

Hymns of the Faith: "And Can It Be?"

Words by Charles Wesley (1707 –1788); **Music** by Thomas Campbell (1777 – 1844);
Tune: SAGINA; **Meter:** 8.8.8.8.8.8.

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain? [1 Cor 15:3]
For me, who Him to death pursued? [Rom 5:8]
Amazing love! how can it be [Col 2:9; 1 Thess 5:9]
That Thou, my God, should die for me?
'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries [1 Pet 1:12]
To sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore, [Isa 55:12]
Let angel minds inquire no more.
He left His Father's throne above, [Phil 2:5–8]
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied [Humbled] Himself of all but love, [and came in love]
And bled for Adam's helpless race; [Rom 5:18–19; 1 Cor 15:21–22]
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.
Long my imprisoned spirit lay [Ps 107:10–16]
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray, [Acts 12:5–10]
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed Thee. [Mark 1:16–18]
No condemnation now I dread; [Rom 8:1]
Jesus, and all in Him is mine! [1 Cor 3:22–23]
Alive in Him, my living Head, [1 Cor 11:1]
And clothed in righteousness divine, [Isa 61:10; Eph 4:24, 6:14]
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own. [2 Tim 4:8]

Scripture

Psalm 107:10–16 (NKJV)

- 10 Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death,
Bound in affliction and irons—
11 Because they rebelled against the words of God,
And despised the counsel of the Most High,
12 Therefore He brought down their heart with labor;
They fell down, and there was none to help.
13 Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,
And He saved them out of their distresses.
14 **He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death,
And broke their chains in pieces.**
15 Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,
And for His wonderful works to the children of men!
16 **For He has broken the gates of bronze,
And cut the bars of iron in two.**

Acts 12:5–10 (NKJV)

5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. 6 And when Herod was about to bring him out, **that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers;** and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. 7 Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, **and a light shone in the prison;** and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, **"Arise quickly!"** And **his chains fell off his hands.** 8 Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, **"Put on your garment and follow me."** 9 So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. 10 When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.