

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** Hebrews 4:15-16 “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

**Quote:** *It is the Christian who daily praises God for His faithfulness that is confident to petition Him for power and for peace in the midst of difficulty.*

**J**esus set the example of petition before the throne of grace followed by submission to His Father’s will during His hour of greatest trial. Just before entering the Garden of Gethsemane, He offered up a prayer for Himself, for His disciples and for the those who would yet believe in Him. So committed was He to do the Father’s will that He prayed, “*I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.*”<sup>1</sup> He prayed this with Gabbatha and Golgotha still ahead. *Jesus knew that Isaiah 50 and 53, as well as Psalm 22, described what lay ahead for Him.* I am always deeply moved when I reflect upon Christ’s resolute commitment in John 17 followed by the prayer that He prayed three times in Gethsemane. “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, *Your will be done.*” How awful and unparalleled was the emotional agony that accompanied His struggle in Gethsemane. How great was His determination to fulfill God’s purpose for His life, death and resurrection!<sup>2</sup>

**T**hat night was like none other in Gethsemane, The garden where Christ often went to pray. Emmanuel<sup>3</sup> knew the agony within the cup That only He could drink with break of day. ‘Neath burdens beyond measure to His face He fell; Death did not cause the Man of Sorrows dread. Christ had the power to give up life and rise again;<sup>4</sup> He feared what lay within the cup instead.

Mere thoughts of separation from His Father-God

Drove Christ to lie there prostrate on the sod.  
Three times, in anguish, Jesus cried out fervently  
As passion bathed His sweat-stained flesh with blood.  
“My Father,” wept the Savior, “let this cup pass by;  
Yet not my will, but Thine alone be done.”  
God answered with an angel sent to strengthen Christ,  
And granted grace and peace to His dear Son.

His suff’ring taught the Son of Man obedience;  
Refining fires confirmed God’s Perfect One.  
Christ Jesus knew a sacred grief that none could share;  
His hour of matchless glory had begun.  
The hosts of heav’n and hords of hell looked on in awe  
When Christ rose up to face God’s holy wrath.  
The taste of death for fallen man awaited Him  
Who drained redemption’s cup on our behalf.<sup>5</sup>

In our own testing and temptation, we can be confident that Christ knows exactly what we are going through. He experienced spiritual, emotional and physical testing beyond description. He endured temptation by Satan greater than any man has ever had to face. The writer of Hebrews tells believers, “For in that *He Himself has suffered, being tempted,* He is able to aid those who are tempted.”<sup>5</sup> What a thought! Christ *understands* and can help *me* during *my* trials and temptations because He was victorious in all of His own.

We are told to come *with confidence* unto the throne of grace. Grace can be defined as the “*divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life.*”<sup>6</sup> The influence of the Holy Spirit within a Christian’s life is reflected in the “calm delight” and gratitude of knowing that *his or her loving God is in total control.* In the midst of difficulties that press us to the limits, we can rejoice in the truth that, as God sustained His Son during His darkest hour, God will likewise sustain all of His children. It is that confidence in Him that enables us to plead, “O My Father, if it is possible, let ‘this cup’ pass from *me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.*” *It is that confidence in Him that enables us to embrace the reassuring truth of Romans 8:28-30.*

<sup>1</sup> Jn.17:4 <sup>2</sup> “Mt 26:36;-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46 <sup>3</sup> “God with us” <sup>4</sup> John 10:18 <sup>5</sup> Heb.2:18 <sup>6</sup> A.T. Robertson