



Open Heavens HYMN 64: WHEN UPON LIFE’S BILLOWS YOU ARE TEMPEST TOSSED

Description

This is **hymn 64 of the Open Heavens** daily devotion written by Pastor E. A. Adeboye, General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG).

HYMN 64: WHEN UPON LIFE’S BILLOWS YOU ARE TEMPEST TOSSED

1 When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Chorus:

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

2 Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev’ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.

3 When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.

4 So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

Open
HEAVEN
Hymn

WHEN UPON LIFE'S BILLOWS YOU ARE TEMPEST TOSSED

HYMN COMMENTARY

Beloved in Christ, this beloved and practical hymn, "Count Your Blessings," offers a God-given strategy for spiritual and emotional renewal. It addresses us not in times of ease, but in the midst of life's storms—when we are "tempest tossed," discouraged, and burdened. It prescribes a simple, yet profoundly powerful, act of will: the conscious, deliberate practice of gratitude. This hymn is a call to shift our focus from our problems to God's provisions, transforming our perspective and renewing our joy.

Why Sing This Hymn

We sing this hymn to combat discouragement, anxiety, and envy by actively rehearsing the goodness of God. It is a hymn of spiritual discipline, teaching us that thankfulness is not a passive feeling but an active choice that changes our hearts and minds. It redirects our gaze from what we lack to what we have been given by grace.

1. It is a Hymn for the Storm-Tossed Soul (Verse 1)

The hymn begins where we often find ourselves: in the turbulent waves of life's troubles, feeling that **"all is lost."** In that moment of despair, the instruction is counter-intuitive: don't first catalogue your problems; catalogue your blessings. The command is specific: **"name them one by one."**

This intentional, itemized recollection forces the mind away from the overwhelming storm and onto the concrete evidences of God's faithfulness. The promised result is a holy surprise: **"And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."** We are often blind to our blessings until we deliberately look for them.

2. It is a Hymn for the Burdened Heart (Verse 2)

This verse speaks to the weary weight of daily cares and the specific **"cross"** of difficulty we are called to bear. The prescription is the same: count your blessings. The promise is immediate and powerful: **"every doubt will fly."** The act of thanksgiving displaces the spirit of fear and uncertainty. The natural outcome is a change in our very disposition: **"And you will be singing as the days go by."** Gratitude turns our lament into a song. It is impossible to truly count blessings and remain in a state of despair.

3. It is a Hymn for the Envious Eye (Verse 3)

The temptation to compare—to look at **"others with their lands and gold"**—is a potent source of discontent. The hymn redirects our comparison. We are to compare our situation not with others, but with God's promises. We have **"His wealth untold"**—spiritual riches in Christ (Ephesians 1:3) and an eternal inheritance. The blessings we count include realities **"money cannot buy"**: our coming heavenly **"reward"** and our eternal **"home on high."** Earthly envy melts away in the light of eternal possessions.

4. It is a Hymn for the Weary Warrior (Verse 4)

The final verse provides the sustaining truth for all of life's conflicts, **"whether great or small."**

The foundation is God's sovereignty: **"Do not be discouraged, God is over all."** Upon that foundation, we are again told to practice gratitude. This discipline invites heavenly aid: **"angels will**

attend, Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.• The act of thankful faith activates God's provision of comfort and guidance, ministered by His unseen servants, all the way home.

The Chorus: The Practical Refrain

The chorus is the actionable core of the hymn. The repeated command to **Count your blessings, name them one by one**• is the spiritual exercise. The command to **see what God hath done**• is the shift in focus from our own efforts or failures to God's faithful activity. It is a call to open our eyes.

A Word for Your Spirit Today

Are you tempest-tossed, burdened, or looking at others with a discontented heart? The Lord, through this hymn, offers you a way out.

Stop right now. Put down the heavy list of worries. Take up a pen and paper, or simply still your heart before God, and begin to obey: **Count your blessings. Name them one by one.**

Start with the breath in your lungs, the salvation of your soul, the forgiveness of your sins, the love of a friend, the provision of a meal. Let the list grow. As you do, you will find your doubts fleeing, your song returning, and your perspective lifting to see the God who is over all, faithfully providing for your journey to its glorious end.

Begin your count today. It will surprise you.

In the name of Jesus, the source of every blessing, Amen.