**The Spirit & The Understanding, Part 34**

**Reading – 1 Corinthians 14:1-15**

***[Colossians 3:16-17]*** ***Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*** ***And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.***

**O To Be Like Thee # 429**

When people were introduces to Thomas O. Chisholm, the author of this hymn and “Great Is Thy Faithfulness,” he would often say, “Aw, I’m just an old shoe!”

He was born in a Kentucky cabin in 1866. He was self-educated and began teaching in a rural school when he was sixteen.

This Kentucky farm boy wrote this hymn when he was 27 years old.

He served on the staff of the *Pentecostal Herald* in Louisville until his health broke.

He was accepted as a traveling preacher, but once again health problems caused him to resign.

Eventually he became a life insurance agent in Vineland, New Jersey.

Throughout his life he displayed many of the characteristics that he praised in Jesus in the hymns he wrote.

The man who described himself as an old shoe, was perhaps more like Christ than he realized.

**Open My Eyes, That I May See # 830**

God calls us to use all our senses as we strive to seek and serve Him.

We must keep our entire being - body & soul - tuned to God’s every communication.

In our busy lives we often miss the quiet promptings of God’s Spirit.

When we do hear God speak, we often ignore the message.

“I’m too busy now,” we say. “I have more important things to do.”

This hymn calls us to watch, listen, and act on what we have seen and heard, sharing it with others.

Clara Scott was a music teacher who composed a great deal of instrumental and vocal music.

She began teaching music when she was 18 yrs. old at a small high school in rural northwestern Iowa. That is where she spent most of her life.

She became known for her book of anthems, *The Royal Anthem Book*, which was published in 1882.

Her eyes and ears were opened to God’s leading, and she was ready to obey.

We should be ready to do the same.

**Open Our Eyes, Lord # 766**

Ever speaker has times when he feels that he is speaking to a brick wall.

Youth speakers often experience this when addressing young people.

How can God possibly speak to a group when their eyes and ears are closed?

Bob Cull felt tht way when he was speaking to an audience of young people in a Christian school in Hawaii.

As long as he was entertaining them, it was ok, but when he started drawing them to Jesus, he lost them.

He felt defeated and wondered if it was hopeless.

This time discouragement served to encourage him to write a prayer song to “reach closed-hearted people.”

After praying about it he says, “the song. Like an answer to my prayer, fell into my head.”

Since that time, it has been translated and recorded in dozens of different languages.

**Precious Lord, Take My Hand # 786**

Thomas Dorsey was successful in Chicago nightclubs and it was very lucrative.

However, as a Christian his conscience started to bother him and he was urged to use his musical talent for the Lord.

In 1932 he was invited to go to St. Louis and lead the music for a large revival meeting.

He hesitated to agree because his wife was pregnant.

He did not want to leave her with the time for delivery so close, but he made the trip anyway.

The second day of the revival meetings, he got a telegram. The baby had been born, but his wife died in childbirth.

He rushed back to Chicago and held the baby in his arms. Only a few hours later, his infant son died too. Both mother & child were buried in the same casket.

Dorsey was devastated. He was trying to serve God, and this is what happened.

In anger, he told the Lord, “God, aren’t worth a dime to me right now!”

A few weeks later, still depressed, he sat down at the piano, and the words and music simply came to him.

With tears streaming down his face, he sang, “Precious Lord, Take My Hand.”

**Cleanse Me # 420**

James Edwin Orr wrote this song when he was 24 following an Easter evangelistic campaign in New Zealand

During that campaign in 1936, revival fell on the people of New Zealand.

Midnight services had to be added to accommodate the crowds; revival fires spread across the island nation.

The key to this revival was the public confession and reconciliation of believers, based on the verse in Psalm 139 tht begins, “Search me, O God.”

As Orr was about to leave New Zealand, four Māori girls came and sang him their native song of farewell.

Impressed by the tune and still stirred by the revival he had witnessed, young Orr quickly scribbled the stanzas of this hymn on the back of an envelope as he waited in the post office of New-Gar-A Wah-he-A, New Zealand.

Orr was a brilliant man who would go on to earn doctorates from universities in Europe, Asis, Africa and America.

He studied revival movements for the next fifty years and chronicled them in numerous books.