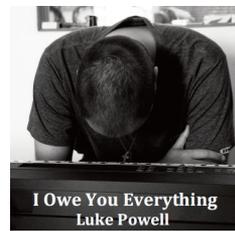


I Owe You Everything

Words and music by Luke Powell



Group discussion

This is the title track of the album. I originally wanted to call it "God Bless South Africa", then I changed it to "Prayers and Hymns", but eventually I decided to name the album after this song, because to me this sums it all up.

I would like to say a brief word before we get into the line by line study. I think the word "owe" here might be misunderstood. Let me explain what I mean by that with the use of two illustrations.

Imagine for a moment that your car breaks down on the side of the road. Your friend Mike is a mechanic, so you give him a call, and he agrees to come tow your car back to his place, and see if he can fix it. And that's exactly what he does - once the car has been towed to his workshop, he finds the faulty part, replaces it, and brings it back to you.

In your gratitude you say to Mike, "Thank you! What do I owe you?" Mike replies, "Oh don't worry, this is on me, a gift!" and you reply, "There must be some way I can repay you?!"

Hold that picture in your mind.

Secondly, imagine that you have fallen terribly ill. You've contracted some illness that is completely shutting down your body, and the operation that will bring you back to health is going to cost R100 million Rand - which you of course, don't have. What can you do? How can you be saved?

And then one day, the president walks into your hospital room. With loving eyes he says to you "I will pay the fee. I will take the cost on myself. You will be made well again."

How can you respond? Perhaps you'd look at the president and say "How can I repay you?" knowing full well that you can't repay him.

Maybe later in your life you will see his face on the TV and say to your children "Do you see that man? I owe my life to that man. I owe him everything!"

Do you see the distinction here? We can never repay God. His grace is not the repairing of some faulty part in us that we can repay him for with good works or worship. We cannot repay him! He cancelled the debt, saving us out of deep love. So when I say "I owe you everything" here, I'm not proposing some sort of business deal with God. I'm saying "I owe my life to you, for without your grace, I would not have been saved."

An imperfect analogy... But keep it in mind as you go through these lyrics.

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- Verse 1
 - Jesus my Lord, I love you
 - Do you find it difficult to say I love you? Guys often do. Especially fathers and sons!
 - How often do you simply say "I love you" to Jesus? It's such a simple expression, yet it's something we often forget to do in our relationship with him. Try incorporating this simple line into your personal prayer life this week.
 - Saviour and friend

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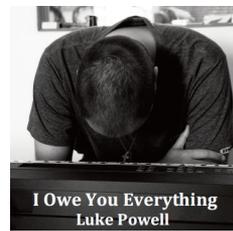


Group discussion

- Jesus is both our Saviour and friend. How do these two terms apply in your relationship with Jesus? How is He your Saviour? How is he a friend to you?
- I don't deserve what You give
 - What do we deserve from God?
- But you're my only hope
 - What does the word "hope" mean to you?
 - Read Psalm 39:7-8, and Psalm 71:5, 14.
 - How can we hope in the Lord?
- Verse 2
 - Closer I come, take my hand
 - Read James 4:8
 - What does it mean to "come near to God"?
 - Lead me to the cross
 - What do you see when God leads you to the cross?
 - Maybe you've been a Christian for years. What is the benefit of going *back* to the cross once you've already received his saving grace?
 - Yours is my heart and my soul
 - Jesus says "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Where is your heart today? Is it with God? Is HE your treasure? Do you value Him above all else?
 - Draw me nearer still
 - We already discussed drawing near to God in the first line of this verse. How can you draw *even nearer* still? Think radically!
- Chorus
 - Jesus I owe you everything , for the grace you poured on me
 - Discuss the two stories from the beginning of this study. What did they make you feel? How can we "owe" God everything without trying to repay Him?
 - Jesus I'll give you everything
 - What do you have to offer Jesus? How can we give him our hearts, souls and lives? How can we give him our actions and word and attitudes?
 - Read James 1:17.
 - How can I repay?
 - How do you feel if you give someone a gift and they try to repay you? Insulted? Honoured?
 - We've discussed how we cannot repay God for this gift of free grace. Instead, *share* the gift with everyone you can. And be grateful!
 - Or find words to say thank you
 - How often do you thank God for his blessings in your life?
 - Here's a tougher one: how often do you thank God, not for his blessings, but just for Him? Just for being God? Think about it: do you love God, or do you love his gifts?
 - Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Make a point to be radically thankful.

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Group discussion

- Verse 3
 - Light of the world, fill my life
 - How is Jesus the Light?
 - Remember Jesus call for *us* to be lights in the world. How can we do this?
 - You alone can see
 - What can *God alone* see in you?
 - God alone knows the future. Trust him to lead you today.
 - I lay it all down, I sacrifice
 - Read Romans 12:1
 - What does it mean to be a living sacrifice?
 - My life belongs to You
 - The verse ends with another statement of faith that I am not my own, but I belong God. Make this a regular prayer in your own life.
 - Read Galatians 3:26-29.

- Chorus
 - The words "thank you" are sung again and again at the end of the last two choruses.
 - Spend some time thanking God for the free gift of grace He has lavished upon us

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- Listen to the song again, paying careful attention to the words.
 - Spend some time in prayer.
 - Confess and repent for times you may have tried to buy grace, or repay him for the free gift of grace.
 - Pour out your heart in gratitude!
 - Resolve to be more grateful in all circumstances.