

In the last volume on this topic, we considered what Christian youths of these days are like and the expectations of God from their lives. In that volume, they were likened to Rehoboam who forsook the counsel of the old men. They were considered as a generation that does not want to be under authority; a generation that is always in HASTE and have misplaced priority just to mention but a few.

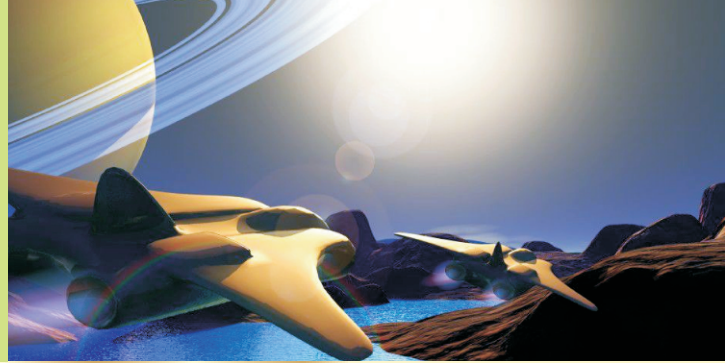
The Lord still wants us to continue on this issue. There are so many things that must be addressed in the lives of the Christian youths of nowadays. Some of which will be explained below.

"...they are a generation that set not their heart aright and whose spirit was not steadfast with God" (Ps. 78:8b). What does it mean to set one's heart aright before God? This is well explained by some other translations of the bible. Good News translation says **"...whose trust in God was never firm and who did not remain faithful to him"**. When a man does not trust God with the whole of his heart, mind and strength, such a man does not set his heart aright. This is the case with majority of our Christian youths of today. Amplified version says **"...a generation that set not their hearts aright nor prepared their hearts to know God, and whose spirits were not steadfast and faithful to God."** Does this picture who you are despite your claim of being a Christian? You need to set your heart right before God if you will enjoy Him as your God and father. A generation that is characterized with false repentance. When the word of God comes out among Christian youths these days, some of

them will become sober and even cry. But lo and behold, after some days or weeks one will be surprised where he will meet those who cried after they have heard the word of God few days or weeks ago. The repentance was not genuine. This is another evil I have seen at this end time among so call Christian youths. Exodus 9:27-34 give us a picture of such life: **"And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned this time: the LORD is righteous, and I and my people are wicked.** Intreat the LORD (for it is enough) that there be no more mighty thunderings and hail; and I will let you go, and ye shall stay no longer. And Moses said unto him, As soon as I am gone out of the city, I will spread abroad my hands unto the LORD; and the thunder shall cease, neither shall there be any more hail; that thou mayest know how that the earth is the LORD'S. But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye will not yet fear the LORD God. And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was balled. But the wheat and the rie were not smitten: for they were not grown up. And Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh, and spread abroad his hands unto the LORD: and the thunders and hail ceased, and the rain was not poured upon the earth. **And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, neither would he let the children of Israel go; as the LORD had spoken by Moses.** This type of



Christian youths NOWADAYS (PART 2)



case occurred again in ISam. 15:24 when Samuel confronted Saul with his sin. This was Saul's response: **"And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice"**. What one would expect after this confession is that Saul would fall down and humble himself before God. But what did he do? He only spoke to Samuel in this manner: **"Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD"**. He was only concerned with worship and sacrifice that would not be accepted by God but not genuine repentance. Samuel who knew God very well refused to follow him. Are you not like Saul or Pharaoh? You don't usually genuinely turn to God. You only cover up with activities.

A "scalar quantity" generation indeed is the Christian youths of nowadays. In Physics, a scalar quantity is a quantity that has only magnitude but no direction. The other type is vector quantity that has both magnitude and direction. Many Christian youths of nowadays are only scalar quantity because they have no specific direction. They are being blown by every kind of wind and move in random motion.

A generation that is caught in the web of this world. Formerly, we talk much about sin and the danger of falling into it as Christians. But we little realized then the great spiritual issues at stake when we allowed the system of this world to gain entrance into our lives. There is a spiritual force behind this world system which, by means of the things that are in the world, seeking to enmesh the Christian youths in its system. It is obvious when one sees the way most Christian youths dress, sing, talk about money, seek fame and promotion, and get job, just to mention but a few. The essence of wearing cloth as seen in the bible is to cover our nakedness but most

Christian youths of these days wear all sorts of clothes that expose part of or all their nakedness. They adapt secular songs into gospel songs and we now hear gospel raps, blues, reggae, fuji, juju e.t.c. Majority of today's Christian youths now have motivational speakers, world artistes and politicians as their mentors. The Christian youths are therefore warned seriously against the danger of loving this world and the things therein. Dear Christian youths, it is not only against sin that we need to be on our guard, but also against the world system. Remember **"...If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever". And "...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God"**. (IJohn 2:15 – 17; James 4:4)

We need to be watchful lest at anytime we be found helping Satan to further his kingdom while we think we are furthering God's kingdom. Whenever we are to take decision; the issue is not good or evil? Helpful or harmful? But we must always ask ourselves is it from God or Satan? Is it of God or of this world?

What is God's expectation from the Christian youths' lives? God is looking for a set of youths who will not defile themselves with the king's portion but stand out in holiness and righteousness; fully committed to God's course on earth. He wants to use them to save this generation of youths who are rotten away in the hand of the devil. Joseph was a youth like you likewise Daniel. Will you make yourself available for God?



WORDS FOR YOUNG MINDS

Brothers and Sisters, there are a lot you are to discover about yourself if you actually want to fulfil God's plans and purposes for your life.

You cannot afford to mishandle your life or mismanage your time, talents and resources.

LITTLE BABY BOY/GIRL --- YOUNG BOY/GIRL --- YOUNG LADY/SPINSTER/BACHELOR --- YOUNG MAN/WOMAN --- FATHER/MOTHER --- GRAND FATHER/MOTHER --- GREAT GRAND FATHER/MOTHER --- WIDOWER/WIDOW --- LATE GREAT GRAND FATHER/MOTHER. Does this ring a bell in your ears? You were that little baby boy/girl, now, you are that young boy/girl/spinster/bachelor, later you will be that young man/woman, on to father/mother, then grandfather/mother, great grandfather/mother, that widower/widow, and late great grandfather/mother; if God wills. Has it ever dawn on you that God is expecting a lot from you as you metamorphose into each phase of your life?

This is the time you are to thrust your all to God. You are to separate yourself unto the Lord. Holiness within and without should be your watchword. You are to keep yourself pure. **“Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy,**

which temple you are”. “1 Corinthians 3:16-17. You are to say NO to: stealing, examination malpractice, romance of all sorts, fornication, abortion, malice, covetousness, idleness etc. All these are abomination in the sight of God.

You cannot serve two masters. Worldliness and godliness are two separate entities that can never be equal. You can either be there or here. You cannot claim that you love God and still be a friend or lover of this world. In the name of the so-called fashion or vogue, your nakedness must not be exposed. This is the time you are to stand for God (truth) wherever you are.

Now, you have to denounce and discard all the evil and ungodly companions and relationship. Turn a new leaf, and **“remember now your creator in the days of your youth...”** Ecclesiastics 12:3. Wake up from your slumber of lukewarmness and prayerlessness because you do not have all the time to toy with. The best time to improve yourself, your academics or whatever you are doing is NOW. The best time to serve God is **NOW**. The best time to do exploit for the Lord is **NOW**. Also, **THE BEST TIME TO GIVE GOD YOUR BEST IS NOW.**

Shalom.

ESTHER O. AKINADE

Christian Knowledge THAT MATTERS



Christians are not just ordinary people. They are special before God, and dignified as such (I Pet. 2:9). Each and every one of them has been endowed with unique abilities and destined for "greatness" (Eph. 1:3-4). It is therefore very important for Christians, both small and great, to know that God is holding them individually responsible in this regard (Matt. 25:14-19).

On the other hand, it is worrisome to see a very huge percentage of Christians being 'relegated' to the background, as little or nothing is seen to be their contributions in the scheme of events. One may then need to ask "who relegated these people to the 'background'?" "Who consigned this large number of God's people to this spiritual ineptitude and unproductive state?" The simple and bitter truth is that this elusive group of believers actually "dug their own pit". They are themselves, responsible for their undoing. There is only one reason why this could be – what they know and how much they know it. Here, we do not mean head knowledge or just any knowledge for that matter. We mean right knowledge in its completeness!

There is one other nuance to this. It is that "a man is as much as useful as much as he knows". The impact a Christian has in the society of believers is directly proportional to how much he has knowledge of some things. It is, however, more important at this point to add that "every man will know as much as he desires to know", all things being equal. This means that how much knowledge a man has is determined by how much he seriously longs and labors for. There is no shortcut to knowledge and no excuse for lack of it. Moreover, God gives knowledge to those who seek earnestly for it, and delights in it. - II Chr. 1:10-12; Ps. 94:10; II Pet. 1:5.

Having settled the issues above, what then are the things Christians must know? They must know:

* **Who God Is:**

Every Christian must have personal revelations of God. These revelations, the Lord would give a Christian one at a time over a life-period. But, how much of this revelational knowledge a Christian has after all, depends largely on this particular Christian – how much of it he wants to have – and not so much on God (Read Matt. 5:6). The Bible affirms that God rewards people who diligently seek Him (Heb. 12:6). It should also not be a far-fetched understanding that one of the ways God gives rewards to these ardent seekers of His is to let them find Him. The Lord's first and most important promise, as wisdom personified, is that He would be found by "those who seek [Him] early" (Prov. 8:17). And truly, what could be more satisfying and rewarding to this kind of 'Explorers' than the knowledge of God Himself – a God that hides Himself (Isa. 45:15).

No wonder God told Abraham that He was his reward (Gen. 15:1). There was nothing more valuable He could give Abraham than Himself. What a blessing! A revelational knowledge of God in a man is the greatest asset such a man could have in this life. It was not Abraham's wealth which God gave him that made him a prominent and impactful figure in the world of believers and kingdom of God. It was his revelational knowledge of God and the resultant spiritual blessings (promises) that made him so. But then, how much of the intellectual knowledge of the Bible did Abraham have? Would you say Abraham knew anything about Dispensations, Typology, Homiletics, Hermeneutics, Pneumatology, Christology, etc as offered in 'Bible Schools' today? Yet, he was called a friend of God (Isa. 41:8), because he knew, greatly, who God is. Abraham was a good and prime example for believers in how they should know God (Gen. 14:17-22, 17:1, 18:1ff, 19:27, 21:33, 22:14, etc). It was a status he earned without institutional certificates; a possibility for modern believers too, if they are as willing as Abraham was. It is good to go to 'Bible School' and have formal

training as much as one desires. But of what good is this, if it does not lead to personal and true knowledge of God.

The questions now are "how much of God do you know? And, how much of this has become personal, true and real to you?" This level of knowledge cannot be but by God's grace and dealings with His own people. However, God's people need to tap into this readily and individually. It is the kind of knowledge that matters.

*** What the Word of God Says:**

The knowledge of the word of God is an invaluable treasure which every Christian must labour to have. As it matters to know who God is personally and experientially, serious Christians must seek to know perfectly and practically all that the word of God says. This is no easy task, but must be sought after by serious-minded believers. The Lord, Jesus has said "Man shall live [only] by every word of God" (Lk. 4:4). Believers must know every word of God to live (excel)! There is no way a Christian would do well in life and before God without adequate, sound and true knowledge of the word of God. This kind of knowledge, again, is revelational. It comes as God's people, from time to time and by all means possible, receive everlasting impression of the truthfulness of the word of God in their hearts. The Lord causes this to happen to the believers who are inclined and available to get such knowledge. This could be as they listen to sermons and teachings, read Bibles, watch the examples of other mature Christians, etc.

But, how common is this knowledge among "modern Christians? Do we even have time for this "excellency of the knowledge of Christ" and His word? (Phil. 4:8). We are not like Paul, who left all other things worthy of His pursuit for Spiritual knowledge. He wanted to excel in this knowledge - knowing Christ and His word the way he should - that he placed all other knowledge and things below in his scale of preference. No wonder he was that "great" for God and in the things of God (II Cor. 11:22ff). And for us, how can we go that far when we know so little? Obviously, the little we know is commensurate with the little time and interest we gave to it. We dare not more for we shall loose grip of our mundane pursuits of life. What an irony! Christians who are to be custodians of the "manifold wisdom of God"; do not even know appropriately the basic things contained in the Word of God. Little wonder our pulpits are dry, messages unclear and our effect little. People who still hear God today can only hear Him well in the content and/or context of His written Word. What God has spoken is the same with what He says today (Ps. 119: 89; Heb. 13: 8).

The Church will begin to receive true blessings from our lives and words just only when what we have in our hearts, abundantly, is the Word of God (Ps. 119: 10 – 16). The Lord, Jesus puts it this way "O generation of

vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure of the heart bringeth forth evil things". It is "evil" for Christians not to have the Word of God stored in their hearts. We are to be the "epistles of Christ" (II Cor. 3: 3). The Word of God is for the heart and not just to be on paper! It is to be written wholly in our hearts. The Word of God as found in our hearts is, practically, what the Holy Spirit would make use of to guide us in all things. Every Word of God a man shall live by, as claimed by the Lord, Jesus, is as it enters and is kept in the heart of such man. There is no other way! Having said this much, do we then need to "know" the Bible from cover to cover? How possible is this? It is not bad to agree that we may not need to know some contents of the Bible, word for word. For examples, it is not compulsory to know the details of all the wars Israel or David fought, or all the parables Solomon spoke, or the total number of times the word "God" appears in the Bible, etc. Of course, it is not bad to know all these as well. However, such knowledge does not really matter. It is not every word as found in the Bible we must know; but every word of God as contained therein and taught by the Holy Spirit (Ps. 119: 18). The knowledge of every word of God in the Bible, as we should have, would not be attained by ordinary effort, but by the help of the Lord through His Holy Spirit in us (I Jn. 2:20, 27). It is from this "wells of salvation" we shall draw out "water" (solutions) by the Holy Spirit for daily satisfaction/needs (Isa. 12: 3; Jn. 7: 38, 39). The question, again, is not how much of theological explanations of the Bible do you have but how close you are to knowing every word of God?

*** Their Individual Calling:**

Every Christian has a "call" of God upon his life (I Cor. 7: 17, 20). This, everyone must find out and know for sure as soon as possible (Acts. 9: 6). In the parables of the "Talents" and "Long Journey" (Matt. 25: 14ff; Lk. 19: 12ff), the lord of the servants gave each of the servants gifts (money) to be occupied with pending their master's return. No one was left out of the "call". It was also consequent upon this they were asked to give account; were judged or commended. The parable pictures precisely the right view Christians should have of themselves. Christ, the Lord has placed His call upon every Christian without exception. It is a call unto service and responsibility; a call unto usefulness and reward. It is a serious call for that matter! If we have the right knowledge of this, nobody would be unserious in this respect as the case is with many believers. How pathetic of any Christian to go about saying "I don't have a call". It is sheer ignorance in display. We all have our callings from God! It is just that our callings are different, and our gifts in various measures and capacities. The Bible says "But unto

every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ" (Eph. 4: 7). We are not all called as "pastors" or as "administrators" or into "church helps", etc. But we all are "servants" of Christ who are to take roles in His "House" and charge of His "Business". The knowledge of this must be well rooted in us (Matt. 24: 45).

It is not wholesome enough to believe only those Christians who are called into the five-fold ministries have the call of God on them. This general faulty knowledge has, directly or indirectly, inhibited many with the other types of gifts and callings of God to occupy with them to the fullest. The Church needs more men and women who are fully occupied with their callings in various dimensions, and probably some more who would get this done to the point of abandoning all other mundane pursuits. These are not necessarily meant to be pastors, prophets, or any office of the five-fold work. We need elders, deacons, counselors, children instructors, Christian service providers, Christian researchers, etc. who are not tagged as "ministers" but are full-time workers of the Church. We need men like Luke who left his medical service to do God's work without any ministerial tag. This kind of commitment will be seen more in effect as a result of better understanding of Christians in respect of their individual callings.

* **The Devices of Satan:**

Believers should arm themselves with the knowledge of how Satan works against them (II Cor. 2: 11). This will cause them to be on guard against any sudden onslaught of the devil. Christians should always be mindful of the spiritual warfare they are engaged in, so as not to lose sight of what the devil can do to them covertly. The devil's devices of fight are his strong points against believers not the authority or power with which he fights. He can do and undo with the lives of the unbelievers as he pleases. The world is under his dominion. He, however, dare not touch the children of God any how. The Bible says "... he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. "... and the whole world lieth in wickedness" (I Jn. 5: 18, 19).

* **The concepts of time:**

Having a good knowledge of how to make use of time is important for Christians who desire to excel. Only few Christians have got the right understanding of the preciousness of time. The Bible says everything has its time appointed (Eccl. 3: 1). Another good concept of time can also be gleaned from Jesus' words, to his brothers, that every man has his own God appointed time (Jn. 7: 6). The rest of the Scriptures confirms this too. There is a fixed time for every man to do what God has given him to do. It is during this time he enjoys God's full support and is expected to complete his life-time task. One wonders how many modern Christians got this right!

- **Stephen Abimbola**

DESPISE NOT GOD'S MERCY

I read about a young girl who wanted to be saved, but her father said, "If my daughter goes to that altar I will wade in blood to take her out of there." So, she did not go. Later she became seriously ill and God started to deal with her. Suddenly she cried aloud, "My doom is sealed forever." Then again, she asked, "What time is it?" Her father told her that it was four O'Clock." Just think," she said, "I am going where there is no time." A moment later she spoke again, "Father," she cried, "Get me a drink from the old well, for I am going where there is no water."

A little later she spoke once more, "Father," she said, "put your arms under me and pull me up. My feet are on fire. My feet are slipping. Take my feet out of fire." After thus agonizing, she again requested, "Bring your daughter another drink of water." He started to get it, but before he got back, his beautiful daughter had gone to eternity. Dear friend, before your time expires here on the planet earth, do not scoff at God! Do not despise



His mercy! Do not be a fool! Do not refuse Christ. How idle is it to bid the fire not to burn when fuel is administered? And how possible is it to command the sea to be smooth in the midst of a storm?! Do not despise the mercy of God. There is no other way to escape the punishment of hell. You must come through Christ as a poor, helpless and hell-deserving sinner. Only those who repent, open their hearts to the Lord Jesus Christ and accept Him as LORD will get to the kingdom of God, shining as the sun throughout the countless ages of eternity.

If you put your faith in a wrong person, religion, your church, your good works, your morality, you will not be saved. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved". Jesus Christ is your one and only hope. Make a personal decision to make Him your Lord. Dare to venture all on Christ, and when you do; you will be saved. Amen!

- **Taiwo Akinade**



WHERE 2 WOUNDS MEET

Where two wounds meet, there is the place where Pains meet
Where two wounds meet, there is the place where Love meets
Where two wounds meet, there is the place where Fellowship takes place
Where two wounds meet, there is the place where Life flows
Where two wounds meet, there is the place where Conformity takes places
Where two wounds meet, there is the place where grafting takes place
Great is the mystery of godliness!
God became Man, man cut from the natural
He bridged the gap by becoming like we are
He was on earth but abided in His Father in Heaven
Geographical or physical distance is not an hindrance
He brought the three together:
"I am in My Father, you are in Me, and I AM in you"
He instructed that we maintain the statuesque
"Abide in Me"
It's really a wound for the Son of Man
It must really be a wound for a natural, carnal, man
Only these fresh wounds can meet, abide and conform
For it to be a life, it must be continuous and fresh as it were when cut from the natural
Any breakage in life is death; fresh wound, fresh abiding, is life
Not because of His gain, but that He may give, and you will receive
As the Life flows from the Root, only the abiding of the grafted can make the flow complete
So hearken and "abide in Me"
Intelligently, intentionally and continuously, "abide in Me".

Toyin Bolarinwa



Rescue the PERISHING

It is not the will of God that anyone should perish. 2Pet.3:9 tells us about His character, His long-suffering, that is, extraordinary patient "...Not willing that any should perish." Since God does not want anyone to go to hell, there is a need to seek after the perishing. At the very doors of our worship centers are the masses of the unsaved souls because they are unreached; unreached because we don't love them as we should. If they refused to be converted after hearing the Gospel of Christ, it will be their own fault. After all, God is not willing that they go into eternal perdition; He however, has no alternative but to send them to hell if they fail to repent. All those who died in their sins will spend eternity with Satan in the lake of fire. Rev.20:15 says "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire". Only the believers in Christ will reign with Him in glory – Rev.5:10.

To rescue the perishing means reaching out to the unconverted or unregenerated souls and bringing them to Christ in love, telling them the message of salvation through our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST. Romans 5:8 says "But God commended his love towards us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us". This we must do unanimously with other believers around us.

Inferring from Hebrews, Chapter 2 verse 15, Christ came to rescue us from bondage. God sent His only begotten son, Jesus Christ to save the world – Matt.4:16, says "The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is springing up". Imagine where the unsaved are sitting; in darkness, in the region and shadow of death. Since the destination determines the destiny, if not rescued, they are heading to hell, a place of darkness – Jude 23a says

"And others save with fear, pulling them out of fire. Oswald .J. Smith puts it this way, "It is a place of conscious suffering... such word as fire, weeping, wailing, the gnashing of teeth, are used to describe hell. Fire burns. People do not weep when they are happy, nor do they wail unless they are miserable. When they gnash their teeth they must be suffering real pain. So terrible it is that Jesus recommended the loss of hand, foot and eye in preference to being consigned to it".

Jesus' command is not ambiguous "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". This is clear and definite. He also sought for the lost; the perishing when He was on this planet earth. Why are you reluctant to take to His command to go? It is not optional, it is mandatory; a general mandate for every believer in Christ. The wise go about doing the kingdom's business, preaching the gospel while the foolish run after title, popularity, fame, money just to mention but a few of what they are panting after. We need not to be known to become relevant in this matter. It is high time to awake from slumber.

We must be like Jesus who says "I must work the work of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. The mission time is now. God deserves the prime of our lives for His service. Lam.3:27 says "It is good for a man that he bears the yoke in his youth." Do you love sinners as Christ did? Will you be useful for Him? Why is the decree "to preach" so urgent and hasty from our master Jesus? Are you ready to share your testimony and the good news to others? Are you not ashamed of the gospel of Christ? Then, wake up and do something to rescue the perishing! May God help us to be the doers of His words, that we may be blameless at His appearing. Amen!

- Taiwo Akinade



Christian Outings NOWADAYS HYMN

1. If I have not forsaken all
In answer to Thy loving call
If I've kept something back from Thee
Lord, give me light that I might see
Lord, help judge myself each day
To walk this new and living way
I seek your grace with all of my heart
To be made pure just as Thou art.
2. If anything upon this earth
Attracts me with its sense of worth
If money has a hold on me
Lord, give light that I might see
3. If all my life revolve round me
And thought of my own family
If am living selfishly
Lord, give light that I might see
4. Is there some good I should have done?
Is there some souls I should have won?
Have I hurt someone thoughtlessly?
Lord, give light that I might see
5. If someone's failure has not wrought
Concern and care within my heart
If I've judged others inwardly
Lord, give light that I might see
6. If I've cared for man's applause
Or sought my own and shunned the cross
If I've feared man's mockery Lord,
Give light that I might see.
7. If I've not sought Thy power in prayer
Because of earthly toils and care
If am not longing after Thee
Lord, give light that I might see

1. Bi n
Ni 'n
Bi n
Fur
2. B'lo
Ba
B'if
Fur
3. Ti n
T'e
Bi n
Fur
4. Ren
Ok
Mo
Fur
5. B's
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