



Lift up your eyes and praise His name,  
And meet the Lord in prayer;  
This is God's will, He planned it all  
And you are in His care.

He sees you as a precious gem  
That with some slight correction;  
Some polishing and grinding too,  
Can almost reach perfection

He wants to burn the dross away  
To prune the unfruitful vine;

To mold you as the potters clay,  
To be a vessel fine.

Do not despair! Look up! Fight on!  
The way will someday show,  
And later on, when life is past,  
You will the purpose know.

The Lord will test and strengthen you  
And fit you for His task;  
You cannot serve Him fully while  
In easy life you bask.

You know not what tomorrow holds  
You know who holds tomorrow  
So live in faith just for today  
Though it is filled with sorrow.

God loves you still, He holds your hand,  
Just cling to Him secure  
And fully, sweetly trust Him and  
E'en this you shall endure.

~ Anonymyous

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## The Stairway to Eternity

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**I** magine for a moment that you're walking through a narrow road leading to a stairwell with blue skies and bright clouds surrounding it, while knowing in your heart that at the top of the stairs, the Lord awaits you with open arms. He awaits you with anticipation and joy filling His eyes, as a father waiting for his son's return from a long journey. He awaits us from a journey that's filled with worry, pain, disease, and separation from His comforting touch.

Waiting patiently to provide us with all the wonders He's been preparing for us, and an eternal life with nothing but complete joy in His arms. We find our way to that narrow road after many years of wandering around aimlessly, trying to find fulfillment distant from His surpassing love. We finally arrive at the bottom of the stairs with a luggage in each hand, which contains our beloved things that we have collected throughout our journey. Holding tightly to each luggage, we attempt to take a step, then a second, wanting so badly to be with Him at the top, but at the same time clinging to those things which we have also grown to love. The higher we travel up, the more we realize that we have

to let go of some of the things we are carrying. Little by little, we begin to drop things to lighten up our load; little by little we let go of those things that are taking parts in our heart, to free it completely for Him. Soon we realize that to make it to that final step, where our Love awaits us anxiously, we would have to let go of all things, and carry nothing to Him but our hearts that are longing to be eternally emerged in Him. We begin to understand that His purpose for us is to return to Him just as He had created us, with nothing, caring for nothing but to be with Him eternally. On our journey to the top, storms meet us that make us feel weak and in despair, but as they approach, so does His cry to us and His hands that are outstretched to us to keep us upright and strong to the end. Whenever we are weakened by the storms, His presence enters the deepest parts of our hearts to remind us of His indescribable love, which surpasses all understanding.

We finally make it to the top, making it up there without our careers, money, family, friends, or any worldly passions that we have accumulated in our life time, but we make it up there just as He had created us, with our ready heart that reflects His image.