

# Jesus, Your Grace

Words: Andy Gleiser

Music: Matt Taylor

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***"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me." (1 Corinthians 15:10)***

"Jesus, Your Grace" is a meditative, worshipful, prayerful hymn to Jesus. Each of the four stanzas follows a "Praise/Petition" format. The first two lines declare the truth we praise Jesus for while the final two lines request Him to work out those truths in our lives.

Stanza one praises Jesus for His grace in drawing me close to Him so that He can fashion me more into His likeness. And my petition is that He complete the work He has begun (Philippians 1:6). Being perfectly like Jesus is my final prize (Philippians 3:14). The image of the clay in the hand of the Potter comes from the book of Jeremiah chapter 18.

Stanza two praises Jesus for the cross and His triumph over the power of sin and hell in my life. And my petition is that I daily experience the ongoing power of His grace found in this gospel that has delivered me. Oh, that I know the power of the cross today! My only boast is in the cross which has crucified the world to me and I to the world (Galatians 2:20 & 6:14).

Stanza three praises Jesus for His living Word that attacks and prevails over the error I so easily believe. And my petition is that His truths wound me, and then heal me. The image of the weapon of the Word comes from Hebrews 4:12-13. The Scripture breaks my heart over my sin to make it rejoice yet again (Psalm 51:8).

Stanza four praises Jesus for His Church and what it cost Him to redeem us (Acts 20:28). And my petition is that I learn to love the Church in the same way Jesus does. The only way for me to love other Christians is for Jesus to love them through me (Ephesians 5:2 & I John 4:11-12).

This hymn is the first collaborative effort between me and Matt Taylor. And uniquely, he wrote the tune first and asked me to write the lyrics to match. It turned out to be a joyous experience! My text went through several revisions as we worked toward presenting a singable text that the church could affirm together.