

*Come Holy Spirit  
Use me to Your glory*

*Precious Pilgrim,*

*"Honey, what are you doing?" my darling husband asked. Pilgrim, I'll answer that question in just a minute. But before I forget, which happens more and more frequently, I wanted to share this with you.*

*As I was working on this week's Bible study homework, a most wonderful picture came to my mind. It was a grand visualization to remind me of the fact - the most important of all facts - as believers in our living Lord Jesus Christ, we are saved. He is our Savior, our Redeemer, our Friend, who was crucified that we might have life eternal.*

*He said "yes" to that cross, Pilgrim, for you, individually, and for me, individually, because He loves us so very much that He wants to be in a personal relationship with each one of us for all eternity. Wow!*

*By God's grace, I know this. I claim this. I walk in this knowledge daily. Do you, Pilgrim? I pray so. It makes for an awesome journey. Doesn't it?*

*The picture that came to mind strongly reminded me of this fact and brought a smile to my soul. And what was that image, you might ask?*

*Do you remember the television ad for Travelers Insurance? There would be people walking around, doing their usual daily activities and over some of their heads, an*

*open umbrella would be following them around wherever they went. The umbrella represented those that were covered by that particular insurance.*

*The image for me was similar, but with a few monumental changes. All of the umbrellas were red with a cross imprinted on each. It reminded me of the fact - that as believers, each one of us is covered by the blood of Jesus. Talk about an eternal insurance plan!*

*Wouldn't it be grand if as soon as we give our lives to our Lord - that a visible red crossed umbrella would follow us around? Why, then there would be no doubt who are our brothers and sisters in Christ. There would be instant recognition. We wouldn't get caught up with questions like: What church do you attend? What denomination are you? You'd just see that red crossed umbrella over another and know he or she was one of our Lord Jesus' little sheep, just like you and me.*

*Now back to that first question with which I began your today's letter:*

*"Honey, what are you doing?" Just remembering the situation and circumstances brings back laughter. You see, I was putting on my makeup and fixing my hair and trying to sing a "new song" when my husband entered and asked the question. He was used to seeing some of those activities being done - except that new song singing was a first. From his reaction, obviously, I'm not a composer.*

*I'd adventured into this unknown world because it was part of our Bible study homework. We'd just finished looking at the parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14) and the Hebrews' response to that mighty miracle of God's. Do you know what it was? It says in Exodus 15:1a: "Then Moses and the Israelites sang." They praised the Lord, Pilgrim, all two million people! The wonderful words are recorded in Exodus 15:1-19.*

*In response to the study, we were asked to recall some of God's mighty works in our own individual lives and then write out our own song of praise. A prayer of praise had come forth from me and I was unsuccessfully trying to put it to music when my darlin' wisely interrupted me:*

*But do you know, Pilgrim, I do think I'll give it another try or at least get my church hymnal out more often and make a joyful noise. I yearn for that sound of praise to come forth from my lips so frequently that never again will my sweetheart ask, "What are you doing?" He'll know what I'm doing! Praising our Lord for all He has done!*

*As I was reflecting on this shortcoming of my praising, a sweet memory came to mind. Years ago, about 15 to be exact, I completed a four-year weekly Bible study with six others. As you can imagine, we became the closest of friends, for besides Bible study, we also shared our life stories. We grew to know and care about each other deeply.*

*I remember one specific sharing from Barnett. She told of her 90-plus year-old grandmother who spent her last years and*

*days, continuing what she loved to do best - singing hymns in praise to her Lord.*

*I wanted to be sure my memory served me correctly before I shared this information with you. I thus called Barnett's daughter for her mama died a few years ago. She, Mary, said I was right. Mary was five years old when her great grandmother died, but she still remembered her hymn singing. Mary said the family name for this constant chorister was "Dear."*

*Isn't that a grand legacy to leave? "Dear" went to be with her Lord and Savior almost fifty years ago and her great-granddaughter is still holding her hymns of praise in her heart. What an incredibly rich inheritance this family has received!*

*Yes! I think there are going to be some changes made in this household. That hymnal is going to be coming out more often and there's going to be more praises sung to the rafters - so my darlin' husband and my children and grans and, hopefully, great-grans will never ask, "What are you doing?" They'll know I'm praising the Lord, which I want to do for all eternity!*

*Might you want to join me, Pilgrim? We can start with learning Moses' song, again that's found in Exodus 15:1-19. And guess what it says they will be singing in heaven? Revelation 15:2b-3 says, "They held harps given them by God*

*and sang the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb.” Wow!*

*Pilgrim, might you also be moved to write your own praise song for all the Lord has done for you?*

*Here are my words - the music hasn't come yet - but I'm working on it - as my husband will verify. It's called:*

*You are....*

*(A Prayer of Praise and Glory to You, O Lord)*

*You are*

*All strength*

*All joy*

*All might*

*All delight.*

*May all majesty*

*All honor*

*All praise*

*All glory*

*Be yours.*

*I worship.*

*I praise.*

*I adore You, O Lord.*

*You are*

*My All in All;*

*My Lord and Savior;*

*Redeemer and Friend.*

*Thank you, Lord*

*Thank You for this day,*

*This moment in time.*

*Thank You for life,  
For love,  
For family,  
For friends,  
For health,  
For food,  
For shelter.*

*Thank You for  
Your peace,  
Your joy.*

*Fill me Lord,  
Fill me with Your Love.*

*Use me Lord,  
Use me to Your glory.*

*Make me an instrument  
Of  
Your love,  
Your peace.*

*May You increase  
And  
I decrease.*

*May Your Light shine through me  
May I be poured out to Your glory.*

*Beloved,  
May I love You with my whole heart  
And being.*

*Beloved,  
May we walk this day and all eternity  
Together.*

*Beloved, please*

*Lead me - Lead me Lord and may I  
Follow.*

*Envelop me - enfold me - indwell me.*

*Lord, be my Bridegroom and I be Your bride -*

*Amen.*

*Lucy McCain*