

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O, God My Father! There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not Thy compassions they fail not: As thou hast been Thou forever wilt be. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun moon and stars in their courses above. Join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide. Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine with ten thousand beside! Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness Lord, unto me!

Great is Thy Faithfulness, one of the most inspiring and comforting of hymns was a poem written by Thomas O. Chisholm. The poem was set to music by William M. Runyan. He wrote the music to fit the words. Many of the hymns we sing lift my spirit and comfort me, but this one is special. The words speak to me especially the phrase "All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness Lord, unto me." To me this is a personal expression of my faith. God has blessed me in so many ways, and he has always been by my side in times of trials. That is when I have especially felt his presence. When recovering from a mastectomy I was doing the exercise called "climbing the wall." I knew that without this exercise I would not recover full use of my arm. My arm had begun to stiffen up and as I inched my fingers up the wall it was hurting to the point of tears, and I prayed for help. The answer came to me "reach for me" and I could envision God's hand reaching for mine and it no longer hurt as I reached up toward that out-stretched hand. Once again that lesson came to me; I do nothing alone but all through the strength given to me by God. God reaches for us in so many ways in our joys and in our sorrows. We felt him in the birth of a child and in the end of a life. Always near, always comforting, always with us. We are not alone; God is with us; all we have to do is reach for him.

Holy Lord, may we always know that you are near, we simply have to reach for you. May we reach out to others in your name so they may know the love and peace of your presence. In Jesus most holy name, Amen.

Grace Epperson