

Grace Notes: growing our faith through music by Coni Ferland

Made for More Blake Wiggins/Jessie Early/Jonathan Smith/Josh Baldwin

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If you'd like to hear the song: <https://youtu.be/UnLQvzAUiCo>

I know who I am, 'cause I know who You are. The cross of salvation was only the start.
Now I am chosen, free and forgiven; I have a future, and it's worth the living.

'Cause I wasn't made to be tending a grave, I was called by name,
born and raised back to life again. I was made for more.
So why would I make a bed of my shame, when a fountain of grace is running my way?
I know I am Yours, and I was made for more.

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Oh hallelujah, You called out my name; so I'll sing Your praise.
Hallelujah, You buried my past, and I'm not going back.
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1 Corinthians 15:57-58 *“Thanks be to God, who gives us this victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! As a result of all this, my loved brothers and sisters, you must stand firm, unshakeable, excelling in the work of the Lord as always, because you know that your labor isn’t going to be for nothing in the Lord.”*
Common English Bible¹

Romans 8:29-31 *“For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him – and all along he knew who that would be – should become like his Son, so that his Son would be the First, with many brothers. And having chosen us, he called us to come to him; and when we came, he declared us ‘not guilty,’ filled us with Christ’s goodness, gave us right standing with himself, and promised us his glory. What can we ever say to such wonderful things as these? If God is on our side, who can ever be against us?”*
The Living Bible²

Jeremiah 29:11-12 *“I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you.”*
Common English Bible¹

“I know who I am, ‘cause I know who You are.” The writers claim an identity in Christ; What about you? How you would complete the sentence “I am _____.”? How does your relationship with Christ effect that answer? Why?

From Jeremiah to Paul and his words to the Romans we have reminders that God is watching over us, working for our good, to give us *“peace, not disaster... a future filled with hope.”* How does that idea make you feel?

Paul reminds the Corinthians that when we work for the Lord, our work will not be in vain. Do you feel that way? If not, describe a time when you felt your work was ineffective. Take some time to consider your actions through Christ’s eyes. Have you thought that He might have used them for good in a way you couldn’t see or know? Does that change the way you view that time? Take any hesitations or doubts to God; ask for clarity and understanding to help you as move forward on your faith journey.

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Psalm 30:2-3 *“O Lord my God, I pleaded with you, and you gave me my health again, you brought me back from the brink of the grave, from death itself, and here I am alive!”* The Living Bible²

Psalm 36:5-10 *“Your steadfast love, O Lord, is as great as all the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds. Your justice is as solid as God’s mountains. Your decisions are as full of wisdom as the oceans are with water. You are concerned for men and animals alike. How precious is your constant love, O God! All humanity takes refuge in the shadow of your wings. You feed them with blessings from your own table and let them drink from your rivers of delight. You are the fountain of life; our light is from your light. Pour out your unfailing love on those who know you! Never stop giving blessings to those who long to do your will.”* The Living Bible²

“I wasn’t made to be tending a grave... I was made for more” What “grave” are you tending? What in your past - what mistake, what wound, what situation – are you tending rather than moving forward? The psalmist calls God “*the fountain of life*”. How could that fountain help you in the quest to leave behind whatever it is in your past that burdens you? What might you do, what “more” were you made for, if you were able to move beyond tending that grave?

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1 Corinthians 1:4-9 *“I can never stop thanking God for all the wonderful gifts he has given you, now that you are Christ’s; he has enriched your whole life. He has helped you speak out for him and has given you a full understanding of the truth; what I told you Christ could do for you has happened! Now you have every grace and blessing; every spiritual gift and power for doing his will are yours during this time of waiting for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. And he guarantees right up to the end that you will be counted free from all sin and guilt on that day when he returns. God will*

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surely do this for you, for he always does just what he says, and he is the one who invited you into this wonderful friendship with his Son, even Christ the Lord.” The Living Bible²

In Christ, our past is buried, and we don't need to go back. Christ has told us, showed us, the truth - that through Him we have what we need to follow God's call on our lives. “Now you have every grace and blessing; every spiritual gift and power for doing his will...” Take some time to talk with God about your gifts. Spend some time considering the blessing of Christ and the sacrifice He made for you – yes you! – and what that means in your life. Seek the Holy Spirit and Her guidance for where and how you are called to use these gifts.

Where is She leading you? Open your heart and your mind to the various ways your call can be lived out. It can be scary. Offer your fears, your efforts, your plans, to God.

Remember, through our friendship with Christ our fears are diminished and our efforts are multiplied.

“But whatever I am now it is all because God poured out such kindness and grace upon me – and not without results...”

1 Corinthians 15:10a The Living Bible²

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