

With Every Act of Love

Jason David Ingram/Jason Gray performed by Jason Gray

If you'd like to watch the music video: <https://youtu.be/3q7xnR9E3go>

Sitting at the stoplight, he can't be bothered by the heart cry
written on the cardboard in her hands. Oh, but when she looks him in the eye,
his heart is broken open wide, and he feels the hand of God reach out through him;
as heaven touches earth.

Refrain:

Oh, we bring the kingdom come. Oh, with every act of love, Jesus help us carry You;
alive in us, Your light shines through. With every act of love, we bring the kingdom come.

There's silence at the table, he wants to talk but he's not able,
for all the shame that's locked him deep inside. Oh, but her words are the medicine
when she says they can begin again and forgiveness will set him free tonight;
as heaven touches earth.

Refrain:

God put a million, million doors in the world for His love to walk through,
One of those doors is you.
I said, God put a million, million doors in the world for His love to walk through,
One of those doors is you.

Refrainx3

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Psalm 51:16-17,19a *“Going through the motions doesn't please You, a flawless performance is nothing to You. I learned God-worship when my pride was shattered. Heart-shattered lives ready for love don't for a moment escape God's notice!”* The Message

1 Corinthians 13:3a *“So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.”* The Message

Have you ever had a moment like this, a time when your heart was shattered by what you see around you? Describe that time. Why do you think shattered pride and a “heart-shattered” life is so important to God?

Do you feel that God can “reach through” your words and actions? Why do you feel that way? If you answered yes, describe some of those times. If you answered no, spend some time looking at your reasons.

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alive in us, Your light shines through. With every act of love, we bring the kingdom come.

Matthew 6:10 *"We ask that Your kingdom will come now. May Your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven."* The Living Bible

In what ways do you Jesus' light shining in those around you? In what ways can you support others as they work to bring God's kingdom alive here on earth?

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Lamentations 1:20a *"Look, O LORD, at my agony, at the anguish of my soul! My heart is broken in sorrow for my sins."* Good News Translation

Galatians 6:1-3 *"Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important".* New Living Translation

Have you ever felt so ashamed that you kept it locked deep inside? Felt anguish deep in your soul for your actions, or inactions? How does that effect your relationship with those around you? Your relationship with God? Have you been able to accept God's forgiveness for your sins? If not, can you ask for the courage and the openness to accept that forgiveness now? Have you ever been in the position of being the one asked to forgive? Were you able to do it? Was that hard for you? Why? Why do you think Paul linked forgiveness with sharing each other's burdens? Is that something you can do? Why do you feel that way?

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Matthew 22:37-40 *"Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.' This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' These two commands are pegs; everything in God's Law and the Prophets hangs from them."* The Message

Why do you think Jesus made loving others as we love ourselves such a vital point? Is this something you can do? Is this easy for you to do? If not, is because of your feelings about the "other", or feelings about yourself? Either way, spend some time with God, and offering up your feelings. Ask for God's guidance in working through your feelings, and how you can love and be loved.

"Through the heartfelt mercies of our God, God's Sunrise will break in upon us, shining on those in the darkness, those sitting in the shadow of death, then showing us the way, one foot at a time, down the path of peace."

Luke 1:78-79 The Message