

## A New Song

In late 2002 I had the privilege of attending a lecture by Craig Blomberg, a professor at Denver Seminary, in his tour to introduce his new book at the time, *The Historical Reliability of John's Gospel*. In stark contrast to his unassuming physical presence, quiet voice, and timid mannerisms, Dr. Blomberg filled the room with his intellect and scholarship on the many textual and cultural verifications of the authenticity of John's gospel and its accord with the other gospels. This lecture went a long way to dispelling so many intellectual "straw-man" arguments I had set up against the text of scripture. It was one final, fatal crack in my self-made wall in rebellion against the Gospel. Shortly thereafter, I made my full surrender to Jesus Christ.

As I'm sure you know, the historical record of God's past work and his revelation to creation is absolutely foundational to true Christianity. As the only infallible record of this history and revelation, scripture is rightly emphasized in our reformed theology. However, we also know that God, being timeless and eternal, is not limited to being only in the *past*. Scripture clearly commands us to continually engage the *living* God and to live life with our Christian brothers and sisters in the *present* (e.g., fulfilling the "one anothers" of scripture, daily prayer, regular worship and fellowship with other believers). Furthermore, God even calls us to use the creative spark he placed in us to make new things for the *future*.

In reflecting on the great legacy of the Dormans at Berean, I was struck by how much of their ministry enabled us all to be truly worshipful in the *present* and for the *future*. Day after day, for decades, they shared their God-given talents, passion, and energy to elevate our view of God and center our worship on Christ. Additionally, they strove to write a new, biblical, Christ-honoring song each year for the Global Missions Conference. In this reflection I was drawn to both the command for us to speak to one another "in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (Eph. 5:19) but also the commands and examples of singing to the Lord a *new song* (Psalms 33, 40, 96, 98, 144, 149; Isaiah 42:10, Rev. 5:9,14:3).

So, I was inspired to attempt something new. Below, I humbly present to you an original reformed hymn (not coincidentally in five stanzas). Maybe it is best just called a poem until someone gives it a tune. If you are really itching to sing, try it to the tune of Amazing Grace... or, oddly enough, also to the theme of Gilligan's Island.

### In My Own Strength

In my own strength I had no hope;  
to death a dead soul clings.  
No good in me to thaw my heart,  
no taste for Godly things.

But thank you Lord, for your free will,  
your love, not mine, was first---  
By your decree and life innate,  
my soul to life you burst!

You showed us love in human form,  
your son from on his throne.  
The perfect willing sacrifice,  
for dear ones to atone.

The purest grace of your own will,  
to sinners you extend.  
The Word proclaimed, and preached, and lived,  
the thickest veil will rend.

Now here in us your Spirit lives,  
your children to make pure,  
Through faith in Christ and through the fire,  
held to the end, secure.

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