

Walking in Favor
- STEPPING INTO GRACE -

DEVOTIONAL POETRY BY
Sharon Swain

KW
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DEDICATION

With so much love and joy, I dedicate this book to our four grandchildren: Margo, Harper, Cooper, and Cory. May each one of you come to know and experience the incredible favor and grace of Jesus upon your lives now and for every one of your days!

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever! Amen.” 2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)



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ENDORSEMENTS

There is a precious anointing found within the lyrics of Sharon's heartfelt poems. Years spent in intimate relationship with Jesus have formed a sanctuary of love in her heart from which her song is sung. She has stepped into her destiny to be a messenger of His love, healing, and restoration to those desperate to know they are seen and heard by the One who matters most. I am quite sure David wrote Psalm 45:1 just for her!

"My heart is on fire, boiling over with passion. Bubbling up within me are these beautiful lyrics as a lovely poem to be sung for the King. Like a river bursting its banks, I'm overflowing with words, spilling out into this sacred story." Psalm 45:1 (TPT)

I highly recommend this masterpiece for anyone who desires to hear the sweet voice of the Lover of their soul, Jesus Christ.

*Carol Krum
Healing Rooms Ministries*

Sharon Swain is not only a dear friend; she is an anointed writer. Her books are not just "poetry;" they are a life spent intimately at the feet of Jesus. Each page you read reflects her journey with her Savior. Her writings are from the very heart of The Father, beckoning you to join them on this journey and to draw deep from the Living Words inspired



by the heart of The Father written on the pages within. What a blessing we've been given to also come and sit with Him face to face. I know you will be as blessed in the journey as I have been.

Naomi Krstinic
Crosses of Hope Ministry

Time flew by, and I felt such peace while reading Sharon's anointed poetry. Her writing draws you in and places your focus on the Lord and on who you are in Him very quickly. The world we live in carries many burdens and distractions. "Walking in Favor—Stepping into Grace" will take you away from those burdens and distractions as you read words sent from above.

Debbie Andrews Smith
Author, Echoes of His Heart

Favor?! Grace?! Who doesn't want more of these in our lives?! Through her moments with God, Sharon lets us see how to depend on God's favor and grace in the actual ups and downs of life. Her poetry captures the essence of growing in intimacy with our God who loves us so dearly. Expect to grow more in love with Him as you learn how to walk in favor and step into grace.

Sharon Hyatt
Long-Time Friend, Intercessor, and Beloved Daughter of God



Sharon’s poetry is our beautiful invitation to daily “Come to Him” in all our moments. Through her voice, we hear the Shepherd’s Voice—loving us, drawing us, and persuading us to come away with Him to a quiet place and rest awhile in His Love. You are in store for a precious gift of refreshment, rest, and hope.

Debi Finklea

Counselor, Operation 220 Ministries

I have had the privilege and honor of experiencing God’s Word with Sharon for the last ten years in Bible study. Listening to and dwelling on her poems as they emerged has been a privilege, as has watching her growth and development towards this new book. Each poem will bring you closer to God’s grace and wonder!

Betty McBride

OT North Texas Therapy Innovations

“The words that Sharon pens will leave you encouraged and uplifted. You will encounter genuine grace and love and the call and embrace of a God who delights in you. Whenever I read Sharon’s poetry, I feel I have read words spoken by God Himself. You will encounter grace and hope. You will encounter the vastly deep love of a God who desires a close relationship with each and every one of us.”

Kim Rees

Wife, Mum, and Lover of God

FOREWORD

By FRANK FRIEDMANN, OUR RESOLUTE HOPE

In our search to find and experience God, there are only two roads available for us to travel. One is the road of religious good works, the road of legalism, the road of performing for acceptance. This road cannot produce life because the subject of this road is our selves.

The other road is the road of faith, the road of grace, the road of receiving from God. This is the road that leads to life because the subject of this road is the Author and Perfecter of salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Once we have made the choice to walk the road of faith in Jesus, we must ever keep Him the subject of our journey. On one side of this road is a cliff, a corruption of grace called license, where we use grace to justify our self-oriented pursuits in life instead of living the Christ-life of love.

On the other side of the road is another cliff, a corruption of grace called passivity, where, in the name of grace, we fail to walk in the exercise of faith, just as we received Him (Colossians 2:6).

But even when we remain on this road of grace, there is yet another danger, where we become enamored and consumed with the revelation instead of the Revealer. The revelation of the New Covenant is glorious. We have been made new, made right, identified as saints, forgiven of all, redeemed, restored...These are our possessions, but they are only our possession because the Person, the Lord Jesus, has made it so.

My dear friends, remember the words of Paul to the Philippians - he told them that this "one thing" was not to know the message or the doctrine, but to "know Him" (Philippians 3). Jesus is the way. He is the Truth. He is the life...It is in Him, that we live and move and have our very being. This is the glory, that we can know and experience Him... Who is our life (Colossians 3:3-4).

INTRODUCTION

I just “love” a well-planned vacation with family or friends, don’t you? In summer 2022, I went with my family on a trip to France and the UK via planes, trains, cars, and taxicabs, but I was most personally involved in a LOT of walking... and I mean a LOT!! It was a time of great fun for all of us, though, and the best part about the trip was being with the ones I love so dearly!

At the time of publishing this book, I have been walking with Jesus for 46 years. I accepted Christ when I was 29 years old, so you can do the math. You guessed it; I am no spring chicken!

Yet, over the years I felt like I was “stuck” in my walk (thanks to the lies from the enemy) that brought pain from guilt, shame, regret, condemnation, and fear, to name a few. It seemed impossible for me to pull myself out. Maybe you have a list of lies that you’re dealing with right now. Maybe you’re feeling “stuck” as well.

But Jesus reached out His hand to me and lifted me out of my despair. He began to show me who I really was in Christ. He has given me His very own righteousness, so I am enough. I am in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21). I am at rest in His love today because I know I am in union with Him. You are as well if you have accepted Christ into your life. If you have not made that decision yet, Jesus is reaching His hand out to you, my friend.

Come and walk with me on this journey through poetry. And these poems are written in first and third person because we are in a relationship with Him. (John 17:20–21). You are His poetry; did you know that?

“We have become his poetry, a re-created people that will fulfill the destiny He has given each of us, for we are



joined to Jesus, the Anointed One. Even before we were born, God planned in advance our destiny and the good works we would do to fulfill it!" *Ephesians 2:10 (TPT)*

Two very important words are woven throughout Scripture: FAVOR and GRACE. We will be, "Walking in Favor" and "Stepping into Grace." We will explore these words and discover they are the "stepping stones" in our walk with Jesus.

I have been given a gift to write poetry to brag on Jesus and His finished work on the cross. In my own personal journey, I have walked through almost every poem He has placed on my heart to pen for Him. What an amazing journey He has had me on, and I know the journey will continue. I pray you, too, are blessed by this poetry and each accompanying Scripture!

Our journeys are all so personal—so different! We are each His masterpiece, fitted for His glory. Jesus is not just going to be helping you on this journey, He will be your very Life, your union with Him, and your oneness. God with us – Immanuel (Matthew 1:23)!

Pack your bags. We'll be going through some rough terrain, up hills and down in valleys. We'll rest. We'll overlook mountaintops, but we'll be mostly walking. We'll be blazing some new trails and discovering new pathways together. Our tour guide will be Jesus! Now, He's not going to be just helping us as we blaze through this new trail, but He will live inside us and promises to never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Plus, He promises to go before us as well, so come listen for the Savior's voice and His "love call" to you. He will be speaking to you personally, my friend, out of His deep love for you. Are you ready?

Sharon Swain



A NEW LENS

A new path, a new way
Was carved out for you.
He didn't patch up the old
But made you brand new!

He's not holding your hand
And walking beside,
But made you His home
And now lives inside.

Christ is in you
And you are in Him.
He gave you Himself
To peer from a new lens.

An exchange did take place
And your sins He erased.
The old you was replaced
With Himself to embrace.

He doesn't show up
Just to depart,
But made you His home
And now lives in your heart.

You're righteous in Him
For His death took your sin
And you now have His power
To walk in this hour.

So touch up your thinking
And believe you're brand new.
You'll see out of a new lens
With new focus in view!

REFLECTIONS AFTER A TEACHING BY
GRAHAM COOKE, BRILLIANT PERSPECTIVES

“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.” *Romans 6:3-5 (NASB20)*

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things passed away; behold, the new has come.” *2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)*

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” *2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB20)*

WASHING DIRTY FEET

Such a humble task
When called upon to ask
If you would serve another
And sit beneath your brother.

'Cause serving Christ our Savior
Means menial behavior
For the limelight is not there,
And no one may know you care.

But the highest price you'll pay
Is to sacrifice your day;
To wash those dirty feet
Then rinse, then wash—
Repeat.

No one may see your service,
And you doubt if there's a purpose
To sit amongst the people,
The lowly and the feeble.

But the One who really cares
Is the One who called you there.
He left heaven's glory
So you could tell His story

Of the sacrifice He made.
He took your sins and paid
All of them that day
To give His love away.

Jesus hung amongst the lowly,
The Son of God, who is most holy.
He paid the price for sin
And served you to the end.
He died and rose again,
And now He calls you friend.

So washing dirty feet
Then rinse, then wash—
Repeat,
Demonstrates His perfect love
When you serve and sit beneath.

“So if I’m your teacher and lord and have just washed your dirty feet, then you should follow the example that I’ve set for you and wash one another’s dirty feet. Now do for each other what I have done for you. I speak to you timeless truth: a servant is not superior to his master, and an apostle is never greater than the one who sent him.” John 13:14-16 (TPT)

YOUR CALLING IS CALLING

Walking in comfort for many a day
Has been His will as you've walked in His ways,
But He's blowing the winds and the waves by the sea
And causing discomfort with no guarantee.

Oh, He's stirring you up with new focus in view
'Cause He has a new work and a calling on you.
Far out in the distance from the land and the shore
Peers a mountaintop range no one can ignore.

He now says it is time; you are ready for more—
You were born to fly and not stay on the shore.
Your purpose is clear, for this is the year
To soar like an eagle, so give Him your fears.

He's causing discomfort so you'll leave the nest—
So you will trust Him and believe He knows best.
He's chosen you, child; you were hand-picked by Him—
For now is the time to soar on the wind!

Oh, the Ancient of Days has planned out your ways,
And His Glory will rest and shine upon you
As you leave all behind and come follow the new!

“But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.” *Isaiah 40:31 (NLT)*

I don't depend on my own strength to accomplish this; however I do have one compelling focus: I forget all of the past as I fasten my heart to the future instead. I run straight for the divine invitation of reaching the heavenly goal and gaining the victory-prize through the anointing of Jesus.” *Philippians 3:13-14 (TPT)*