

Grace Notes: growing our faith through music by Coni Ferland

Help is on the Way (Maybe Midnight) by Toby McKeehan/Micah Kuiper

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If you'd like to hear this song: <https://youtu.be/aVgetIvEIAAs>

Refrain:

It may be midnight or midday, never early, never late.

He gon' stand by what He claim, lived enough life to say...

I heard your heart, I see your pain – out in the dark, out in the rain,
feel so alone, feel so afraid; I heard you pray in Jesus' name.

Refrain:

Bridge:

Help is on the way (roundin' the corner). Help is on the way (comin' for ya').

Help is on the way (yeah, yeah). I've lived enough life to say, help is on the way.

Sometimes it's days, sometimes it's years; some face a lifetime of falling tears.

But He's in the darkness, He's in the cold. Just like the morning He always shows.

Refrain:

Bridge:

Well I've seen my share of troubles, but the Lord ain't failed me yet.

So I'm holding on to the promise y'all that He's rolling up His sleeves again.

Don't ya know it (rolling up His sleeves again), we can see Him (rolling up, rolling up).

Help is coming (rolling up His sleeves again).

Refrain x 2

Help is on the way; help is on the way (roundin' the corner). Help is on the way.

It may be midnight or midday, never early, never late.

He gon' stand by what He claim, lived enough life to say...

Help is on the way (roundin' the corner). Help is on the way (comin' for ya').

Help is on the way (yeah, yeah). I've lived enough life to say, help is on the way.

Psalm 116:7-9 *"Now I can relax. For the Lord has done this wonderful miracle for me. He has saved me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. I shall live! Yes, in his presence – here on earth!"* The Living Bible¹

John 12:44-46 *"Then Jesus cried out, 'Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. I have come into*

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the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.”

New International Version²

In John, Jesus reminds us that we are not intended to stay in darkness, and by using the light of His presence, we can see God at work in our lives. Is it easy for you to trust in God's timing – that God is “never early, never late”? Why do you feel that way? How does this effect the way you look at God's timing? Has this changed as you've grown in your faith? In what ways?

I heard your heart, I see your pain – out in the dark, out in the rain,
reel so alone, feel so afraid; I heard you pray in Jesus' name.

Psalm 56:8-12 *“You have seen me tossing and turning through the night. You have collected all my tears and preserved them in your bottle! You have recorded everyone in your book. The very day I call for help, the tide of battle turns. My enemies flee! This one thing I know: God is for me! I am trusting God – oh praise his promises! I am not afraid of anything mere man can do to me! Yes, praise his promises. I will surely do what I have promised, Lord, and thank you for your help”*

The Living Bible¹

How does the psalmist's belief that God is so attuned to our sorrows and fears that God collects our tears and records each one make you feel? Spend some time with the idea that you are so valuable to God.

Think about a time you've felt left “out in the dark, out in the rain” and called out to Jesus. What happened? Were your prayers answered? In the way you expected? In your timing – or in God's? How do you feel about this experience?

Sometimes it's days, sometimes it's years; some face a lifetime of falling tears.
But He's in the darkness, he's in the cold. Just like the morning He always shows.

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¹ John 2:7-8 *“Dear brothers, I am not writing out a new rule for you to obey, for it’s an old one you have always had, right from the start. You have heard it all before. Yet it is always new, and works for you just as it did for Christ; and as we obey this commandment, to love one another, the darkness in our lives disappears and the new light of life in Christ shines in.”* The Living Bible¹

John says that by loving one another we can cause the darkness to disappear and the light of Christ to shine in. Our action – loving one another – is what causes the change. This means that God can use us to be the answer to someone else’s prayers. Have you considered reaching out to someone who is “in the darkness... in the cold” while you are there yourself? If you’ve done that, describe what that was like for you. Was it easy or hard? Scary? Rewarding? If you’ve never thought of doing that, consider why. What has held you back? Are you willing to try? Does the concept that it “works for you just as it did for Christ” make the idea easier? Describe what that might be like to reach out to someone in this way.

Well I’ve seen my share of troubles, but the Lord ain’t failed me yet.
So I’m holding on to the promise y’all that He’s rolling up His sleeves again.
Don’t ya know it (rolling up His sleeves again), we can see Him (rolling up, rolling up).
Help is coming (rolling up His sleeves again).

¹ Peter 2:8-10 *“And the scriptures also say ‘He is the Stone that some will stumble over, and the Rock that will make them fall.’ They will stumble because they will not listen to God’s Word nor obey it, and so this punishment must follow - that they will fall. But you are not like that, for you have been chosen by God himself – you are priests of the King, you are holy and pure, you are God’s very own – all of this so that you may show to others how God called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were less than nothing; now you are God’s own. Once you knew very little of God’s kindness; now your very lives have been changed by it.”*
The Living Bible¹

Someone rolling up their sleeves is a visual of getting ready to work, ready to dig into something messy. The song writers say that God is getting ready to work in our lives again. How does it make you feel, that God doesn’t give up after the first time, or the second, or

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however many times God has worked in your life, but is willing to work again and again as needed? How can you show to others “*how God called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light*”?

Take some time to consider how God’s work in your life has changed you, and made you “*God’s own*”. How you can work with that change to help others see “*God’s kindness*”, God’s “*wonderful light*”?

“The people who walk in darkness shall see a great light –
a Light that will shine on all those who live
in the land of the shadow of death.”

Isaiah 9:2 The Living Bible¹

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