

## “I Need Thee Every Hour”

(Sermon & Song)

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### Introduction: Do We Truly Understand Just How Much We Need the Lord?

- A. “I Need Thee Every Hour” was written by Annie Hawks (1872).
1. A wife and mother of 37 years of age, Hawks wondered how one could possibly live without the Lord which motivated her to write the song.
  2. She wrote the song not under the stress of great personal sorrow (as many believed), but out of love and joy for the Lord.
  3. It was only until after her husband died did she understand how so many people had gained great comfort by the song she wrote.
- B. “*For apart from Me you can do nothing*” (John 15:4-5)
1. The song is believed to have been based upon the teaching of Jesus in John 15 where He says, in part, “*For apart from Me you can do nothing.*”
  2. Do we truly understand just how much we need our Savior each day?

*“I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need Thee; O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.”*

3. In day to day living, we must learn to depend on the Lord in every hour of life, to put our trust in Him, and go to God for the blessings we need. (Eph. 1:7; 2 Pet. 3:18; Phil. 4:13; Ps. 86:1-3).

### I. True Peace is found by Listening to the Words of our Gracious Lord.

V. 1: “*I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord; no tender voice like Thine can peace afford.*”

- A. “Most gracious Lord”
1. The Lord is indeed *most* gracious (Ps. 116:4-6). He delivers us of our trials and tribulations; He extends His favor, saving our souls from death.
  2. The most gracious Lord shows us mercy and forgives us of our sins even though we do not deserve it (Ex. 34:6-7; Rom 3:24).
  3. The Lord being gracious to us results in real and lasting peace (Num. 6:25-26; cf. 1 Cor. 1:3).
- B. Only the Lord can provide true peace.
1. Life can be overwhelmingly busy, demanding, noisy, even troublesome.
  2. We can be at peace because of our relationship with Him (John 16:33).
  3. There is *no other voice* than the tender voice of the Lord, as given in His word, which can bring peace to our heart and life (Phil 4:8; Ps. 119:165).
  4. Only those who are right with God have peace (Rm. 5:1; cf. Isa 57:21).
  5. The Lord of peace grants us peace in every circumstance (2 Thes 3:16).

### II. Every Temptation Can be Overcome with God Who is Near.

V. 2: “*I need Thee every hour; stay Thou nearby; temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh.*”

- A. God comes near to those who call Him (Ps. 145:18-19).
1. Too often we lack faith and feel as if we are all alone in facing the challenges of life and forget in the course of the day that God is nearby.
  2. If we will only remember Him continually and trust in Him who is near, we will be able to do all things that He requires of us (Phil. 4:13).
- B. The nearness of God eliminates our desire for sin.

1. By recognizing the Lord's presence, our desire for sin will leave us.
2. If we will only stop when temptation strikes and call out to Him for help, we will be victorious *every* time (**Mat. 26:41; 6:13; Heb. 2:18**).
3. God promises the way of escape from *every* temptation (**1 Cor 10:13**).

### **III. Fellowship with God Gives Life True Meaning.**

**V. 3:** *"I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain; come quickly and abide, or life is vain."*

A. In good times or bad, we need the Lord.

1. Our dependency on God does not change in times of joy or prosperity (e.g., **Deut. 8:17-19; Hos. 13:6**).
2. This is a hard lesson to learn, but a lesson we *must* learn well if we are to have a close and meaningful relationship with God.

B. Without fellowship with God, "life is vain."

1. Most people of the world believe that what gives life true meaning and fulfillment is experiencing as much joy, happiness, and fun as possible.
2. The truth is, nothing is certain in life, but only God Himself (**Eccl 7:14**).
3. What gives life meaning is fellowship with God (**Acts 17:26-28**).
4. Our life in God through Jesus Christ is what gives life **real** meaning, purpose, and fulfillment (**Eph 2:10**).

### **IV. Lord Teach Us Thy Will and Fulfill in Us Thy Will.**

**V. 4:** *"I need Thee every hour; teach me Thy will; and Thy rich promises in me fulfill."*

A. We *need* to be taught by God His will (**Ps 25:4-5**).

1. It is not within us to direct our own steps (**Jer. 10:23**); we need God's guidance *everyday* as provided in His word (**2 Tim. 3:16-17; Ps. 119:11**).
2. Without His guidance we are lost stumbling in the darkness (**Ps 119:105**).
3. We must see our need to be taught and humble ourselves (**Ps. 25:9**).

B. When we submit to God's will, "rich promises" will be fulfilled in us!

1. "Rich promises" of God will be fulfilled in us when we in obedient faith follow His will! (**Heb 10:35-36; cf. Col 1:9-14; Rom. 6**)
2. God has promised to provide us the strength we need to do His will and when we obey His will; rich, joyous blessings will come!

### **V. Belonging to the Holy One, Jesus the Son of God.**

**V. 5:** *"I need Thee every hour, most Holy One; O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son."*

A. The "Most Holy One...Thou blessed Son."

1. God is the most holy One (**Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8; John 6:69; Acts 2:27**).
2. The most holy God cannot partake of anything evil nor fellowship anyone who is in sin (**Hab. 1:13; Isa. 59:2**).
3. How is it possible to commune with the *most holy* God? How can we *confident* that God counts us as one of His own? That we belong to Him?

B. "O make me Thine indeed."

1. To belong to Jesus, we must believe in Him and "put on Christ" in baptism (**Gal. 3:26-27; Acts 2:38; 22:16**).
2. Christians can always have this confidence that they belong to Christ as they continue to abide in Christ and His word (**John 15:4-8**).

**Conclusion: We Need the Lord Every Hour of Every Day. By Putting Our Trust in Him who is Near, We Can Live the Christian Life Victoriously!**