



Never Again

Rock of Ages revisited album
Track 4

Words and music by
Luke Powell
(2017)

This song was written in 2008. I was a matric student, signed up for Bible college and ready to take on the world - but I was struggling with some sinful habits that I just couldn't seem to overcome. Extremely disheartened, I sat down one day and this song came spilling out.

Verse 1

- "How many times have I fallen and come so short of your glory"
 - Read Romans 3:23. All of us are sinners. We know that we are forgiven, but is it important for us to know that we are sinners?
 - Have you ever felt like God's love has a limit? That you've sinned one too many times?
 - Read Matthew 18:21-22. Does God forgive us in the same way? Does he forgive us more than seventy-seven times?
- "Followed my own ways and drifted from You"
 - Read Proverbs 3:6.
 - What is the root of sin? This verse seems to imply that *not* acknowledging God in all our ways causes us to drift from onto the wrong paths.
- "How many times have I stumbled, bound by the ropes of my sin"
 - How do sinful habits bind us? Give an example.
 - Read Hebrews 12:1.
- "With only Your angels to catch me when I fall"
 - Have you ever felt that your life was spiraling out of control?
 - Have you ever looked back on your life and realised that God caught you when you were falling? Sometimes we can only see these things when we look back.

Pre-chorus 1

- "I'm amazed at Your love, Your grace and Your mercy, I'm in awe of Your forgiveness"
 - What's the difference between God's love, grace, mercy and forgiveness? Are the words interchangeable?
 - We get so used to these words and these principles that we rarely stand in *awe* or *amazement* at God because of them. How can we change that?
- "And I thank you again"
 - Gratefulness is a vital part of our faith. How thankful are you for God's love?

Chorus

- “Cos though my sins are like scarlet, You've washed me white as snow. And though my hands are like crimson, You've washed me white as wool and let me go”
 - Read Isaiah 1:18.
 - I always believed that God forgave me, but I was still stained by my sin. How does it feel to know that God washes those *stains* away? That you stand pure and blameless before Him?
 - Think of a time that it snowed in your town. How beautiful the crystal clear snow! And then after a while it becomes sludge and mud. Isn't it the same with God's love? He washes us clean, and then we somehow mess it up. And He just washes us clean again and again.

- “Every one of my sins is cast into the deepest sea”
 - Read Micah 7:18-19.
 - Do you *feel* as if your sins have been cast away into the deepest sea?
 - It's been said that God puts up a sign at the deepest sea saying “No Fishing”. Why would he do that?

- “And You've forgiven me, and You'll never remember my sins, never again”
 - Read Hebrews 8:12.
 - I always believed that God would have a big book with all my sins written in it, to interrogate me when I met Him one day. Did you grow up hearing this?
 - If God forgives and forgets our sins, why not sin more? Why should we still strive for holiness in our lives? If God is just going to forgive our sins anyway?

Verse 2

- “Now I'm afraid of nothing, 'cos You are here with me”
 - How does God's forgiveness help us live fearless lives?

- “You're my Light and my Salvation, who should I fear?”
 - Read Psalm 27:1.
 - Jesus is the Light of the world. How does His forgiveness bring Light into Your life?

- “But I can't help feeling guilty for the times I've let You down, and Jesus I'm sorry I've hurt You once again”
 - Read Romans 7:19.
 - How do you feel knowing that Paul himself struggled in this way?
 - Does this mean that sinful habits can't be beaten? That addictions can't be overcome?

Pre -chorus 2

- “Won't you show me Your love, Your grace and Your mercy”
 - How is this line different from the first pre-chorus? Why do you think that is?

- “I don't deserve Your forgiveness but I need it again”
 - Who deserves God's forgiveness?

Chorus 2

Bridge

- “How can someone like me talk to someone like You?”
 - Read Daniel 10:17-19.

- We get so *comfortable* in our relationship with God that we forget how *unbelievable* it is that the God of the universe cares for us. How can we develop more *awe* for God?
- “I’m poor and I’m weak and I’m nothing like You”
 - There’s a tension in our faith between being *poor and weak*, but also being *rich and powerful*. How do we deal with this tension?
- “But You laid down Your life on that old wooden cross, You paid for my sin and made way for the lost”
 - Read Hebrews 9:13-14.
 - Your sins are forgiven, You are washed clean, *because of what Jesus did on the Cross*. Instead of having to offer sacrifices to God to buy forgiveness, Jesus has bought your forgiveness once and for all by shedding His blood. This is the cornerstone of our faith as Christians.
- “And You’d do it all again just because You love me more than I can understand, more than I can ever see”
 - Read Luke 15:3-7.
 - Jesus would never have to “do it all again” because His one sacrifice pays for our sins forever. But, He would have done it all just to save *one* sinner, so great is His love for each of us

Chorus 3

Listen to the song again, thinking about the words.

Key focus: What main point are you going to take away from today?

Spend some time in prayer and reflection:

- Ask for forgiveness. Come to Jesus, ask Him to forgive your sins and wash you clean by His blood.
- Celebrate! Thank Him for forgiving you and washing you white as snow.
- Reflect: Your sins are now washed away, your stains are clean, and you stand before Him pure and blameless.
- Reflect. Think of what He went through to buy forgiveness for you.
- Reflect on the phrase “Never Again” from the book of Hebrews. Let it sink in, that those sins are cast into the deepest sea.
- Act: Jesus said to forgive others as your Father forgives you. Is there someone you need to forgive?

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I'm in awe of Your forgiveness and I thank You again*

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Cos You are here with me
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*Won't You show me Your love
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CHORUS