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MY JESUS, I LOVE THEE William R. Featherston, 1846-1873

“We love Him because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

**And shall I use these ransomed powers of mine for things that only minister to me?
Lord, take my tongue, my hands, my heart, my all, And let me live and love for Thee!**

The spiritual depth of ‘My Jesus, I Love Thee’ is made all the more remarkable by the knowledge that it was written by a teenager. William Ralph Featherston of Montreal, Canada, is thought to have written these lines of heartfelt gratitude to Christ at the time of his conversion experience when only 16. It is believed he then sent a copy of his poem to an aunt in Los Angeles, and somehow the text appeared anonymously in print in an English hymnal, *The London book*, in 1864.

Several years later, a well-known American Baptist pastor, Dr. A.J. Gordon, discovered the anonymous hymn in the English hymnbook and decided to compose a better melody for it. With its new tune the hymn has since been included in nearly every evangelical hymnal and has been sung frequently by believers everywhere during hushed moments of rededication to God.

How marvelous are the workings of God in bringing together expressions such as these, providing a hymn that has been used in a remarkable way for more than a century to direct Christians to a deeper relationship with their Lord. May these words cause each of us even now to renew our devotion to God so that his love for Christ may be reflected in all of the activities of this day.

- ♪ **My Jesus, I love thee, I know Thou art mine – for Thee all the follies of sin I resign; my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou: if ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.**
- ♪ **I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me and purchased my pardon on Calvary’s tree; I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow: If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.**
- ♪ **I’ll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death, and praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath; and say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow, “If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.”**
- ♪ **In mansions of glory and endless delight, I’ll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright; I’ll sing with the glittering crown on my brow, “If ever I loved Thee my Jesus, ‘tis now.” Amen.**

**Amazing Grace – 366 Devotional Hymn Stories
by Kenneth W. Osbeck**

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

