



*A Gift of Faith Book* 25

Part 3

# Morning Bells

A Gift of Faith Book

25

# Morning Bells

—Waking Thoughts—

By Frances Ridley Havergal

(Lived: 1836-1879)

Photos by Jon Berg

Part 3

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- 2—Our Great Example: "Even Christ pleased not Himself"
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- 4—What Can I Do?: "Bear ye one another's burdens"
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**I**n the morning we want something  
to arouse us, and to help us to go brightly and  
bravely through the day.

**S**o here are "Morning Bells" to waken up the  
little hearts, and to remind them that we must not  
only rest in Jesus, but walk in Him.

**T**he motto of "Morning Bells" might be  
"Follow Jesus."

*May He who loves the little ones bless this tiny  
effort to help them to follow Him day by day.*

—Frances Ridley Havergal



# Twenty-first Day

## 21—Doing God's Will

"Teach me to do Thy will."--Psalms cxliii. 10.

When you see some one doing with very great delight some beautiful and pleasant piece of work, have you not thought, "I should like to be able to do that!" and perhaps you have said, "Please, teach me how to do it."

Can you think of anything pleasanter to do than what the very angels are full of delight in doing? Can you think of anything more beautiful to do than what is done in the "pleasant land," the beautiful home above? Can you fancy anything more interesting to do than what the dwellers there will never get tired of doing for thousands of millions of years? Would you not like to be taught to do it too?--to begin the pleasant and beautiful and most interesting work now, instead of waiting till you are grown up, and then perhaps never learning it at all, because it was put off now?

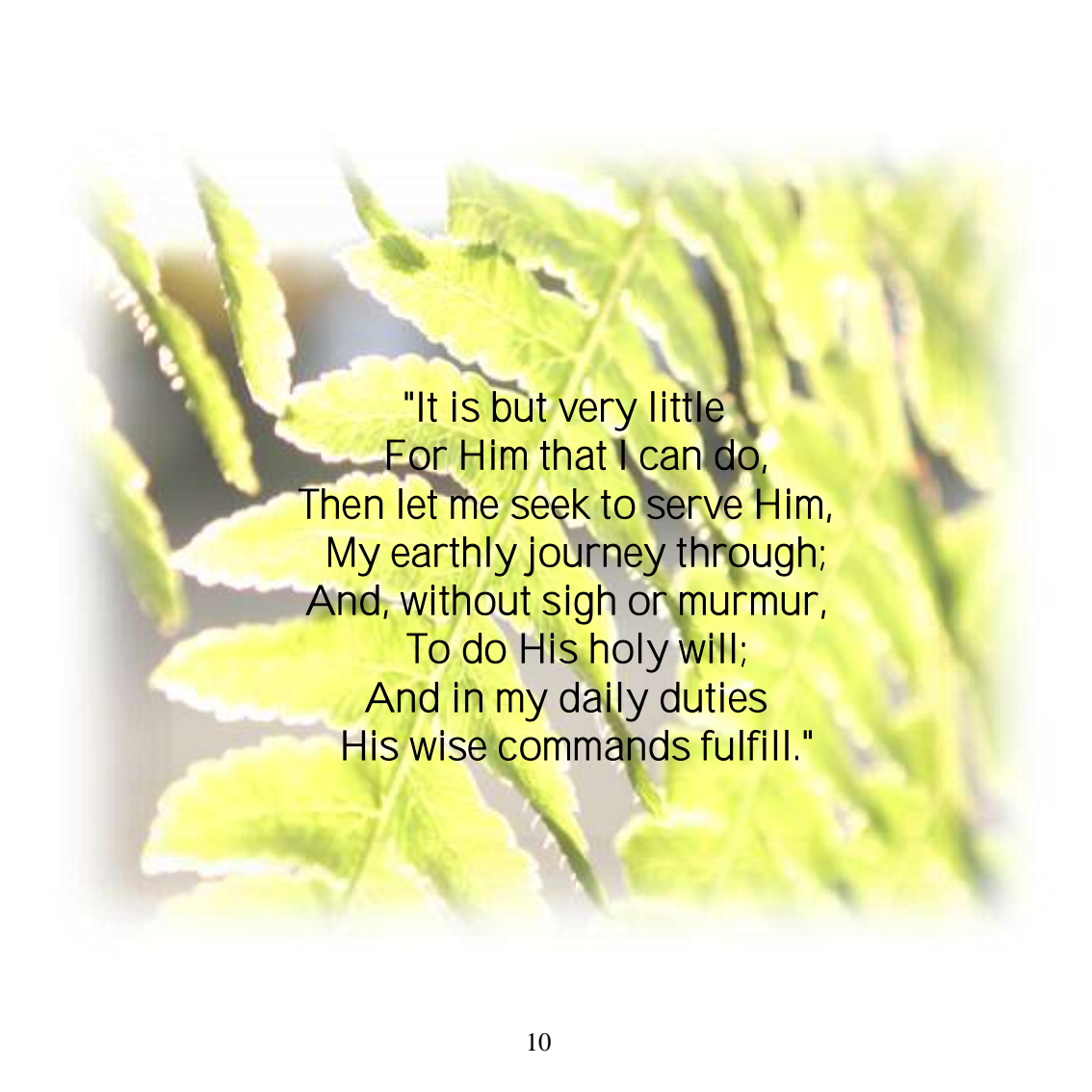


Then pray this little prayer this morning with all your heart, "Teach me to do Thy will." For it is His will that is the happiest work above, and the very happiest thing to do here below.

What is His will? The Prayer-Book version of this Psalm tells you very simply and sweetly. It says, "Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth Thee." So doing God's will is just doing the things, one by one, that please Him.

Why did David ask this? He goes on to say why--"For Thou art my God." If God is really our God, we too shall wish to do the thing that pleaseth Him. David did not think he could do it of himself, for he says next, "Let Thy loving Spirit lead me."

That loving Spirit will lead you too, dear child, and show you how beautiful and grand God's will is, and make you long to do it always, and teach you to do it. So that even on earth you may begin to do what the angels are doing in heaven!



"It is but very little  
For Him that I can do,  
Then let me seek to serve Him,  
My earthly journey through;  
And, without sigh or murmur,  
To do His holy will;  
And in my daily duties  
His wise commands fulfill."



# Twenty-second Day

## 22—Working for Jesus

"Ye have done it unto me." "Ye did it not to me."  
--Matthew xxv., xl., and xlv.

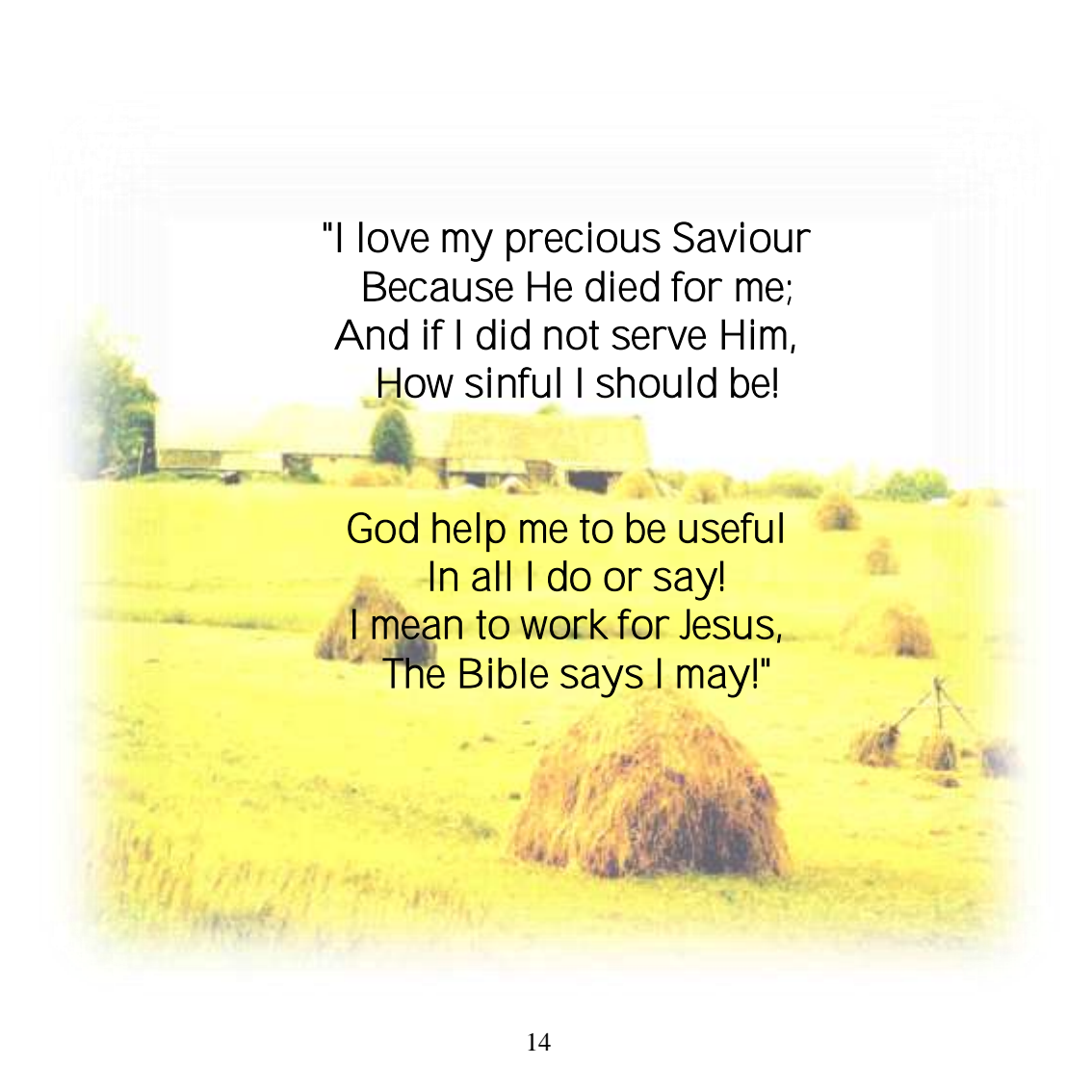
Our Lord Jesus Christ has given us opportunities of showing whether we love Him or not. He tells us that what we try to do for any one who is poor, or hungry, or sick, or a lonely stranger, is just the same as doing it to Him. And when the King says, "Come, ye blessed," He will remember these little things, and will say, "Ye have done it unto me." But He tells us that if we do nothing for them, it is just the same as if He were standing there and we would do nothing for Him. And He will say, "Ye did it not to me."

One of these two words will be spoken to you in the great day when you see the King on the throne of His glory. Which shall it be? What are you doing for Jesus? Are you doing anything at all for Him?

Perhaps you say, "I have no opportunity." Did you ever try to find one? Did you ever ask Him to give you opportunities of doing something for Him? Or is it only that you have never yet cared or tried to do anything for Him? Be honest about it. He knows. And He will forgive.

But now, what is to be done? Begin by asking Him to show you. And then keep a bright, sharp look-out, and see if you can not find an opportunity very soon (and perhaps many) of doing something kind for His sake to some poor or sick or lonely one. Set to work to think what you could do!

It seems to me so very kind of the Lord Jesus to have told us this. For He knew that those who really love Him would want to do something for Him, and what could we do for the King of glory in His glorious heaven? So it was wonderfully thoughtful of Him to give us His poor people to care for, and to say, if we have only been kind to a sick old woman or hungry little child, "Ye have done it unto me!"



"I love my precious Saviour  
Because He died for me;  
And if I did not serve Him,  
How sinful I should be!

God help me to be useful  
In all I do or say!  
I mean to work for Jesus,  
The Bible says I may!"



# Twenty-third Day

## 23—Standard-Bearers

"Thou hast given a banner to them that fear Thee."  
--Psalms lx. 4.

Then what is your banner, and what are you doing with it? For if you are among "them that fear" God, He has given you a banner "that it may be displayed." Is yours furled up and put away in a corner, so that nobody sees it or knows of it? Or are you trying to be a brave little standard-bearer of Jesus Christ, carrying His flag, so that the sweet breezes of His Spirit may lift its bright folds, and show its golden motto? That motto, I think, is "Love." For we are told that His banner over us is love. Are you displaying it, showing your love to Him by your love to others? showing the power of His love over you by your sweet, happy temper, and by trying to please Him always?


Carrying a banner means something. First, it means that you belong to or have to do with those whose banner you carry, and that you are not ashamed of them.



At great Sunday-school festivals we know to which school a boy belongs by the flag that he carries. You would like to carry the flag of England or the Queen's royal flag, because you are English and loyal. So let us carry the banner of Jesus Christ because we are loyal to Him, and are not ashamed to own Him as our King.

Secondly, it means that we are ready to fight, and ready to encourage others to fight under the same banner. When you are tempted to do something wrong remember whose banner you carry, and do not disgrace it. If one does right, it makes it easier for the other to do right too.

Thirdly, it means rejoicing. You know how flags are hung out on grand days, and carried in triumphal processions. The little hand that carries Christ's banner now, will carry it also in His triumph; the little hand that tries to unfurl it bravely now, will wave it when His glorious reign begins and His blessed kingdom is come. Then, "in the name of our God we will set up our banners" now!

A photograph of a field of purple flowers, likely asters, under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background. The overall scene is bright and cheerful.

"The Master hath called us,  
the children who fear Him,  
Who march 'neath Christ's banner,  
His own little band;  
We love Him, and seek Him;  
we long to be near Him,  
And rest in the light of His beautiful land."



# Twenty-fourth Day

## 24—A Loyal Aim

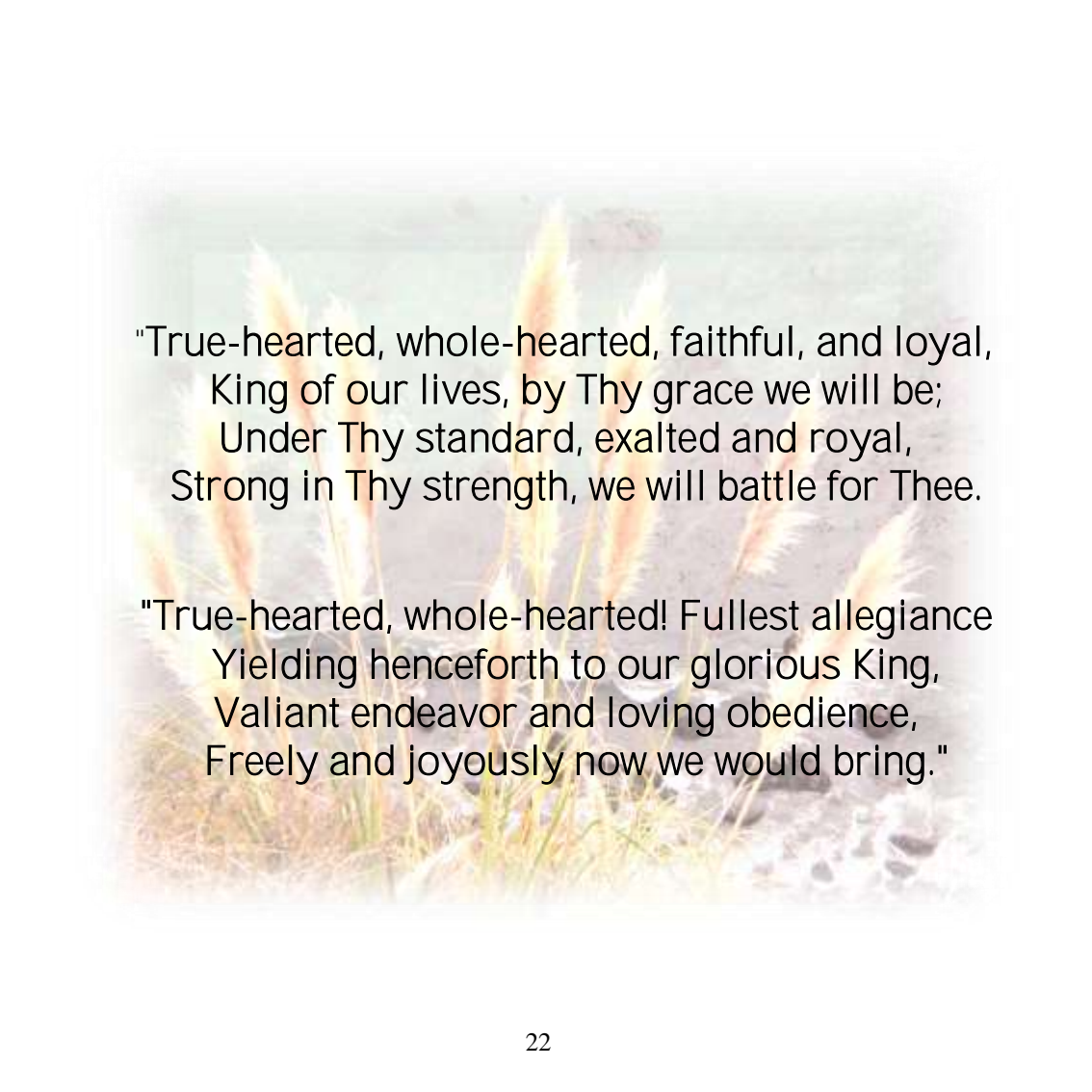
"That he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." --2 Timothy ii. 4.

Here is something worth aiming at, worth trying for! The Lord Jesus, the Captain of our salvation, is He who hath chosen us to be His soldiers and now, does He only tell us that we may do our duty,--serve, obey, and fight? No; He tells us something more, gives us a hope and an aim so bright and pleasant, that it is like sunshine upon everything. He says, we "may please Him."

Only one who knows what it is to mourn for having grieved the dear Saviour, can quite understand what a happy word this is! That we, who have been cold, and careless, and sinful, grieving His love over and over again, should be told after all that we may please Him! Oh, if we love Him, our hearts will just leap at the hope of it!

Perhaps we thought this could not be till we reached heaven; but you see His own word says, we "may please Him" now, while we are soldiers in the very midst of the fighting. St. Paul tells us one thing in which you may please Him: "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord." But he prays too that the Colossians "might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing."

Shall this be your aim and your hope today? Will you look up to the Lord Jesus now, and ask Him first to give you the faith without which "it is impossible to please Him," and then to show you "how you ought to walk and to please God," and so to help you to "do those things that are pleasing in His sight;" that all your ways, even every little step of your ways, may really and truly "please the Lord" (Prov. xvi. 7).



"True-hearted, whole-hearted, faithful, and loyal,  
King of our lives, by Thy grace we will be;  
Under Thy standard, exalted and royal,  
Strong in Thy strength, we will battle for Thee.

"True-hearted, whole-hearted! Fullest allegiance  
Yielding henceforth to our glorious King,  
Valiant endeavor and loving obedience,  
Freely and joyously now we would bring."



# Twenty-fifth Day

## 25—Obedience to Christ

"Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it." --John ii. 5.

How are you to know what He says to you? Ah, it is so easy to know if we are really willing to know, and willing to obey when we do know! He has spoken so plainly to us in His word! In that He tells us, tells even little children, exactly what to do. It is most wonderful how He has said everything there for us, told us everything we ought to do. When you read a chapter or hear one read, listen and watch to see what He saith unto you in it.

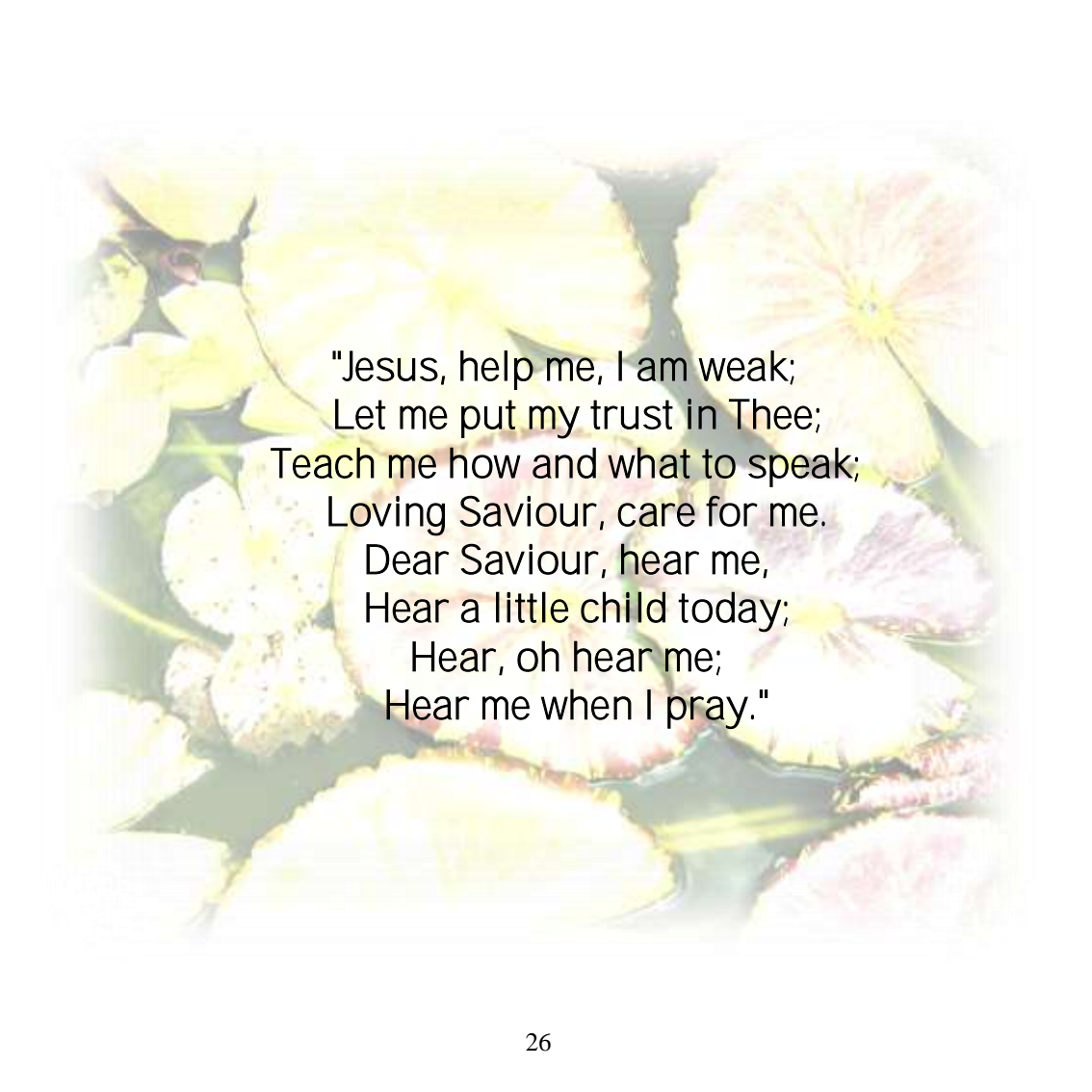
There is another way in which He tells us what to do. Do you not hear a little voice inside that always tells you to do the right thing, and not to do the wrong thing? That is conscience and He speaks to you by it. Another way is by those whom He has set over you. He has told you once for all to "obey your parents," and to "obey them that have the rule over you." So, when they tell you to do something, it is the Lord Jesus Himself that you have to obey in obeying them.



Now "whatsoever He saith unto you, do it!" Yes, "whatsoever," dear little one, whether easy or hard, do it because He tells you; do it for love of Him, and it will be a thousand times better and happier to obey your King than to please yourself. And He Himself will help you to do it; only look up to Him for grace to obey, and He will give it.

"Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it." Do not just think about doing it, or talk about doing it, but do it! "Do it!" Do the exact thing He would have you do, not something a little bit different, or something which you think will be very nearly the same, but do "it." And "do it" at once.

It is so true, that "the very first moment is the easiest for obedience." Every minute that you put off doing the right thing makes it harder. Do not let your King have to "speak twice" to you. "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it" cheerfully, exactly, and instantly.



"Jesus, help me, I am weak;  
Let me put my trust in Thee;  
Teach me how and what to speak;  
Loving Saviour, care for me.  
Dear Saviour, hear me,  
Hear a little child today;  
Hear, oh hear me;  
Hear me when I pray."



# Twenty-sixth Day

## 26—Do it Heartily

"Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord."  
--Colossians iii. 23.

In 2 Chron. xxxi. 21, we read of Hezekiah, that "in every work that he began, he did it with all his heart, and prospered." And this morning's "bell" rings a New Testament echo, "Do it heartily!" Sing it now, like a little peal of bells! Do it hear-ti-ly!

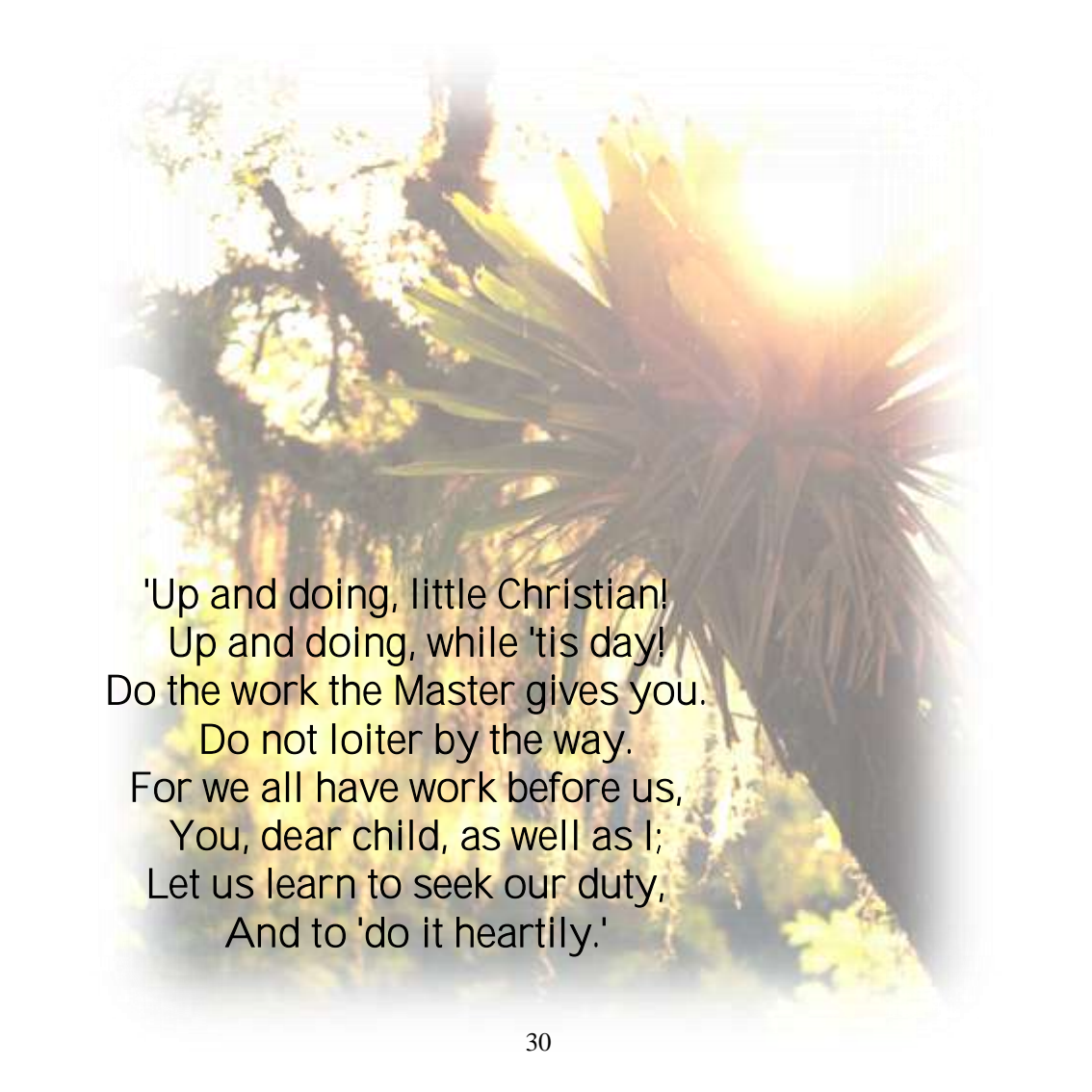
See if that does not ring in your ears all day, and remind you that it is not merely much pleasanter to be bright and brisk about everything, but that it is actually one of God's commands written in His own word.

I know this is easier to some than to others. Perhaps it "comes natural" to you to do everything heartily. That is very nice, but it is not enough. What else? "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men."

He knows whether the industrious energetic boy or girl is wishing to please Him, and looking up to Him for His smile; or whether He is forgotten all the while, and only the smile of others and the pleasure of being quick and busy is thought of.

But perhaps it is hard to you to do things heartily. You like better to take your time, and so you dawdle, and do things in an idle way, especially what you do not much like doing. Is this right? Is it a little sin, when God's word says, "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily!" Is it not just as much disobeying God as breaking any other command? Are you not guilty before Him?

Very likely you never thought of it in this way, but there the words stand, and neither you nor I can alter them. First ask Him to forgive you all the past idleness and idle ways, for Christ's sake, and then ask Him to give you strength henceforth to obey this word of His. And then listen to the little chime, "Do it heartily! do it heartily!" And then the last word of the verse about Hezekiah will be true of you too--"Prospered!"



'Up and doing, little Christian!  
Up and doing, while 'tis day!  
Do the work the Master gives you.  
Do not loiter by the way.  
For we all have work before us,  
You, dear child, as well as I;  
Let us learn to seek our duty,  
And to 'do it heartily.'



# Twenty-seventh Day

## 27—The Sight of Faith

"As seeing Him who is invisible." --Hebrews xi. 27.

If we were always doing everything just as if we saw Him, whom having not seen we love, how different our lives would be! How much happier too! How brave, and bright, and patient we should be, if all the time we could really see Jesus as Stephen saw Him! And by faith, the precious faith which God is ready to give to all who ask, we may go on our way with this light upon it, "as seeing Him who is invisible."

These words were said of Moses; and this seeing Him by faith had three effects. First, "he forsook Egypt;" it made him ready to give up anything for his God, and God's people. It made him true and loyal to God's cause. What did He care for anything else, so long as he saw "Him who is invisible?" Secondly, it took away all his fear. What was "the wrath of the king" to him, when Jehovah was by his side? Of what should he be afraid?

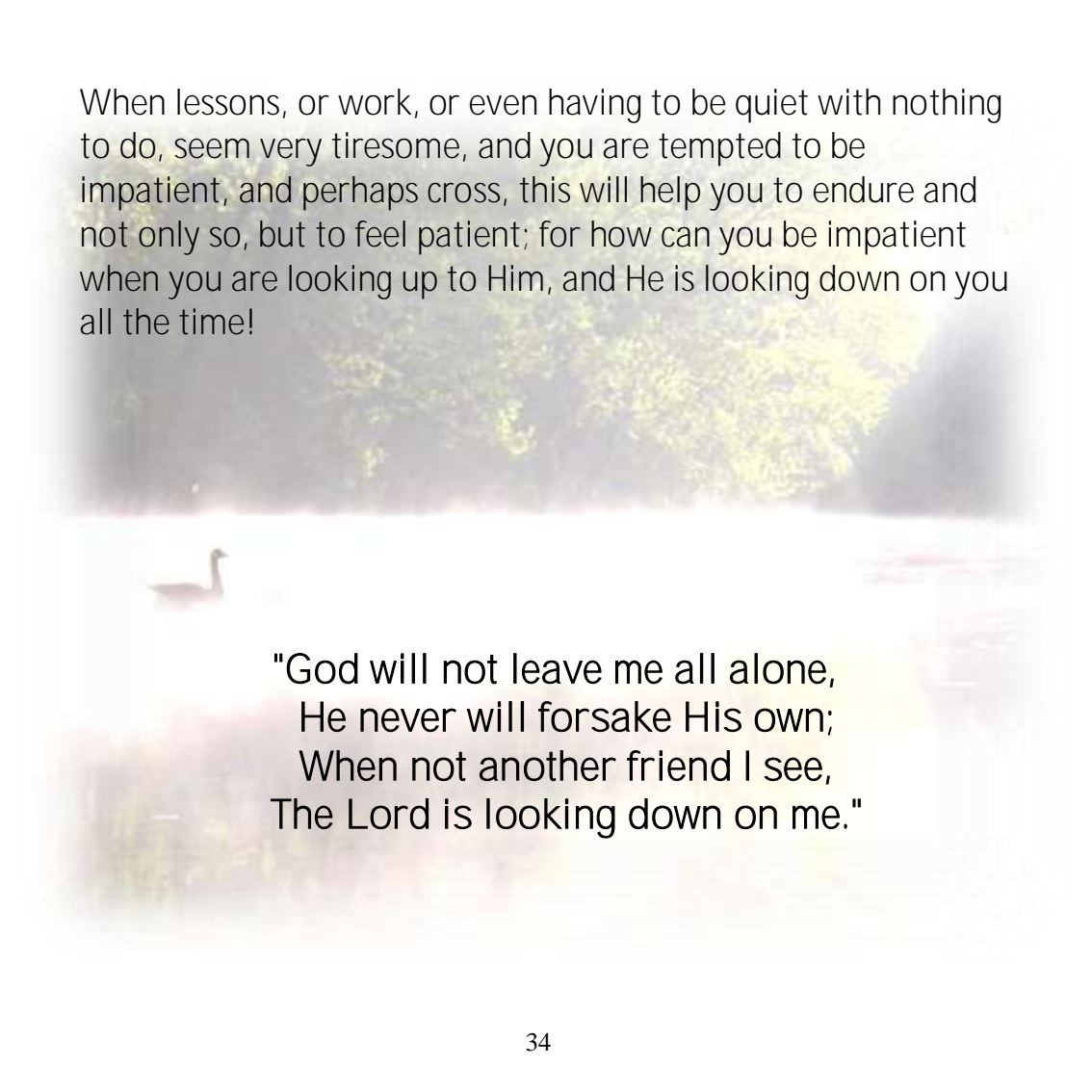


Thirdly, it enabled him to "endure," to wait patiently for forty years in the desert, and then to work patiently for forty years in the wilderness; and only think how strength-giving that sight of faith must be which enabled him to endure everything for eighty years!

Try for yourself today what was such great and long help to Moses. Ask God, before you go downstairs, for faith, "the eye of the soul," so that you may walk all day long "as seeing Him who is invisible."

When you are tempted to indulge in something wrong,-- idleness or carelessness, or selfishness,--this will help you to give it up at once, and forsake it; for how can you give way to it when your eye meets His? When something makes you afraid, this will make you brave and peaceful; for how can you fear anything when your God is so near?

When lessons, or work, or even having to be quiet with nothing to do, seem very tiresome, and you are tempted to be impatient, and perhaps cross, this will help you to endure and not only so, but to feel patient; for how can you be impatient when you are looking up to Him, and He is looking down on you all the time!

A blurred background image of a lake with a swan and trees. The swan is on the left side of the lake, and the trees are in the background. The image is out of focus, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere.

"God will not leave me all alone,  
He never will forsake His own;  
When not another friend I see,  
The Lord is looking down on me."



# Twenty-eighth Day

## 28—No Weights

"Let us lay aside every weight."--Hebrews xii. 1.

If you were going to run a race, you would first put down all the parcels you might have been carrying. And if you had a heavy little parcel in your pocket, you would take that out, and lay it down too, because it would hinder you in running. You would know better than to say, "I will put down the parcels which I have in my hands, but nobody can see the one in my pocket, so that one won't matter!" You would "lay aside every weight."

You have a race to run today, a little piece of the great race that is set before you. God has set a splendid prize before you, "the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus," a crown that is incorruptible.

Now what are you going to do about the weights, the things that hinder you from running this race? You know some things do seem to hinder you; will you keep them or lay them aside?

Will you only lay aside something that every one can see is hindering you, so that you will get a little credit for putting it down, and keep something that your own little conscience knows is a real hindrance, though no one else knows anything at all about it? Oh, take St. Paul's wise and holy advice, and make up your mind to lay aside every weight.

Different persons have different weights; we must find out what ours are, and give them up. One finds that if she does not get up directly she is called, the time slips by, and there is not enough left for quiet prayer and Bible-reading. Then here is a little weight that must be laid aside. Another is at school, and finds that he gets no good, but a little harm, when he goes much with a certain boy. Then he must lay that weight aside.

Another takes a story-book up to bed, and reads it while nurse is brushing her hair, and up to the last minute, and then her head is so full of the story that she only says words when she kneels down, and can not really pray at all. Can she doubt that this is a weight which must be laid aside?

It may seem hard to lay our pet weight down; but oh, if you only knew how light we feel when it is laid down, and how much easier it is to run the race which God has set before us!

**“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”**

—Hebrews 12:1-2a



# Twenty-ninth Day

## 29—The Shield of Salvation

"Thou hast also given me the shield of Thy salvation."  
--2 Samuel xxii. 36.

This beautiful little text teaches us a very precious truth. It shows us that the salvation which the Lord Jesus came to bring is not only salvation at last, later, but that it is salvation now, and salvation in everything.

Salvation does not only mean victory at last, but it is like a broad, shining shield, given to us in the midst of the battle, coming between us and the thrusts of the enemy.

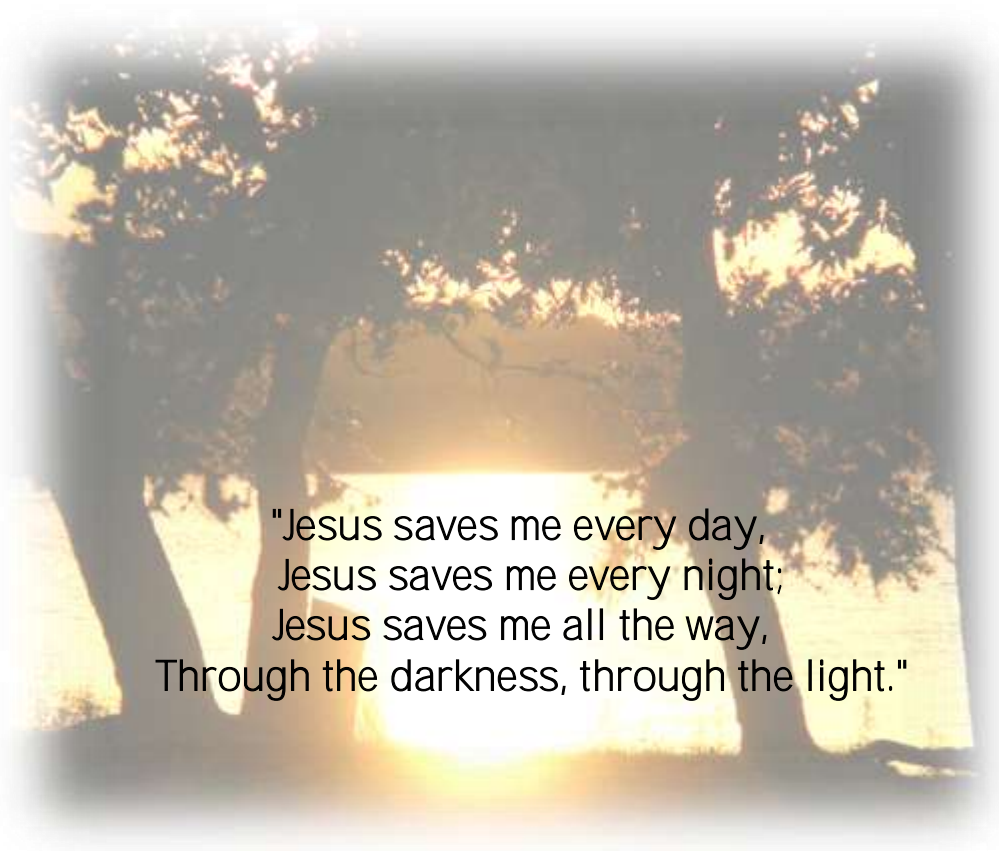
It is a shield not only to keep us from death, but to keep us from being hurt and wounded. It is the shield which the Captain has given us to use now, as well as the crown which He will give when the warfare is ended.



How are you to use this shield? what does it really mean for you? It means, that if you have come to the Lord Jesus to be saved, He does not merely say He will save you, but that you are saved, that He saves you now.

And this is how you are to use it--believe it, and be sure of it, because you have His word for it; and then, when a temptation comes, tell the enemy that he has nothing to do with you, for you are saved; that you belong to Jesus, and not to him,--look up and say, "Jesus saves me!"

Will He fail you? Did He ever let any find themselves deceived and mistaken who looked up in faith and confidence to Him, trusting in His great salvation? Never! and never will you find this shield of His salvation fail to cover you completely. Satan himself can not touch you when you are behind this shield! Lift it up when you see him coming, even ever so far off, and you will be safe.



"Jesus saves me every day,  
Jesus saves me every night;  
Jesus saves me all the way,  
Through the darkness, through the light."



# Thirtieth Day

## 30—I Will Love Thee

"I will love Thee, O Lord." --Psalms xviii. 1.

Yes, even if I have never loved Thee before, I will love Thee, O Lord, now! I will love Thee, Lord Jesus, because Thou hast loved me, and because Thou art loving me now, and wilt love me to the end. Oh, forgive me for not having loved Thee!

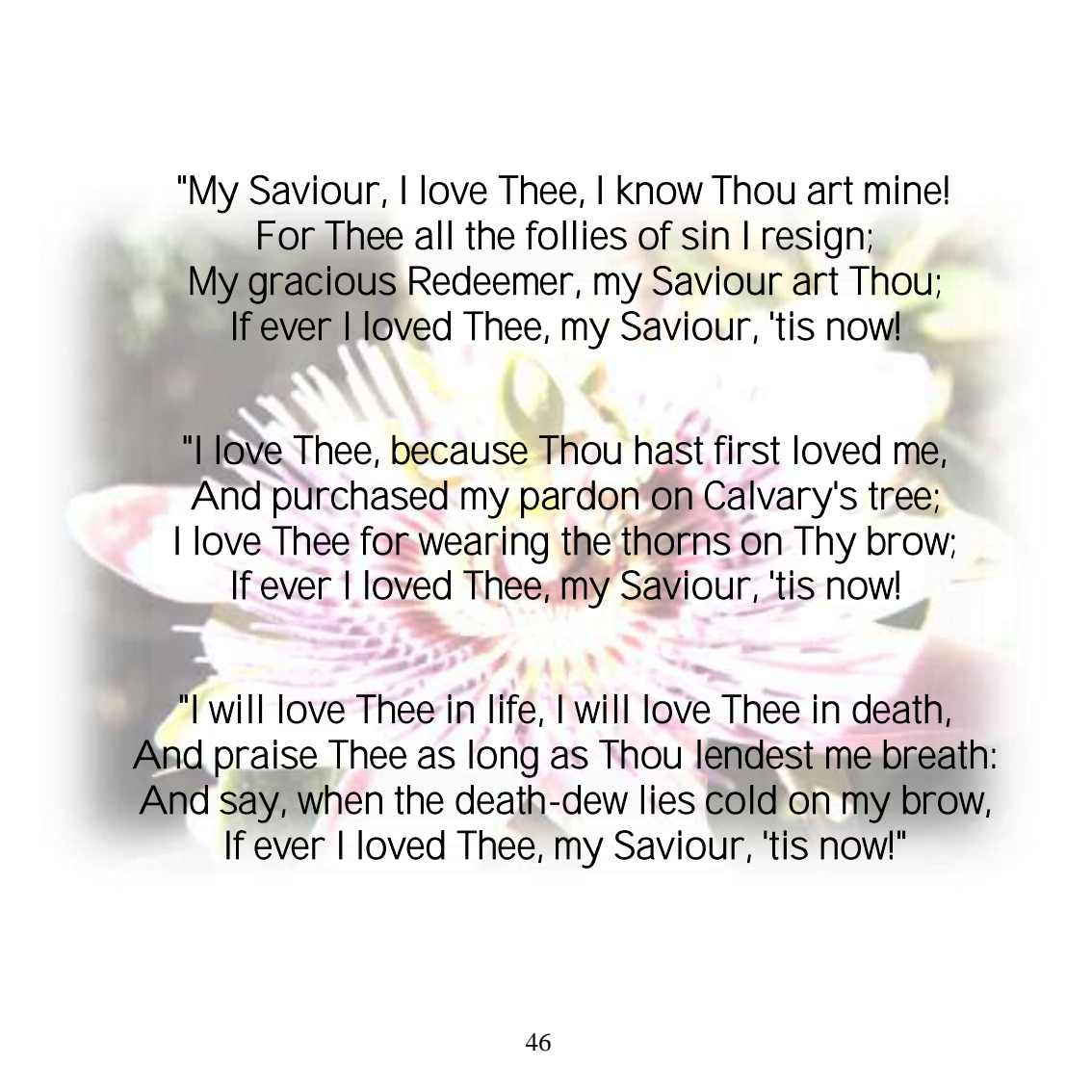
How could I have helped loving Thee, when Thou wast waiting all the time for me, waiting so patiently while I did not care about Thee! Oh, forgive me! and now I will love Thee always; for Thou wilt take my love, and fix it on Thyself, and keep it for Thyself.

I will love Thee, O Lord Jesus; I will not listen to Satan, who tries to keep me from loving Thee; I will not ask myself anything about it, lest I should begin to get puzzled about whether I do love Thee or not.

Thou knowest that I do want to love Thee; and now, dear Lord Jesus, hear me say that I will love Thee, and that I will trust Thee to make me love Thee more and more, always more and more.

I have said it, dear Lord Jesus, and Thou hast heard me say it. And I am so glad I have said it. I do not want ever to take it back, and Thou wilt not let me take it back. I am to love Thee always now; and Thou wilt give me Thy Holy Spirit to shed abroad Thy love in my heart, so that it may be filled with love. Fill me so full of Thy love that it may run over into everything I do, and that I may love everybody because I love Thee.

*Yes, I will love Thee, dear Lord Jesus!*



"My Saviour, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine!  
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;  
My gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art Thou;  
If ever I loved Thee, my Saviour, 'tis now!

"I love Thee, because Thou hast first loved me,  
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;  
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;  
If ever I loved Thee, my Saviour, 'tis now!

"I will love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,  
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath:  
And say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow,  
If ever I loved Thee, my Saviour, 'tis now!"