

## **BREATH OF HEAVEN**

By John F. Hall

Everyone has been given the precious gift of the breath of heaven. It was first received when each of us took our first breath at birth. It is the last breath we take when our brief journey on earth is finished. We know where the first breath of heaven originated. In Genesis, Chapter 2, Verse 7 are these words: “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

This story began when I was cleaning out a small metal shed to make room for three sets of corn hoe boards that my son had constructed. There was a six-drawer chest that held several plastic containers that contained missing sets of sockets and rackets. I stored them with the intent to combine and make two complete sets. The chest was made of inexpensive particle board. It was damaged beyond repair due to moisture. So I had to dismantle and discard it. As I was removing two tool sets, a clear plastic CD case fell from between the two sets and hit the floor. I picked, it up and read the name of the CD: Amy Grant. It had been more than 10 years since I last cleaned out the metal shed and looked into those drawers. I don't recall why the CD was even in the shed.



I wondered if the CD was still good after being exposed to extreme cold and hot temperatures for over a decade. I had to make a food run, so on the way to town, I put the CD in my Ford Escape's CD player. Since only Amy Grant's name was on the CD, I had no way of knowing what songs were on the CD. One of the songs on the 1992 Christmas CD is Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song). Christopher Eaton is a British singer and song writer. He wrote the song Breath of Heaven (An Angel's Touch: Healing Inspirations). It was not a Christmas song, at that time. These are some of his lyrics: “You are harvest, You are golden sun. You are cool rain, You are all in one. And in all my deepest thoughts and in all my battles fought, You are within, You are within. You are crimson. You are midnight blue. You have called me to discover You. You have warmed my heart of stone. You have borne my pain alone. Speak to me now, speak to me now, speak to me now. Breath of heaven hold me together. Be forever near me. Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness. Pour over me Your holiness for You are holy. Breath. of heaven. I am waiting in a silent prayer. I am longing to be with You there. And every fading fear there is healing in my tears. Now I belong, now I belong, now I am strong. Breath of heaven, hold me together. Be forever near me. Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness. Pour over me Your holiness for You are holy. Breath of heaven...”

Christopher Eaton's faith in Jesus Christ can be felt in his lyrics. I wasn't the only one inspired by those lyrics. When Amy Grant first heard the song Breath of Heaven, she wanted to record the song for her Christmas album, but she wanted to rewrite most of the verses to personalize them. She said, “That song is so profound, but chorus is so simple.

It is authentic and perfectly written, because it uses an incredibly moving economy of words...”

Amy Grant contacted Christopher Eaton and told him that she wanted to use his song with her lyrics. She told him, “Well, you couldn't possibly have written the lyrics I'm thinking of because I'm going to write it from a woman's perspective.” At that time, Amy Grant was pregnant and she wanted to try to imagine Mary's experience, as the mother of Jesus Christ. Christopher (Chris) Eaton and Amy Grant had toured together and are friends, so making the Christian song into a Christmas song was very easy. They went into a recording studio. Shane Keister played the piano and the song was completed in less than two takes.

Their Christmas song contains the chorus and several lyrics from Chris Eaton's original song. It also contains Amy Grant's lyrics that tells the nativity story from Mary's perspective. It portrays the mother of Jesus as a frightened young girl, attempting to deal with the circumstances of giving birth to the Holy Father's son, Jesus Christ. Despite her human doubts, Mary's faith in the goodness and mercy of God remain and help her deal with the unique situation she finds herself in.

These are some of the lyrics by Amy Grant and Chris Eaton in their Christmas song, Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song): “I have traveled many moonless nights. Cold and weary with a babe inside. And I wonder what I have done. Holy Father you have come and chosen and chosen me to carry your son. I am waiting in silent prayer. I am frightened by the load I bear. In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone. Be with me now. Be with me now. Breath of heaven hold me together. Be forever near me. Breath of heaven, breath of heaven. Lighten my darkness. Pour over me your holiness. For you are holy, breath of heaven. Do you wonder as you watch my face? If a wiser one should have had my place. But I offer all I am am for the mercy of your plan. Help me be strong, help me be, help me...Breath of heaven...”

Everyday that we wake up it is because we have the breath of heaven which is Jesus Christ. He sustains us just as he sustains this planet and the entire universe. You can listen to Amy Grant on YouTube. Her video is five minutes and 35 seconds. Her voice, the lyrics, and the pictures in the video portray much more meaning than my inadequate words. Amy uses her experience as a mother in that song. I use my experiences to write stories. This story began when a decade old forgotten CD hit the floor. It ends with a reminder that no one can live if Jesus Christ pulls away His Breath of Heaven.

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