

Worship in Song

“Father Hear the Prayer We Offer”

(1 John 5:14)

- Introduction:
1. Love Maria Willis wrote this song in 1856.
 2. It wasn't a very popular song, averaging less than 10% appearing in hymnals. However, in the 1980's this song exploded and was included in 50% of songbooks, but today it is back to being included in around 10% of hymnals.
 3. The tune we are familiar with is actually the least known of three tunes to which it is sung.
 4. The lyrics of this song are some that I really like, so I thought we would talk about them tonight.

I. Pray Not for Ease, But Strength

- A. This is a grown up, mature prayer!
- B. Most people want to serve God in good health and prosperity, but few want to serve God in suffering and poverty.
- C. This first line reminds me of (Acts 4:13-29).

II. Walk By Faith, Not By Sight

- A. Ills. Ever play tag and have a guy who wouldn't leave the security of "base?"
- B. (Exodus 17:1-7).
- C. (Numbers 20:6-13).
- D. It takes faith/trust to get out of your comfort zone.
- E. Most things that we seek require us to take a risk.

III. Not Our Strength, But Your Strength

- A. (Ephesians 6:10).
- B. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).
- C. God's presence strengthens us (Daniel 3:19-26; 2 Kings 6:17).

IV. Not My Pleasure, But Your Work

- A. We need to learn contentment.
- B. (Hebrews 13:5).
- C. (Philippians 4:12).
- D. (1 Timothy 6:6-7).
- E. In comparison to how much you pray about your life situation, how much to do pray about the Lord's work?

- Conclusion:
1. As I said, this is a "grown up" prayer to pray.
 2. It is challenging and requires spiritual maturity to pray/sing with understanding.