

Hymns in *Difference with Moravians* (1745)¹

[Baker list, #100]

Editorial Introduction:

Tensions emerged between the Wesley brothers and the English Moravians early in the revival, particularly concerning the importance of the “means of grace”—see *Means of Grace* (1740). This led to a split at the Fetter Lane Society in 1741. The separation lowered tension for a while. Then, in the spring of 1745 John and Charles Wesley began a systematic visitation of Methodists in London. Sensing that the “quietism” of the Moravians was creeping back in among their followers, in late May the brothers published *A Short View of the Difference between the Moravian Brethren, lately in England, and the Rev. Mr. John and Charles Wesley*.

This pamphlet opens with an excerpt from John’s *Journal* that covered the earlier struggles. It includes an English translation of John’s conversation with Nikolaus von Zinzendorf on September 3, 1741 (which had been left in Latin in the *Journal*). This is followed by a summary of the distinctive teachings of the Moravians—from the perspective of, and signed by, both Wesley brothers. The pamphlet then concludes with six hymns (pp. 17–24), all new.

While authorship is not identified in the pamphlet, one was placed by Charles in *Redemption Hymns* (1747), and four of the remaining hymns were included by his collected *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1749)—verifying his pen as the source of at least these five.

Editions:

[John and Charles Wesley.] *A Short View of the Difference between the Moravian Brethren, lately in England, and the Rev. Mr. John and Charles Wesley*. London: Strahan, 1745.

Dublin: Powell, 1747.

2nd Bristol: Farley, 1748.

In 1758 John Wesley excerpted the section of *Short View* that distilled Moravian teaching, to place it in *Preservative against Unsettled Notions in Religion*. The hymns were not included in this new setting, and thus were not reprinted as this collection again.

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Matt[hew] vii. 7.
“Ask and it shall be given you.”²

- 1 Author of faith, to thee I cry,
To thee who wouldst not have me die,
 But know the truth and live:
Open mine eyes to see thy face,
Work in mine³ heart the saving grace,
 The life eternal give.
- 2 Shut up in unbelief I groan,
And blindly serve a God unknown,
 Till thou the veil remove,
The gift unspeakable impart
And write thy name upon my heart,
 And manifest thy love.
- 3 I know the work is only thine,
The gift of faith is all divine;
 But if on thee we call,
Thou wilt⁴ the benefit bestow,
And give us hearts to feel and know
 That thou hast died for all.
- 4 Thou bidst us knock and enter in,
Come unto thee, and rest from sin,
 The blessings⁵ seek and find:
Thou bidst us ask thy grace and have,
Thou can’st, thou wouldst this moment save,
 Both me and all mankind.
- 5 Be it according to thy word,
Now let me find my pard’ning Lord,
 Let what I ask be given;
The bar of unbelief remove,
Open the door of faith and love,
 And take me into heaven.

²This hymn was later included in *HSP* (1749), 1:42–43. A manuscript precursor of the hymn appears in MS Shent, 111b.

³“Mine” changed to “my” in *HSP* (1749).

⁴“Wilt” changed to “wouldst” in *HSP* (1749).

⁵“Blessings” changed to “blessing” in *HSP* (1749).

Matt[hew] vi. 6.
“But thou when thou prayest
enter into thy closet,” &c.⁶

- 1 Father of Jesus Christ, my Lord,
I humbly seek thy face,
Incourag'd by the Saviour's word
To ask thy pard'ning grace.
- 2 Ent'ring into my closet I
The busy world exclude,
In secret prayer for mercy cry,
And groan to be renew'd.
- 3 Far from the paths of men to thee
I solemnly retire,
See, thou who dost in secret see,
And grant my heart's desire.
- 4 Thy grace I languish to receive,
The Spirit of love and power,
Blameless before thy face to live,
To live and sin no more.
- 5 Fain would I all thy goodness feel,
And know my sins forgiven,
And do on earth thy perfect will
As angels do in heaven.
- 6 O Father, glorify thy Son,
And grant what I require,
For Jesus⁷ sake the gift send down,
And answer me by fire.
- 7 Kindle the flame of love within
That⁸ may to heaven ascend,
And now in grace the work begin⁹
Which shall in glory end.

⁶This hymn later included in *Redemption Hymns* (1747), 48–49.

⁷“Jesus” changed to “Jesu's” in *Redemption Hymns* (1747).

⁸“That” changed to “Which” in *Redemption Hymns* (1747).

⁹Line changed to “And now the work in grace begin” in *Redemption Hymns* (1747); revised to “work of grace” in 4th edn. of *Redemption Hymns* (1755).

Isai[ah] lxiv. 5.
“Thou meetest those that
remember thee in thy ways.”

- 1 Come, Lord, to a soul
 That waits in thy ways,
 That stays at the pool
 Expecting thy grace:
 To see thy salvation,
 And prove all thy¹⁰ will,
 With sure expectation
 I calmly stand still.

- 2 With fasting and prayer
 My Saviour I seek,
 And listen to hear
 The Comforter speak;
 In searching and hearing
 The life-giving word
 I wait thy appearing,
 I look for my Lord.

- 3 Because thou hast said
 Do this for my sake,
 The mystical bread
 I gladly partake:
 I thirst for the Spirit
 That flows from above,
 And long to inherit
 Thy fulness of love.

- 4 'Tis *here* I look up,
 And grasp at thy mind,
 Here *only* I hope
 Thine image to find
 The means of bestowing
 Thy gifts I embrace;
 But all things are owing
 To Jesus's grace.

¹⁰Ori., “they”; a misprint, corrected in 2nd edn. (1747).

Luke xviii. 1.
“Men OUGHT always to pray,
and not to faint.”¹¹

- 1 Come ye followers of the Lord,
 In Jesu's¹² service join,
Jesus gives the sacred word,
 The ordinance divine;
Let us his command obey,
And ask and have whate'er we want,
 Pray we, every moment pray,
 And never never faint.
- 2 Place no longer let us give
 To the old tempter's will,
Never more our duty leave
 While Satan cries “Be still!”
Stand we in the antient way,
And here with God ourselves acquaint,
 Pray we, &c.
- 3 Be it weariness and pain
 To slothful flesh and blood,
Yet we *will* the cross sustain,
 And bless the welcome load.
All our grief¹³ to God display,
And humbly pour out our complaint,
 Pray we, &c.
- 4 Let us patiently endure,
 And still our wants declare;
All the promises are sure
 To persevering prayer;
Till we see the perfect day,
And each wakes up a sinless saint,
 Pray we, &c.
- 5 Pray we on, when all-renew'd,
 And perfected in love,
Till we see the Saviour-God
 Descending from above,

¹¹This hymn later included in *HSP* (1749), 2:38–39. A manuscript precursor of the hymn appears in MS Shent, 60a–60b.

¹²“Jesu's” changed to “Jesus” in *HSP* (1749).

¹³“Grief” changed to “griefs” in *HSP* (1749).

All his heavenly charms survey
Beyond what angel-minds can paint,
Pray we, &c.

- 6 Pray we in the realms of light
Till we behold his face,
Faith shall there be lost in sight,
And prayer in endless praise;
Blest thro' one eternal day
Possess of all that God can grant
There we cannot, need not, pray,¹⁴
For heaven is all we want.

A Prayer for Believers in Temptation.¹⁵

- 1 Meek patient Son of God and man,
With us in our temptation stay,
Our fainting feeble minds sustain,
And keep throughout the evil day
(The evil day of doubts and fears,
And fightings,) till thy face appears.
- 2 We have not an high-priest in thee
Who cannot our afflictions feel,
The tempted soul's infirmity
With kind concern affects thee still,
Touch'd with our every grief thou art,
And bleeds for us thy pitying heart.
- 3 For us by men and fiends distrest,
For us by various passions torn,
Who toil to enter into rest,
Who for thy second coming mourn,
And fill thy sacred sorrows up,
And drink thine agonizing cup.
- 4 Companions to the Man of Woe,
O let us still with thee abide,
Tempted alas! To let thee go,
And start from the command aside,
By every wind of doctrine driven
To seek a broader way to heaven.

¹⁴Line changed to "There we need not, cannot pray" in *HSP* (1749).

¹⁵This hymn included later in *HSP* (1749), 2:101–2.

- 5 Yes, Lord, with deepest shame we own
Our weariness of all thy ways,
Our haste to throw thy burthen down,
Nor bear the hidings of thy face,
Nor wait till thou create us new,
And give the crown to conquest due.
- 6 We fear'd to wait thy leisure, Lord,
Or make the crown thro' sufferings sure,
Nature the dreadful cross¹⁶ abhorr'd,
Nor would we to the end endure,¹⁷
But snatch a cheap fallacious peace,
And rest in fancied¹⁸ holiness.
- 7 Ah, do not let thy sheep¹⁹ depart
Wide-scatter'd in the cloudy day,
But cross th' angelic tempter's art,
But spoil the lion of his prey,
Nor let us from our hope remove,
Our gospel-hope of perfect love.
- 8 Us, and our brethren in distress
Patient within thy kingdom keep,
Sure all thy fulness to possess
Our harvest in the end to reap,
Thy sinless nature to retrieve,
And glorious in thine image live.

¹⁶“Dreadful cross” changed to “killing word” in *HSP* (1749).

¹⁷“Endure” placed in italics in *HSP* (1749).

¹⁸“Fancied” placed in italics in *HSP* (1749).

¹⁹Ori., “sleep”; a misprint, corrected in 2nd edn. (1747), but recurs in 3rd edn. (1748).

For Those that are Turned out of the Way.²⁰

- 1 Saviour, to thee we humbly cry:
The brethren we have lost restore,
Recall them by thy pitying eye,
Retrieve them from the tempter's power,
By thy victorious blood cast down,
Nor suffer him to take their crown.
- 2 Beguil'd alas! By Satan's art
We see them now far off remov'd,
The burthen of our bleeding heart,
The souls whom once in thee we lov'd,
Whom still we love with grief and pain,
And weep for their return in vain.
- 3 In vain, till thou the power bestow,
The double power of quick'ning grace,
And make the *happy sinners* know
Their tempter with his angel face,
Who leads them captive at his will,
Captive—but *happy sinners* still.
- 4 O would'st thou break the fatal snare,
Of carnal self-security,
And let them *feel* the wrath they bear,
And let them groan their want of thee,
Robb'd of their false pernicious peace,
Their self-(imputed) righteousness.²¹
- 5 The men of careless lives, who deem
Thy righteousness *accounted* theirs,
Awake out of the soothing dream,
Alarm their souls with humble fears,
Thou jealous God, stir up thy power,
And let them sleep in sin no more.

²⁰This hymn later included in *HSP* (1749), 2:102–3.

²¹Line changed to “Stript of their fancied righteousness” in *HSP* (1749).

6 Long as the guilt of sin shall last
 Them in its misery detain,
Hold their licentious spirits fast,
 Bind them with their own nature's chain,
Nor ever let the wanderers rest
Till lodg'd again in Jesus' breast.