Grace Notes: growing our faith through music by Coni Ferland

Who You Are To Me by Charles Kelly/Chris Tomlin/David Wesley Haywood/Hillary Scott Lyrics © Capitol CMG Publishing, Warner Chappell Music Inc

If you'd like to watch the music video: https://youtu.be/wms76AfllVE

Some people think You're distant, just some words on a page.
That You're nothing more than fables handed down along the way.
But I've seen You part the waters, when no one else could pull me from the deep.
That's who You are to me.

Some people think You just live in cathedrals made of stone. But I know You live inside my heart, I know that it's Your home. And I've seen You in a sunset, and in the eyes of a stranger on the street. That's who You are to me.

Refrain:

You're amazing, faithful, love's open door. When I'm empty You fill me with hunger for more,

of Your mercy, Your goodness, Lord, You're the air that I breathe. That's who You are to me.

Refrain:

You're forever Holy, You're the Lamb who is worthy.
My forgiveness, my healer, the Messiah, my Redeemer.
You are greater, higher over it all. In Your presence, Jesus, I stand in awe, of Your mercy, Your goodness, Lord, You're the air that I breathe.

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1 Peter 1:18 & 21 "Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep consciousness of God. It cost God plenty to get you out of that dead-end, empty-headed life you grew up in. He paid with Christ's sacred blood, you know. It's because of this sacrificed Messiah, whom God then raised from the dead and glorified, that you trust God, that you know you have a future in God."

The Message¹

Without a personal experience of God, God can seem distant, "nothing more than a fable". Have you had an experience of waters parting when you didn't see a way forward? Describe what that was like. Did you recognize those actions as God's at that time? Why?

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John 14:23 "Jesus replied, 'Loving me empowers you to obey my word. And my Father will love you so deeply that we will come to you and make you our dwelling." The Passion Translation²

Do you recognize God "in a sunset, and in the eyes of a stranger on the street"? Is this easy for you? Why? Do you feel God lives in your heart? If yes, how does that influence your daily life? If not, what steps do you think you can take to become God's "dwelling"? Share your feelings with God, and ask God to help you.

Sometimes I have my doubts, I'm sure that everybody does. And I wonder when I stumble, am I still worthy of Your love? But I know that I get stronger when I'm talking to You down on my knees. You're everything I need.

Matthew 14:24-31 "Then afterwards He went up into the hills to pray. Night fell, and out on the lake the disciples were in trouble. For the wind had risen and they were fighting heavy seas. About four o'clock in the morning Jesus came to them, walking on the water! They screamed in terror, for they thought he was a ghost. But Jesus immediately spoke to them, reassuring them. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. Then Peter called to him: 'Sir, if it is really you, tell me to come over to you, walking on the water.' 'All right,' the Lord said, 'come along!' So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he looked around at the high waves, he was terrified and began to sink. 'Save me, Lord!' he shouted. Instantly Jesus reached out his hand and rescued him. 'O man of little faith,' Jesus said. 'Why did you doubt me?'"

The Living Bible³

Can you relate to Peter? Have you ever stepped out in faith, but then lost your focus? Allowed your fears to interfere with your connection to God? If so, remember that like Peter, all you have to do is ask Jesus to save you; and Jesus will reach for your hand and pull you out of the waves just like He did for Peter. Jesus may ask you to consider why you doubted Him – just like He asked Peter – but your doubting will never stop Jesus from reaching out. Spend some time considering this amazing act of grace and mercy, and how it might help you in your life today.

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Chris Tomlin: "What this song is about, is for so many people, they think of God, they think of these crazy Bible stories... or they think of God as these big cathedrals that that's where God is – there's so much of that. What I love about this song is it's our lives are changed when we realize that personal relationship with God and we realize who He is to us personally. He's more than just words on a page... He meets us right where we are – in all of our fear, in all of our doubt, God's not scared of any of it. And when we bring that to Him, in our deepest place of hurt, maybe in the places where we thought we thought we have gone too far and we realize the grace of God. He's the one who pulls us out. That's who God is to us, that's when you know who this Guy we're singing to really is." Story Behind the Song

Who is God to <u>you</u>?

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² The Passion Translation ® Passion and Fire Ministries Inc.

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