

ROCK OF AGES

Cleft for me! Let me hide myself in Thee...

The battles come and we as the sons and daughters of Christ have decisions to make. Are we willing to be led by the Holy Spirit and to obey? Our human nature is such that we are always in a struggle with stubborn wills and rebellious hearts; for the human heart is prone to want its own way.

Know this one thing, that with God there is only one way; His way! But remember this also, that His way is designed for our good. He will lead us if we will follow; He never drives us! Psalm 25: 4-5 (NLT) says it this way, *Show me the path where I should walk, O Lord; point out the right road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.*

Have you ever been in that place of utter despair—total darkness; all lights extinguished? You experience a pitch black moonless night of darkness. There was not a sound. You felt absolutely alone; helpless with all sense of direction stripped from you. You are in the deepest of dungeons with no possible means of escape and terror strikes at your mind as your heart beats faster and faster and you try to push down the panic. The powers of darkness, the evil ones think they have you captured, trapped, defeated, S U D D E N L Y from afar is the sound of music and words of hope float toward you; they bring comfort to your heart and ease your soul.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee... While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death, ...Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee. The Light has come—Jesus is with you—He will set you free. The darkness must flee!

Verses 8-10 - *The Lord is good and does what is right; he shows the proper path to those who go astray. He leads the humble in what is right, teaching them his way. The Lord leads with unfailing love and faithfulness all those who keep his covenant and obey his decrees.*

Jesus Christ, The Word of God, and the Holy Spirit are the guides and lights for the Christian. If you learn to listen to His voice and are willing to be led and are willing to obey, you will continue to discover the living power of God that imparts new life to you. You will not be caught off guard and thrown into the dungeon. You will walk upon the PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and in His Word may be found the answer to all the baffling problems of life. Its vitalizing power is available to you.

It has been said that one verse of Scripture is worth a whole book of man's words.

Psalms 119:130 says, *As your words are taught, they give light; even the simple can understand them.*

Let us hide in the Rock of Ages, and as we cleft (cling) to the One who gave His life that we might have access to the Father and receive eternal life, we will choose to follow Jesus wherever He may lead us.

I'd like to close with this story I read some years ago; for it brings comfort and hope to the weary traveler.

It was in the mountains of the West. A man and his son had lost their way. Since they were strangers and had considerable money, they were somewhat fearful with the coming of night. They stopped at a rude cabin. As they prepared for bed they heard low mumbling words in the adjoining room, where they had left the family of husband, wife, and grown son. Presently there was a movement of chairs, and low mumbling again. Could some plot be on foot to rob and kill the visitors? The son crept to the door, and peered through the keyhole. He quickly stepped back and said, *Everything is all right*. Why did he say that? He had seen this family kneeling in prayer. They had read from the Bible, pushed back their chairs, and knelt for prayer. The strangers felt perfectly safe and soon were peacefully sleeping.

Yes, Lord Your Word says in Psalm 119: 165-168 - *Those who love your law have great peace and do not stumble. I long for your salvation, Lord, so I have obeyed your commands. I have obeyed your decrees, and I love them very much. Yes, I obey your commandments and decrees, because you know everything I do.*

To have the Spirit's guidance you must be willing to obey God and when you do, you have the Rock of Ages that you can cling to; He is your safe place. Amen!

Rock Of Ages Hymn

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Save from wrath and make me pure.**

**Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to the cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee**