

1	Dark and Crazy Times	3:06
2	The COVID Blues	2:37
3	The One	4:10
4	The Ol' Gray Wolf	3:42
5	Make Us Wise	3:32
6	Cardinal Rule	2:50
7	The Truth	4:04
8	Real Whirlwind	3:08
9	Hebrews 12 (Yeshua, We Run to You)	3:09
10	Gettin' Back (take 2)	4:33
11	I Could Die Happy	3:40
12	Юлия О [YuleAo]	2:44
13	Dawn	2:27
14	Last Gasp of Breath	2:52
15	Right Next to You	3:31
16	Killing Time	2:45
17	Cold Blows the Wind	2:55
18	I Know	3:37
19	I Wish That I Could Look at You	3:25
20	Christmas in Jerusalem	3:34



August 2025

I assembled this collection of songs in order to give others a glimpse at a few of the personal favorites among the 230 or so that I have written over the years. My primary vocation has been that of an environmental scientist working on topics in agriculture and food systems. But I also became a Bible-believing Christian at age 22, a fact which is readily apparent in many of these songs. As a youth, my strongest musical influence was unquestionably Bob Dylan. "Freewheelin'" was among the handful of albums that were played in the home, and those songs are forever etched in my brain. But my folks also had a couple of musical comedy albums, including one from Tom Lehrer, notorious for his biting satire and political commentary – influences that crept into some of my song-writing – on the title track, for instance.

Why have I released this compilation now? Well, I'm nearly 67 and have begun to lose interest in science-related projects. Based on a suggestion from a local STL musician who has produced a few of my recordings, I recently joined the Nashville Songwriters Association, where I have been getting feedback on several of my songs – including some included in this collection. Each morning, after prayer and personal Bible Study, I play many of these songs, as well as a few covers ("Make You Feel My Love," "Hallelujah," and "Till There Was You") – the latter reflecting a nearly lifelong love for The Beatles. I'm beginning to wonder whether this might be practice for a coming effort to perform live in local establishments, as some of my close friends already do. We'll see ...

In the meantime, I hope that whoever is the recipient of this collection will enjoy it, and if you'd like to collaborate or contact me for any reason, please reach out!

Thanks – Dave
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314-409-7123

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Dark and Crazy Times

written February-March 2025

Well I'm fed up with my feed
And I can't take another byte
I can't get what I need
To try 'n make it feel alright

The Truth's denied and it don't make sense
As near as I can tell
A lyin' king with brazen confidence
And no fear of God or Hell

These are dark and crazy times
Dark and crazy times
Gotta' get the Light and let It shine
'Cause friend I'm tellin' ya' these are
Dark and crazy times

Narratives so shrill and false
Surround us with a stench
Spawning hate and brutal word assaults
That are pounded at each trench

Well I could be wrong but I can't recall
An age absurd as this
When clueless throngs repeat it all
Without a word amiss

These are dark and crazy times
Dark and crazy times
Gotta' get the Light and let It shine
'Cause friend I'm tellin' ya' these are
Dark and crazy times

As I step outside of time and space
And look back from beyond
The veil is taken from my face
To see what's really goin' on

Well the Enemy has got us split
Into these seething camps
Trickin' us to think it's time to quit
At giving peace a chance

But despite who seems to be in power
David's Regal Son
Is returning at this Final Hour
To save His People from

These dark and crazy times
Dark and crazy times
Gotta' get the Light and let It shine
'Cause friend I'm tellin' ya' these are
Dark and crazy times

Yeah, these are dark and crazy times
Dark and crazy times
Receive His Light and let It shine
'Cause friend I'm tellin' ya' these are
Dark and crazy times

Track 1

2



The first line and title for this song found inspiration in the immediate aftermath of the breathtaking repetition of Putin's Propaganda about Ukraine by our re-inaugurated President. But there is obviously exaggeration and outright lies coming from many sides here in the US at this present time – and the song seeks to clarify Who is the Ultimate Solution for all such discord.



The COVID Blues

written May 2020

Wearin' a mask in public
Fearin' the latest news
Wishin' they'd change the subject
I'm tellin' ya' what I got
I got the COVID Blues

Never been so frustrated
Bring me a barrel-o-booze
But I can't barely taste it
I'm tellin' ya' what I got
I got the COVID Blues

Tryin' to keep my distance
From everyone that I see
Buildin' up my resistance
Prayin' on bended knee

I frantically search for wisdom
On which of the shots to choose
Get jabbed or get sent to prison
I'm tellin' ya' what I got
I got the COVID Blues

Lord, how I'm feelin' desperate
Dreadin' the bitter end
But maybe there'll be a respite
Comin' around the bend

And so as I leave you wond'ring
Whether I've blown a fuse
I'm certain of only one thing
I'm tellin' ya' what I got
I got the COVID Blues

I'm tellin' ya' what I got
I got the COVID Blues



Track 2

It was quite early in the COVID Pandemic when I and two friends bravely gathered in a backyard to light a fire and enjoy a sip of wine together. I had brought my guitar along, with the basic chord progression recently written, but no words. I began composing the lyrics on the spot, and my friends encouraged me to use the nickname for COVID ('Rona, short for Coronavirus). As of January 2025, I changed the words and name of the song to "The COVID Blues," after being told the word "Rona" was too confusing.

 YouTube



The One

written February-March 2020

The One, The One
The One, The One
The One, from the beginning
The One, here at the end
The One, keeps us from sinning
The One, our dearest Friend
He spoke us into existence
Exploding out of the void
The One, The One

The One, without a blemish
The One, washes us clean
The One, sent to replenish
The One, sent to redeem
The One, put it in practice
The One, shows us the way
The One, giving us access
The One, hears when we pray
Though bruised beyond recognition
His wounds have covered our sins
The One, The One

The One, vanquishing Satan
The One, conquered the grave
The One, might keep us waitin'
But the One is mighty to save
The One, beyond comprehension
The One, bringing Shalom
The One, lessening tension
The One, making us whole

Not one of His promises fails us
Our Comforter here in the storm
The One, The One

The One, never forsakes us
The One, always is true
The One, loving and gracious
The One, cares what we do
The One, created the cosmos
The One, counts every star
The One, sees without flaws so
The One, knows who we are
He disciplines us as Our Father
His Mysteries being revealed
The One, The One

Rap written and performed by JD Brawner

The One, stands in the doorway
The One, knocks at our heart
The One, loves us in more ways
So the One, never will part
The One, holy and righteous
The One, reigns from His throne
The One, ever delights us
The One, calling us Home
He'll come in shimmering glory
To judge the living and dead
The One, The One
The One, The One

Rap written and performed by Torey Harris

Track 3

6



I was obviously pretty excited about this song when I began work on it in early 2020. I went to some considerable effort to assemble a proper band, some gospel singers, and a couple of rap artists. I imagined I was inventing a new genre. In retrospect, that obviously didn't happen. The most interesting fact about the exercise looking back on it now is that we all got together to do this in early March 2020, just before the lockdowns were about to happen. Little did we know how unusual it would soon be for so many folks to be packed into a crowded room!



The Ol' Gray Wolf

written January 2021

He's howlin' out your window
Wanderin' through the wood
Try conjurin' where he's been, tho'
Nobody ever could
You're questionin' all of your senses
Wonderin' if he's real
But there ain't no other consensus
For explainin' just what you feel
He's out there in the darkness
Fixin' to hunt you down
He's hungry and he's heartless
Roamin' from town to town
Every soul laid low
By the ol' gray wolf
Every soul laid low
By the ol' gray wolf

The night is lingerin' longer
Wind sweepin' over the plain
Your veins are poundin' still stronger
As a fear envelopes your brain
Your lungs too tight to be breathin'
You sense him right at the gate
And when you finally see him
Well it's all too little too late

He rushes you in an instant
Claws flyin' over the ground
Sharpened teeth a-glistenin'
Crushin' without a sound
Every soul laid low
By the ol' gray wolf
Every soul laid low
By the ol' gray wolf

He tempted us in The Garden
Takin' us down for the count
But we're forgiven and pardoned
As Jesus taught on The Mount
So why do we live in anger?
And why do we wallow in hate?
Why do we grieve our Savior?
When it's Him we should imitate
Instead we follow The Liar
Fallin' for all of his tricks
Our sins are pilin' up higher
A mess only God can fix
Every soul laid low
By the ol' gray wolf
Every soul laid low
By the ol' gray wolf

Track 4



This song was recorded during the same session that we recorded the first version of "The COVID Blues" (then titled "The 'Rona Blues"). I wrote this song during a strange period of intense inspiration that I later interpreted to be related to the January 6 Capitol Riot, which happened immediately after I had completed the lyrics. In retrospect, I don't think much of the song (no bridge, etc.) and don't play it anymore – but Carl's guitar work was quite good – as always!



Make Us Wise

written January 2021

Let us grow in wisdom and
power and love

Break open my heart
Focus my eyes

Lord, set me apart
And make me wise

Though lawlessness spills
All over this place

Lord, harness my will
To seek only Thy face

When floodwaters crest
Then slowly subside
Lord, into Thy rest
Please let me abide

As virtue is scorned
And honesty dies
Lord, keep us forewarned
And make us wise

As intensity builds
And torments our souls
Lord, let us be filled
As Your Love overflows

Till righteousness reigns
And we claim the prize
Lord, ease all our pains
And make us wise
Lord, ease all our pains
And make us wise



Track 5



The words to this song first came to me in early 2021, as I was making another of the long COVID-era drives from St. Louis back to my home state of Washington, where I was expecting to settle for the last phase of my life. However, I ended up moving back to St. Louis in July 2024. It's been a great place for building many strong friendships, several of whom are very musically talented. Some of them joined me in front of this historic home to create a bluegrass version of this song, which has become a personal favorite. A few additional lyrics (see red side bar) were added in June 2025, to avoid repetition.



Cardinal Rule

written May 2002

Surely my children you've learned it in school
And still can remember The Cardinal Rule
Trust in the Sisters, they'll make sure that you'll
Be loved by the Father, The Cardinal Rule
Cardinal Rule, Cardinal Rule, Cardinal Rule

Holier than us, above every fool
No one can touch them, the Cardinals Rule
Dressed up in scarlet and purple robes too
Perched on the Red Beast, the Cardinals Rule
Cardinals Rule, Cardinals Rule, Cardinals Rule

Mother of harlots from Perth to Peru
Babylon's mistress, the Cardinal Rule
Adorned with the riches she stole from The Few
Her filthy lips dripping, the Cardinal Rule
Cardinal Rule, Cardinal Rule, Cardinal Rule

Track 6

12

This song marks the end of my first "political parody period" of which "The Truth" (see next song) is the leading example. This example was inspired by my personal outrage (which continues to this day) over the numerous sex scandals that have plagued the Catholic Church, especially here in the US. It includes a few references to John's "Revelation" that I now see as being potentially hyperbolic – but so be it ... ;-)



 YouTube



The Truth

written February 1998

Fresh out of school
Nothing to do
No one to sympathize with
Mommy's not home
We're all alone
Won't you come in my office?
I'll hold all my calls
These are thick walls
There won't be no penetration
Whatever you heard
Don't breathe a word
About the truth, the whole truth,
Nothing 'bout the truth, the whole truth
You can't tell the truth, the whole truth,
Nothing 'bout the truth, the whole truth

It's in the news
But I'll never lose
Get my attorneys in here
Give me a line
Just one more time
I need my version out there
This public will buy
Most any lie
There won't be no resignation
The story must sell
Cause I'll never tell
About the truth, the whole truth,
Nothing 'bout the truth, the whole truth
I can't tell the truth, the whole truth,
Nothing 'bout the truth, the whole truth

From way up high
His scornful eye
Watches this seedy process
There'll come a day
Not far away
When He will burst upon us
Shining His light
Perfect and bright
Over this captive nation
Though you may try
You'll never hide
From His truth, His whole truth
You can't hide the truth, the whole truth,
Nothing from His truth, His whole truth,
You can't hide the truth, the whole truth
We want the truth, the whole truth
Nothing but the truth
We want the truth, the whole truth
Nothing but the truth
We want the truth, the whole truth
Nothing but the truth
We want the truth, the whole truth
Nothing but the truth
We want the truth, the whole truth
Nothing but the truth

Track 7



This was obviously inspired in February 1998 by the notorious Clinton-Lewinsky scandal. For me, it represents a "singularity" in the sense that I ended up producing a proper recording and even recruiting someone to create a silly cartoon music video synched to the song. This was the early days of the Internet and Amazon, through which I arranged to sell VHS videos (this image being the cover) – virtually all of which were subsequently returned to me unsold. This truly was a crazy endeavor! But it was a fun distraction for a time.



Real Whirlwind

written July-August 2007

"Lord, Lord, ain't it gettin' hot down here?
Ain't seen rain now for what seems a year

What I'd give now for a single drink
Don't it make you wanna stop and think?"

Stop and think

From the dust
He pounds the dust
Unto the dust he goes

He breathes the air
Assails the air
Unto the air he sows

Sowing uncounted millennia of solar
beams to the air

Reaping the real whirlwind
Reaping the real whirlwind
Reaping the real whirlwind

"Ain't no problem far as we can tell
Man can't turn earth to a living hell

Let's go party while we're still alive
Rev that engine into overdrive"

Overdrive

Filled with pride
Puffed up with pride
In his pride denies

Conceived in sin
He lives in sin
In his sin he dies

Sowing uncounted millennia of solar
beams to the air

Reaping the real whirlwind
Reaping the real whirlwind
Reaping the real whirlwind

"Lord, Lord, ain't it gettin' hot down here?"

Track 8

16



This song has become the second (in my personal playlist) that I sing to myself when I start my morning runs. The subject matter is mostly self-evident, but is closely related to a book that I wrote during that time: "Reaping the Real Whirlwind: a biblical response to the theory of man-made global warming."



Hebrews 12 (Yeshua, We Run to You)

written July 2025

The sky opens wide
We're surrounded by a cloud
The heroes who died
But have yet to don their crowns

We cast all aside
That would hinder how we run
Forsaking our pride
And the sin He's overcome

Let's run the race and never weary
Stay the course that's marked so clearly

Yeshua, we run to You
Yeshua, eyes fixed on You

Scorning its shame
You endured the painful cross
Earning Your Name
Counting all this realm as dross

Our True Pioneer
And Protector of the Faith
Now ever near
To revive us if we fade

We'll run the race and never weary
Stay the course that's marked so clearly

Yeshua, we run to You¹
Eyes fixed on You
Please make us new
Let our hearts be true
Eyes fixed on You
As we run to You

¹ Begin adding "Yeshua" and the pre-chorus as repeating rounds (inspired by Brian Wilson's "God Only Knows")



Track 9

18



In May 2025 I enjoyed a long-awaited brief return to Israel, where I stayed at the home of a wonderful couple. It included a delicious and authentic Shabbat meal, briefly punctuated by IDF jet fighters scrambling a couple miles away. The next morning at their kehila (church) the sermon was on Hebrews 12:1-3. The very next day I attended worship at a London church ("Saint") and the sermon was on the very same passage! I was sharing the story a couple weeks later back in St. Louis with a long-time friend, he rolled up his sleeve to reveal his large Hebrews 12 tattoo. The Lord certainly has a sense of humor!



Getting' Back (take 2)

completed September 2024

Since I called you in the Garden
You were hidin' from Me
Until you left Me hangin'
To My death upon a tree

But I'm gettin' back
I'm gettin' back
World, I'm gettin' even with you now

I fasted in the desert
And confronted your king
He tempted with the power
To rule everything
But I rebuked him then and there
Just as I say to your face
Repent and be forgiven in these
Last hours of grace

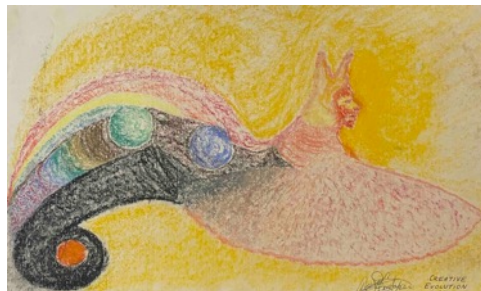
'Cause I'm gettin' back
I'm gettin' back
World, I'm gettin' even with you now

I don't want to feel revenge
Don't want to cause no pain
But you know that you'll be gettin' singed
By all that fiery flame, yeah

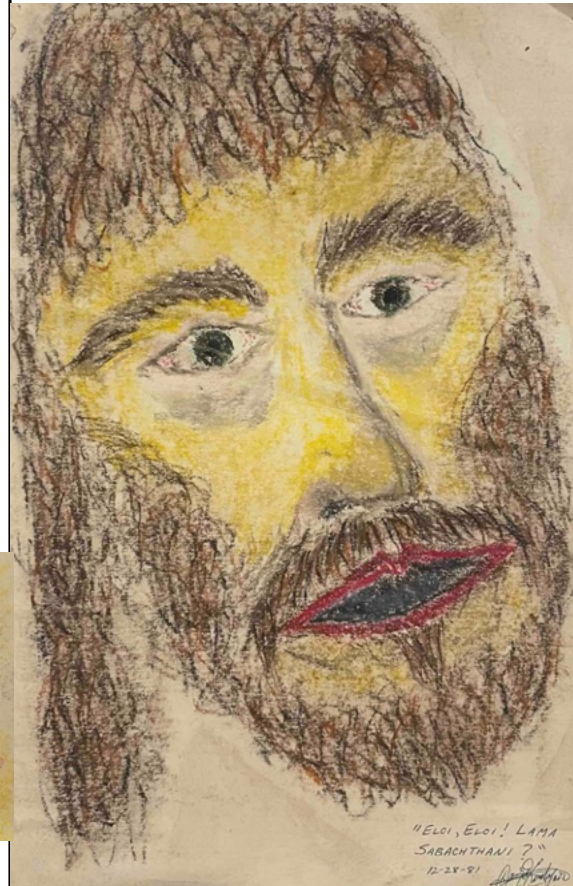
'Cause I'm gettin' back
I'm gettin' back
World, I'm gettin' even with you now

Somewhere in the distance
I can see your fate
Tremblin' before Me
'Cause you waited too late
What a shame to know
That you will never see
What ya' could've had
By simply prayin' to Me

'Cause I'm gettin' back
I'm gettin' back
World, I'm gettin' even with you now



Track 10



20

The lyrics are a complete re-write from the original version (1980), written from the perspective of a jilted lover (penned months before I became a follower of Christ). Starting in late 2023, I realized that some instrumental lines that I had been writing might dovetail nicely with the riff of the older song. I drew the two contrasting chalk-based images of Jesus in Seattle on 28-Dec-1981.



I Could Die Happy

written July 2024

It's not that I want this to end
It's not that I need more to start
But hours spent alone with a friend
Bring joy to the core of my heart
I'll treasure each moment
And with every breath
Give thanks to the Lord
And never fear death
I could die happy
Here in this place
Surrounded by beauty
Wherever I gaze
Yes, I could die happy
With you at my side
With no prayer unspoken
And nothin' to hide
I could die happy

The years slip away just like sand
But our fate has been bound to the Rock
We clung when He offered His Hand
And now in His footsteps we walk
With mercies unending
Rained down from above
We're cleansed from our sin
And we're bathed in His Love
I could die happy
Now that I'm free
Death has been stripped
Of its hold over me

Yes, I could die happy
With you at my side
With no prayer unspoken
And nothin' to hide
I could die happy

These mountains will quake
Sent tumblin' down to the sea
But no force can break
The embrace that He has around me

And so as we turn the next page
Whatever the future may bring
We'll be loved to the end of this Age
And of His Glory we'll sing
I'll treasure the moments
We shared on that hill
Together in nature
With all worry stilled
I could die happy
Now that I know
How we are loved
Wherever we go
Yes, I could die happy
With you at my side
With no prayer unspoken
And nothin' to hide
I could die happy
I could die happy
Yes, I could die happy

Track 11



A friend and I were hiking in the mountains, and these words ("I Could Die Happy") suddenly burst out of my lips as we arrived at this beautiful rocky spot (at upper left) to eat the meal she'd brought. The song was then completed within a couple days. The image at lower right is from a hike we took a couple of months later – albeit a few thousand miles away!



ЮЛИЯ О [YuleAo]

completed 2024

Hey, Юлия А
What d'ya say?
How 'bout today?
My Юлия
He, Юлия Е
Never could see
All you could be
My Юлия

Straddlin' this precipice
And waitin' for the right time
Strugglin' with avarice
And prayin' for divine signs

I, Юлия I
Just gotta sigh
When you go by
My Юлия
Oh, Юлия О
Time passes slow
Till we can go
My Юлия

Fumblin' for words to say
To help convey this feelin'
Soarin' like a bird of prey
Who's trapped beneath the ceilin'

You, Юлия U
Know what to do
When I am blue
My Юлия
Why, Юлия Y?
Couldn't we try
To reach for the sky?
My Юлия

Loved with everlastin' grace
He's workin' on my wish list
Sprintin' at a faster pace
As we approach the finish

Ooh, doodle-doo ...

Oh, Юлия О
Time passes slow
Till we can go
My Юлия О

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The Russian name (pronounced "Yulia") is a creative device from 2024 that is intended to protect the anonymity of the true inspiration for this song. The song itself has remained largely unchanged over the years, except for the rhythm of the opening chord in each verse.

 YouTube



Dawn

written June 2018

Here before Dawn has yet to appear
A forest of song caresses my ear
A chorus of angels chases the night
And summons the morning's shimmering light
I look to the East, I gaze at the skies
And soon I can see her sparkling eyes
With visions of her sweet smile
Still lingering

I knew it as soon as she stepped on the scene
Here was the woman revealed in a dream
Serene in a confidence fastened to Truth
Veiling a glory of permanent youth
I pray to the Lord, "O, how could it be,
That You have provided this gift unto me?
For I'm just an ungrateful child
Still lost in sin"

Long after time has ceased to make sense
No longer trapped in these temporal tents
The logic of all of Your Love will be known
I will bow down at Your Radiant Throne
And when I look up, without any word
I'll know all the pleas of my heart had been heard
That You made the two of us one
To worship You
Together
And to gather
Together



Track 13

26

I had been playing the basic chord progression for several months, but didn't have any words until a very magical moment that occurred at the Gustafson Family Cabin (on Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho) in June 2018 (the photo at left was taken there at the dawn of the Summer Solstice of 2018). As noted in the song, it was indeed just before dawn and I was sitting on the lower deck, marveling at the chorus of birds who were singing out ahead of the sunrise. The remaining words then came easily over just a few minutes. Led Zeppelin fans may recognize a slight lifting from "Kashmir," a personal favorite.



Last Gasp of Breath

written October 1983

With my last gasp of breath I breathed a word that she barely heard
Over my laughter, echoin' ever after in her mind

With the grace, face and touch of an angel in danger
Tryin' to find me, tryin' to hide me in her heart

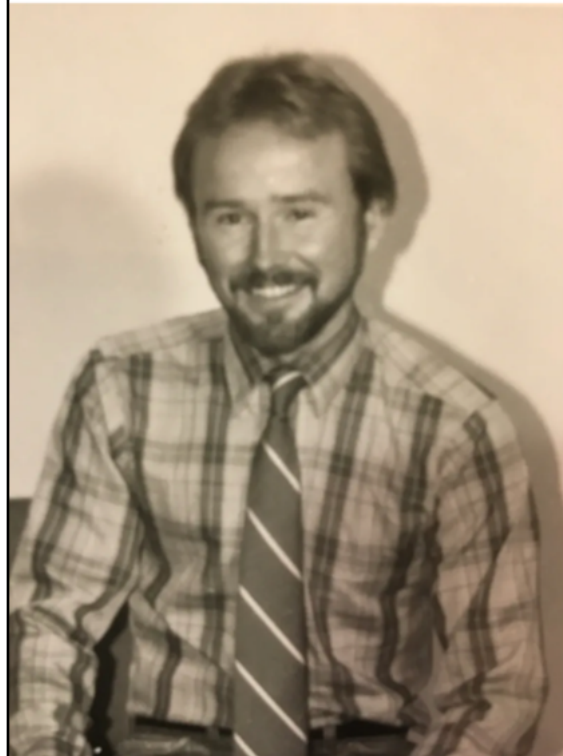
With her backpack and pencils, the paper chase is her savin' grace
Searchin' for knowledge, but why in a college?
When it's here, it's everywhere
Don't ever think that I don't care
And right when you least expect it
That's when you're well protected heart gets torn apart

I phone home to ask if we'll ever be in heavenly
Love, liftin' us, a gift to us from above

Love is here, it's everywhere
Don't ever think that I don't care
And right when you least expect it
That's when you're well protected heart gets torn apart

Track 14

28



I had just arrived in Modesto (CA) for my first job after getting my Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Washington (Seattle). I had mostly left behind two relationships, each of which had become quite close, albeit in very different ways. As seems to be my fate, feelings for both of these women still lingered despite the thousand miles from Modesto to Seattle. This song started with the chord progression and the words came quickly, the primary lyrical trick being the presence of repeated rhyming words at the opening of each verse. This song is probably my favorite among my ~230.



Right Next to You

written November 1980

I've never felt this way
I never knew that a woman could reach me like this
I don't know what to say
I've never been so affected by one little kiss
And when I look in your eyes I seem to feel that the
world's gonna' turn out all right
You make me fantasize, you make me want to be
with you baby tonight
Don't ever ask me how I know
Don't ever ask me I just don't know why

You're like a mystery
You're like a book that I read and I never put down
And in my history
I've never ever seen such a woman around
And when I look in my soul and I see all my dreams
come into view
Well there's a shadowy goal that I'm hopin' to reach
when I reach out to you
Don't ya' hear what I'm sayin'?
Don't ya' know that it's true?
Don't ya' know what I'm feelin' when I'm right next to
you?
When I'm right next to you
Don't ever ask me how I know
Don't ever ask me I just don't know why

I'm just a molecule
I'm just a polymer matrix forged by the sun
But when I get to you
I guarantee that you'll never have had so much fun
And when I look in your eyes I seem to feel that
the world's gonna' turn out all right
You make me fantasize, you make me want to be
with you baby tonight
Don't ya' hear what I'm sayin'?
Don't ya' know that it's true?
Don't ya' know what I'm feelin' when I'm right next
to you?
When I'm right next to you



Track 15

30



In late September 1980, I had turned 22 and was starting grad school at the University of Washington (Seattle). After a first date on November 7, I was immediately smitten. However, as has often been my fate, the feelings were not reciprocal. She became involved with another guy for a year or so. But after that ended, we ended up becoming almost inseparable for much of my final two years in Seattle, albeit on a 99.9% platonic basis. We both went on to enter new relationships that resulted in marriage and kids shortly after I left Seattle. Of the songs that my younger brother Steve has heard, it has always been his favorite.



Killing Time

written December 1980

I'm only killin' time, until I see your smile, and I guess
That I've been doin' fine, although it's been a while, since I felt
Your hands caressin' my face, and I melt
When you intrude on my space, and I sense
Your presence in my mind
We'll weave our thoughts in silent rhyme

I'm only tryin' to be as honest as I can
I never want to see you with another man, and I guess
That's why my heart is on fire when I see
You stare at him with desire, and it's just
Genetic jealousy
To know it's him as well as me

I'm only tryin' to say a simple word or two
To save this precious day and give it all to you in a song
That's comin' straight from my heart, and it's wrong
For us to ever depart, from the path
That's given us this chance
To take our part in nature's dance

Track 16

32



This photo is actually from Stanford, rather than Seattle, where this song was written. I believe it is the last song I wrote before December 26, 1980 – the day when I was miraculously filled by the Holy Spirit and became a life-long follower of Jesus. Up until that day, my songs had been almost entirely devoted to the topic of unrequited love, of which this is a rather typical example. The song contains somewhat clever poetry at certain points, but it's missing both a bridge and a proper chorus – and so is not among my best attempts. I need to "kill a bit more time" and complete it some day!



Cold Blows the Wind

written December 26, 1980

Cold blows the wind tall stand the trees
Let it begin as I fall to my knees
God, how could I ever change what I feel?
How will I know when her love becomes real?
You seem to know what the world's going to do
Tell me right now if her love isn't true

When I'm alone and I see where you are
That's when I know that we've come pretty far
You're in control of what you're going to be
You have become someone special to me
What could I do to become something more
Than all your friends that you let through the door?
But you don't let them know what you're really about
And I know that you know but there must be some doubt
In your mind but I know you'll be mine

Cold blows the wind tall stand the trees
Let it begin as I fall to my knees
God, how your world has impressed me with time
Now I can see what you've blessed to be mine
What could I do to be sure who it is?
What will it take to erase the mistakes
That you made when you faked? Now all you can do
Is be true and I know we could break any rule
If you knew what I knew and I do

Track 17



34

My only childhood exposure to the Gospel was the album "Jesus Christ Superstar." A neighbor had given me a copy of the New Testament as a high school graduation gift, which I thought was very odd. I never opened it. At least not until more than 4.5 years later, when the Holy Spirit suddenly came upon me during a lengthy run in Seattle. As soon as I got home, I desperately searched for the book, and then read it in its entirety, suddenly believing that every word was true. The date was December 26, 1980. I wrote this song that very day. The two Bennett prints shown here were on the walls of our family home as long as I can remember.

 YouTube



I Know

written January 1977

Wrapped inside a roll of yellowed newspapers
Set aside where no one ever goes
But I know, I know, I know
I know, I know, I know

People say ya' look like you are searchin'
But all they see are mirrors in your eyes
But I know, I know, I know
I know, I know, I know

There's feelings in your heart I've never touched
There's words you've longed to say but never found
But I know, I know, I know
I know, I know, I know

I know what ya' mean without ya' sayin' anything
I know what's in your mind by all the love that's in your eyes
And, I know, I know, I know
I know, I know, I know

Track 18

36



I wrote this song at Stanford, where the photo was taken. I believe this song was the favorite of the young woman about whom it was written. She had become my love-interest after I graduated from high school in Spokane – and remained the long-distance object of my affections during all my years at Stanford – to the great consternation of my parents. However, I'm pleased to say that I've remained friends with her and husband, who is a pastor. She also gave me a Bible in 1981, one that served as my companion every morning for more than 40 years, until it finally succumbed to the ravages of time a couple years ago.

 YouTube



I Wish that I Could Look at You

written August 1976

I look out on the morning
I wonder how you've been
My eyes dance off the dew drops
I feel the eastern wind

I look out on the sunrise
I wonder how it feels
To know that when the Earth dies
You'll be shinin' still
I wish that I could look at you

I look up towards the treetops
I wish that I was high
'Cause when ya' finally drop me
I know I'll need to fly
I wish that I could look at you

It's not that funny, but watch me laugh
I want all of you and not just half

I look out on my lifetime
I see that it has turns
I'm stranded in the desert
You know the hot sand burns
I wish that I could look at you
I wish, I wish, it could be true

Track 19

38



It was nearing the end of summer 1976 in Spokane, in the final weeks before I was to head off to Stanford – leaving behind a relatively new and passionate relationship with a young woman of whom my parents disapproved. It was indeed early morning and I sat alone on the patio, looking eastward and towards the nearby treetops as this song was written. I had written a couple dozen songs by this time, but this was probably my best effort up until that point. Some of the words still haunt me, especially coming from a 17-year-old kid. The drawing is a "psychedelic 60's style" self-portrait, created at age 12.



Christmas in Jerusalem

written December 2003

On a night not unlike this
A cry rang out unto the fields
For the first time in His Life
His Eyes shed human tears
But they weren't the last
And there won't be a last
Until He reappears

By a flock of wayward sheep
The weary shepherds heard a voice
"Come behold your nation's King
Who's in a manger lain"
And they worshipped Him then
And they'll worship Him when
His Nation He reclaims

And it's Christmas in Jerusalem
Whose exiled Ruler grieves
And it's Christmas here in Babylon
Whose captives shall be freed

From the stars down to the seas
Creation aches to be renewed
On a dark and snowy eve'
The family gathered round
Though it's painful to wait
They patiently wait
For Christmas bells to sound

And it's Christmas in Jerusalem
Whose exiled Ruler grieves
And it's Christmas here in Babylon
Whose captives shall be freed

Whose captives shall be freed

Track 20

40



I can still vividly recall the clear, cold, starlit December morning when I was out for a morning run and the opening line came to me. The rest of the song came quickly thereafter. I managed to get a proper recording of this song by an LA-based third-party, but nothing ever came of that. I also performed it once at a Candlelight Christmas Eve service at a small church (St. John's UCC) in Chesterfield MO (in 2006). I've always felt it had a bit of commercial potential, but nobody else (to date) seems to share that view!

