

HERE WE ARE

Written and composed by Dallas Holm
Released, January 1, 1978



Chorus

Here we are in Your presence

YOUR, PRESENCE, WE-ALL HERE

Lifting holy hands to You.

THEE, OUR HANDS (lift up hands)

Here we are praising Jesus

JESUS, WE-ALL PRAISE THEE

For the things He's brought us through.

WHY? SINCE THEE THEE-HELP-ME

Verse 1

I don't have the words to tell You how I feel.

MY, FEELING, I-TELL-THEE NOT CAN'T

I just don't know what I can say.

EXPRESS MYSELF NOT CAN'T

I'm not worthy to speak Your holy name

YOUR HOLY NAME, I-TELL-THEE NOT CAN'T

Yet You tell me You love me just the same.

STILL THEE-TELL-ME I-LOVE-YOU

Chorus

Verse 2

I never thought it could be this way

THEE-HELP-ME SINCE WOW

And I never thought I'd be the one

THEE-LOVE-ME SINCE WOW

But You found me dying in my sin

MY SIN OVERWHELM, THEE FORGIVE, RESOLVE

And You looked at me with love that took me in.

THEE, LOOK-AT-ME, THEE LOVE-ME

Chorus

Repeat last line.

Psalm 121:1,2 - I lift my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

The bold words (**IN CAPS**) are as the DEAF would "see" the signs. American Sign Language (ASL) has a different sentence structure but often it gets to the real meaning of a song that "the hearing" may miss, being distracted by rhyme or music. **See this song through new eyes.**

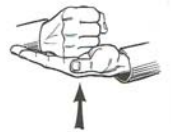
TELL - Bring the extended right index finger from under the chin forward in a large arc, palm facing in an index finger pointing up.

Hint: Directing words from out of the mouth. In this song, "tell" is directional "to and from" God.



HELP (Directional)

Place the closed right hand on the flat left palm and lift both hands together. **Hint: Suggests the giving of a helping hand.**



SINCE

Beginning with both extended index fingers touching near the right shoulder, move the hands forward by turning the hands over, ending with the fingers pointing forward, palms facing up.



PRESENCE

This definition is for when we direct the sign toward God whom we place high out front. Open left hand, palm in and the finger tips up, is raised to God. Open right hand, palm out and finger tips up, slides up left arm, but not quite touching it, and stops when finger tips reach middle of left hand. **Note: Be careful not to cover your face with your right arm.**



CAN'T

Bring the extended right index finger down in front of the chest striking the extended left index finger as it passes.



Have you often wondered:
"What was the inspiration behind a song?"



Dallas Holm (born November 5, 1948) is an American singer-songwriter of Christian music, whose musical ministry has spanned almost four decades, shares the inspiration behind this song.



I was doing an interview at a radio station in Carlinville, Illinois and in the course of the interview the disc jockey stopped and asked me what seemed to be a pretty simple and turned out to be a pretty profound question.

He asked, **"Where did music come from?"**

In my mind I'm thinking back to Elvis Presley and Ricky Nelson – that's where it started for me. I started going further back and said, **"It has its eternal foundation."** He said, **"Right, that being the case, what should be the purpose of music?"**

He was kind of leading me down a path, I still don't know why, it was a wonderful moment. I said, **"Best I can figure the original intent and purpose of music was to bring glory and honor to the Lord."** He had a little twinkle in his eye that said, **"Yep, you got it."**

We went off the interview, but in the back of my mind I'm thinking, **"I really hit on something here."** That was before what we now know as contemporary praise and worship. Now it's a very big item, but that wasn't the case back then. I don't guess I had ever written a song that was directed towards the Lord. A lot of my songs were testimonies and stories – but this was the first time I wrote what we would call a worship song.

"I think for me, the favorite part of the song is the second verse. That is a testimony of a time in my life when I wanted nothing to do with the Lord. I didn't want to be around Christians and I wanted to check out of that whole thing. That may be you as well. I would encourage you, in faith – that's what it's all based on, by faith – just reach out and give it a shot."

"I remember when I came to Jesus back in 1965, in the back of my mind I thought, 'If this doesn't work out I can just go back to what I came from.' It has worked out just fine. He did change my life, transformed my life. Absolutely best thing I ever did. If you're in the same quandary that I was, as to what to do, wondering if it's for you – it is for you. He died for you, he loves you, and he can transform your life just as well."

Romans 5:8 - But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



"Hands in Praise" is an American Sign Language (ASL) Christian choir, sponsored by Bethel Lutheran Church, Windsor, Colorado. For information, call Director, Elaine Mainwaring, 970-686-5319 or go to www.HandsInPraiseASL.com. Please feel free to take this praise sheet home with you and share with others.