

“Just as I Am”
(Sermon & Song)

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Introduction: The Author of “Just as I am” and the Motive behind the Song.

- A. Charlotte Elliot (1789-1871), the daughter of an Anglican minister, suffered from a debilitating illness from age 33 to the time of her death at 82 years old.
- B. During the first years of her illness, Charlotte began to question her conversion to Christ when a minister, Cesar Malan, expressed his concern for her salvation.
 - 1. Charlotte asked how it was even possible for her to come to Christ.
 - 2. In reply, Malan said: "You have nothing of merit to bring to God. You must come just as you are." Rejoicing, Charlotte did just that.
- C. Despite her crippling disease, Charlotte resolved to do her best in her circumstances to live the life of a Christian.
- D. Years later at the age of 44 years, Charlotte had doubts again about her salvation. Bedridden, alone and depressed, she felt utterly useless and unworthy.
 - 1. She decided to list all of the reasons from Scripture that she was indeed a child of God, despite her circumstances, limitations, and weaknesses.
 - 2. Remembering the words of Malan: “Come just as you are,” she wrote the hymn “Just as I am” to encourage others who shared her struggles.

I. Our Only Plea is the Blood of the Lamb of God (Verse One).

- A. “Just as I am” - The sinner can come to Christ just as he/ she is!
 - 1. The sinner does not wait until his life is completely in order before coming to Christ, otherwise he would never be ready! (**Mat. 9:9-13**).
 - 2. Jesus calls sinners to repentance (**Luke 5:32**), not absolute perfection.
 - 3. Despite the sins of the past, everyone can come to Christ (**1 Cor 6:9-11**)
- B. “Without one plea” – Without one line of defense to justify ourselves
 - 1. Even the best “resume” will not justify ourselves (**Luke 18:9-14**).
 - 2. We cannot merit or earn salvation (**2 Tim. 1:8-9; Tit. 3:5; Eph. 2:8-9**).
 - 3. Only in Christ, of what He achieved, may we boast (**1 Cor. 1:30-31**).
- C. “Thy blood was shed for me” – Our only plea we can confidently make.
 - 1. “*Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness*” (**Heb. 9:22**); the blood of Jesus is the means for our forgiveness (**Eph. 1:7**).
 - 2. By His blood we are justified and saved (**Rom. 5:9; cf. Col. 1:20**).
 - 3. Confidence before God comes from our faith in Jesus (**Heb. 10:19-22**).
- D. “Thou bidd’st me come to Thee” (cf. **John 7:37-38**).
 - 1. His invitation, however, is not unconditional. Every person needs to respond to the gospel in obedient faith to be saved (**Acts 2:38; 3:19**).
- E. “O Lamb of God I come, I come.”
 - 1. The “Lamb of God” is the One who can take away our sin! (**John 1:29**).
 - 2. Each person must choose to come to Him for salvation (**Mat. 11:28**).

II. Delay not to be cleansed by His Blood (Verse Two).

- A. “Just as I am, and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot.”
 - 1. When you live with the guilt of sin, you simply cannot afford to wait to get right with God! (**Prov. 27:1; Heb. 9:27; 2 Thes. 1:9**).

2. There is no time to lose, no reason to delay to have your sins forgiven, to “rid [your] soul of one dark blot”! (**Acts 22:16; 3:19; Ps. 51:1-2**).

B. “To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot.”

1. Like Naaman who was cleansed of his “spots” (**2 Ki. 5:14**), those baptized into Christ are cleansed of “each spot” by His blood (**Heb. 9:14**).

2. Only the blood of the Lamb can cleanse our lives of sin (**Rev. 7:14**).

III. Despite Conflict or Weaknesses, We Can Always Come to Jesus (Verse Three).

A. “Just as I am, tho’ tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt”

1. For many of us, we have been “tossed about” – “hurt, misled, confused, disappointed, betrayed, and exploited in religion (**Eph. 4:14**).

2. At times “tossed about” by doubts in God and His promises (**Jas 1:5-8**).

B. “Fightings and fears within, without” (cf. **2 Cor. 7:5**, KJV).

1. Many times conflict comes from within from our personal struggles.

2. “Fightings *without*” or with what others say or do can also discourage us so much so that we become afraid of where we stand with the Lord.

C. “O Lamb of God, I come, I come.”

1. Jesus provides us with rest and assurance of salvation (**Mat. 11:28-30**).

2. Jesus helps our unbelief (**Mk 9:24**) and conquerors our fears (**Isa 41:10**)

IV. The Sinner Comes to Christ to Meet His Spiritual Needs (Verse Four).

A. “Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind”

1. The sinner is in a deplorable condition: No spiritual riches (**Mat. 6:19**), afflicted by sin (**Rom. 7:24**), and spiritually blind (**2 Cor. 4:4**).

2. Comparable to Christians that lost their zeal for God (**Rev. 3:15-17**).

B. “Sight, riches, healing of the mind”

1. “Spiritual Sight” (**Acts 26:18; cf. 1 Pet. 2:9b**); Spiritual Riches” (**Eph. 1:7; 2:7; 3:8**); Healing of the heart and soul (**Ps. 147:3; 41:4**).

C. “All I need in Thee to find” (**Rev. 5:12; Eph. 1:3**).

V. Jesus Welcomes All Who Come to Him for Forgiveness (Verse Five).

A. “Just as I am, Thou wilt receive”

1. Even the lowliest or “chief of sinners” Christ will receive (**Luke 15:1-2; 1 Tim. 1:15**). The Son of God does not show favoritism (**Acts 10:34-35**).

B. “Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; Because Thy promise I believe”

1. Jesus welcomes all who will come to Him and believe in Him for eternal life (**Jn 6:35**). Jesus provides a full pardon (**Isa. 55:7; Heb. 8:12**).

2. The cleansing of sins brings great relief and joy (**Acts 8:39; Isa. 61:10**).

VI. Jesus Loves You “Just as You Are” (Verse Six).

A. “Just as I am – Thy love unknown” - The sinner asks: How could God love me?

B. “Hath broken ev’ry barrier down” - The love of Christ demonstrated for sinners broke “every barrier down” (**Rom. 8:31-39; cf. Rom. 5:8**).

C. “Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone” - To be a Christian is to belong to the Lord (**1 Cor. 3:23; 6:19-20; Gal. 5:24; Titus 2:14**).

1. Fellowship was made possible by the blood of the Lamb! (**Rev. 5:8-9**).

Conclusion: Only by the Help of the Lamb of God Can You Overcome the Troubles of Life. Only He Can Deliver You from Sin. Why Not Come to Jesus Right Now, Just as You Are?