Editorial Introduction:

As the Methodist movement began to spread it came under increasing scrutiny from various Anglican leaders. The concerns voiced by these leaders spanned a spectrum from charges of legalism and works-righteousness to the polar worry of possible antinomianism. John Wesley responded to a series of published cautions about the movement in *A Farther Appeal to Men of Reason and Religion*, published at the very end of 1744 (and dated 1745). He appended to the tract a short hymn titled “Act of Devotion.” While it is unsigned, Charles Wesley’s authorship is confirmed by its presence in MS Shent, 172b–173a; and its inclusion in *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1749), 1:206–7.

Editions:


2nd [no copies known]
3rd [no copies known]
4th Bristol: Grabham, 1758.
5th London: Hawes, 1778.
5th London: Paramore, 1786.
An Act of Devotion.

1 Behold the servant of the Lord!
   I wait thy guiding hand\(^2\) to feel,
   To hear, and keep thine every word,
   To prove, and do thy perfect will.
   Joyful from all my works to cease,
   Glad to fulfil all righteousness.

2 Me if thy grace vouchsafe to use,
   Meanest of all thy creatures me,
   The deed, the time, the manner chuse;
   Let all my fruit be found of thee,
   Let all my works in thee be wrought,
   By thee to full perfection brought.

3 My every weak though good, design
   O’errule, or change as seems thee meet,
   Jesus, let all the work be thine;
   Thy work, O Lord, is all-compleat,
   And pleasing in thy Father’s sight;
   Thou only hast done all things right.

4 Here then to thee thine own I leave.
   Mould as thou wilt the passive clay:
   But let me all thy stamp receive,
   But let me all thy words obey,
   Serve with a single heart and eye,
   And to thy glory live, and die.

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\(^2\)“Hand” changed to “eye” in *HSP* (1749) and *All in All* (1761).