

Consecration



KEEP YOUR HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE,

FOR OUT OF IT SPRING

THE ISSUES OF LIFE. *Proverbs 4:23*



Lord, Keep My Heart

HOWARD HIGASHI

1937-1998



CONSECRATION

*Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts
by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Romans 5:5)*

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed
into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:18)*

In nature, the sun's rays cause a plant to lift its leaves directly toward its source of life. It is the sunlight itself that stimulates life in the plant. Likewise, our hearts were created to respond to God's light. When God, through His great mercy, shines into our hearts, we respond in consecration to Him. Hence, the Christian heart is a God-kindled heart.

Nevertheless, God has committed to us the stewardship of our hearts, which left unguarded become frustrated by the many worldly distractions and busyness of daily life. But when protected, our hearts become conduits through which Christ Himself may flow as the spring of life.

We are presented a paradox—God requires us to guard our hearts, but we quickly sense our inability to do so! We are compelled to cry out, as Howard Higashi did in this song, "Lord, keep my heart!" Thus, we guard our hearts by committing them to His loving keep. How wonderful that we may completely trust the Son of God, Who is not only able, but also sweetly willing, to hear and answer our earnest prayers.

God is both Light and Love! Through His shining into us, He unveils, enlivens, and seals our hearts. By the pouring out of His love into our hearts, we are softened and opened to the Life-giver. Thus mercifully filled by God, we willingly consecrate our lives afresh to Him, and Christ is daily formed in us, making His home in our hearts.

Lord, Keep My Heart

Lord, Keep My Heart

Verse One

Lord, keep my heart always true to You,
Never backsliding, always viewing You,
A heart that is pure, that sees only You,
A heart that loves You and
treasures only You.

Verse Two

Lord, keep my love burning
brightly for You,
A love never dwindling, always
hot for You,
A love, shining brighter all
the way for You,
A love so fresh, like the day
I first touched You.

Chorus:

Your love constrains me to
give my all to You!
Lord, I can't help it; my heart
is drawn to You!
Oh, what a privilege!
I give myself to You!
I love You, Lord, dearest Lord,
I love You! I just love You!

Verse Three

Lord, take my life; I present it to You!
If I had a thousand, I'd pour all on You!
Nothing withholding; my all is for You:
My life and my future, dear Lord,
are all for You.

Consecration

Lord, Keep My Heart



LORD, KEEP MY HEART

Consecration

A CAPTURED HEART

*The spiritual song
“Lord, Keep My
Heart” was sponta-
neously composed
by Howard Higashi
while singing to the Lord.*

*It is a transparent, intimate
prayer offered from a consecrated heart.*

*This prayer in song is addressed directly to the Lord,
the last word of every line ending with “You.” These
genuine utterances flow from one who was immersed*

*in God’s Word. The
Scriptures became
both the author’s
active vocabulary
with which to articu-
late his requests to God
and the heavenly energy that*

*caused his love relationship with Jesus to
burn. We invite you to look into and lay hold of the
spiritual wealth within these prayers—and to make
these requests your very own.*

Lord, Keep My Heart



THE HEART GOD DESIRES

On a tempestuous sea, the Lord beckoned to His disciple Peter, “Come.” Peter eagerly leaped from the storm-tossed boat and walked over surging waves to be in the presence of the Lord Jesus. Even though the wind and waves were beating against him, Peter could not sink as long as his eyes were fixed on Jesus. But in fear of the surging waves, he glanced away from Jesus’ face—just for a moment—and he instantly began to sink. He cried out, “Lord, save me!” The Savior immediately stretched out His hand, took hold of Peter, and brought him safely into the boat.

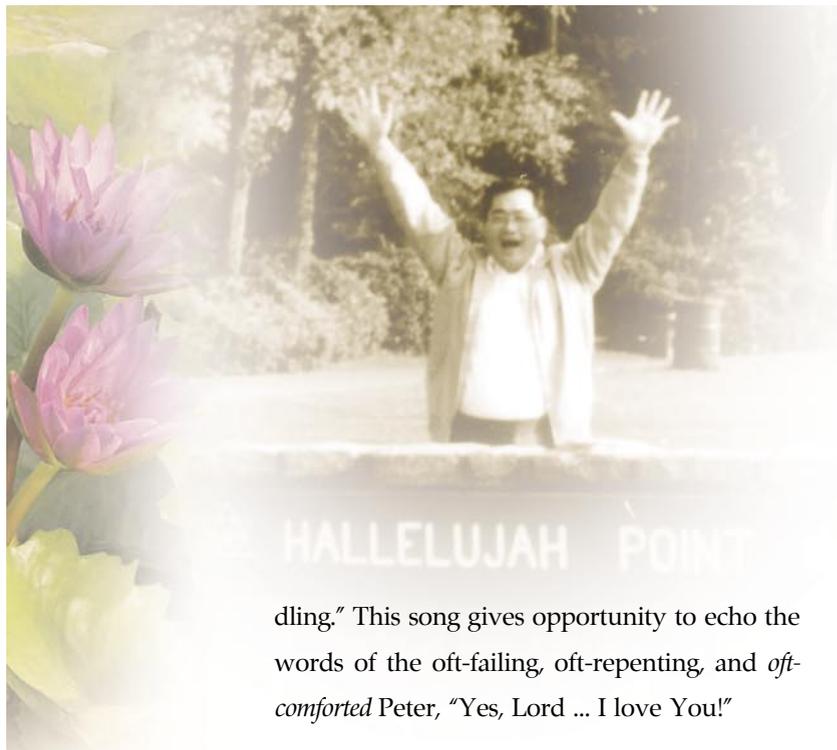
The heart that God desires is a *pure* heart, one solely directed toward Him. We must ask the Lord to keep our hearts true, “never backsliding,” and “always viewing” the Savior we hold precious. Every heart is prone to wander from God, every eye to see and fear the storms of life; therefore, like Peter, we must keep “looking unto Jesus” to be kept from sinking.



THE LOVE GOD DESIRES

Sometime later, Peter uttered his dreadful denials—denials that began by his following the Lord Jesus *at a distance*. Then, by the time the mockers’ accusations came, Peter denied even knowing the Lord. One look from Jesus melted him, and he went out and wept bitter tears. But later, the Lord Jesus tenderly guided Peter to replace his three denials with three proclamations of love, by asking him, “Do you love Me?” The more we profess that we love Jesus—even when our feelings protest it isn’t so—the less we live a life of denying Him. The heart that God desires is a *loving* heart, and we pray for a “love burning brightly ... never dwin-

Lord, Keep My Heart



ding.” This song gives opportunity to echo the words of the oft-failing, oft-repenting, and oft-comforted Peter, “Yes, Lord ... I love You!”

THE LIFE GOD DESIRES

In the temple, the Lord was moved by a poor widow withholding nothing in her giving. He turned to His disciples and appraised her offering in this way:

Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood. (Mark 12:43–44)

Why This Waste?

THEN MARY TOOK A POUND OF VERY COSTLY OIL OF SPIKENARD, ANOINTED THE FEET OF JESUS, AND WIPED HIS FEET WITH HER HAIR. AND THE HOUSE WAS FILLED WITH THE FRAGRANCE OF THE OIL. (JOHN 12:3)

THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES, LOVERS OF CHRIST HAVE Poured OUT BRIGHT FUTURES AND HEART-TREASURES ON HIM. LIKE MARY, THEY HAVE ALWAYS HAD THEIR ANTAGONISTS RISING UP TO PROTEST, “WHY THIS WASTE?” UNDETERRED, THEY LOVINGLY RESPOND, AS MARY DID, BY GIVING THEIR ALL TO THE SAVIOR.



The Lord’s standard of measure was not according to the amount, but to the extent of her sacrifice, which was at great personal cost. The life the Lord desires is one of *absolute surrender*. “Nothing withholding” yields a fragrant

Lord, Keep My Heart

and spontaneous response from a heart compelled to love Him. And we cannot help but love Him, for He is so lovely!



LORD, KEEP MY HEART

God's divine love is utterly tender to us, but fiercely protective of our fidelity to Himself. Therefore, He tells us, "Keep yourselves in the

love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life" (Jude 21). Indeed, God sovereignly arranges our circumstances so that we will find His mercy, whether in being preserved through life's storms, tenderly shepherded back from denials and coldness, or encouraged in sacrifice. Our hearts are kept from falling by continually opening to our love-filling God; thus, we may simply follow the pattern of these dear ones who declared by their words and actions, "Lord Jesus, I love You!"

Lord Jesus,

Keep my heart always true to You. Keep my love burning brightly for You. I present my life to You even now, once again, yielding all into Your hands. You alone are worthy of my heart, my love, and my life.

Amen

Lord, Keep My Heart





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