

Chain Breaker Jonathan Lindley Smith/Mia Fields/Zach Williams

If you'd like to watch a video of this song: https://youtu.be/cd_xxmXdQz4

If you're been walking the same old road for miles and miles.
If you've been hearing the same old voice, tell the same old lies.
If you're trying to fill the same old holes inside,
There's a better life, there's a better life.

Chorus:

If you've got pain, He's a pain taker.
If you feel lost, He's a way maker.
If you need freedom or saving, He's a prison-shaking Savior.
If you got chains, He's a chain breaker.

We've all searched for the light of day in the dead of night.
We've all found ourselves worn out from the same old fight.
We've all run to things we know just ain't right,
When there's a better life, there's a better life.

Chorus:

If you believe it, if you receive it, if you can feel it, somebody testify.
If you believe it, if you receive it, if you can feel it, somebody testify, testify.
If you believe it, if you receive it, if you can feel it, somebody testify.

Chorus:

If you're been walking the same old road for miles and miles.
If you've been hearing the same old voice, tell the same old lies.
If you're trying to fill the same old holes inside,
There's a better life, there's a better life.

Psalm 144:7-8 *“My enemies are like a mighty flood. Reach down from heaven and save me. Save me from outsiders who attack me. They tell all kinds of lies with their mouths. Even when they make a promise by raising their right hands, they don’t mean it.”*

New International Readers Version

Blaise Pascal: “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ”

Saint Augustine of Hippo: “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”

Do you feel you've been retracing your steps over and over? Hearing the same harmful, hurtful words – whether they come from someone else or if you say them to yourself – day after day? Why do you think this is happening? (If you are blessed to be able to answer no to both these questions, take this time to thank God!)

What have you used to try to fill the “same old holes inside”, the “God-shaped vacuum” within you? Work? Alcohol? Food? How is this working out for you?

God calls us to a better way, a better life - *“So I am letting them go their blind and stubborn way, living according to their own desires. But oh, that my people would listen to Me! Oh that Israel would follow me, walking in my paths!”* (The Living Bible) – if we are willing to change who's voice we listen to, and who's path we choose to follow.

Would you consider asking God to come and fill the God-shaped hole inside you? God is waiting for you to do just that, waiting to fill you with all the grace and peace you need to feel whole...

If you've got pain, He's a pain taker.

If you feel lost, He's a way maker.

If you need freedom or saving, He's a prison-shaking Savior.

If you got chains, He's a chain breaker.

Psalm 107: 13-14 *“Then in their trouble they called out to the Lord, and He saved them from their distress. He brought them out of their gloom and darkness and broke their chains to pieces.”* Good News Translation

Psalm 139:7-12 *“Is there any place I can go to avoid Your Spirit? To be out of Your sight? If I climb to the sky, You're there! If I go underground, You're there! If I flew on morning's wings to the far western horizon, You'd find me in a minute - You're already there waiting! Then I said to myself, ‘Oh, He even sees me in the dark! At night I'm immersed in the light!’ It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to You; night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to You.”* The Message

Can you allow God to free you? To tear down the walls that hold you to old paths and to break the chains of old destructive habits? Why do you feel that way?

Can you pray these words from Psalm 25:4 *“Show me the path where I should go O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk.”* (The Living Bible)

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John 21:1-6 “There was one other time when Jesus appeared to the disciples—this time by the Sea of Tiberias. This is how it happened: Simon Peter, Thomas (the Twin), Nathanael (the Galilean from Cana), the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together.

Simon Peter (to disciples): I am going fishing.

Disciples: Then we will come with you.

They went out in the boat and caught nothing through the night. As day was breaking, Jesus was standing on the beach; but they did not know it was Jesus.

Jesus: My sons, you haven't caught any fish, have you?

Disciples: No.

Jesus: Throw your net on the starboard side of the boat, and your net will find the fish.

They did what He said, and suddenly they could not lift their net because of the massive weight of the fish that filled it.” The Voice Translation

“After Jesus' death, the disciples don't know what to do with themselves, other than return to their old livelihood of fishing. This band of fishermen is lost and lonely, but just when they think things can't be stranger, Jesus shows up. He tells them to fish on the other side of the boat. They do, and they are suddenly overwhelmed with fish. The nets are bulging. What He shows here is that not only will their old ways of living leave His followers as empty as the nets, but their old habits will not work either. He has impacted their lives in a way that changed them forever. They can't go back. And He knows they don't know how to go forward.”

from The Voice Translation

The disciples found themselves lost and unsure of their path after Jesus' death. So they tried to go back to their old – pre-Jesus – life. It didn't work for them, as evidenced by their empty net. Yet when they listened to Jesus' directions, their catch overwhelmed their net! Like the disciples, we often try to turn back to familiar ways, to “run to things we know just ain't right, when there's a better life.” Describe a time when you've done this. How did it feel?

Can you ask Jesus to help you find “a better life”?

If you believe it, if you receive it, if you can feel it, somebody testify.

Psalm 107:17-22 “Some of you were sick because you'd lived a bad life, your bodies feeling the effects of your sin; you couldn't stand the sight of food, so miserable you thought you'd be better off dead. Then you called out to God in your desperate condition; He got you out in the nick of time. He spoke the word that healed you, that pulled you back from the brink of death.

So thank God for His marvelous love, for His miracle mercy to the children he loves; offer thanksgiving sacrifices, tell the world what he's done—sing it out!" The Message

How can show others - "testify" or "sing it out" - about what God means in your life?

You are the Creator of heaven's glory, earth's grandeur,
and the ocean's greatness. The oppressed get justice with You.
The hungry are satisfied with You. Prisoners find their freedom with You.
You open the eyes of the blind, and You fully restore those
bent over with shame. You love those who love and honor You.

Psalm 146:6b-8 The Passion Translation