



## Songs

[I Believe In Jesus](#)

[Refiner's Fire](#)

### **If you love me you will obey my commands (John 14:15)**

Good morning family at Weardale. I have missed you all as I have been away visiting my sons in the Midlands then last weekend, I was with friends at Knock Christian Centre, nr. Appleby for a weekend of "Intimacy with God." I so enjoyed my time on both occasions, managed to see a great-grandson and hold him for the first time – he is now 6 months old and 20lb!!! I am so blessed and grateful to God that although my little Dinky car played up, He brought me safely home and now my car is mended and minus flashing dashboard lights! Why am I sharing these things, because you just may be interested in them? No! Because I have had to lean hard on Papa God when difficulties came, when my satnav stopped speaking to me and a 90 minute journey took me 3 hours etc. etc.

He promises me that He "is working ALL things together for my good" (*Romans 8:28*)

Let me share a very personal challenge regarding obeying God. This happened 38 years ago when I was 40. I had been walking with Papa God for 8 years when He spoke to my heart and questioned "Why I considered my legs ugly, when He had created me beautiful." The challenge was such a direct challenge to me that I repented, invited Holy Spirit to help me see myself as Papa saw me. I now had the Truth in my head so decided as it was warm, I would not wear tights to work – I was Herbert Harrison's secretary at Bethshan. I knew this truth needed to reach my heart and accepted this would happen as I agreed with God. I remember the day as if it was yesterday. I turned up for work and we always prayed together with the leaders before starting the day. Upstairs in the upper lounge I arrived first, sat down and immediately shoved my legs as far under the low chair as I could, intending to keep them there until the end of prayers. Unfortunately when the others arrived and we began praying I fell forward smack on the carpet, obviously everyone looked up to see what had happened and a whisper of His voice into my heart said "confess your sins to each other and pray for each other that you may be healed (*James 5:16*)" so I explained to Pastor Harrison and the group of leaders what God had challenged me with that morning and they all prayed for me that God's truth would begin to establish in my heart and that I would be able to OBEY His Words and not lean to my own understanding. I was embarrassed but you know it became almost immediately a part of my belief that my legs were God created and He created me perfect according to His plan and since that day I trust His Words, Ways and Thoughts much more than my own.

I am trusting God as I share with you today that each of us will begin to see God's word and Truths as more powerful than what we hear and see around us, in the face of endless bad news, attacks of the enemy and sadly even against attacks by friends and family. We need to learn that our past does NOT shape our future – what a mess we would be if it did. God has generously invited us to cooperate with Him by the renewing of our minds (*Romans 12:2*) My childhood and youth were shaped by many

unproductive things, being the eldest of 3 girls the expectation was that I would be responsible for the care and behaviour of my sisters. I cannot remember being just a little girl, but in 1994 Holy Spirit made sure that was rectified and Papa confirmed I was His little girl and He delighted in me. Do you know He rejoices over you with singing? (*Zephaniah 3:17*). God says HE FORMED US AND KNEW US IN OUR MOTHERS WOMB (*Psalms 139- I suggest you read it, agree with it and allow it to bless your socks off!*)

We are not alone in refusing to take God at His Word. Old and New Testaments alike are littered with leading gifted men and women who could not take Him at His Word. Adam in Genesis and Eve too.

Abraham and Sarah – look at their story. God gave instructions for Abram and Sarai to leave their home to go to a place God would show them (*Genesis 12 and onwards*) That is scary! But if you make time to read through you will see the many times Abram and later Abraham after God renamed him and his wife Sarai, later Sarah, thought they knew better than God. You can read for yourselves the catalogue of errors and ‘doing their own thing’ yet God in mercy corrects and moves them forward.

Moses was the same – he made every excuse under the sun not to lead the Israelites out of Egypt citing many failings and disabilities on his part, but God’s plan was not going to be thwarted AND He didn’t ditch Moses for another, He just sent Aaron along as Moses’ mouthpiece.

What about David, the boy who killed Goliath, who looked after his father’s sheep and protected them from lions and bears, who was anointed as King and with God’s grace waited out his time until God put him in his place as King, then he falls into adultery followed by murder followed by a cover up and indignation when questioned what should be done to the man who had perpetrated this murder etc. then abject and utter brokenness as he repented then watched his son by Bathsheba die YET God called David ‘A man after my own heart’. What does it take to be ‘a man or woman after God’s own heart?’ I would love to hear God say that of me but I am not planning on any adulterous relationship, nor murder in the near future! No, it takes a humble heart, loving the Lord your God first then your neighbour as yourself.

I have only named a few but there are many also in the New Testament. I don’t feel the Lord wants me to fill these pages with examples but rather to point us all in the direction of pleasing Father God.

Do you know that more often than not, bringing pleasure to God requires dying to ourselves, taking up our cross and following Him. If we want to be great in God’s Kingdom we must learn to be the servant of all (*Matthew 20:26-28*)

If we want to be forgiven, we must first of all FORGIVE OTHERS, not because they deserve it, nor to say that what was done to us is OK but BECAUSE JESUS TOLD US TO! He warned us that we would not be forgiven. It has nothing to do with whether we feel like it or not, we do it because we love Him and want to be more Christlike day by day.

When God said in *Isaiah 55: 8-11* “For My thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways My ways declares the Lord.....” He was making it clear for us that we need to do things, say things, think things, His way. Read it through to verse 11 for yourselves and be enriched as you do.

When God tells us “Call those things that are not as if they are” some would say “how stupid” but if God has told us to do this we should be doing it. Calling health where it does not exist, calling provision when there is lack. Gideon was a prime example of God calling those things which are not as if they were. He sent an Angel to have a talk with Gideon whilst he was treading grain in a winepress AT NIGHT!! *Read Judges 6:1 to 8:35 and see for yourselves.* The Angel of the Lord called him a Mighty Warrior – as you read those chapters allow God to speak into your hearts. It was the last thing Gideon

would have called himself but see how Gideon's character changed as he obeyed God's instructions, believing God over his own feelings of inadequacy.

Upon Jesus' resurrection after Peter was in the depths of despair and at his lowest point of self-esteem, after he had denied he knew Him, Jesus welcomed him with open arms and even wanted Peter to be told of His resurrection. Then in a poignant turn around Jesus said "Peter, do you love me?" 3 times He asked the question. The old Peter was a bit riled at being asked 3 times but look how quickly Peter became bold to speak up at Pentecost and thousands were born again and baptised.

There is no knowing what God can and will do with a heart totally surrendered and obedient to Him.

Let us take a leaf out of Paul's notebook [2 Corinthians 10:3-5](#) and [2 Corinthians 4:16-18](#)

### **Let us sing**

#### [We Bow Down And Confess](#)

Gracious Heavenly Father we come humbly before You and recognise that so often we say and do things OUR way. We skim over Your words of instruction when we read them and avoid actually DOING them and thereby pleasing you and being of use to you in Your Kingdom work on earth.

Holy Spirit we need You, to hear Your voice challenging us through the written word, preached word or any other means you want to grab our attention. Please forgive us as we forgive others and help us willingly to do things Your way. We so want to please You and we thank You for all Your Love and gentleness with us. AMEN