

Just As I Am – reflection

Just as I am - without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
-O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am - and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
-O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am - though toss'd about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
-O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am - poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,

Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
-O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am - Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
-O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am - Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
-O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am - of that free love
The breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
Here for a season, then above,
-O Lamb of God, I come

Written by Charlotte Elliott (1835)

Charlotte Elliott lived in Clapham in London and in her twenties was a talented portrait artist and a writer of comic verse.

She had been raised in a Christian home and dutifully went to church. However, she was full of doubts and questions which would later intensify.

In her early thirties, she suffered a chronic illness that took away the vitality and energy she had, leaving her weak and depressed. She became an invalid and was to remain so for the rest of her life.

She moved down to Brighton but was soon to become housebound and unable to attend church services.

During her illness, she was visited by a preacher who asked her if she had God's peace in her life. Initially she was really insulted by this question and resented it, as she felt so desperate and useless because of her physical and mental condition.

However, after a few days, she apologized to the preacher and said she wanted to improve her life as she wanted to become a Christian.

The response from the preacher was to **"Come just as you are."** That day she became a Christian.

A few years later, these words became the inspiration for Charlotte writing the hymn **'Just as I am.'**

In the hymn, Charlotte reflects on her physical and mental problems, her feelings of uselessness and the conflicts in her soul. She then uses all these impediments and problems which she had initially seen as reasons why she should not come to declare through the hymn that we can come 'just as we are' because of everything that Jesus did for us on the Cross.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOjLXuJgbdo&ab_channel=StrangeLyrics (5 mins)