

Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song) Chris Eaton/ Amy Grant 1992

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If you want to watch the music video: https://youtu.be/kPbV_HTpyxo

I have traveled, many moonless nights. Cold and weary, with a babe inside.
And I wonder what I've done, Holy Father You have come,
and chosen me now to carry Your son.

I am waiting, in a silent prayer. I am frightened by the load I bear.
In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now, be with me now.

Refrain:

Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me Your holiness for You are Holy
Breath of Heaven.

Do You wonder, as You watch my face, if a wiser one should have had my place?
But I offer all I am, for the mercy of Your plan. Help me be strong.
Help me, help me.

Refrain x 2

Breath of Heaven. Breath of Heaven.

Luke 1:46-49 *"Mary responded, 'Oh how I praise the Lord. How I rejoice in God my Savior! For He took notice of His lowly servant girl, and now generation after generation forever shall call me blest of God. For He, mighty Holy One, has done great things to me.'"* The Living Bible¹

We're used to this image of Mary – calm and rejoicing in God's favor. But this song presents a very different view. Take a moment and put yourself in Mary's place then reread the words, or if you are able, close your eyes and listen to the song. Feel the words, feel the emotion... Have you ever found yourself in a similar position – facing an unexpected challenge and unsure of how the future would play out? Take a moment to think about that time and how you felt.

Psalm 25:16 *"Turn to me and have mercy, for I am alone and in deep distress."*

New Living Translation²

This could have been Mary's cry, this could have been your cry at that challenging time, this could be our cry today. But a few short chapters later we are reminded of this: *"The Lord is*

close to the brokenhearted. He rescues those whose spirits are crushed." (Psalm 34:18 New Living Translation²) How does this make you feel? Why?

"In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone? Be with me now, be with me now."

What would have made Mary's world "as cold as stone"? Do you think there where people Mary could have turned to so she didn't have to "walk this path alone"? What do you think their reaction might have been to her story? Do you have people you can turn to during difficult times? Is that an easy thing for you to do? What might have made it hard for Mary to turn to those around her for help? Mary then asks God to be with her, to walk that path with her. Is this something you can do? Why?

"Do You wonder, as You watch my face, if a wiser one should have had my place?"

When faced with a challenge, have you ever looked around and thought that others were better equipped to do what God had called you to do? Why did you feel that way?

Ephesians 3:7b-8 *"It came as a sheer gift to me, a real surprise, God handling all the details. When it came to presenting the Message to people who had no background in God's way, I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians. God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure it had nothing to do with my natural abilities."* The Message³

Does Paul's confession to the Ephesians help you to see things differently? How?

Amy Grant wrote: "Consider how the intimate nature of this song has transformed it into a prayer. It's a prayer that fits a lot of people's circumstances, because it is a cry for mercy. Some nights on stage I can hardly get through the song for knowing all of the collective, unspoken pain of the lives in front of me. And so the words become my prayer for the listener and the reader, as well as the singer." For release of the book, Breath of Heaven 2001

"I am waiting, in a silent prayer."

Make a list of the prayers you find within this song. Do you feel you could pray these words? Take some time to consider your list, and find one that speaks to you. Take those words with this week and pray them whenever you can. Take note of how you feel at the end of the week. Is this practice of saying a short prayer frequently throughout your day – whether with these words or others that feel right to you - something you can take with you going forward? Continue to pay attention to how your prayer makes you feel.

There is little the Bible tells us about Mary the mother of Jesus. And what is there gives us few details of her pregnancy and delivery. Based on history, we can surmise what it might have been like for a young teen to become pregnant outside of marriage in that day. But one thing we know for certain is that God was with Mary and helped her to be strong enough to face the challenges of the path God called her to, the path she accepted.

Psalm 119:73-74 *“With Your very own hands You formed me; now breathe Your wisdom over me so that I can understand You. When they see me waiting, expecting your word, those who fear You will take heart and be glad.”* The Message³

Can you see Mary in these verses? Describe it. How does it make you feel about your own challenges?

“The Lord says ‘I will make My people strong with power from Me! They will go wherever they wish, and they will be under My personal care.’”
Zechariah 10:12 The Living Bible¹

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