

PART I:
Declarations

Take It from Me: Cautionary Tales from a Former Fool

A Commitment to My Lord

As I look at my life, who could love me like you do?
You have given me life and I give my life back to you
There is no one who has ever loved me like you
If I ran from your presence, your love will still remain true
If I fled from your spirit, where could I go?
Your spirit is everywhere, and that's all I need to know

How could I ever repay you for all you've done for me?
If only the world and those close to me could see
The difference in me so they don't assume that I'm strange
Then they will understand that you caused my life to be rearranged
When I reached out for you, you were always there
So how could I flee from your love? I wouldn't dare

You saved my life from a lot of things
And you've hidden me under the shadow of your wings
From bad situations and bad company; Jesus, you have set me free
There's no one who changed that, no one who could ever persuade me
To go another way, no matter how they try
They are simply bad company, and their rebellion towards you makes me cry

They have actually taught me how to love the right way
And each new sunrise, I get to start a brand new day
It's because of you I can walk right
It's because of you I can talk right
I couldn't live my life without you
So, this day and going forward, I will never doubt you

When I gave my heart to you, I promised to live my life for you
So, I will forever pursue my heart to worship and adore you
I refuse to let my future be hindered by the weight of my present and past
Because I want this love I have for you to forever last
You are the author and the finisher of my faith that I will forever hold
So convict my heart when my love for you grows cold

I love you, and I mean it with all of my heart
I will perpetually praise you even if my family and friends depart
Because my life and my heart is for you and you alone
And your heart will always and forever be my home
Today, I drop my weight of problems, bad people, anger and defeat
Insanity, drama, guilt, hurts, and a heart of retreat

I refuse to play games anymore and I refuse to be bound
I lay these things at your feet because a new life is what I've found
You have given me faith and the victory to stand through it all
And I'm going all the way with you to fulfill your call
Because when my life is over, I want to hear well done
While there's breath in my nostrils, I will worship you till the day my life here is
gone.

Take It from Me: Cautionary Tales from a Former Fool
A Commitment to Purity (Be Sure)
(This poem was inspired by Karen Clark-Sheard's Be Sure).

When you love somebody? That sounds like a love song
When you've found a true love, the waiting period doesn't seem long
And the only way it's a God-sent love, it's from Him and it's pure
So as we prepare to join our hearts together, we must be sure
Yes, you're the one I prayed for, the one I waited for
We have to make it work to make this worth so much more
If it seems like I've been keeping you waiting too long
Forgive me; I want this friendship and commitment to be strong
I also want this relationship to be based on commitment and not just on
love
Our commitment to God is that seal of blessing from up above
I hope I'm not pushing you away, again forgive me for my delay
In order to step to you, I need to push my emotions and thoughts out of
the way
I don't want it to be infatuation, because that dies real fast
I want this to be genuine, because true love is what lasts
As we proceed to the wedding day, we must ensure
That we keep our dedication strong and allow God's Word to keep us pure
If we ever have a problem, we know that God's love is the cure
So, as we come closer to each other, we must again be sure
I do love our friendship, and I care so much about your heart
I know you've been through a lot, and I don't want to tear you apart
I want to be sensitive to your needs and love you not on my own will
Because my love would push you away with my crazy passion that kills
My love must be His love and your love must be His love
This is the foundation to our love, deep, impenetrable, unbreakable,
We'll fly like beautiful doves
I remember the day we met, and yes I'll always remember
Your presence was like a cool breeze in the month of September
I want to be there for you when it's hot like June or when it's cold like
December
When generations past, this legacy of love for each other they'll
remember
So before I truly share my life with you
I do want to say that I don't doubt you at all, but my heart must be true
It must be right with God before I surrender my life to you
I hope you feel the same way I do
I intend to lock myself up to remain pure
So, let's nurture our friendship and make certain we're absolutely sure.

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I Have a Dream

I stand today and see the dream inside of me
It's deeper than what my eyes can see
Look at me, I have ambition, I have a desire
Nobody can put water on this fire
I have this dream inside of me that's growing strong
If I can bear the short-term discomfort, the dream won't take long
I am encouraged, I am blessed, and I am a soldier in this fight
Because I'm strong in the Lord and in the power of His might
I can't let anything tie me down; I have too much at stake
I know I have to press forward and do whatever it takes.

Never to neglect the Lord who blessed me and saved me
Because it is He who loves me and it is this dream He gave me
I have to fulfill it; I have to nurture it with all of my heart
Because He knew this dream was for me from the start
I love you so much, but I have to pursue this call
Don't think that I'm pushing you away; it's not that at all
I want you to stay with me as long as you can
But I'll understand if you breeze me away like a fan
I want to please God with this dream I'm pursuing
And I don't want my life torn to pieces and turned to ruins.

I want to encourage you in your dream as I pursue mine
Because if we all pursued the dreams God gave us, the world would be
fine
I'm pregnant with promise; this dream is kicking inside of me
Please understand, I have to fulfill this for us, you see
I wouldn't say this to you if I didn't love you at all
It's time we understand and fulfill what is our call
I've come too far to let my Lord down
And I must praise Him for what He's done for me in every town
If Pharaoh and Dr. King can have a dream, then I can have a dream
And when it's resurrected and affirmed, it's not as distant as it seems.

If I neglect this, I'm letting you, God, and myself down
This is my time, and I'm turning this life of mine around
Right now, I declare toxic people are going to be removed from me
They are a hindrance to me and I can't be bothered you see
I have to grow with the wheat and not live around the tares
They will be burned in the end and the thought of that, I can't bear
This is it! Destiny has to be fulfilled
I refuse to be tied down; that's not God's will
This poem might be hard for your ears, so it seems
But this is me, and I'm blessed to be living the dream.