Come and Sit with Me Awhile

A Collection of Poetry & Coloring Pages

Sharon Swain



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Dedication

I want to dedicate this book to my longtime friend and Bible study teacher, Johnie Grainger from San Antonio, Texas. Thank you for inviting me to your women's Bible study so many years ago. It was during those many years of being in your Bible study that God did such a work in my life. He poured into my heart His great love for me and revealed to me who I really am in Christ! Thank you, Johnie, for all your sacrifices of love and commitment to teaching God's Word to so many, including me!

Thanks

Thanks to my sister, Brenda Kitchen, for her loving support and help with this book. Her encouragement has been such a blessing to me!

Thanks to Codi and the KingdomWinds team for helping me review and republish this work, alongside my two other books, *All My Desire* and *Walking in Favor, Stepping into Grace*. Your help, support, and creative ability has meant everything!

Also, I want to thank my friend, Rainy Mitchell. Rainy was the one God used in my life to suggest I write a poetry book in 2019. Rainy also assisted me in self-publishing this book. With the help of Allen Joanis with Ketos Creative LLC, Rainy turned some of these poems into songs which are on an album called, *Revelation*, sung by Rainy Mitchell. You can find it on Spotify, YouTube, etc.

And to my husband, Ron, who has been my biggest supporter since Day 1, when God called me into writing Christian poetry in 2003. I certainly could never have fulfilled this God-given dream without his love, encouragement, and help along the way.

The Lord truly gets all the glory for what He has done in and through me. Without a doubt, my Jesus gets sweeter as the years go by. What a Savior; what a friend!

Forward

I was blessed to meet Sharon Swain in a course we both completed called "Life in the Grace Room." The first time I heard her speak, I knew she was a very special person but had no idea how deeply Father would knit our hearts and lives together with His over the next several years. She reminded me of a woman described in the Bible as one with a "gentle and quiet spirit" (1 Peter 3:4). While watching God work in and through Sharon, I sensed her spirit growing deeper and deeper in Union with Christ.

Following the close of the course, we shared in a regular Bible study with a few other women we named "The Bell Sheep Sisters" and continued to grow together in Christ. Sharon began sharing some beautiful poems with us she was receiving from the Holy Spirit that deeply ministered to our hearts.

This special collection you hold in your hands today is the result of her continued sensitivity to God as she lives what she writes. I pray that as you read, you will come and sit quietly along with Sharon and encounter Jesus in a deep place in your own spirit, as the answers you seek will come.

Always and Only By Grace,

- Nebbie Walden

Introduction

As a bit of a testimony about this book, Come And Sit With Me Awhile, is about a love story: my love story with Jesus!

I accepted Christ into my life at the age of 29. It was a real decision! I knew I was saved and had eternal life and experienced much joy over being saved. However, as time went on, I got all busy about being "religious" and keeping all the rules and making sure others did too, but the problem was I couldn't even keep my own rules. And I certainly did not think God liked me very much when I did wrong, and so I attempted to hide from Him. Somehow, we never do a very good job of that, do we?

About 20+ years ago, my world was falling apart. I quit a job, knowing God was calling me to a new work, but I had lots of time on my hands in the interim. Life events had happened to me, and I was hearing the relentless voice of the enemy—the "accuser of the brethren" (Revelation 12:10). They were all lies, by the way, but I thought they were true. I was dealing with defeat, feelings of inferiority, condemnation, depression, shame, you name it. All the real, raw stuff of life. I had caused many of my problems, and I certainly could not forgive myself. Life is messy sometimes.

It was during those days that I began to see God had given me a gift to write poetry. He began healing me with the Scriptures and the poetry He was giving me to help me understand just who I really was in Christ, that I was loved and accepted all along. I now know I am complete in Christ and forgiven, all because of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. So now, because I know I am loved and accepted by Him, I run to Him and don't hide from Him anymore. Why should I, if I know I'm loved and accepted?! I now understand I am in union with Him, and that has made all the difference (John 17:20–26)!

This book represents a first revision of a poetry collection I self-published in 2019, poems that I heard in my heart during my earliest years of writing. The Lord has allowed me to write two other books since that time, but we are told in God's Word not to despise small beginnings:

"Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin..." —Zechariah 4:10a

Live in and bask in the deep, rich love the Father has for you. Step on the cobblestones of a journey you may have never been on before. Watch your step and dare to experience maybe a new path for you that is fresh and blows a new wind of hope into your life.

Every journey is different for each person. Maybe you have experienced some dark days. Maybe you're there now. They are lies that the enemy is speaking to you in your ear. I have heard those lies, and they are only lies. Jesus speaks peace and loves you!

Come and go with me as we walk through some of my earlier days and life situations—a path I was walking down. God was doing a new work in my life—opening my eyes to see the reality of my oneness in Christ. My identity in Him.

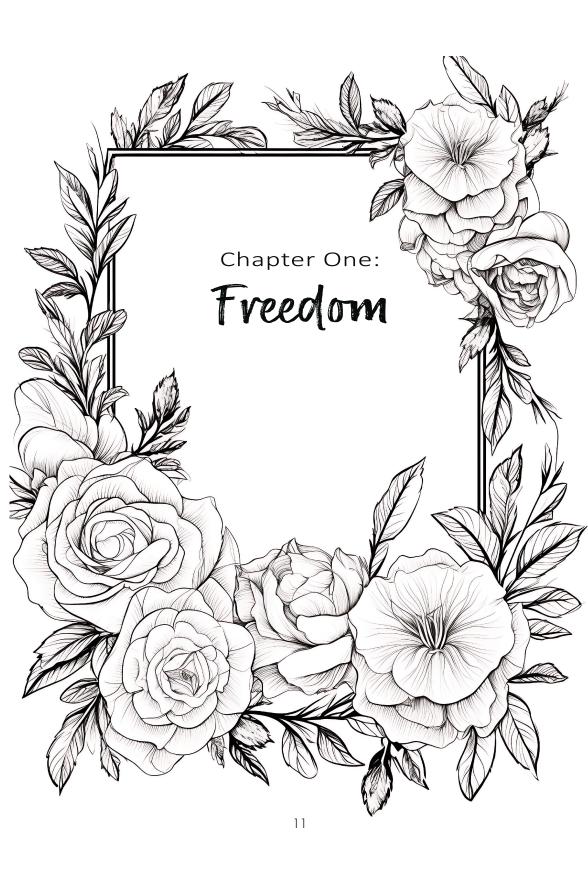
"Christ in you, the hope of glory." —Colossians 1:27

We are up against a real battle if we are in Christ. My friend, Mike Daniel, explains the real struggles we face as Christians this way:

"The battle between flesh (that's not you), and God's Spirit (within you) is by definition, not your fight. When the battle is the Lord's, His rest is yours (Galatians 5:16-18)." —Mike Q. Daniel Ministries

God has picked me up and placed my steps on the solid rock—the Lord Jesus. Pull away with Jesus and me for a while and walk down this cobblestone path of my life's journey. And it's my prayer you will listen for His voice to your heart as well. May you be encouraged by this poetry, my friend.

- Sharon Swain



No Longer Condemned

I'm misunderstood again, it seems
The pain from the silence and the empty dreams.
Imaginations run through my head
So fast and so furious that cause me to dread.

Things left unsaid, things left undone
The guilt and the shame lies parched like the sun
That causes my heart to beat ever so loud
As if I were facing the sneer of a crowd.

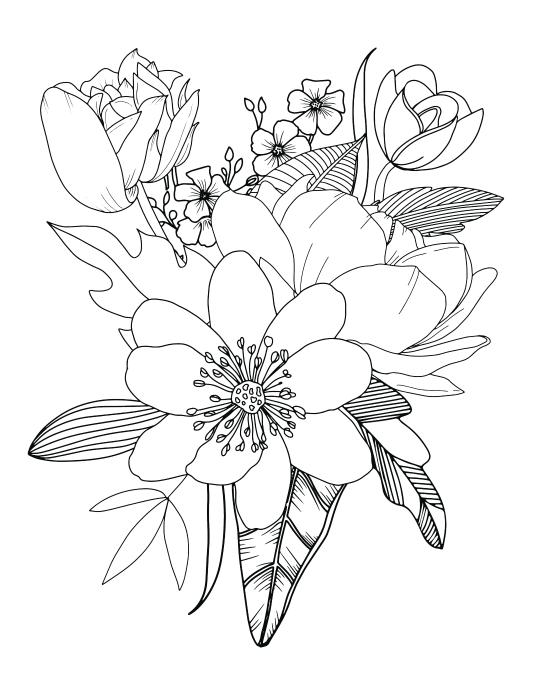
But then I awaken to just who I am
That I'm no longer downtrodden and allowed to be damned.
No longer condemned by the cobwebs of doubt
That bounce in my head and flounder about.

As each new day dawns and I dare to lay hold
Of the truths that I'm loved and can now be so bold
In sharing Christ's love with you, my dear friend
And together find joy in the journey's end.

For my life is now hidden in Christ, don't you see
For freedom and joy has allowed me to be free
From the life lived so long in darkness and pain
Now Christ's death on the cross has brought me much gain.

From this day forward I make a deliberate choice To listen and meditate and hear a new voice As my mind is renewed by His Word each day Then the Spirit within will help me to obey.

Give Him a chance, don't turn Him away, He's waiting to shape you and mold you like clay And shower His love upon your dear heart To give you hope and a brand new start!



A New Day is Dawning

Everything's new
As I understand more
His Son is the key
And He is the door.
I get to know Him
As I listen and pray
And He never leaves me
Or turns me away.

I now study and listen And hate legalism And hear His sweet Spirit Speaking to me.

For I know I am loved Because He is love And He'll be my friend And that will not end.

I'm accepted, I'm loved, Of that I am sure 'Cause He paid the price For what He did endure.

He rose again
To bring joy to my heart
To give me hope and
A brand new start.

So walking with Him And hearing His voice Is now not out of duty But now out of choice!

