

## REMNANT REMEMBER REPENTANCE REVIVAL

### A Liturgy for the Death of a Dream

Every Moment Holy Volume I, Page 232

O Christ in whom the final fulfillment  
of all hope is held secure,

I bring to You now the weathered  
fragments of my former dreams,  
the broken pieces of my expectations,  
the rent patches of hopes worn thin,  
the shards of some shattered image of  
life as I once thought it would be.

What I so wanted  
has not come to pass.  
I invested my hopes in desires  
that returned only sorrow  
and frustration. Those dreams,  
like glimmering fairy feasts,  
could not sustain me,

and in my head I know that You  
are sovereign even over this -  
over my tears, my confusion,  
and my disappointment.  
But I still feel,  
in this moment,  
as if I had been abandoned,  
as if You do not care that these hopes  
have collapsed to rubble.

And yet I know this is not so.  
You are the sovereign of my sorrow.  
You apprehend a wider sweep with wiser eyes  
than mine. My history bears the fingerprints

of grace, You were always faithful, though I could not always trace quick evidence of Your presence in my pain, yet did You remain at work, lurking in the wings, sifting all my splinter rings for bright embers that might be breathed into more eternal dreams.

I have seen so often in retrospect, how You had not neglected me, but had, with a master's care, flared my desire like silver in a Crucible to burn away some lesser longing, and bring about Your better vision.

So let me remain tender now, to how You would teach me. My disappointments reveal so much about my own agenda for my life, and the ways I quietly demand that it should play out: free of conflict, free of pain, free of want.

My dreams are all so small.

**Your bigger purpose has always been for my greatest good,** that I would day-to-day be fashioned into a more fit vessel for the **indwelling of Your Spirit,** and molded into a more compassionate **emissary of Your coming Kingdom.** And You, in love, will use all means to shape my heart into these perfect forms.

**So let this disappointment do its work.**

My truest hopes have never failed, they have merely been buried beneath the shoveled muck of disillusion, or encased in a carapace of self-serving desire. It is only false hopes that are brittle,

shattering like shells of thin glass, to reveal the diamond hardness of the unshakable eternal hopes within. **So shake and shatter all that would hinder my growth, O God.**

Unmask all false hopes,  
that my one true hope might shine out  
unclouded and undimmed.  
So let me be tutored by this new disappointment.  
Let me listen to its holy whisper,  
that I might release at last these lesser dreams.  
**That I might embrace the better dreams You  
dream for me, and for Your people,  
and for Your Kingdom, and for Your creation.**  
Let me join myself to these, investing all hope  
in the one hope that will never come undone  
or betray those who place their trust in it.  
Teach me to hope, O Lord,  
always and only in You.

**You are the King of my collapse.  
You answer not what I demand,  
but what I do not even know to ask.**

Now take this dream, this husk,  
this chaff of my desire, and give it back  
reformed and remade according to  
Your better vision,  
or do not give it back at all.  
Here in the ruins of my wrecked  
expectation, let me make this best confession:

Not my dreams, O Lord,  
not my dreams,  
but Yours be done,

Amen

## Romans 8

### We Belong to Christ

<sup>8</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

### We are vessels of the Holy Spirit

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. <sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together

in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### **God's Sovereign Will and Purpose for Our Lives**

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

### **Our Eternal Hope**

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **1 Samuel 4:1-11**

And the word of Samuel came to all Israel.

Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines. They encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek. <sup>2</sup>The Philistines drew up in line against Israel, and when the battle spread, Israel was defeated before the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle. <sup>3</sup>And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, “Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD here from Shiloh, that it<sup>[a]</sup> may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.” <sup>4</sup>So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

<sup>5</sup>As soon as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. <sup>6</sup>And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, “What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?” And when they learned that the ark of the LORD had come to the camp, <sup>7</sup>the Philistines were afraid, for they said, “A god has come into the camp.” And they said, “Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. <sup>8</sup>Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness. <sup>9</sup>Take courage, and be men, O Philistines, lest you become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; be men and fight.”

<sup>10</sup>So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. <sup>11</sup>And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

## **1 Samuel 7:3-14**

<sup>3</sup>And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, “If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your heart to

the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.”<sup>4</sup> So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the LORD only.

<sup>5</sup> Then Samuel said, “Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you.”<sup>6</sup> So they gathered at Mizpah and drew water and poured it out before the LORD and fasted on that day and said there, “We have sinned against the LORD.” And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah.<sup>7</sup> Now when the Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the people of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines.<sup>8</sup> And the people of Israel said to Samuel, “Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines.”<sup>9</sup> So Samuel took a nursing lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. And Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him.<sup>10</sup> As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the LORD thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel.<sup>11</sup> And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and struck them, as far as below Beth-car.

<sup>12</sup> Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen<sup>[a]</sup> and called its name Ebenezer;<sup>[b]</sup> for he said, “Till now the LORD has helped us.”<sup>13</sup> So the Philistines were subdued and did not again enter the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.<sup>14</sup> The cities that the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath, and Israel delivered their territory from the hand of the Philistines. There was peace also between Israel and the Amorites.

## **Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

[Chris Rice](#)

Come Thou fount of every blessing  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace  
Streams of mercy never ceasing  
Call for songs of loudest praise  
Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it  
Mount of Thy redeeming love  
Here I raise my Ebenezer  
Here by Thy great help I've come  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure  
Safely to arrive at home  
Jesus sought me when a stranger  
Wandering from the fold of God  
He to rescue me from danger  
Interposed His precious blood  
(Precious blood)  
Oh, that day when freed from sinning  
I shall see Thy lovely face  
Clothed then in blood washed linen  
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace  
Come my Lord, no longer tarry  
Take my ransomed soul away  
Send Thine angels now to carry  
Me to realms of endless days  
Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be  
Let Thy goodness like a fetter  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee  
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it  
Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it  
Seal it for Thy courts above

Here's my heart

Oh take and seal it

Seal it for Thy courts above