

Lord, I want to be a Christian

Thought to have originated in Virginia in the 1750's after slaves were exposed to the preaching of evangelist Samuel Davies, one of the first non-Anglican preachers in Virginia, and one of the earliest missionaries to enslaved people in the British colonies. He was an advocate for religious freedom.

Like many spirituals, it relies on repetition. The verses in LEVAS are common in most modern hymnals, but other verses would have been improvised and added at will.

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart, In my heart;—
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov-ing In my heart, In my heart;—
 3. Lord, I want to be more ho-ly In my heart, In my heart;—
 4. I don't want to be like Ju-das In my heart, In my heart;—
 5. Lord, I want to be like Je-sus In my heart, In my heart;—

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In my heart, _____ In my heart, _____
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In 1927 this spiritual was published in a paperbound hymnal, *Spirituals Triumphant, Old and New*. In 1933 Frank Warren, a folksong collector, collected this spiritual from a Sue Thomas in North Carolina. Warren performed it in the '40's and '50's and introduced it to the American folk scene.

It hit the pop charts in 1957 when English singer Laurie London sang it with the Geoff Love Orchestra. Look it up on YouTube!

1. He's got the whole world in His hand, He's got the whole world in His hand, He's got the whole world in His hand.

- 2. He's got you and me sister, etc.
- 3. He's got you and me brother, etc.

- 4. He's got the pretty little baby, etc.
- 5. He's got everybody here, etc.

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It's an upbeat spiritual. It may date back to before the Civil War.
Recorded by many gospel artists. A favorite.

Harmony

Ev' - ry time I feel the spir - it, mov - ing

in my heart, I will pray. Ev' - ry time I feel the

Fine

spir - it, mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

unison

1. Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke, out of his
2. Jor - dan ri - ver chil - ly and cold, chills the

1. mouth came fire and smoke. All a - round me looked so
2. bod - y but not the soul. There ain't but one train runs this

D.C.

1. fine, asked my Lord if all was mine.
2. track, runs to heav - en and runs right back.

Thanks for joining us for an online version of Song Lovers. Next week: more songs from Lift Every Voice and Sing II.
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