

## **Song Story #13 – Open the Eyes of our Hearts**

To walk by faith and not by sight is the constant call and challenge for Christians. That call applies to so many areas of our lives – most of which we don't do. But yet, to be at peace at all with God, we must believe that when we repented of our sins and put our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as our atonement, that we were saved, forgiven and made the children of God. We don't see that. There's no factual evidence for it. We simply have to believe it. And when we do, the Holy Spirit affirms that truth in our hearts.

But to continue to live by faith all the truth and promises of God's Word in our daily lives takes real discipline and God's great help. I tend to see myself much more easily as a screw-up and disappointment rather than someone who is even "more than a conqueror", a "saint", "holy", "beloved", "righteous" and so many other things that God has called me now that I am "in Christ".

I wrote this song in 1994, after reading the book of Ephesians again. I love that book. It's filled with affirmation and filled with great calls to holy living. I found the prayers of Paul for the Ephesians to be so powerful and hopeful and I wanted to personalize those prayers and make them into prayers that we could sing together. Here are the passages that I paraphrased:

Rom. 8:37 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Ephesians 1:17 -20: I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, <sup>20</sup> which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead..."

Eph. 3:15-19 <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Eph. 5:20 - Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

