

LIFESONGS: SONGS TO LIVE BY

Lesson 6: In Christ Alone

1. In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

3. There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

4. No guilt of life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'til He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

PART I: THE SONG

“I’ve been amazed by the response to this song,” says Townend. “We’ve had some incredible e-mails about how people have been helped by the song through incredibly difficult circumstances.”

One e-mail described how a U.S soldier serving in Iraq would pray through each verse of the song every day, and how the promises of God’s protection and grace helped to sustain him through the enormous pressures and dangers of life in a war zone.

“It seems like this song is timely,” Townend says. “We in the West have had our sense of safety and security brutally torn apart by recent world events, and it's caused many to re-evaluate the foundations of their life. I feel that the song has helped to stir faith in many believers that God really is our protector; that our lives are in His unshakable hands.”

Knowing the truth about God and who we are in Him is central to our lives as believers. Songs remain in the mind in a way sermons do not, so songwriters have an important role and a huge responsibility.”

He continues, “The lyric [of this song] excites me because it places our hope, our assurance, our eternal destiny in the right place—on the solid foundation of Christ. I know in my own life I need reminding continually not to live by my feelings or my circumstances, but by the unchanging truth of the gospel.”

PART II: THE POINT

Verse 1: Regardless of circumstances, Christ is solid.

- No matter what comes your way, when you stand on Christ, you won't move.
- The love of Christ is strong enough to get you through anything.
- With no need to doubt or fear, all you can do is rely on Christ for each step.

Verse 2: Because of his sacrifice, I have life.

- Are we scorning Christ instead of being saved by him?
- If he had not died, I would have.
- He died to forgive every man's sins, even the worst of sinners.

Verse 3: When I give my life to him, nothing else can hold me.

- In the way Jesus broke the hold of death, we can break the hold of temptation.
- Because Christ has won the battle, we have no doubt concerning our future.
- The strength of Christ's resurrection is what helps me overcome.

Verse 4: My life is driven by the power of Christ.

- To live is Christ, to die is gain.
- I will forfeit my control so that Christ can take hold of me.
- As long as I rely on Him, nothing can take me away from standing with Him.

PART III: THE LIFE

1 Timothy 1:12-17—I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, **who has given me strength**, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. ¹³Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, **I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.** ¹⁴The grace of our Lord was poured out on me **abundantly**, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.** ¹⁶But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

MAIN POINT: The relationship with Jesus that this song describes is one of total and complete surrender. It is a relationship where a person has totally sold out to Christ and allowed him to take control of their life. Nothing else is stronger in this person's life than their desire to serve Jesus in everything they do.

1. Total and Complete Surrender
2. Sold out to Christ so he can take control
3. Nothing else is stronger than the desire to serve Jesus