

## 684 Faith Begins by Letting Go

1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what  
 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - o - ry's  
 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en -

had seemed sure, tak - ing risks and press - ing on,  
 roots a - live so that hope may bear its fruit;  
 larg - ing hearts, shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer,

though the way feels less se - cure: pil - grim - age both  
 prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive, not through mer - it  
 bind - ing up the bro - ken parts; till we find the

right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
 we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
 com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

This text affirms that faith is not a state of being but a process of becoming what we are called to be in relationship to God, other people, and the world. The movement from one stage of faith to another is suggested by gestures of the hand: letting go, holding on, reaching out.

## 313 Lord, Make Us More Holy

1 Lord, make us more ho - ly; Lord, make us more ho - ly;  
 2 Lord, make us more lov - ing; Lord, make us more lov - ing;  
 3 Lord, make us more pa - tient; Lord, make us more pa - tient;  
 4 Lord, make us more faith - ful; Lord, make us more faith - ful;

Lord, make us more ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain:  
 Lord, make us more lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain:  
 Lord, make us more pa - tient, un - til we meet a - gain:  
 Lord, make us more faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain:

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain.  
 lov - ing, lov - ing, lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain.  
 pa - tient, pa - tient, pa - tient, un - til we meet a - gain.  
 faith - ful, faith - ful, faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain.

Like many African American spirituals, this one creates a framework for almost endless expansion beyond the four stanzas given here. This sung prayer is notable as an affirmation of God's active care for the on-gathered community while dispersed and of hope to be reunited.

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in  
 2 Be - fore our \*Fa - ther's throne we pour our  
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual  
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us  
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we

Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of  
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our  
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each  
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be  
 shall be free; and per - fect love and

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.  
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.  
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

\*Or "Maker's"

Written to express a pastor's unwillingness to leave a beloved congregation, this hymn is frequently used as an expression of Christian fellowship, especially at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper. The tune is attributed to an influential Swiss musician and publisher.