

April 19, 2026

Words of Welcome

Psalm 46:1-3 (ESV)

- 1 To the choirmaster. Of the Sons of Korah. According to Alamoth. A Song. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
- 3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah

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Scripture Reading

James 1:1-4 (ESV)

- 1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:
Greetings.
- 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,
- 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.
- 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

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Greater Than We Can Imagine

Verse 1:

Every day we'll bless You and praise Your name
And on Your glorious splendor we will dwell
On Your wondrous works, Lord, we'll meditate
And of Your awesome power we will tell
We'll speak of Your salvation
And Your abundant goodness

Chorus:

Because You are greater than we can imagine
You are too beautiful for us to fathom
Oh You are great, and greatly to be praised

Verse 2:

Every generation shall sing Your worth
And magnify Your mercy and Your grace
We'll sing about the Savior who came to earth
To bear the sins of those He came to save
You fill our hearts with wonder
We'll worship You forever

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And Can It Be

Verse 1:

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love, how can it be
That Thou, my God shouldst die for me?

Chorus:

Amazing love, how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me

Verse 2:

He left His Father's throne above
So free, so infinite His grace
Emptied Himself in matchless love
And bled for Adam's helpless race
Tis mercy all immense and free
For, O my God, it found out me

Verse 3:

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray
I woke - the dungeon flamed with light
My chains fell off, my heart was free
I rose, went forth, and followed thee

Verse 4:

No condemnation now I dread
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine
Alive in Him, my living Head
And clothed in righteousness divine
Bold I approach the eternal throne
And claim the crown, through Christ my own

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Lord, I Need You

Verse 1:

Lord I come, I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
Without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus:

Lord, I need You, oh I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

Verse 2:

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Yes, where You are Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Bridge:

So, teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay

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New City Catechism

13: Can Anyone Keep the Law of God Perfectly?

Full Answer

Since the fall, no mere human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly, but consistently breaks it in thought, word, and deed.

Children's Answer

Since the fall, no human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly.

Scripture

ROMANS 3:10–12

None is righteous, no, not one;
no one understands;
no one seeks for God.
All have turned aside;
together they have become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one.

Commentary

JOHN OWEN

As a traveler, in his way meeting with a violent storm of thunder and rain, immediately turns out of his way to some house or tree for his shelter; but yet this causeth him not to give over his journey; so soon as the storm is over he returns to his way and progress again. So it is with men in bondage to sin: the law meets with them in a storm of thunder and lightning from heaven, terrifies and hinders them in their way; this turns them for a season out of their course; they will run to prayer or amendment of life, for some shelter from the storm of wrath which is feared coming upon their consciences. But is their course stopped? Are their principles altered? Not at all; so soon as the storm is over . . . they return to their former course, in the service of sin again.

Never let us reckon that our work in contending against sin, in crucifying, mortifying, and subduing of it, is at an end. The place of its habitation is unsearchable; and when we may think that we have thoroughly won the field, there is still some reserve remaining that we saw not, that we knew not of. Many conquerors have been ruined by their carelessness after a victory; and many have been spiritually wounded after great successes against this enemy. . . . There is no way for us to pursue sin in its unsearchable habitation but by being endless in our pursuit.

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O My Soul Arise

Verse 1

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears
The bleeding sacrifice on my behalf appears
Before the throne my surety stands
Before the throne my surety stands
My name is written on His hands

Verse 2

He ever lives above for me to intercede
His all-redeeming love, His precious blood to plead
His blood atoned for every race
His blood atoned for every race
And sprinkles now the throne of grace

Chorus

O my soul, arise, behold the risen Christ
Your Great High Priest, your spotless sacrifice
O my soul, arise, God owns you as His child
Shake off your guilty fears
My soul, arise

Verse 3

Five bleeding wounds He bears, received on Calvary
They pour effectual prayers
They strongly plead for me
“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry
“Forgive him, O forgive,” they cry
“Don’t let that ransomed sinner die!”

Chorus

O my soul, arise, behold the risen Christ
Your Great High Priest, your spotless sacrifice
O my soul, arise, God owns you as His child
Shake off your guilty fears
My soul, arise

Verse 4

My God is reconciled, His pard’ning voice I hear
He owns me as His child, I can no longer fear
With confidence I now draw nigh
With confidence I now draw nigh
And “Father, Abba, Father,” cry

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Sermon
The Teacher Who Speaks for the Father

John 7:1-24 (ESV)

- 1 After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.
- 2 Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand.
- 3 So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing.
- 4 For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world."
- 5 For not even his brothers believed in him.
- 6 Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here.
- 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.
- 8 You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come."
- 9 After saying this, he remained in Galilee.
- 10 But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private.
- 11 The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, "Where is he?"
- 12 And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, "He is a good man," others said, "No, he is leading the people astray."
- 13 Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.
- 14 About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching.
- 15 The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?"
- 16 So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.
- 17 If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.
- 18 The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.
- 19 Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?"
- 20 The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?"
- 21 Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it.
- 22 Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath.
- 23 If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well?
- 24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

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Death Was Arrested

Verse 1:

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin
Lost without hope with no place to begin
Your love made a way to let mercy come in
When death was arrested and my life began

Verse 2:

Ash was redeemed only beauty remains
My orphan heart was given a name
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance
When death was arrested and my life began

Chorus 1:

Oh, Your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new now life begins with You

Verse 3:

Released from my chains I'm a prisoner no more
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend Oh
When death was arrested and my life began

Chorus 2:

Oh, Your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new now life begins with You
It's Your endless love pouring down on us
You have made us new now life begins with You

Verse 4:

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross
Darkness rejoiced as though Heaven had lost
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand
That's when death was arrested and my life began
That's when death was arrested and my life began

Bridge:

Oh, we're free, free forever we're free
Come join the song of all the redeemed
Yes, we're free, free forever amen
When death was arrested and my life began

Ending:

When death was arrested and my life began
That's when death was arrested and my life began

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Benediction

Psalm 47:1-4 (ESV)

- 1 To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
- 2 For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.
- 3 He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.
- 4 He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah