

Hymn Story:
HAVE FAITH IN GOD
Saturday, February 24

[1] Have faith in God when
your pathway is lonely
He sees and knows all the way you have trod
Never alone are the least of His children
Have faith in God; have faith in God

[2] Have faith in God when
your prayers are unanswered
Your earnest plea He will never forget
Wait on the Lord; trust His Word and be patient
Have faith in God; He'll answer yet

[CHORUS]
Have faith in God; He's on His throne
Have faith in God; He watches o'er His own
He cannot fail! He must prevail!
Have faith in God, have faith in God

[3] Have faith in God in your
pain and your sorrow
His heart is touched with your grief and despair
Cast all you cares and your burdens upon Him
And leave them there, O leave them there

[4] Have faith in God tho' all else
fail about you
Have faith in God; He provides for His own
He cannot fail tho' all kingdoms shall perish
He rules, He reigns upon His throne

This song was written during a time of deep hardship, economic depression, and uncertainty in America. B.B. McKinney (1886-1952) was the music editor for a Texas publisher of gospel music and songbooks (1918-1935). He also taught in the School of Gospel Music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth (1919-1931). It was in 1934, that McKinney led music at a revival in Muskogee, Oklahoma. The Great Depression had hit the country hard and the current unemployment rate stood at 24.9%. During this revival service, McKinney felt the Holy Spirit impress on his heart the need to encourage this crowd to put their trust in the Lord despite the difficult circumstances. He began writing during the sermon and finished both words and music later that evening in his hotel room. In most hymnbooks, the tune is titled Muskogee after the place where it was written.

The phrase "Have faith in God" is repeated 24 times when you sing all 4 stanzas followed by the chorus. It is a command that Jesus gave us in Mark 11:22. It was a good reminder for people struggling through the depression of the '30's. And it is just as important for us to remember today! The chorus reminds us that no matter what – God is still on His throne. The stanzas give us examples of situations where we could easily forget to trust in God.

The first stanza reminds us to have faith in God when we feel abandoned and alone. We must remember that Jesus promised, "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). In the second stanza we are instructed to have faith in God even when our prayers seem to be unanswered. It reminds us to wait patiently on the Lord and trust His Word. "I remain confident in this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait on the Lord" (Psalm 27:13-14). The third stanza tells us to have faith in God during times of pain and despair. When things are going badly we might be tempted to question God or blame Him for our predicament. At these times we need to remember to "cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). The last stanza says to have faith in God when everything around us is falling apart. Though human powers and help may fail (as they did dramatically during the Great Depression) God still "reigns upon His throne." He will never fail us. "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the Strength of my heart and my Portion forever" (Psalm 73:26).

Listen to "Have Faith in God" @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZk-miJqetw>