

LIFESONGS: SONGS TO LIVE BY

Lesson 3: I Need Thee Every Hour

**I need Thee, Oh, I need Thee;
Ev'ry hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, my Savior:
I come to Thee!**

**1. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine
Can peace afford.**

**3. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
In joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide,
Or life is vain.**

**2. I need Thee ev'ry hour:
Stay Thou near by;
Temptations lose their power
When Thou art nigh.**

**4. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
Most Holy One;
O make me Thine indeed,
Thou blessed Son!**

THE SONG:

Annie Hawks wrote: (1872)

One day as a young wife and mother of 37 years of age, I was busy with my regular household tasks. Suddenly, I became so filled with the sense of nearness to the Master that, wondering how one could live without Him, either in joy or pain, these words, "I Need Thee Every Hour," were ushered into my mind, the thought at once taking full possession of me.

After writing the lyrics, Hawks gave them to her pastor, Robert Lowry, who added the tune and refrain. The hymn was first published at the National Baptist Sunday School Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1872. Some years later, after the death of her husband, Hawks wrote:

I did not understand at first why this hymn had touched the great throbbing heart of humanity. It was not until long after, when the shadow fell over my way, the shadow of a great loss, that I understood something of the comforting power in the words which I had been permitted to give out to others in my hour of sweet serenity and peace.

- What are some thoughts that come to mind when you hear the words of this song?
- How else could you convey the meaning of this song besides singing?
- Which one of the verses most closely identifies how you need God in your life?

THE POINT:

When you truly accept your insufficiencies and begin to rely on God with all you have and all you are, this is what happens to you: I need thee every hour.

I need Thee every hour, most Holy One; O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son!

When you realize that your life has no meaning without Christ and you need him just to get through the day, you cry out: I need thee every hour.

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord; no tender voice like Thine can peace afford.

When your life doesn't give you what you want or takes from you the things you love, you fall down and pray: I need thee every hour.

I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain; come quickly and abide, or life is vain.

When the pressure to be like the crowd feels like you're carrying the burden of the cross day after day, you look to Jesus and say: I need thee every hour.

I need Thee every hour: stay Thou near by; temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh.

THE LIFE:

Three ways people "NEED" God...

- I. I need God like I need a root canal.
 - a. The need for God is built into every person—like teeth.
 - b. However, some people avoid God like the dentist—even when they need to go.
- II. I need God like I need a back massage.
 - a. These people love the emotional satisfaction God gives them.
 - b. They don't want God around too long because the feeling wears off.
- III. I need God like I need oxygen.
 - a. The true approach to God is one of dependency and reliance.
 - b. When you can't survive without him, you truly need him.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and **come and pray to me**, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Matthew 11:28-29

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

James 4:7-10

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **Come near to God and he will come near to you.** Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.