refer to purity in Philippians 4:8. Philippians 4:8 instructs us how we should think. “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is *pure*, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, *let your mind dwell on these things*” (italics added).

Romans 12:2 instructs us, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” Two phrases in verse 3, “Change our ways of thinking to conform to thine” and “Make our minds anew, Lord,” refer to Romans 12:2.

“Shine your light, Lord Jesus, ‘till we see your face” refers to 2 Corinthians 4:6. “For God, who said, ‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.’ ”

About Verse 4:

Verse 4 begins by inviting Jesus to walk with us. We also ask Jesus to fill us with the Holy Spirit so we have the strength, power, and guidance to minister to others (Acts 1:8, Ephesians 3:16, Ephesians 5:18, Colossians 1:27, John 16:13).

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Verse 4 concludes by praying to Jesus that Jesus will help us always be his devoted servants “helping others see.” “Helping others see” refers to 2 Corinthians 4:4. We pray that God will lift the veil of blindness from those who are perishing. We pray that God will give others spiritual sight so that they may see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, receive eternal life, and receive healing, both in this earthly life and in the life to come.

Mr. Whitney V. Myers is a church music composer, arranger, and pianist; a devotion and Bible Study writer; and a retired program manager and satellite communications engineer. Mr. Myers has published over 30 choral arrangements, hymns, and songs on the www.whitneytunes.com website. Mr. Myers is a graduate of Gettysburg College (B.A.), George Washington University (M.S.), and the University of Maryland (MBA, with honors).