

EVEN IF - MERCYME



The laid-back band from Greenville, Texas, quickly evolved from being Christian music's fastest-selling new act in 2001 to one of the most successful bands in all musical genres, selling more than 2 million records in only three years and earning an American Music Award nomination.

Now the band has grown beyond its label as "a Christian band" and become nationally known as a great rock group that tackles such serious themes as God and love. Their music is appealing to both devout Christians who study the Bible and young teens who devour Rolling Stone.

For the men of MercyMe - Bart Millard (vocals), Jim Bryson (keys), Mike Scheuchzer (guitar), Nathan Cochran (bass), Barry Graul (guitar) and Robby Shaffer (drums) -- worshipping the Lord and leading others in praise is very much a life-long calling. Lead singer Bart Millard says the band's goals for the ministry of MercyMe are still quite simple.

"We're trying to be responsible enough to send them something that has meaning," Millard says. "We don't want to water down anything. They've told us, 'If you say it, we'll play it.' What an incredible responsibility and privilege to have."

Information from: <http://christianmusic.com/mercy/mercyme.htm>

LYRICS

They say sometimes you win some
Sometimes you lose some
And right now, Right now
I'm losing bad

Stood on this stage, Night after night
Reminding the broken It'll be alright
But right now, Right now I just can't

It's easy to sing
When there's nothing To bring me down
What will I say when
I'm held to the flame Like I am right now

I know You're able And I know you can
Save through the fire With Your mighty hand
But even if You don't My hope is You alone

They say it only takes A little faith
To move a mountain
Well good thing A little faith is all I have
Right now

God when You choose
To leave mountains unmoveable
Give me the strength To be able to sing
It is well with my soul

I know You're able And I know you can
Save through the fire With Your mighty hand
But even if You don't My hope is You alone

I know the sorrow And I know the hurt
Would all go away If You'd just say the word
Even if you don't My hope is You alone

You've been faithful
You've been good all my days
Jesus I will cling to You Come what may
I know You're able I know You can

I know You're able And I know you can
Save through the fire With Your mighty hand
But even if You don't My hope is You alone

I know the sorrow And I know the hurt
Would all go away If You'd just say the word
Even if you don't My hope is You alone

My hope is you alone
It is well With my soul
It is well
It is well With my soul

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Daniel 3:13-18, New International Version (NIV)

¹³ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴ and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? ¹⁵ Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

1. What would you say the song is about?
2. What are the circumstances that MercyMe is singing about? What is their attitude?
3. What do you know about the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (S+M+A)?
4. Read Daniel 3:13-14. What is the context? What happened before this?
5. Why does the king include his speech in verse 15? What is he giving S+M+A?
6. How do they respond in verse 16?
7. If they don't defend themselves, who will?
8. What is the claim S+M+A make in verse 17? What do they say about God and what He will do?
9. Why is verse 18 so amazing? What do they say?
10. Could we say the same thing today? Why or why not?
11. Why should we adopt a mentality of 'Even If'? How could the words of this song and this passage change the way we live?