



Have Thine Own Way, Lord



"Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still.

"Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,
as in Thy presence humbly I bow.

"Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power, all power, surely is Thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine.

"Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.
Fill with Thy spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me."

"O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are the Potter; all of us are the work of Your hand." - Jeremiah 64:8

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way." - Psalm 139:23-24

"Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be like wool." - Isaiah 1:18

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord!" was written in 1906 by an itinerant Bible teacher named Adelaide Pollard. She was deeply discouraged because she had been unable to raise funds for a trip to Africa to do missionary work. Adelaide was moved by the prayer of another woman at a prayer meeting, who prayed, "It doesn't really matter what You do with us, Lord, just have your way with our lives."

At home that evening, she meditated on Jeremiah 18:3-4:

"Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. But the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make."

Adelaide completed writing all four stanzas of the hymn that very night. Her lyrics can help us to trust the Lord when discouragements and heartaches come into our lives that we cannot understand. As God's children, we must learn to never question the ways of our sovereign God, but simply to say, "Have Thine own way, Lord." On this sometimes difficult journey of life, we must know who God says He is, so that we can trust the Potter to work as He sees fit in us.

My dear friend, Esther Brown, shared some insights with me that she had written a few years ago when asked to help explain the reasons why, in the presence of a God of love, there still exists such a deluge of suffering in the world, which comes upon Christians and unbelievers - saints and sinners - alike.

First and foremost we must believe that God exists and that He is involved in the lives of His people. We come to trust in His Grace, Goodness and Glory, and His limitless love for those whose hearts belong to Him. That trust is present when days are sunny, and when the fierce winds of adversity blow against us, so that when feeling "wounded and weary" we cry out to the Lord for His strength to keep standing.

Esther points out that the entire chapters of Job 38-40 outline God's ownership of all creation. We come to realize that the triune God embodies power, majesty and transcendence, and as the owner of all, the Creator controls all He has made. Thus He is able to cause and/or allow whatever suits His purpose.

We must understand that God is sovereign - He reigns as the supreme power and ultimate authority over His creation. We accept this truth by faith, which Hebrews 11:1 describes as "the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen." As sovereign, God sees the beginning, the middle and the end in His eternal "Now." We can find comfort in that fact, knowing that the Potter will create something more infinitely beautiful than anything we might have chosen for ourselves.

May we sincerely pray the words of today's hymn, and ask that the Lord would truly have His way in our lives, so that by His Spirit, "all shall see Christ only, always, living in me."