

39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
 2 Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endures,
 there is no shadow of turning with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
 thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
 Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
 join with all nature in manifold witness
 strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.
 As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.
 to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
 blessings all mine, with ten thousand be beside!

*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!

오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.

날 마 다 자 비 를 베 푸 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.

일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

Fight the Good Fight

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1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;
 3 Cast care a - side; lean on thy guide.
 4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
 lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
 God's bound-less mer - cy will pro - vide.
 God chang - eth not, and thou art dear.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be
 Life with its way be - fore us lies;
 Trust, and thy trust - ing soul shall prove
 On - ly be - lieve, and thou shalt see

thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
 Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
 that Christ is all in all to thee.

The opening phrase here (based on 1 Timothy 6:12) is not a military image but an athletic one, from a Greek verb meaning "struggle" or "grapple" or "wrestle." The sports context continues in later stanzas reflecting the experience of a runner (recalling Hebrews 12:1-2).