



Open Heavens HYMN 59: I WANT TO BE LIKE JESUS

Description

This is **hymn 59 of the Open Heavens** daily devotion written by Pastor E. A. Adeboye, General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG).

HYMN 59: I WANT TO BE LIKE JESUS

1. I want to be like Jesus,
So lowly and so meek;
For no one marked an angry word,
That ever heard Him speak.
2. I want to be like Jesus,
So frequently in prayer;
Alone upon the mountain top,
He met His Father there.
3. I want to be like Jesus,
I never, never find
That He, though persecuted was
To anyone unkind.
4. I want to be like Jesus,
Engaged in doing good;
So that of me it may be said,
“He hath done what he could.”
5. I want to be like Jesus,
Who sweetly said to all,
“Let little children come to Me,”
I would obey the call.

6. But oh, Iâ??m not like Jesus,
As anyone may see;
O gentle Savior, send Thy grace,
And make me like to thee.



Open HEAVEN

Hymn

I WANT TO BE LIKE JESUS HYMN COMMENTARY

Beloved in Christ, this tender hymn, *“I Want to Be Like Jesus,”* strikes at the very heart of God’s purpose for our salvation: our conformity to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29). It is more than a song; it is a holy ambition, a prayer of discipleship that moves from admiration to a heartfelt plea for transformation. It sets before us the beautiful, practical character of Jesus and then, in humble honesty, acknowledges our own deep need for grace to become like Him.

Why We Sing This Hymn

We sing this hymn to cultivate a Christ-like character, to examine our lives against His perfect example, and to express our utter dependence on the Holy Spirit to change us. It is a hymn of sanctification, guiding us beyond the desire for blessings to the deeper longing for Christ-likeness in thought, word, and deed.

1. It is a Hymn of Admiring Imitation (Verses 1-5)

Each verse begins with the heartfelt declaration, *“I want to be like Jesus,”* and then focuses on a specific, observable trait of His earthly life:

- **In Speech:** He was *“lowly and so meek”*; His words were never marked by angry, ungracious speech (Verse 1).
- **In Prayer:** He was *“frequently in prayer,”* seeking solitary communion with the Father (Verse 2, Mark 1:35).
- **In Response to Evil:** Though persecuted, He was never unkind or retaliatory in spirit (Verse 3).
- **In Service:** He was *“engaged in doing good,”* and His life could be summarized by the principle, *“He hath done what he could”* (Verse 4, Mark 14:8).
- **In Heart for the Lowly:** He showed tender love and welcome to children, the humble, and the overlooked (Verse 5).

This paints a portrait of a life of gentle strength, prayerful dependence, active love, and gracious humility—a clear model for our own daily walk.

2. It is a Hymn of Humble Confession and Gracious Plea (Verse 6)

The hymn takes a crucial, honest turn. After five verses of aspiration, the singer looks inward and confesses: *“But oh, I’m not like Jesus, As anyone may see.”* This is not despair, but the necessary humility that unlocks grace. We cannot will ourselves into Christ-likeness. The realization of our deficiency leads to the only solution: a prayer. *“O gentle Savior, send Thy grace, And make me like to Thee.”* We acknowledge that the change we desire is a work of His grace within us, not our own moral effort. It is a plea for the Spirit to form Christ in us (Galatians 4:19).

A Word for Your Spirit Today

Do you truly *want* to be like Jesus? This hymn invites you to move beyond a general admiration to a specific longing. Look at the areas it highlights:

- Is your speech marked by the *“lowly and meek”* spirit of Christ, or by anger, gossip, or pride?

- Is your life rooted in **“frequent prayer,”** or is it powered by your own plans?
- When wronged, do you harbor unkindness, or do you reflect His gracious, forgiving spirit?
- Are you **“engaged in doing good”** in practical ways where you are?
- Do you have His heart for the humble, the young, and the marginalized?

As you reflect, you will likely join in the confession of Verse 6. Do not be discouraged. This is where grace flourishes. Bring your failed efforts and sincere longing to the **“gentle Savior.”** Pray this hymn as your own. Tell Him you want to be like Him, and then plead for His grace to accomplish in you what you cannot do for yourself.

The desire to be like Jesus is the Spirit’s work. The power to become like Jesus is the Spirit’s gift. Let this hymn be your prayer today, and trust the gentle Savior to answer.

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6).

In the name of our perfect Example and gracious Transformer, Jesus Christ, Amen.