



Hymns 101 – O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”*

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

*“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”*

Revelation 5:11-13 (ESV)

*Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness
and of your praise all the day long.*

Psalms 35:28 (ESV)

**O, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!**

**Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease,
'Tis music in the sinner’s ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.**

**He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin,
He sets the pris’ner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me.**

**Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come,
And leap, ye lame, for joy.**

**My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.**



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Charles and John Wesley were brothers who, while studying at Oxford in England, formed a sort of “Students for Christ” group to battle what they called “spiritual lethargy” [a lack of energy or enthusiasm] at the school. In this group, they modeled intense and methodical habits of work and study, which led to their being mockingly referred to as the “Holy Club,” the “Sacramentarians” and “the Methodists” by their fellow students.

Unsuccessful in their first attempt at ministry in the American colonies where Charles served as a chaplain to the colonists and a garrison of soldiers in St. Simons, Georgia, the brothers returned to England. It was in Aldersgate, London in 1739 that they experienced a conversion in their faith which revealed to them the great joy of a personal relationship with Christ. Revitalized with this new heart for the gospel, they rededicated themselves to ministry, travelling nearly 250,000 miles (mostly on horseback) throughout the English Isles and conducting over 40,000 public services.

Charles Wesley wrote more than 6,500 hymn texts during his lifetime. It is not an exaggeration to say that his hymns have had a profound influence on modern theology.

A few technical notes and explanations for the modern worshipper

“Availed” in the third verse means helped or benefitted. The use of past tense shows that the help or benefit only needed to be provided once – a reference to the “Once Saved, Always Saved” doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints.