

Love Lifted Me Devotional

Page 2 in **Hymns of Our Redeemer**
Johnson Oatman, Jr. 1856-1922

Hello! We are so glad that you have invited us to visit with you today. My name is _____. I/We come seeking to be an encouragement to you in your faith in Jesus, our Savior and our Lord.

Maybe you have fond memories of the Christian hymn, "Love Lifted Me." This anthem of the love of our Savior has been sung by countless saints like us for over 100 years. It was written by James Rowe who authored more than 9000 hymns, poems and other works to the glory of God.*

Referring to five scriptures from God's Word, we are going to share some thoughts on the message of God's love for each of us. In this message we find the truth of the gracious salvation He has offered to all who believe. What wonderful, mighty love! What a marvelous, faithful Redeemer! What kind, tender mercy! What grace that lifts us from such depths of hopelessness to such heights of love and safety! Indeed, the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ, can lift each of us up today! Let us sing of it together: "Love Lifted Me!"

1. I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore;
Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more;
But the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry,
From the waters, lifted me, now safe am I.
2. All my heart to Him I give, ever to Him I'll cling,
In His blessed presence live, ever His praises sing.
Love so mighty and so true merits my soul's best songs,
Faithful, loving service, too, to Him belongs.

Chorus:

Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else could help, love lifted me!
Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else could help, love lifted me!

* Source: Hymnary.org

Thoughts on the Scriptures:

Hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost Who is given unto us. Romans 5:5

As God's children, He has given us a great Gift! This Gift is the Holy Spirit living in our hearts. This Gift is not just a theory or a vain dream! In this verse in Romans, Holy Scripture testifies to the floodlight of God's love beaming into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

All of God's children know the battle to keep our hopes pinned on God's promise to save us. And the world around us ridicules us for our confidence in something they cannot see. But we have evidence and substance in our faith that the world knows nothing about (Heb. 11:1). Our hope is firmly settled in the love of God: that is, His love personally made plain and obvious to each of us by the Holy Spirit who lives within our hearts!

Truly, we were sinking, we were lost in the hopeless guilt and consequences of our sins, but the Master heard us when we cried to Him for forgiveness. From the flood waters of despair He lifted us...now the Holy Spirit in our hearts assures us by His love that we are safe from the helplessness, and the hopelessness of our Godless past.

But God shows His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Our Heavenly Father is eager to deliver us from the depths of our sin. And His love for us did not start when we made ourselves more presentable to Him (Titus 3:4-6). NO! God showed us His love while we were still floundering around in our selfishness and shame. He had paid the price that we deserved for our rebellion while we were still actively resisting His will.

And, out of His love for each of us, He holds the door to His mercy and grace open to all who would enter in. We can never deserve salvation. We can never earn it by our good deeds. We can only admit our need for His salvation and humble ourselves to ask Him for it.

Jesus Christ bought our salvation through His death on the cross, a death that we deserve. And Jesus is God's only door to receive that salvation that He paid for (John 14:6; 1John 5:11-12).

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Psalm 51:1

This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. Psalm 34:6

In these two passages from the Psalms, David comes to grips with the struggle all of us are familiar with: the willful disobedience of sin in our lives. He confesses to the stains of his transgressions. He confesses his poverty before the Lord. He admits to the trouble he has gotten himself into. And David faces the fact that the only appeal he has is to cry out for God's mercy for his deliverance.

Those who have not confronted their own unworthiness in God's eyes do not understand our plight. But, to throw ourselves on God's mercy in honest surrender to His saving grace is the most rational, reasonable thing to do when we see the reality of our pitiful condition. There, and only there, can we confess with David that the LORD heard us and saved us out of all our troubles! This is the "sinking deep in sin" the songwriter confesses. This is the "despairing cry" to God that he testifies to. This is the safety he sings about!

If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. Romans 10:9

Anyone can form with their lips the words, "the Lord Jesus." It is easy to say, especially if one is in the company of others who share the same confession. But it is another thing altogether to speak of our loving Lord Jesus before others as a reflection of the faith in Him that we hold dear in our heart; faith that affirms that the Father raised His only begotten Son from the dead. Out of that conviction deep in our soul issues the songwriter's melody: the Master "heard my despairing cry!" "...now safe an I!" The loving power of Father God brought Christ from the grave and through Christ, the power of that same love lifted me!

All that we long for when we reach out to God for salvation comes out of our faith in what Jesus did for us. A faith in the marvelous, amazing grace of God; a heartfelt faith that is willing to openly confess His Son's name and His lordship over our lives.

Love Lifted Me - Devotional

The first verse of this wonderful hymn is about the profound expression of God's divine love for us when He saves us. In the second verse we are reminded that devotion and service to Jesus is to be our loving response to such divine, redeeming love!

The songwriter proclaims, "All my heart to Him I give!" "...to Him I'll cling!" "...in His blessed presence live!" "...ever His praises sing!" His love "merits my soul's best songs!" "...faithful, loving service, too, to Him belongs!" **"LOVE LIFTED ME!"**

Before we pray, let us sing again that second stanza and chorus.

2. All my heart to Him I give, ever to Him I'll cling,
In His blessed presence live, ever His praises sing.
Love so mighty and so true merits my soul's best songs,
Faithful, loving service, too, to Him belongs.

Chorus:

Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
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A Closing Prayer:

Let us Pray. – Dear Father in Heaven, thank You for Your love. Thank You for the love that You have demonstrated for all to see – the love that cries from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!"

Please help us, Father God, that we never again lean on our own righteousness or our own power.

Open our eyes, fresh and anew, to the wondrous love You flood into our hearts by the abiding presence of Your Holy Spirit within us. May we walk in your tender mercy and your steadfast lovingkindness.

And as we walk in Your love, we pray that our talk AND our walk will demonstrate to others the faithfulness and the power of Your salvation to all who believe.

May we live in Your presence. May we sing of Your merits. May we serve You out of love. Thank You Lord Jesus. AMEN.